

UNHCR Mali Situation Update

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This update provides a snapshot of UNHCR and its partners' response to the influx of Malian refugees into Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania. The refugee response is led by UNHCR and is undertaken in coordination with the host governments. Detailed operational information can be found on:

the UNHCR web portal for the Mali situation: <http://data.unhcr.org/MaliSituation/regional.php> and

the UNHCR public website: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4f79a77e6.html>

Malian Refugees by Country of Asylum as at 24 April 2012

Country of Asylum	Malian Refugees	Others of Concern*	Source
Niger**	36,688	2,700	Government, CNE, UNHCR
Burkina Faso	46,354	-	Government, CONAREF/UNHCR
Mauritania	60,998	-	Government/UNHCR
Togo	20	-	Government/UNHCR
Guinea	45	-	Government/UNHCR
Total	144,105	2,700	
	Grand Total		146,805

*Includes 2,700 returning Niger nationals.

**The figure is based on initial ongoing registration and subject to change.

Malian IDPs

as at 24 April 2012

Population	Total number	Source
IDPs	132,724	Government/WFP

Contributions Received

as at 24 April 2012

Contributions (USD)	
CERF	5,839,939
Denmark	1,802,127
United States	7,000,000
Private donors	20,191
TOTAL	14,662,257

In addition, UNHCR has received contributions towards its operations in West Africa and Mauritania presented in its Global Appeal from Côte d'Ivoire, CERF, ECOWAS, the European Commission, Denmark, Finland, Switzerland, the United States and the UN Population Fund.



UNHCR Regional Coordinator meeting with Malian refugees committee members in Abala Camp in April 2012/UNHCR

UNHCR Financial Requirements – (in million USD)

Country	ExCom approved Budget	Supplementary requirements	Revised total budget
RO Senegal*	50.4	25.3	75.7
Mauritania	7.8	10.3	18.1
TOTAL	58.2	35.6	93.8

* The budget for the UNHCR Regional Office in Senegal covers operations in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The supplementary financial requirements presented in this Appeal include Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Senegal.



Highlights

- Hundreds of refugees have continued to arrive in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania from Mali since early April. In Niger, In addition to Abala camp, UNHCR will establish a second camp at Mangaize site and a third camp in Ayorou as per the Government's request, to accommodate new Malian arrivals.
- In Burkina Faso, since February UNHCR and its partners have rehabilitated several local wells in the five main refugee sites of Ferrerio, Gandafabou, Goudebo, Mentao, Demba allowing refugees and the local population to have a access to water. With two new boreholes operational and four more planned in Ferrerio, 15,000/16,000 refugees will now receive an average of 15 liters of water per person per day. Two boreholes per site are also being drilled in Gandafabou, Goudebou, Mentao and Demba sites. In Mentao, Oxfam will continue bringing in water by truck until the boreholes become operational. UNHCR has also rehabilitated with the government a water borehole - Forage Christine (23 km from Gandafabou) for cattle.
- In Mali, the situation in north remains tense, with security concerns limiting humanitarian access. The Government (*Protection Civile*) and WFP reported that more than 132,000 people are internally displaced in the north of the country.
- In Mauritania, WFP will start food distribution from 23 April to refugees.

Protection response

In Mali, the protection cluster meets regularly in Bamako and is chaired by UNHCR, along with UNICEF (responsible for the child protection sub-cluster) and UNFPA (responsible for the gender-based violence sub-cluster). The cluster coordinates the monitoring and tracking of population movements, and organizes joint assessments to identify protection problems and immediate responses. According to the Government and WFP, as of 23 April 2012, there were 25,000 IDPs living with host families in Bamako (although many are believed to be southerners who held jobs in the north and have returned to Bamako following the insecurity in the north). People have also been displaced in Segou and Mopti. Assistance to IDPs in Segou will start following a security assessment by UNDSS and OCHA. Catholic Relief Services will assist IDPs in Mopti and Segou with food during the week of 23 April.

In Niger, UNHCR is conducting border monitoring missions to assess the conditions of new arrivals, mainly in the areas of Tchintabaraden, Sinegodar and Ayorou since early April. According to the new arrivals, people are only being allowed to cross the border on foot. Vehicles are not being let through. Refugees are indicating that more people are on their way from Gao in search of food given the food shortages in northern Mali. Some women reported having been subjected to sexual violence while fleeing Tamallet (Mali) to Tilia (Niger). UNHCR is ensuring medical care and psychological counseling to these survivors. Standard operating procedures to help people who suffered from sexual violence have been established in Abala camp. UNHCR is working closely with UNICEF and the Ministry of Population, Promotion of Women and Child Protection to improve protection for children.

In Burkina Faso, new arrivals are coming into Soum and Oudalan Provinces. Refugees interviewed by UNHCR indicate that they are fleeing due to fear of possible attacks by the Malian army who could attempt to regain Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal. They are also reportedly fleeing banditry and general lawlessness in the north, as well as the imposition of Sharia law in some areas. The precarious security situation at the border with Mali is preventing UNHCR from monitoring the conditions of refugees in these areas. Where access is possible, UNHCR continues to detect groups of refugees scattered outside the official refugee sites. UNHCR is advocating with these refugees to move to the official sites to ensure access to essential services.

UNHCR is registering new arrivals together with the Government. Refugees who were not registered in the first exercise undertaken in March are now included in Ferrerio, Dibissi, Deou and Gandafabou. Family cards are being distributed to refugee families to support the monitoring of WFP food distribution.



A significant number of people with mental health problems resulting from trauma of the conflict and violence in northern Mali have been identified by MSF France. Referral mechanisms are needed as no community support structures are in place for victims.

Former combatants are arriving in Niger and Burkina Faso. UNHCR is working with local authorities to separate them from the civilians and to organize interviews to determine their profile and intentions. In Burkina Faso, security posts will be established in refugee camps as a measure to avoid infiltration by former combatants.

In **Mauritania**, UNHCR organizes convoys to transport new arrivals and their property from Fassala to the refugee camp of Mbera after their registration. Upon arrival in Mbera the refugees are provided with family tents and non-food items. Individual assessments continue to ensure that the most vulnerable of those arriving in Mbera camp are given due attention. According to initial statistics, 10 per cent of the refugees relocated so far to Mbera from Fassala are unaccompanied minors. A refugee committee has been set up as the main interlocutor for UNHCR and the local authorities to inform the population about ongoing activities and plans, including registration and transfer to the refugee camp.

Life-saving assistance

UNHCR continues to provide refugees and the host population in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania with basic assistance including water, primary health care, tents and core-relief items.

In **Niger**, refugees in Abala camp are daily receiving 20 litres of water per person per day. Sites where domestic animals can drink water have also been identified. Water supply remains crucial in localities with high concentration of refugees in Agando, Ayorou and Tillia, but technicians are unable to access the areas due to insecurity. UNHCR is considering to truck water to the refugees and the host population for three months with the assistance of a local partner and security officers. In Mangaize, three water bladders supply water on a daily basis to refugees. In Ayorou Department, water is being trucked in by Plan Niger in Mbeidoune and Gaouzel towns. Sanitation: Over 100 toilets and 50 bathrooms have been constructed in Abala camp by MSF Switzerland. Essential services such as distribution of food and non-food items in these areas are priority for UNHCR in the coming weeks. Plan Niger plans to construct 100 toilets and bathrooms in Mbeidoune and Gaouzel towns and start sensitization programmes on hygiene. The Government has so far spent FCFA 39.5 million (USD 80,612) on food and non-food items. Health: Vaccination campaigns are ongoing in all sites. Polio and BCG vaccines are being administered to children by the Ministry of Health with the support for UNHCR and MSF Switzerland. MSF (Switzerland) continues to strengthen capacity of health centres in refugee sites and assist thousands of refugees and Niger nationals. The main cause of morbidity continues to be respiratory infections, diarrhea and malaria. Oxfam has conducted assessments to establish the education requirements in Ayorou and Abala to implement educational activities. UNHCR will also encourage refugee students to enroll in government schools. It is estimated that there are about 800 children of school-going age present in Abala Camp.

However several gaps have been identified and need to be addressed, including the lack of a health post in the camp; the difficulties to cut trees to use as firewood for cooking; youth unemployment and lack of educational facilities in the camp; lack of pasture lands; limited nutritive food for malnourished children and lactating women.

In **Burkina Faso**, WFP undertook food distribution from 5 April in all camps with 15-day rations. General distribution of non-food items was completed on 5 April in Mentao and Damba camps. ICRC, in collaboration with the Burkina Faso Red Cross distributed non-food items in Ferrerio site. An NFI distribution will be undertaken for 1,500 refugee families in the five official sites. Shelter: As of 22 April, a total of 1,603 tents of the planned 2071 tents have been installed in refugee sites. Agriculture: FAO and UNHCR are discussing strategies for the survival of animals of host and refugee communities during the drought period in the Sahel region. FAO provides vaccines for livestock and 500 tons of animal feed will be distributed shortly. WASH: The Burkina Faso Red Cross has completed construction of 15 blocks of latrines in all sites. Education: The Government has suggested that UNHCR reinforce school capacities in order to accommodate new Malian refugee students. The Prime Minister has promised to identify local teachers to support the integration of refugee students.

In **Mauritania**, 2,900 tents for refugees were dispatched through two airlifts from Dubai to Nouakchott. UNHCR continues to procure and distribute food to refugees in Mbera refugee camp. Health: UNHCR in Bassikounou continues to work in the areas of nutrition, malaria, and health monitoring with experts from local health authorities, MSF Belgium and UNICEF. UNHCR also supports the primary health and nutrition programme implemented by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF in Fassala and Mbera. Education: Because of the significant number of refugee children, UNICEF and Intersos in coordination with the local authorities, primary level education will be provided in Mbera camp. Non-food items: UNHCR continues the distribution of non-food items to cover the essential needs of the refugees. Site planning: UNHCR continues to develop the Mbera refugee camp site with construction of offices, schools, a reception and distribution centre. More than 6,200 family tents, including 167 donated by Morocco, have been set up in the refugee camp. WASH: Some 21 distribution points, including 192 taps, are installed in the refugee camp. In addition, UNHCR's implementing partner *Solidarit s*

International has launched the construction of 100 latrines, and plans to install 16 latrines in each of the 22 blocks of Mbera camp. UNHCR has installed 122 communal latrines and 80 showers in the camp.

Financial situation

In light of the recent development in Mali and the continuous influx of Malian refugees in neighbouring countries, UNHCR is currently revising its response plan and financial requirements based on increased planning figures. Assuming its leading coordination role in the refugee response, this revision is being done in close consultation with UNHCR's partners. UNHCR's financial requirements for Niger have been included in the revision of the CAP for the country and the Office will also be part of the Humanitarian Action Plans that are under development in Burkina Faso and Mauritania.

UNHCR is grateful to donors who have committed pledges amounting to USD 14.7 million to respond to this crisis but remains preoccupied with the funding shortfall. On 11 April in Geneva, the High Commissioner, António Guterres, together with UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake, WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan and OCHA Director in Geneva Rashid Khalikov, called for additional financial support from the international community to respond to the food crisis in the Sahel region and forced displacement triggered by the situation in Mali. UNHCR has received contributions from Denmark, the United States, the Central Emergency Response Fund and private donors.

UNHCR presence

Niger	Niamey, Ouallam
Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou, Dori
Mauritania	Nouakchott, Bassikounou
Mali	Bamako

Working with partners

UNHCR is coordinating its life saving activities with the following partners:

Niger	Commission Nationale d'Eligibilité (CNE), Ministries of Defense, Interior and Health, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, WHO, OCHA, MSF (CH) (water/sanitation) UNAIDS, ICRC, CADEV (warehousing/transportation of NFIs), IOM (relocation), Islamic Relief (tent installation/site clearing), AFRICARE, ACTED (camp management/Water), PLAN NIGER (WASH), OXFAM (water).
<p>Coordination mechanisms in Niger: UNHCR is part of the existing coordination mechanisms at the ministerial level, technical level and amongst UN/NGO partners. A UN cluster system is in place involving the Government and the national early warning body (<i>Système de Relèvement Précoce, Système d'Alerte Précoce</i>). The Humanitarian Coordinator proposed a review of the working approaches with the ad hoc committee attached to the Prime Minister's Office and to continue to work closely with local and government authorities in the refugee affected areas.</p> <p>UNHCR is considering establishing sector working groups on education, health nutrition, and WASH, drawing from representatives in each of the existing cluster group to deal specifically with refugees.</p>	
Burkina Faso	CONAREF, <i>Comité National des Réfugiés</i> under the umbrella of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CONASUR (Social Affairs Department), WFP, WHO, UNICEF, FAO, Burkina Faso Red Cross Society (Shelter/NFI distribution/sanitation), Christian Relief and Development Organisation (CREDO), and SRDO (food and core relief items distribution, community services), Oxfam (WASH), MSF France (Water trucking), <i>Église des Assemblées de Dieu</i> (water), <i>Vétérinaires du Monde, Médecins du Monde</i> Spain (Health), <i>Médecins du Monde France</i> (Health), HELP (water).
<p>Weekly coordination meetings are held by UNHCR with the Government, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, ADRA, ICRC, ECHO, MSF and <i>Terre des Hommes</i>. Joint missions are undertaken with partners.</p>	
Mauritania	Ministry of Interior, Commissioner for Food Security (non-food items and food distribution), UNICEF (education), UNFPA, MSF Belgium, Lutheran World Federation (camp management), Solidarités International (water/sanitation), Intersos (community services), WFP/UNHCR (food), ALPD (protection monitoring activities, management of a reception center in Fassala and transport of refugees from Fassala to Mbera).
<p>Weekly coordination meetings: The meetings are co-chaired by the National Coordinator appointed by the</p>	

Ministry of Interior and UNHCR and include UN agencies, NGOs, members of the national civil society and donors.

Daily coordination meetings: The local authorities, UNHCR's partners- ALPD, the Lutheran World Federation, Intersos, Solidarités International, WFP, UNICEF, MSF Belgium, IFRC, and CRM attend the daily coordination and the thematic meetings on Health and Wash chaired by UNHCR in Bassikounou.

Mali

Ministry of Territorial Administration, OCHA, MSF (Health).

Coordination mechanisms in Mali: The UN cluster system is activated for IDP protection. The protection cluster has two sub clusters: child protection (UNICEF) and gender-based violence (UNFPA). It meets once every two weeks except in emergencies.