

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

Mali Situation Update

No 12 | 1 November 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>

**Mali emergency page: <http://www.unhcr.org/emergency/50597c616-5093d81bc.html>

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

Country of Asylum	Malian Refugees	Others* of Concern	Source
Niger	61,880	3,132	CNE, UNHCR
Burkina Faso	35,859	-	CONAREF/ UNHCR
Mauritania	108,953 **	-	Government/ UNHCR
Algeria	1,550	-	Government
Togo	20	-	Government/ UNHCR
Guinea	44	-	Government/ UNHCR
Total	208,306	3,132	

* 3,132 are returning Niger nationals.

** Figures to be confirmed after Level 2 Registration.

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 Received 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	722,244
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	3,604,047
Switzerland	1,563,604
United States	27,000,000
Private donors	820,188
TOTAL	64,224,308

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 November, the total number of Malian refugees in Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Algeria, Togo and Guinea is **208,306 persons**. The new figure of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mali as a result of the crisis is estimated at **203,843**. The current number of Malian refugees and IDPs is **412,149 persons**.
- On 12 October, the United Nations Security Council adopted **Resolution 2071/2012** to support an international military intervention led by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to oust the Islamist extremists from the north of Mali.
- The Organization of Islamic Cooperation visited Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso from 15 to 21 October to assess the current humanitarian situation as a result of the Mali crisis and to discuss the challenges facing the Governments and humanitarian actors providing response to the situation.
- The United States Secretary of State, Mrs Hillary Clinton visited Algeria on 29 October to discuss the increasing threat posed by Islamist extremists in Mali with the Algerian Government.
- UNHCR Regional Representation of West Africa in Dakar, in coordination with UNHCR offices in countries affected or likely to be affected by the Malian crisis, is in the process of updating a **Mali Regional Contingency Plan** in order to prepare for a well-coordinated refugee response to a further mass influx of Malian refugees into neighbouring countries in the event of a possible international military intervention.
- The worsening security situation in the Sahel region impacts on the movements of humanitarian workers and on humanitarian operations in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania requiring the use of regular armed escorts.
- In Mauritania, the **Level 2 Registration exercise** started in Mbera camp on 18 September continues. The results are expected during the month of November 2012. The exercise has been scheduled to start in Niger on 12 November. New, revalidated Malian refugee statistics for the hosting countries are expected to be known in December 2012.
- In Burkina Faso, **406 refugees** composed of **134 households** have been relocated from **Deou Tamashek** and **Ferrerio** in the Oudalan province to a safer and improved camp, **Goudebo** in the Seno province between 18 and 30 October. On 16 and 17 October, **200 refugees** composed of **67 households** were also relocated from **Somgande** in Ouagadougou to **Saag Nioniogo**.

MALI

Political/Security Update

On 12 October, the UN Security Council adopted **Resolution 2071(2012)** that gives the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and African Union (AU) leaders, assisted by other bilateral partners and international organizations, 45 days to provide specific plans for an international military intervention to oust Islamist extremist groups from the north of Mali. In the resolution, the Security Council urged the Mali Interim Government, the various Malian rebel groups and the representatives of the local population in the north of Mali to engage in a negotiation process to end the crisis. It also condemned strongly human rights abuses committed in the north by armed rebels and other extremist groups, including violence against civilians, notably women and children, killings, hostage-taking, pillaging, theft, destruction of cultural and religious sites, and recruitment of children.

On 19 and 20 October, high-level representatives of the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the European Union (EU), and other countries met in Bamako to discuss **plans for a possible international military intervention** to oust the Islamist extremist groups from the north of Mali and to help restore stability in the country. Another meeting took place in Addis Ababa on 24 October to continue the discussions.

On 24 October, the African Union (AU) lifted the suspension on Mali, which was barred from the AU after rebels from the military overthrew the elected government in March 2012. The AU also urged the "restoration of state authority of the northern part of the country" and called for free, fair and transparent elections to take place early next year.

There are unconfirmed reports of **new armed groups from Sudan and Somalia** that have been arriving in the north of Mali to reinforce the Islamist extremist groups to fight against a possible international force.

Protection Response

IDP Statistics: On 24 October, the Commission on Population Movement, a working group under the Protection Cluster, confirmed that the current number of IDPs in Mali is estimated at **203,843 persons** composed of **30,470 households**. The new figure indicates a **71.5% increase** compared to 118,795 released in the report of September. The latest figures were obtained primarily through the efforts of humanitarian actors who have been able to conduct assessments in the northern regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal in order to provide food assistance to IDPs. The change in the figures is the result of an improved access to some IDP areas as well as of an increased funding and human resources to obtain more reliable data.

Population Movements: According to *Solidarité Internationale*, reports of a possible military intervention in the north by the Malian Army and ECOWAS troops is causing **displacement of populations** from urban centres including Tessalit, Kidal and Abeibara in Kidal region, towards Gao and Bamako as well as to remote rural areas. The reports indicate that some of the displaced people have settled near water sources close to their villages. *Solidarité Internationale* has expressed concern over **the movement of people near water sources** which could be a factor for a **cholera outbreak**.

IDP Profiling: UNHCR, through its implementing partner INTERSOS, plans to organize **IDP Profiling** exercise in **Mopti, a strategic location** linking the north and south of Mali in the coming weeks. The results of the exercise will be expected in December 2012. IOM has also secured additional funding to facilitate the roll-out of its IDP Tracking and Monitoring System project to cover other regions of Mali.

Child Recruitment: Human rights groups continue to provide reports on **child recruitment**. Children as young as 14 years old have allegedly been seen in militia training camps in Sevare, Mopti. On 6 October, a human rights group reported that the Islamist armed rebel groups in the north run three schools in Songo, Gao region, to **indoctrinate children and youth** between **6 and 25 years old** who are kept in these schools where they are taught the Koran as well as some military training. **83 children** from Tessalit are reported to have joined the schools. Armed groups in Gao pay between 75,000 CFA and 200,000 CFA to those who accept to take part in the training.

SGBV: According to reports from human rights groups, **girls as young as nine years** are being **forced to marry** men of the armed groups in the north. These men pay a 'dowry' that is between 400,000 and 500,000 CFA to the families of the girls. The slogan used by armed groups is 'nobody can refuse to give a woman to marry under the dictates of the Koran'. Some young girls are also **allegedly being forced into prostitution**.

Shelter: An estimated **57% of IDPs** were reported to be in need of shelter in the last IDP profiling report. The Humanitarian Country Team in Mali has made a request to the UN Humanitarian Coordinator on **the need to activate the Shelter/Non Food Items (NFI) Cluster** given the increase in population movement and the prevailing IDP needs in Shelter/NFIs. UNHCR will be the lead of that cluster when it is activated.

NIGER

Security Update

The security situation is tense in Niger following the **kidnapping of five Niger nationals, and a Chadian** working with a Niger NGO Befen Alima in the night of 14 October. The aid workers were reportedly kidnapped by *le Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest* (MUJAO), in Dakoro, in the Maradi region, in central Niger. The Niger hostages were liberated on 2 November but the Chadian has been reported dead. Following the kidnapping, the United Nations Security Management Team (SMT) in Niger suspended field missions and directed the **temporary relocation of staff** from the field to regional capitals and to Niamey from where Ayorou staff undertook daily field trips to work under armed escorts from Tillabery. On 24 October, the SMT lifted the suspension of missions specifically for UNHCR which enabled it to carry out emergency assistance activities in the camps. On 30 October, the SMT lifted the suspension of missions for all humanitarian agencies. However, all movements of humanitarian workers in areas in the country designated by United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS) as Level 3 must be undertaken under armed escort. The zones in Niger are Niamey, Tillabery region and the north of Tahoua region. The refugee camps are situated in Tillabery and Tahoua regions.

Protection and Assistance`

New Arrivals: In October, an estimated **859 persons** arrived from northern Mali to Niger. The new arrivals mainly came from Gao, Kidal, Menaka and Andéramboukane. They stated that they lacked food and were fleeing from banditry, human rights abuses being perpetrated by Islamist extremists through the application of the Sharia law and the possible military intervention in the north of Mali.

Child Protection: In Abala camp, unconfirmed reports indicate that refugee children (mostly adolescents) are being recruited by armed groups who lure them with large amounts of money. UNHCR is taking preventive action by organizing awareness campaign **on civilian and humanitarian character of the camp** and on the importance of education. In Mangaize camp, UNHCR, Plan Niger and World Vision have set up a **Child Protection committee** composed of 12 refugee members including five women to help identify children at risk in the camp to enable UNHCR and partners to respond to their protection needs.

Education: UNHCR and UNICEF continue to intensify efforts to provide primary education for refugee children in the camps. In Tabareybarey, Mangaize and Abala camps, a total of **2,793 preschool and primary school children** have so far been registered and will be taught the Niger curriculum. In Mangaize, 598 pre-school and primary-school refugee children will be integrated in Mangaize public school situated less than one kilometre from the camp. UNHCR is coordinating with UNICEF to make funds available for the construction of **13 additional classrooms** in Mangaize and Tabareybarey. In Abala, Oxfam has started construction work on **27 classrooms**. Out of a total of **54 primary school teachers** required in the three camps, **30 teachers** have so far been recruited. Regarding secondary education in the three camps, UNHCR and partners are planning to **integrate refugee secondary students in local schools**. A total of 126 students have so far been registered in the three camps. The total number of school age children will be determined after the Level 2 Registration.

Participatory Assessment: Between 9 and 18 October, UNHCR, partners and the refugee communities organized **participatory assessment** in Mangaize, Abala and Tabareybarey camps in order to collect information on protection risks for the different groups of refugees to be able to design appropriate responses to them. Teams were set up on gender, age and diversity criteria (**AGDM**) and included persons with specific needs. Participating communities were Tuareg, Peul, Zerma, Sonrhäï, Arabic, Hausa, Bambara, Daoussack (minority group), Dabakar and Bela. Major themes discussed were water and sanitation, health, shelter, education, security, livelihoods, and community-based activities. The points discussed included insufficient food rations, primary and secondary education as well as literacy programmes, improved water and sanitation facilities, improved maternal health services and the lack of income generating activities in the camps.



Malian refugee boys in Tabareybarey camp, Niger taking part in participatory assessment. The boys look forward to attending school in the camp. ©UNHCR / H. Caux / October 2012

WASH: In Abala, Mangaize, Ayorou, Agando and Chinwaren, the average quantity of water available per person per day is **8.5 litres**. The average number of persons per latrine/shower in the five camps is **146 persons per latrine** and **167 persons per shower**. UNHCR and partners are continuing the efforts to improve the water and sanitation situation in the camps and sites to reach the regular standard of 20 litres per person per day in terms of water availability and 20 persons per latrine/shower. In Abala, Qatar Red Crescent has completed 20% of construction work on a borehole it is financing. During the week of 23 October, World Vision completed work on a mini water system in Mangaize. The partner has also started the construction of over 5,000 latrine slabs. On 31 October in Tillia (Agando and Chinwaren sites), *Action Contre la Faim* (ACH) Spain completed construction work on a well, three stand pipes, 80 latrines and 40 showers. It also distributed 100 dustbins to refugees in Agando site.

Health/Nutrition: In the five camps and sites, **passive screening** was conducted involving **2,101** children. Out of that number, 75 children (4%) were found to be severely malnourished, 204 children (10%) were moderately malnourished, and 1,811 (86%) were found to be in good health. Out of **517 cases of severe acute malnutrition without complications** that were receiving treatment in the nutrition programme during the month of October, **53 were treated** and discharged. Out of **2,724 cases of moderate acute malnutrition** that were receiving treatment, **230 cases were treated** and discharged. WFP, UNHCR and Plan Niger organized blanket feeding for children aged between 6 and 23 months. A total of **330 children** in Ayorou, and **125 children** in Abala were served. The blanket feeding did not cover Mangaize camp and Tillia sites as there was a shortage of Corn Soya blend (CSB++).

Food Assistance: Food distribution for the month of October took place in all the camps between 29 September and 23 October. The food rations, provided by WFP, did not include pulses and salt and gave **1,849 Kcal** per person per day instead of the **required 2,100 Kcal**.

Environment: In line with UNHCR **environment strategy development** process, UNHCR in Niger is seeking the support of organizations with the expertise in environmental protection. Africa Environmental Foundation has expressed the willingness to support the process. The Terms of Reference for the support is being developed while a visit of the Foundation's delegation to Niger has been planned for November 2012. The French Embassy has financed the training of eight refugees and seven Niger nationals in **maintenance of energy-efficient stoves** in Mangaize camp. UNHCR is working on the **provision of domestic energy** (Wood and Charcoal) in areas where improved stoves have been distributed to the refugees and host communities.

BURKINA FASO

Security Update

The security situation in the Sahel region is tense following threats issued by the Islamist extremists in Mali to launch Jihad against all countries that will participate in or support a possible international military intervention in Mali. Humanitarian workers are concerned about the security developments in the region. During the week of 22 October, there were reports of **two attempted kidnappings** in Djibo and in Diapaga, located about 45 km from the border with Niger. Both targets, a male aid worker and a female missionary, were reportedly Westerners. UNHCR has a field office located in Djibo. In view of the security situation, UNHCR, in collaboration with the national authorities have arranged with the Gendarmerie to provide regular armed escorts for the movements of humanitarian staff in the performance of their duties.

Protection and Assistance

New Arrivals: In October, the number of new arrivals from northern Mali to Burkina Faso was estimated at 982 persons. The new arrivals mainly came from Boni, Gao, Timbuktu and Gossi. The reason for the flight was general insecurity, the fear of the strict application of the Sharia law by the Islamist extremists and the possible military intervention in the north.

Relocation: UNHCR, Government representatives and partners have started the voluntary relocation of Malian refugees from temporary and/or unsafe locations to safer camps with improved infrastructure such as water, latrines, showers, and shelters. On 16 and 17 October, **200 refugees** composed of **67 households** living in **Somgande** temporary site in Ouagadougou were relocated to **Saag Nioniogo camp**, situated 45 km from Ouagadougou. Between 18 and 30 October, **406 refugees** composed of **134 households were relocated** from **Deou Tamashek** site and **Ferrerio camp** in the Oudalan province, situated 46 km and 40 km

respectively from the Malian border to **Goudebou camp** situated 147 km from the border. The exercise is scheduled to continue until the end of year.



Relocation of refugees from Deou to Goudebo in the Sahel region, Burkina Faso. ©UNHCR/Bah M./October 2012.

Child Protection: UNHCR, UNICEF and ICRC are drafting Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) on the **Best Interest Determination (BID)** of the child in line with their organizational responsibilities towards unaccompanied minors and separated children. They are also working on the creation of a panel for BID as well as Monitoring and Reporting Mechanisms for violation of child rights. During the week of 15 October, UNICEF organized a workshop on family reunification and child protection in emergency situations for 60 participants from UNHCR, NGOs, local government, social services, department of education, gendarmerie, police, and health sector in Niamey.

Sexual and Gender Based Violence: During the week of 8 October, UNFPA organized a **train the trainer session on SGBV** coordination, prevention and response for SGBV actors in the camps. The newly trained trainers have prepared training tools to train partners, teachers as well as refugee volunteers. UNHCR and UNFPA are working on a plan of action on the implementation of SGBV SOPs.

Education: On 15 October, the new school year commenced in the Sahel region. However, school has not yet started in the camps, as refugee children, protesting against the non recruitment of Malian refugee teachers in the schools, have boycotted classes. Currently, **58 Burkinabe voluntary teachers** have been deployed in the camp schools. Under the country's voluntary teacher recruitment regulations, the refugees do not fulfill the two criteria for recruitment: be nationals of Burkina Faso and/or to have resided in Burkina Faso for two years or more. The Ministry of Education is looking for a solution to the problem. Out of **9,287 children of primary school age** in the refugee camps and sites in Burkina Faso, only 1,237 have so far registered for the new school year. Parents of **149 secondary school students** identified have been encouraged to send the students to schools close to the camps.

WASH: The average quantity of water available per person per day is above **20 litres** in Ferrerio, Mentao, Damba and Goudebo, and **6.56 litres** in **Gandafabou** where UNHCR will begin the construction of five boreholes in the coming weeks. The average number of persons per latrine/shower in Ferrerio, Mentao, Damba and Gandafabou camps is **23 persons per latrine** and **29 persons per shower**. In Goudebo, 36 latrines and 16 showers have so far been installed for the 406 refugees who were recently relocated there; **11 persons per latrine** and **25 persons per shower**.

Food Assistance: Food distribution for the month of October took place in all the camps/sites. Out of **35,859 refugees** planned for the assistance, **31,535 refugees** collected their rations. The number of absentees

represented refugees who had mainly travelled outside the camps to undertake agro-pastoral activities. The food rations were provided by WFP.

Environment: UNHCR has held a series of activities with environmental technical service providers, host populations and refugees within the framework of the implementation of a strategy for **accessing domestic energy** as well as for environmental education. *Organisation catholique pour le développement et la solidarité* (OCADES) has conducted training in the techniques of making energy-saving stoves for **76 refugees** including **49 women** in Mentao, Gandafabou and Férério camps.

MAURITANIA

Security Update

In Mauritania, the risk of kidnapping of humanitarian staff is high thus, all movements of UNHCR staff continue to require armed escort provided by the authorities. In addition to the Gendarmerie squadron deployed in Fassala, a Gendarmerie platoon is also deployed in Mbera camp for the security of the refugees.

Protection and Assistance

Level 2 Registration: The Level 2 Registration (individual registration) of Malian refugees which started on 18 September in Mbera camp continues with the collaboration of Government officials and UNHCR's partners. UNHCR continues to strengthen the capacities of the registration teams in terms of equipment and human resources, to speed up the process and complete the Level 2 Registration on time. UNHCR and its partner for community services, INTERSOS, continue to facilitate the individual registration of persons with specific needs.



Individual registration in Mbera camp, Mauritania. ©UNHCR/E. Villechalane/September 2012

Education: In preparation for the school year 2012/2013, which has been scheduled to start at the beginning of November, UNHCR and education partners, UNICEF and INTERSOS have identified two locations in the camp for the creation of two additional primary schools and two secondary schools. The number of children of school age in the camp will be known after the ongoing registration exercise is completed.

WASH: The average quantity of water available per person per day in the camp is **16 litres**. *Solidarité Internationale*, is conducting a survey to assess the water consumption by refugee households in the camp. The current latrine/shower situation is **42 persons per latrine/shower**.

Health/Nutrition: Out of an average of **2,500 medical consultations per week**, the main prevalent diseases recorded in the refugee camp remain **malaria** (27.45%), **respiratory infections** (20.45%) and **diarrhea** (9.9%).

During the month of October, WFP distributed vegetable oil, sugar and Corn Soya Blend (Plus) for 2,900 refugee children in the age range of 6 to 24 months, for a period of three months.

Food Assistance: The food distribution for the month of October started on 30 October for a total of 109,100 refugees. WFP could not provide a full food basket, because the quantities of **pulses** and **vegetable oil** supplied cover only **50%** of the needs of the refugees for these two commodities. In addition, WFP also replaced the rice with wheat and increased the quantities in wheat provided to compensate for the loss of nutritional value compared to rice. WFP has started a sensitization campaign on the preparation and cooking of wheat for the refugees considering the cooking methods for the two commodities.

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 64.2 million** to respond to this crisis. The amount represents **41.7 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.