

# UNHCR Mali Situation Update

no 3 | 30 March 2012

## Malian Refugees by Country of Asylum as at 30 March 2012

Country of Asylum	Malian Refugees	Others of Concern*	Source
Niger**	19,927	1,927	Government, CNE, UNHCR
Burkina Faso	22,974	-	CONAREF
Mauritania	46,008	-	Government
Togo	20	-	Government
Guinea	45	-	Government
<b>Total</b>	<b>88,974</b>	<b>1,927</b>	
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>90,901</b>

\*Includes 1,927 returning Niger nationals.

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

## Malian IDPs

as at 30 March 2012

Population	Total number	Source
IDPs	93,439	Government/WFP



The High Commissioner Antonio Guterres meeting with representatives of the Malian refugees in Mbera Camp in Mauritania on 26 March 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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>58.2</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>93.8</b>

\* The budget for the UNHCR Regional Office in Senegal covers 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, Senegal and Mauritania.

## Contributions (USD)

<b>CERF</b>	2,199,939
<b>Denmark</b>	1,802,127
<b>United States</b>	7,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,002,066</b>

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

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

## Highlights

- The High Commissioner, Antonio Guterres visited Mbera refugee camp in Mauritania on 26 March and met with refugee representatives.
- **New influx in Burkina Faso following the military coup in Mali:** With the re-opening of the borders after the military putsch of 21 March, UNHCR teams reported 876 new refugee arrivals from Mali on 27 and 28 March in the Mentao and Damba refugee sites, in the north of the country. Some 600 persons also found refuge in Ferrerio and Deou sites. More people are expected to arrive in the coming days in Burkina Faso.
- New refugees are Tuaregs with some Arabs from the Tombouctou area in northern Mali. They are fleeing because they fear being caught in renewed intensified fighting in the country with the rebel Tuareg movement in the north, or between various armed groups. All want to return to Mali as soon as the situation stabilises.
- In **Mali**, the situation in the cities and the surroundings of Gao, Mopti, Tombouctou and Kidal remain volatile and tense which is preventing aid agencies to access displaced people. Over 93,000 persons are reportedly internally displaced in the north of the country.
- In **Niger**, no new population movement has been reported at this point although UNHCR continues to find refugees in new sites such as in Mbeidou and Gaoudel in Ayourou department as well as in Ayourou town.
- UNHCR continues its assistance and protection operations in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania. At the same time UNHCR is revising its contingency plan to respond to an expected new influx of refugees in the neighbouring countries of Mali.
- To date, UNHCR has airlifted 4,000 family tents from its stockpile in Douala (Cameroon) and Dubai, (U.A.E.) to Niger and Burkina Faso, as well as over 6,000 tents to Mauritania. Over 170 tonnes of non-food items to Niger and Burkina Faso and have started to distribute them to the refugees. In Mauritania, NFIs have been provided to the Malian refugees in Mbera camp, including plastic sheeting, mats, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen sets, and jerry cans.
- The **first financial contributions** against the Supplementary Appeal were pledged from Denmark, the United States and the Central Emergency Response Fund. In addition, UNHCR has received contributions towards its operations in West Africa and Mauritania presented in its Global Appeal from ECOWAS, the European Commission, Finland, Denmark, Switzerland, the United States and the UN Population Fund.

## Situation in Mali

In Mali, the situation in the cities and the surroundings of Gao, Mopti, Tombouctou and Kidal remain volatile and tense, limiting humanitarian access. Over 93,000 persons are reportedly internally displaced in the north of the country. Following the reopening of the borders by the military, people are fleeing into northern Burkina Faso, at an average of 100 refugees per day. As a consequence of the military coup, 60,000 refugees could be expected to enter into Burkina Faso in the near future. UNHCR is trying to access to border areas to monitor the population movement, but the volatile security situation limits the access

## Protection response

**Registration:** UNHCR continues household-level registration in coordination with the governments and partners along with establishing a screening mechanism to identify vulnerable people in the refugee-hosting countries. UNHCR plans to undertake individual registration in May 2012. In Niger, registration is ongoing in the northern area of Tilia where new arrivals are being reported by the Government. In Burkina Faso, the newly arrived refugees who fled Mali following the coup will be registered shortly. In Mauritania, the authorities continue to regroup and register Malian refugees near Fassala village and route them directly to the refugee camp in Mbera. UNHCR continues to face difficulties accessing remote areas, including with security escorts, to properly undertake the exercise.

**Relocation:** In Niger, UNHCR and IOM teams have relocated over 2,600 refugees from Chinégodrar to the Abala camp which has a hosting capacity of 10,000 people. Most refugees have a nomadic way of life doing cattle rearing; hence it is difficult to determine a permanent camp for all refugees. UNHCR intends to continue sensitizing refugees in Abala area to move them to Abala camp where assistance can be provided. The Office has also started discussions with OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, IOM and partners to see if new camp settlements for refugees are needed, taking into consideration their nomadic culture.

In Burkina Faso, UNHCR has so far relocated over 4,000 refugees to Mentao refugee site and 3,650 refugees to Ferrerio site. In Mauritania, UNHCR has relocated 46,000 refugees from Fassala to the refugee camp in Mbera. Refugees will continue to be registered in Fassala transit centre prior to relocation to Mbera.

**Niger:** A protection assessment was conducted for 33 Malian families (268 individuals) who arrived at the refugee site of Karkatchia in the Department of Tera (40 kms from the Malian border) on 18 March. The Office continues to provide protection by presence in Abala and Mangaize sites.

**Mali:** The first Protection Cluster meeting took place on 29 March in Bamako under UNHCR chair, along with UNICEF (responsible for the child protection sub-cluster) and UNFPA (responsible for the gender-based violence sub-cluster). The cluster will coordinate the monitoring, tracking of population movements, and organize joint assessments to identify protection problems and responses to immediate protection needs.

**Mauritania:** Monitoring of the refugee relocation process from Fassala to Mbera continues. In this process, some individual assessments are done in coordination with refugee sector heads to ensure the needs of the most vulnerable among those arriving at Mbera are given due attention. In addition, the Protection Officers continue to interview focus groups to identify protection needs and risks in the refugee camp in Mbera. UNHCR and UNICEF are coordinating with the authorities to ensure new born children are issued birth certificates. On 16 March, UNHCR started a census of deaths and newborns in the refugee in camp since the beginning of operations. UNHCR is following up on the cases of former Malian security personnel of Touareg ethnicity (army, gendarmerie and police) who arrived among the refugees. To address this issue and preserve the civilian character of the refugee camp, UNHCR is working on the compilation of a matrix on the profile of those identified as former soldiers. In addition, ongoing discussions are being held with the authorities on the possibility to separate these former Malian security personnel from the rest of the refugee population in order to preserve the humanitarian character of the camp.

### Life-saving assistance

In **Niger**, as of 27 March, the two-day food distribution for 2,776 refugees in Abala camp was concluded and discussions are ongoing with the Niger Red Cross Society and WFP for continued food distribution to new arrivals. In Mangaize, a group of 420 refugees (mostly women and children) received non-food items. The lack of primary education in refugee areas is an important gap and UNHCR is currently discussing with Oxfam to address this issue. Water: Apart from the four water wells that are functioning in Abala camp, UNHCR, together with ACTED, is trying to find ways to provide more drinking wells in deserted areas for refugees together with their cattle which might suit their nomadic cultural life style. Shelter: About 1,000 tents have been installed in Abala camp while 500 additional ones are in the process of being put up to accommodate refugees who are gradually moving towards the camp.

In **Burkina Faso**, of the 1,500 tents received from the stockpile in Dubai 500 have been installed in Mentao camp, which is hosting 4,000 Malian refugees. Distribution of non food items (mats, blankets, kitchen sets, jerry cans) for 6,300 beneficiaries is ongoing in Mentao and in Demba sites with the Red Cross. Water: In Ferrerio, which is hosting 3,650 persons, Oxfam has rehabilitated one water borehole and intends to do so for five additional ones with HELP and specialized partners. In the meanwhile, water trucking will continue. Three wells are already functional in Gandafabou site which accommodates over 2,000 refugees. FAO and its partners will distribute animal feeds for refugee and host population livestock. Local authorities will open a dam located at the border of Mali and Burkina Faso to provide water for animals that have begun to die from thirst. UNHCR will assist authorities in the maintenance of the dam, which can support more than 300,000 cattle. Health: Malaria, diarrhea, meningitis, as well as cardiovascular and respiratory infections remain the most serious diseases as per MSF and MDM France; efforts are on to address them. Food: WFP has begun general food distribution in all camps since the week of 19 March for 15 days and the next distribution is planned from 1 to 8 April. Sanitation: The Red Cross Society has constructed 20 latrines in Mentao and will continue to be involved in water/sanitation activities in Damba and Ferrerio. Burkina Faso Red Cross and CREDO have been identified as UNHCR partners for food and NFI distribution and community services.

In **Mauritania**, shelter, food, water and health are the main priorities which UNHCR and other humanitarian actors are trying to address. UNHCR, in coordination with the local authorities, continues to provide NFIs and food rations (a mitigation measure until WFP takes over) to meet the most essential and immediate needs of the refugee population. Water: Refugees settled in the Mbera refugee camp have access to 8 litres of potable water per day and per person, provided by six water tanks and three bladders. Sanitation: As of 30 March, UNHCR has installed 80 communal latrines and showers in the refugee camp in Mbera. Education: On 28 March, 3 tents provided by UNICEF were set up for schooling activities in the refugee camp. The site planner continues to work on the preparation of the refugee camp in Mbera, including the following facilities: 7,500 family tents (1 per family); 6 distribution centers; 1 health center; 8 office; 1 police station; 2 community centers for adolescents; 2 community women centers; 6 schools; 350 kitchens; 1,500 latrines and 1,500 showers. Health: UNHCR continues to work with the local health authorities, UNICEF and MSF Belgium. The latter has finalized the installation of its primary health center in the refugee camp in Mbera and started providing medical care to the

refugees. UNHCR also supports the primary health and nutrition program implemented by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF in Fassala and Mbera. The Health coordination group chaired by UNHCR in Bassikounou indicates that the main health issues in the refugee camp are diarrhea, respiratory infection and malnutrition. The gaps in the area of health are the lack of qualified human resources, the lack of medicines and medical equipment and the lack of medical facilities, in particular the lack of maternity center. From 23 to 26 March, the Ministry of Health organized a vaccination campaign against poliomyelitis in the region of Hodh el Charghi. The vaccination campaign also covered the refugee children in the age range of 0 to 5 years from the refugee camp of Mbera.

## UNHCR presence

<b>Niger</b>	Niamey, Ouallam
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	Ouagadougou, Dori
<b>Mauritania</b>	Nouakchott, Bassikounou
<b>Mali</b>	Bamako

## Working with partners

UNHCR is identifying partners and coordinating life saving activities with the following:

<b>Niger</b>	Commission Nationale d'Eligibilité (CNE), Ministries of Defense, Interior and Health, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, WHO, OCHA, MSF (CH) (water/sanitation) UNAIDS, ICRC, CADEV (continuous registration system), IOM (relocation), Islamic Relief (tent installation/site clearing), AFRICARE, ACTED (site planning/shelter).
<p><b>Coordination mechanisms in Niger:</b> 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 (Système de Relèvement Précoce, Système d'Alerte Précoce).</p> <p>In areas of protection UNHCR has a three pronged approach: 1) ensuring participation in the various coordination meetings initiated by the UNHCR Team Leader, 2) direct one to one meetings with key protection actors and 3) participating in the existing pre-refugee situation coordination mechanisms.</p>	
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	CONAREF, <i>Comité National des Réfugiés</i> under the umbrella of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CONASUR (Social Affairs Department), WFP, WHO, UNICEF, Burkina Faso Red Cross Society, Christian Relief and Development Organisation (CREDO), and SRDO (food and core relief items distribution, community services), Oxfam (WASH), MSF France, Vétérinaires du Monde, Médecin du Monde Spain (Health), <i>Médecins du Monde France</i> (Health).
<p><b>Weekly coordination meetings</b> 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>	
<b>Mauritania</b>	Ministry of Interior, Commissioner for Food Security, UNICEF, UNFPA, MSF (Belgium), Lutheran World Federation (camp management), <i>Solidarités International</i> (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), Commissioner for Food Security.
<p><b>Weekly coordination meetings:</b> The meetings are co-chaired by the National Coordinator appointed by the Ministry of Interior and UNHCR and include UN agencies, NGOs, members of the national civil society and donors.</p> <p><b>Daily coordination meetings:</b> UNHCR's implementing partner (ALPD) and the missions of Intersos, UNFPA, Initiatives, ICRC, Oxfam, UNICEF, MSF Belgium, Solidarités International, the Lutheran World Federation, ACORD, <i>Au Secours</i> attend daily meetings led by UNHCR in Bassikounou.</p>	
<b>Mali</b>	Ministry of Territorial Administration, OCHA, MSF (Health).
<p><b>Coordination mechanisms in Mali:</b> 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 will meet once every two weeks except in emergencies. The first meeting of the cluster took place on 29 March where the objectives and work modalities were agreed upon.</p>	



As of 28th March 2012

Population figures are based on information received from respective Gov.<sup>ts</sup> counterparts and reflect those who left Mali reportedly due to fights in Mali

