

**UNHCR**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

Mali Situation Update

No 11 | 1 October 2012



This update provides a snapshot of UNHCR's and its partners' response to the displacement of Malians in Mali itself and into Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania. The refugee response is led by UNHCR and is undertaken in coordination with the host governments. More detailed operational information can be found on:

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

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

Contributions Received

Malian Refugees by Country of Asylum (as of 1 October 2012)

| Country of Asylum | Malian Refugees | Others* of Concern | Source |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Niger | 58,312 | 3,094 | CNE, UNHCR |
| Burkina Faso | 34,877 | - | CONAREF/ UNHCR |
| Mauritania | 108,953 ** | - | Government/ UNHCR |
| Togo | 20 | - | Government/ UNHCR |
| Guinea | 44 | - | Government/ UNHCR |
| Total | 202,206 | 3,094 | |

* 3094 are returning Niger nationals.

** Level 2 Registration is presently on-going and will confirm the figures.

UNHCR Financial Requirements (in million USD)

| Country | ExCom approved Budget (with adjustments) | Supplementary requirements | Revised total budget |
|--------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| RO Senegal* | 50.6 | 123.4 | 174 |
| Mauritania | 7.8 | 30.3 | 38.1 |
| TOTAL | 58.4 | 153.7 | 212.1 |

* 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 for the Mali Situation (USD) | |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Austria | 331,126 |
| Brazil | 300,000 |
| Canada | 1,500,000 |
| CERF | 6,469,616 |
| Denmark | 1,802,127 |
| European Union | 5,099,987 |
| France | 657,894 |
| Germany | 1,283,370 |
| Ireland | 746,269 |
| Italy | 1,020,003 |
| Japan | 1,260,875 |
| Luxembourg | 1,550,388 |
| Netherlands | 5,714,284 |
| Norway | 2,479,749 |
| Spain | 956,431 |
| Sweden | 2,077,562 |
| Switzerland | 1,563,604 |
| United States | 27,000,000 |
| Private donors | 820,188 |
| TOTAL | 62,633,473 |

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

GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 1 October, the total number of Malian refugees in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Togo and Guinea is **202,206 persons**. The new figures of internally displaced persons (IDPs) resulting from the crisis in Mali is estimated at **118,795**. The current number of Malian refugees and IDPs is **321,001 persons**.
- In Burkina Faso, the **Level 2 Registration exercise**, which provides comprehensive data for enhanced protection and assistance delivery as well as reliable refugee statistics, started on 26 July and ended on 23 September. The new figures for Malian refugees in the country are **34,877 persons**, a decrease of approximately 68% compared to previous figures obtained through Level 1 Registration of some 107,000 persons. UNHCR, partners and the Burkina Faso Government have started the process of adjustment and re-alignment of funding and operational requirements in line with the new figures.
- In Mauritania, the **Level 2 Registration exercise** started in Mbera camp on 18 September and the results are expected during the month of October. The exercise will also be launched in Niger on 29 October. New, revalidated Malian refugee statistics for the three main hosting countries are expected to be known by the end of November.
- On 12 September, the Director of West Africa Bureau in the US State Department, Ms Eunice S. Reddick paid a working visit to the UNHCR Country Representation in Mauritania where she received a briefing on UNHCR programmes in the country.
- The Chair of UNHCR Executive Committee (ExCom), Mr Jan Knutsson undertook a mission in Niger from 23 to 26 September to evaluate the refugee situation and to help attract international attention on it. On 25 September, Mr Knutsson visited the refugees in Tabareybarey camp.
- In Mauritania on 25 September, **UNHCR** donated **three ambulances** and **essential medicines** to the region of Hogh el Charghi where Mbera refugee camp is situated.
- In **Burkina Faso**, **48 cases of cholera** have been registered with three deaths from **week 1 to week 39**. No cases, suspected or confirmed, have been reported in the refugee camps and sites. In **Niger**, **4,432 cases** have been reported with 95 deaths from week 1 to week 37. In the refugee camps, 24 cases have been registered with no deaths from week 1 to week 39.
- In the camps in Niger and Burkina Faso, about **50%** of medical consultations are linked to **malaria** while in Mauritania it is about **25%**. The high prevalence of malaria in the camps has been attributed mainly to the proliferation of mosquitoes during the rainy season.



In Burkina Faso during the Level 2 Registration, UNHCR Community Services staff take a picture of an 80-year-old refugee in his shelter in Mentao North camp. ©UNHCR / H. Caux / August 2012.

MALI

- Mali is seeking a United Nations Security Council resolution on military intervention to help stabilize the country and especially to regain control of the north, after making a formal request to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for an intervention on 4 September. However, the international community, including some African countries, is divided over a military intervention in the country.
- The current **conflict-induced IDP** figures are estimated at **118,795 persons**. The new figures followed recent registration activities undertaken in the North by the International Office for Migration (IOM) through its implementing partner TEMEDT ("Solidarity" in Tamashek language). The **volatile security situation** in the North poses a **challenge in relation to tracking IDP activities**, thus these results do not necessarily reflect full coverage of the target regions.
- During the tracking of conflict-induced IDPs in the North organized from July to mid-September 2012, the key basic needs identified were **food, water and sanitation, shelter and health**.
- Denouncements on **human rights violations** in the North of Mali by Non Governmental Organizations and Human Rights groups have been supported by an Amnesty International report issued on 20 September which indicates horrific human rights abuses by Islamist groups targeting civilians. The abuses include **amputations, sexual violence**, use of **child soldiers** and **extra judicial executions**.
- In Gao, *le Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest* (MUJAO) Islamist group amputated the limbs of five alleged thieves on 10 September. Six days later in Timbuktu, another person had a limb amputated by Ansar Dine Islamist group. The Islamist groups recently opened a **prison for women** in Timbuktu to incarcerate women whose actions are assessed by these groups to be in contradiction with the Sharia Law.
- During the month of September, **1,186 IDP children** benefitted from **psychosocial support programmes** organized through recreational activities in Community Counselling Centres set up in Ségou by Plan Mali, in Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal by *Bureau national catholique de l'enfance du Mali* (BNCE Mali) and in Bamako by Environment and Development Action in the Third World (ENDA Mali). Since March 2012, **14,721 IDP children** have benefited from these programmes.
- In Kayes, UNICEF sponsored a training programme organised for 30 participants on psychosocial support for children during emergencies. It also organised a training session on mine **and explosive remnants of war awareness** for 14 International Rescue Committee (IRC) workers from Gao, Ansongo and Menaka. 21,250 brochures, 50 brochures' guides and 117 banners have so far been distributed throughout the country to increase awareness on mine-related issues.
- Save the Children has established 18 protection committees and 18 children clubs in nine health areas and nine villages in the region of Kayes in order to identify cases of **child abuse** and cases of **violence and negligence** with IDP children as victims, and to facilitate the referral of such cases.
- The **lack of funding for the IDP protection cluster** is a challenge to the implementation of an effective monitoring mechanism for the IDP situation in Mali.
- In the northern regions of Mali, IDP data collection and confirmation of information remains a big challenge particularly for matters regarding the recruitment of child soldiers and sexual violence. The communication chain put in place by UNICEF through community leaders and local associations needs to receive more support through training, harmonised data collection, and monitoring.

Protection Response

- UNHCR is working with the Niger authorities on the documentation of Malian refugee children born in the country. In Tillaberi, a new **birth declaration register** has been established in the health centre run by *Médecins Sans Frontières Suisse* for the **documentation of refugee children** born in Tabareybarey camp. UNHCR and partners are organizing awareness campaigns in the camps on the importance of birth certificates as well as the use of health centres for childbirth.
- On 18 and 19 September, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) assisted **separated children and unaccompanied minors** in Tabareybarey to communicate with their families in Mali through telephone and letters. In **Abala, Mangaize and Tabareybarey** camps, **235** of such children have been identified with 69% from Menaka, 25% from Asongo, 3% from Kidal and 3% from Gao. All but two children live with host families. In **Banibangou** site, all **22** children identified came from Menaka and are all living with host families. The children have been separated from their families as a result of the crises in the north of Mali.
- UNHCR and partners continue to work to improve the well-being of the different groups of refugees within the limits of funds available. In Tabareybarey camp, **150 dignity kits** were distributed to **pregnant women and nursing mothers**. The distribution of **250 protection kits** for other refugee women was organized in the same camp. The kits were donated by Oxfam Quebec and UNFPA.
- UNHCR is working with partners and refugees on **Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)** prevention and response in the camps. In Mangaize camp, UNHCR conducted interviews with staff of partners, the refugee community and local authority representatives to evaluate the level of understanding of SGBV issues and to share basic notions on SGBV with them. Mass awareness campaigns on SGBV are being conducted regularly in the camps with the active participation of refugees.
- From 25 July to 25 September, a total of **1,263 children** (with 47% as girls) benefitted from the summer school programme financed by Plan Sweden and implemented by Plan Niger in Ayorou and Mangaize camps. In the two camps, UNICEF and Plan Niger are finalizing an agreement to start the primary education programme with the 1,263 children registered but the number will increase as the school year progresses. In Abala camp, UNICEF and Oxfam have signed an agreement to organize primary education. **1,266 school children** have been identified.

Life-saving Assistance

- UNHCR and its partners continue to make efforts to improve the water situation in the five camps and sites which have an average consumption of **9.5 litres** per person per day. In Abala, a new water supply network financed by UNHCR at the cost of 165,000 US dollars has helped to reduce the number of refugees **fetching water from beyond 200 metres** of their accommodations from 80% to **15%**. In Mangaize camp, the construction of a borehole and two water supply system financed by the Qatar Red Crescent and World Vision is at the initial stages. In Tabareybarey, Agando and Chinwaren, the water trucking system continues.
- In the camps, UNHCR and partners have been faced with challenges in trying to reach the emergency standard for **latrines** and **showers** which is **less than or equal to 50 persons**. The difficulties encountered in maintaining the emergency latrines and showers and the unavailability of partners in Abala and Tabareybarey as well as restricted movement of staff due to security reasons have contributed to the current situation. The current situation in **Abala** is **402** persons per latrine and **117** persons per shower; in **Mangaize** - **158** persons per latrine and **238** persons per shower; in **Tabareybarey** - **88** persons per latrine and **185** persons per shower; in **Agando** - **188** persons per latrine and per shower; in **Chinwaren** - **111** persons per latrine and per shower. UNHCR, Oxfam and Qatar Red Cross are planning to construct semi-permanent infrastructures to address the situation.
- Following the high prevalence of **Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)** and **Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)** from the results of a nutrition survey organized in **Ayorou, Abala and Mangaize** in August, UNHCR and partners have designed interventions with the active participation of refugees to reduce the malnutrition rates. In the health centres, passive screening is conducted on a daily basis. In Ayorou, active screening of an estimated 400 children under 5 years has been conducted. Blanket feeding was organized for children of 6 to 23 months. In Mangaize, where there has been no partner for nutrition activities which

reflected in the high malnutrition rates there (**GAM, 21.2 % and SAM, 7.2%**), UNHCR has got a written confirmation from *Cooperazione Internazionale* (COOPI) that it will implement nutrition activities.

- UNHCR and partners have identified a **gap of 2,278 shelters** in the camps. They are therefore planning the construction of shelters made mainly of local materials with the active participation of the refugees. UNHCR will provide plastic sheeting for the roofing. In Tabareybarey, Plan Niger has distributed **emergency shelter kits** composed of local materials (**wood and straw**) to **400 newly arrived households**. In Abala, the refugees have started making mud bricks for the construction of transitional shelters under the supervision of the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED).
- In the efforts to assist refugee and host community families to improve their lives, as well as to reduce dependency on firewood for cooking, which has a negative impact on the environment, **the French Embassy** has financed a project for the distribution of **energy-efficient stoves** for refugees in Niger. In Abala, **2,445 refugee households** and **1,551 host community households** have benefitted from the stoves distributed during the month of September. A total of **6,700 stoves** have been planned for distribution to both communities in Abala.

BURKINA FASO

Protection Response

- Following a warning by Burkina Faso security agencies on **the threat of kidnapping of humanitarian actors** in the country, the **movement of humanitarian personnel** in the field has been **restricted** mainly in the Oudalan region where Ferrerio and Gandafabou camps as well as five unofficial sites are located. This development has impacted negatively on UNHCR's operations in the camps and sites. On 23 September, UNHCR, WFP and implementing partners had to leave a food distribution site in Goromgorom and returned to Dori for security reasons.
- The results of the **Level 2 Registration** exercise which was organized from 26 July to 23 September show a sharp decline in the number of Malian refugees in the country. The new count undertaken by UNHCR, the Burkina Faso government and several humanitarian partners identified **34,877 Malian refugees**, down from some 107,000 previously recorded. Registration at the initial stages of the emergency relies on data compiled at household level and from information provided by local officials and refugee leaders. The sharpest reduction in figures was seen in the spontaneous refugee settlements where humanitarian access has been challenging, making it difficult to closely verify the data collection process.
- UNHCR, UNICEF and partners are currently engaged in the identification of refugee children who do not have **birth certificates** in order to work with the national authorities to have the certificates issued to such children.
- In Mentao, Damba, Ferrerio and Gandafabou camps, an estimated **5,000 women of reproductive age** have received sanitary kits and other items donated by UNHCR, UNFPA, OXFAM, and other agencies. The kits and items included towels, sanitary pads, soap, skin pomade, buckets, cups and basins.
- In Burkina Faso, the school year 2012/2013 was scheduled to start on 1 October. However, refugee schools will start on 15 October due mainly to the **shortage of teachers**. The Ministry of Education has not been able to deploy teachers to support refugee education as planned due to a general shortage of teachers in the Sahel region. To address the problem, UNHCR, UNICEF and the Ministry of Education are in the process of recruiting **77 volunteer teachers**. Currently, an estimated **9,500 Malian refugee children** are of school age in Burkina Faso.

Life-saving Assistance

- UNHCR and partners are currently facing a shortage of nutrition supplements (PlumpyNut and Corn Soya Blend) to treat cases of malnutrition. The Association of Spirulin Producers in Burkina Faso has donated **307 kg of Spirulin** to UNHCR to help address the problem of malnutrition in the camps.
- In Mentao, *Médecins du Monde* (MDM) organized a four-day training on **HIV/AIDS** for 40 community liaison workers who will in turn conduct HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns in the camp.
- Food distribution for the month of September in all the camps/sites took place from 10 to 30 September. The quantity of food served to each refugee gave the **required 2,100 kcal per day**. Out of **31,669**

refugees (8,816 households) planned for the assistance, **25,983 refugees** (7,803 households) collected their rations. The number of absentees mainly represented refugees who have travelled outside the camps to undertake agro-pastoral activities. The food rations were provided by WFP.

- Refugee Assistance Program (RAP-AID) distributed food items to **500 Malian refugee** children aged between 6 and 18 months in Somgande site. The NGO also distributed some non food items including buckets and soap for the benefit of the children.
- During the month of September in Gandafabou, Burkina Faso Red Cross distributed **1,130 tarpaulin sheets** to **560 households**. The partner also distributed **tents** donated by the Luxembourg Red Cross to **21 newly arrived households** in Mentao.

MAURITANIA

Protection Response

- On 18 September, UNHCR, in collaboration with the Mauritanian authorities and its partners, launched the **Level 2 Registration** exercise in **Mbera camp**. The fixing of bracelets was organized on 18 and 19 September. On 20 September, UNHCR and partners started the individual registration of the refugees. Final figures are expected to be known by the end of October.
- On 18 September, UNHCR and UNICEF representatives in Mauritania met with the Minister of Education to discuss ways to assist Malian refugee students to take **the 2012 baccalaureate exam**. It was agreed that UNICEF Mali will liaise with the Ministry of Education in Mali for information on how the baccalaureate exam could be administered in Mauritania.
- As of 23 September, 2,164 refugee children (1,329 boys and 835 girls) have been registered in the four Child Friendly Spaces created by UNICEF in the camp of Mbera.
- Out of **65 recent births** registered in the camp, it was noted that **38% of the deliveries** took place at home without medical assistance despite the existence of health facilities in the refugee camp. UNHCR and partners are working with the refugee community to address the issue.

Life-saving Assistance

- On 19 September, Oxfam completed the equipment of **two boreholes** with a distribution network to cover the southern part of the refugee camp. Currently, five boreholes are operational in the camp and the average quantity of water per person per day has increased from **7 to 17.5 litres**. Solidarités International continues to work on the equipment of a sixth borehole with a distribution network in order to increase the water supply in the camp.
- The current **latrine** and **shower** situation is **49 persons** per latrine and **52 persons** per shower, in line with the emergency standards.

In efforts to promote good hygiene practices in the camp, UNHCR distributed 101 hygiene kits to 110 members of sanitation and hygiene committees. The kits consisted of wheelbarrows, rakes, shovels, hoes and brooms.

- WFP has opened **two additional nutritional rehabilitation centres** in the camp bringing the number to **11 centres**. As of 23 September, the malnourished refugees currently undergoing treatment in these centres are **4,052**. Between 9 and 11 September, UNICEF and the Ministry of Health distributed "Plumpy doz" to **6,749 refugee children** in the age range of 6 to 24 months during a **blanket feeding programme**.
- UNHCR and *Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire* (CSA) organised food distribution for the month of September to benefit 106,486 refugees. The food rations were provided by WFP.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

- The total supplementary **requirements for the Mali situation stand at 153.7 million** and UNHCR's total revised budgetary requirements for its overall activities in countries affected by the Mali situation amounts to USD 212.1 million for 2012. In light of the decrease in refugee figures in Burkina Faso, UNHCR will revise its budget downwards accordingly.
- UNHCR is grateful to donors who have thus far committed pledges amounting to **USD 62.6 million** to respond to this crisis. The amount represents **40.7 per cent** of the total financial requirements that have been raised thus far.
- UNHCR and its partners are **appealing for urgent financial support** from donors for the Malian displaced.

UNHCR PRESENCE

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Niger | (Offices) Niamey, Abala, Mangaize, Ayourou (Camps) Tabareybarey, Mangaize, Abala (Official sites)* Agando and Chinwaren |
| Burkina Faso | (Offices) Ouagadougou, Dori, Gorom-Gorom, Djibo, Bobo Dioulasso. (Camps)* Mentao, Damba, Ferrerio, Gandafabou, Goudebo, Sanioniongo/Somgande, Bobo Dioulasso |
| Mauritania | (Offices) Nouakchott, Bassikounou Camp - Mbera |
| Mali | (Offices) Bamako, Kayes (IDP site) Mopti |

* Apart from the official camps and sites, some refugees are living in spontaneous settlements.



Distribution of energy-efficient stoves in Abala camp. ©UNHCR/C.Arnaud/ September 2012