



UNHCR

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

Mali Situation Update

No 14 | 1 January 2013



This update provides a snapshot of UNHCR's and its partners' response to the displacement of Malians in Mali itself and into Burkina Faso and Niger. 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 January 2013)

Country of Asylum	Malian Refugees	Others* of Concern	Source
Mauritania	54,117	-	Government/ UNHCR
Niger	50,000**	3,127	CNE, UNHCR
Burkina Faso	38,776	-	CONAREF/ UNHCR
Algeria	1,500	-	Government
Guinea	26	-	Government/ UNHCR
Togo	20	-	Government/ UNHCR
TOTAL	144,439	3,127	

* 3,127 are returning Niger nationals.

**Figures to be confirmed after Level 2 Registration.

Contributions Received for the Mali Situation in 2012

African Union	150,000
Australia	4,162,331
Austria	331,125
Brazil	300,000
Canada	1,500,000
CERF	6,469,616
Denmark	1,802,127
European Union	5,099,987
France	1,380,138
Germany	3,877,407
Ireland	746,269
Italy	1,020,003
Japan	1,260,875
Luxembourg	1,550,388
Netherlands	8,571,426
Norway	2,479,749
Spain	1,411,328
Sweden	3,604,047
Switzerland	2,456,693
United Arab Emirates	39,703
United States	27,000,000
Private donors	2,141,922
TOTAL	77,355,134

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 UN Population Fund.

UNHCR Financial Requirements for 2012

(in million USD)

Country	ExCom approved Budget (with adjustments)	Supplementary requirements	Revised total budget
RO Senegal*	50.6	93.2	143.8
Mauritania	7.8	30.3	38.1
TOTAL	58.4	123.5	181.9

* In 2012, the budget for the UNHCR Regional Office in Senegal was covering 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.

GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 1 January 2013, the total number of Malian refugees in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger and Togo is **144,439 persons**. The estimated number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mali as a result of the crisis remains **198,558**. The current number of Malian refugees and IDPs is **342,997 persons**.
- On 11 December 2012, Cheick Modibo Diarra resigned as Malian Prime Minister. The Malian Interim President, Dioncounda Traore, appointed **Diango Cissoko** as **the new Prime Minister**.
- On 20 December 2012, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution **2085 (2012)** which authorizes the deployment of the **African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA)** for an initial period of one year.
- In Niger, the **Level 2 Registration** was held from 12 November to 10 December 2012 in Niamey, Abala, Mangaize and Tabareybarey camps as well as the spontaneous sites in Tillabery region. The exercise will be held in the camps and sites in Tahoua region as well as continue in Niamey in January 2013.
- The annual **16 Days of Activism against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence** was marked in the refugee camps from 25 November to 10 December 2012 as part of UNHCR's efforts to end sexual and gender-based violence in all its forms among persons of concern. The theme for the 2012 campaign was **"From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World"**.
- On 7 December, a **European Union (EU)** delegation led by Ms Kristalina Georgieva, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, visited Dori in the Sahel Region to assess the situation of the Malian refugees. The delegation met with refugees in Goudebou camp and promised more commitment from the EU to assist them.
- From 12 to 15 December 2012, Mr Luiz Mendez, the Regional Refugee Coordinator (Dakar) of **Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration (BPRM)** and Ms Catherine Baroang from BPRM office in Washington DC, visited Niger to assess the current situation of the Malian refugees in that country.



The European Union (EU) delegation led by Ms Kristalina Georgieva, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, with UNHCR and partners on a visit to Goudebou camp, Burkina Faso.

©UNHCR/Bah M/December 2012.

MALI

Political/Security Update

On 11 December, Cheick Modibo Diarra resigned as the Malian Prime Minister. Diarra, known to be a strong supporter of an African-led military intervention against Islamists controlling the north of Mali, is believed to have resigned under pressure from some military personnel who organized the March 2012 coup d'état under the leadership of Captain Amadou Haya Sanogo. Following the resignation of Diarra which drew international condemnation, the Malian Interim President Dioncounda Traore, the same day, appointed Diango Cissoko, previously Mali's Ombudsman, as the new Prime Minister.

On 20 December, the United Nations Security Council adopted **Resolution 2085 (2012)** which authorizes the deployment of **the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA)** for an initial period of one year to support efforts by the Malian authorities to retake the north of Mali from Islamist extremists. Among its tasks under Resolution 2085 (2012), AFISMA will help **strengthen Malian defence and security forces**; support Malian authorities in their primary responsibility **to protect the population**; as well as to support the authorities "to create a secure environment for the civilian-led **delivery of humanitarian assistance** and the voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees, as requested, within its capabilities and in close coordination with humanitarian actors."

The UN Security Council calls upon Member States, including from the Sahel region, to contribute troops to AFISMA in order to enable the mission to fulfil its mandate. With regard to funding, the UN Security Council calls upon Member States and international organizations, to provide financial support and contributions in kind to AFISMA to enable its deployment and implementation of its mandate. The Security Council emphasizes that the international military plans will have to be further refined before any offensive operation starts.

Prior to the adoption of Resolution 2085 (2012), the EU approved plans on 10 December to deploy a military training mission of some 250 troops to Mali to help train Malian government forces. While the international community prepare for the proposed military intervention in Mali, humanitarian analysts continue to express **concerns over the humanitarian consequences** of an armed intervention and have urged the international community to prepare for a deepening refugee crisis.

Regarding some of the activities of the Islamist extremists, *le Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest* (MUJAO), **amputated the hands of two people in Gao** under their interpretation of the Sharia law on 21 December, and disclosed that eight other people would suffer the same fate. Ansar Dine continued **the destruction of historic sites and mausoleums** which the group terms places of 'idolatry' in **Timbuktu** on 23 December. Two days earlier, Ansar Dine had made a promise in Algeria to hold political negotiations with Malian authorities, but had said that it will continue to apply the Sharia law in the zones under its control.

Protection Response

IDP Profiling: UNHCR, through its implementing partner INTERSOS, and with the support of the Mali National Institute of Statistics organized **IDP Profiling** exercise in **Mopti** during the months of November and December 2012. The objectives of the exercise are to have reliable statistics of IDPs and host families as well as to have enhanced understanding of the current displacement dynamics as a result of the crisis in Mali. The results of the exercise will therefore provide UNHCR and other humanitarian organisations with useful information for advocacy as well as for protection and assistance programming purposes. INTERSOS is in the process of analysing the data in order to share the results of the exercise in the coming weeks. According to official statistics, there are currently **39,830 IDPs** composed of **6,128 households** in Mopti, **a strategic location** linking the north and south of Mali. The figure represents about 20% of the total internally displaced persons as a result of the conflict in Mali.

Shelter Cluster: On 7 December, representatives of eight humanitarian organizations and the Malian Directorate of Civil Protection held the first **Shelter Cluster meeting** in Bamako with UNHCR as the Cluster Lead to discuss shelter-related issues concerning the internally displaced. As a result of the meeting, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) submitted a proposed shelter project to UNHCR with the objective, **to assist 1,000 IDP households** with adequate shelter or prevent the loss of their shelter. Under the project, NRC plans to provide **500 IDP households**, living with host families, with **an extra room and improved sanitary facilities** while **500 IDP households** at risk of eviction will be assisted to **pay their rents by undertaking some income generating activities**.

Non Food Items Assistance: As of 31 December, UNHCR, through its partner INTERSOS, had distributed kitchen sets, mosquito nets, blankets, mats, and buckets to **4,364 IDP households in Mopti**. The distribution was made to respond to some of the needs identified among the IDP population since the crisis began.

Protection and Assistance

New Arrivals: A new wave of refugees arrived in Niger camps from northern Mali estimated at **2,706 individuals or 618 households** in December. These new arrivals mainly come from Anderamboukane (Menaka district). Insecurity, the application of the Sharia law, lack of means of subsistence were cited as the main reasons for the flight. The verification and individual registration of these persons have started.

Level 2 Registration: During the month of December 2012, UNHCR, the Niger Government organ for refugees, *Commission Nationale d'Eligibilité* (CNE) and partners finalized the individual registration of Malian refugees in the three main camps, Abala, Mangaize and Tabareybarey, as well as a number of spontaneous sites in Tillabery region. However, due to a national census which took place between 10 and 24 December, the registration was suspended in the camps and sites in Tahoua region. In agreement with the Government, the exercise will resume in January 2013. On the basis of this registration exercise, the planning figure for 2013 has been fixed at **50,000 individuals** in Niger pending the completion of the exercise.

Child Protection: With reports by some humanitarian organizations of child recruitment by armed groups in Mali, UNHCR and partners have intensified their efforts to raise awareness among the Malian refugee population about the problem in order to help prevent it. From 12 to 14 December 2012, UNICEF organized a training for UNHCR staff and camp management partners on the **protection of children against recruitment**. An action plan for awareness campaign in the camps has also been developed for the refugee population.

A total of **2,804 children** (including **1,461 girls**) benefited from the Child Friendly Spaces for **cultural and sports activities**. In the four Child Friendly Spaces run by the NGO Help, five children in need of psychological support were identified in December. A total of **64 handicapped children** are currently registered in the camps. Twelve handicapped children were medically assisted in Niamey and Abala health centre where six of them were provided with wheelchairs. ACTED also donated wheelchairs to two handicapped children. UNHCR and partners are planning to provide psychological support for the other handicapped children. UNHCR also received a **donation of clothes** for children from the **Australian Ambassador in Nigeria**. The clothes are currently being distributed at Abala camp.

SGBV: In efforts to establish a well-coordinated inter-agency approach in the **prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence** (SGBV), UNHCR has shared a draft strategy for prevention of and response to SGBV with stakeholders including appropriate government organs, UN agencies and partners involved in SGBV activities. UNHCR, in collaboration with the stakeholders, has put in place mechanisms in order to respond more effectively to SGBV in the camps and among the urban refugees in Niamey. They include regular coordination meetings; setting up of SGBV working groups and referral systems in Abala and Mangaize camps; and capacity building of social mobilisers in the camps. Standing Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the prevention of and response to SGBV are also being developed.

On the occasion of the '16 Days of Activism against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence' campaign from 25 November to 10 December 2012, UNHCR organized two sensitization events in Niamey, Mangaize, Abala, Tabareybarey, and Tillia. This year's national theme was: *"Le mariage d'accord, l'éducation d'abord"* sensitizing parents and youth to let girls finish their education first, before getting married. The **global theme, "From peace in the home to peace in the world"**, had been developed with the refugees with the organization of awareness activities on various SGBV themes in the form of cultural activities, theatrical presentations, debates, and educational contests in the camps and in Niamey. UNHCR noted the commendable refugee participation in the campaign activities as they proposed measures to eliminate gender-based violence in the community including giving voice to women and children, and educating parents about the consequences of early/forced marriage.

Capacity Building: As part of capacity building measures aimed at enhancing the protection of refugees, UNHCR in collaboration with CNE, organized training sessions on **international protection and Refugee Status Determination** for CNE staff and other stakeholders during the month of December.

Education: As of 31 December 2012, a total of **3,177 Malian refugee children** (including **1,507 girls**) were enrolled in **primary schools** in Abala, Tabareybarey, and Mangaize camps. At the secondary school level, **156 students** (including **51 girls**) had been enrolled. The major challenges regarding refugee education are **insufficient number of teachers and classrooms**. Out of **69 teachers** required, there is a current gap of **19 teachers**. UNHCR and partners are collaborating with Niger authorities to resolve the issue of teachers

through recruitment and training of new teachers. Regarding **a current gap of 22 classrooms** out of the **70 classrooms** required, UNHCR will finance the construction of additional classrooms to address the gap. The statistics of school age children in the camps, at both primary and secondary levels, will be known on completion of the Level 2 Registration exercise.

WASH: Statistically, the average **water consumption** per day in the camps is about **11 litres per person per day**. The drinking water distribution systems set up in the camps would allow a significant higher per capita consumption of about 21 litres per day. Hence, while the water consumption is below the minimum standard of 20 litres per person per day, the problem is not on the supply side but rather on the consumption patterns of a nomad population as well as the cold desert weather at this time of the year during which water consumption drops.

In all camps the construction of latrines and showers is ongoing. In terms of waste management, systems comprising of bins, carts, and treatment centres have been set up in the camps. In Mangaize, a team of 36 volunteers divided into hygiene and sanitation sub committees are responsible for the daily waste management.

Food Assistance/Nutrition: The general food ration distributed by WFP in December consisted of rice, oil and Corn Soya Blend (CSB) plus for a period of 30 days. Due to the lack of beans the ration provided only **1,849 kilocalories per person per day** rather than the agreed ration of **2,100 kilocalories**.

UNHCR, WFP and UNICEF started their **“wet feeding” programme for children** which means that meals are cooked for all **children aged 6 to 23 months**. With this programme the participating agencies intend to reduce the high malnutrition rates prevailing in the camps, varying between 15.5% (18.1%) at Tabareyberey, 21.2% (30%) at Mangaize, and 18.7% (27%) in Abala camp. (The first figure provides the general average while the second figure, in brackets, refers to acute malnutrition rate in the age group of 6 – 23 months old children). The recurrent food crisis and severe drought in the Sahel has affected up to 18 million persons in the region, especially Niger which has repercussions in our camps. Furthermore, the lack of funding for WFP to deliver proper rations at times as well as the lack of medical follow up by the refugee families to cure their malnourished children are some of the major reasons for the high malnutrition rates in the camps.

Environment: UNHCR, partners and the refugee communities elaborated an **environmental damage mitigation strategy** which consisted of proposing short- and long-term actions to help remedy environmental problems identified in the camps. As a next step, it is foreseen to embark on a community action planning exercise so as to assign roles and responsibilities as well as time frame for the implementation of the action within the first three months in 2013.

In 2012, **France** financed the training of technicians in **maintenance of energy-efficient stoves** in all camps. As a result, refugees using energy-efficient cooking stoves in front of their dwellings has become a normal sight in the camps. As a short term measure to prevent refugees from selling off a part of their food ration in order to buy cooking fuel, UNHCR has contracted NGO partners to provide domestic energy (firewood and charcoal) in areas where improved stoves have been distributed to the refugees and host communities. In the long term, other fuels will be introduced, however, before the large-scale distribution of other proposed fuels (such as mineral coal, gas, etc) can start, pilot projects will have to prove the concept and viability of such activities.

BURKINA FASO

Protection and Assistance

New Arrivals: In December 2012, the number of new arrivals from northern Mali to the refugee camps in Burkina Faso was estimated at **1,145 persons** composed of **340 households**. The new arrivals mainly came from the region of Gao. The reasons for the flight were general insecurity, the fear of the strict application of the Sharia law by the Islamist extremists and the consequences of the proposed military intervention in the north.

Relocation: The relocation of refugees from Ferrerio site to Goudebou camp, which started in mid-October 2012, continued during the month of December 2012. As of 31 December, a total of **4,943 refugees** had been relocated to Goudebou camp. One of the major challenges to encourage more Malian refugees to relocate to Goudebou camp situated 147 km from the Burkina Faso-Mali border from unsafe locations close to the border with Mali has been the lack of grazing lands for the animals of the refugees. In efforts to find solution to the problem, *Vétérinaires Sans Frontières* (VSF) conducted a survey of land availability and suitability for animals belonging to refugees in Burkina Faso. The contents of the report are currently being

reviewed. A national inquiry on the impact of animals living around the camps has also been carried out by the Burkina Faso authorities.

Participatory Assessment: Between 3 and 7 December, UNHCR, partners and the refugee communities organized participatory assessments in Ferrerio, Mentao, Damba, Goudebou and Gandafabou camps in order to assess the protection risks and needs of the different groups of refugees to be able to design appropriate responses to them. Teams were set up on the basis of gender, age and diversity mainstreaming (AGDM) and included the different ethnic groups and persons with specific needs as well as representatives of some of the host communities. Major themes discussed were protection, water and sanitation, food security, health, shelter, education, livelihoods, and non food items assistance. The points discussed included insufficient food rations, provision of primary and secondary education as well as literacy programmes, the need to improve maternal health services and the lack of income generating activities in the camps. UNHCR will collaborate with the refugees and partners to quickly address the protection risks and needs identified.

SGBV: The '16 Days of Activism against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence' campaign was marked in the camps with recreational and cultural activities to raise the awareness of SGBV-related issues among the refugee population to help end sexual and gender-based violence in their communities.

Education: As of 31 December 2012, **2,011** Malian refugee children, including **887 girls**, had been enrolled in primary schools in Ferrerio, Mentao, Damba, Gandafabou and Goudebou camps. The number enrolled represents **21.5%** of the estimated **9,324** Malian refugee primary school age children in Burkina Faso. At the secondary school level, **56 students, including nine girls**, had been enrolled representing **1.1%** of the estimated **4,973** Malian children of secondary school age. With primary school education, the immediate challenge remains the issue of insufficient number of teachers. Out of **80 teachers** required, there is a current **gap of 29 teachers** which the regional Department of Volunteers and UNICEF, in collaboration with UNHCR, are in the process of addressing.

The **Catholic Archbishop of Bamako** has financed a **project** aimed at **improving the education of Malian refugee girls** in secondary school in Bobo Dioulasso. Under the two and a half month-project, **26 girls** (out of **63 students**) are benefitting from a **feeding programme** in order to prevent the loss of school hours by having meals outside the school premises. The girls shared the problem with the Archbishop during a visit to the school. In addition to the feeding, the girls will also benefit from **refresher courses** to help improve their education. However, the boys have also expressed the wish to be included in the project. UNHCR will therefore examine the prospects of allocating funds to include the boys.

WASH: In December, the average quantity of water available per person per day remained above 20 litres in all the camps except **Gandafabou**, where it remained **6.56 litres** per person. Water from the two existing boreholes in Gandafabou, like most places in the region, has high levels of nitrate rendering it unsafe for human consumption. UNHCR has thus been providing the refugees with potable water through water trucking of 20m³ per day. Four other boreholes that were constructed during the month to help increase water in the camp were unsuccessful. The current strategy is, therefore, **to keep the water trucking** until an estimated 2,970 refugees are relocated to Goudebou.

The average number of **persons per latrine** in Ferrerio, Goudebou and Gandafabou camps is currently **17 persons**. However, in Mentao, Damba, and Sag Nioniogo, the average number is **42 persons per latrine** exceeding the minimum standard of 20 persons per latrine. In Ferrerio and Gandafabou, the average number of **persons per shower** is **19 persons**. However, in Mentao, Damba, Goudebou and Sag Nioniogo, the average number is **43 persons per shower**, exceeding the minimum standard of 20 persons per shower. To meet the standards for the shower and latrines, UNHCR have planned with partners, Oxfam, Help and Plan Burkina to construct the latrines and showers as required. With the emergency phase of the Malian refugee situation over, UNHCR faces the challenge of **mobilizing funds in 2013** for instance, for the construction of about **3,700 ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines** and **permanent showers** in the camps.

Health: During the month of December, a total of **8,556 medical consultations** were recorded in Ferrerio, Mentao Damba Gandafabou, Goudebou, and Sag Nioniogo camps. Out of that number, **47%** were recorded as **respiratory infections**, **20% as malaria cases** (suspected and confirmed), and **5% as intestinal infections**. The current climatic conditions, (dust and harmattan) have contributed to the high number of respiratory infections. To mitigate the effects of the season UNHCR plans to distribute warm clothes to some refugee children. Although malaria persists throughout the year in the Sahel, the recorded rates during the period are above the normal. The recorded high incidence of malaria could be attributed to the unavailability or incorrect use of mosquito nets as well as to the treatment of suspected cases of malaria as confirmed cases, which means applying case definition without laboratory confirmation. The results of a survey conducted by *Médecins du Monde* (MdM) France on the availability and correct use of mosquito nets in the camps will help address the malaria problem. In addition, UNHCR has made **Malaria Rapid Diagnostic Test Kits** available to medical partners. To **promote good hygiene practices** among the refugee population in

order to reduce intestinal parasitic diseases in the camps, UNHCR's WASH partners are promoting hand washing in the camps through hygiene awareness programmes.



A refugee girl washing her hands at one of the hand washing facilities placed at vantage points in efforts to promote good hygiene practices in Goudebou camp, Burkina Faso. © UNHCR/Walbeogo C.K/December 2012

Food Assistance: Food distribution for the month of December took place between 11 and 24 December. Out of **38,776 refugees** composed of **9,721 households** planned for the assistance, **29,720 refugees** composed of **7,768 households** collected their rations. The number of absentees represented refugees who had mainly travelled outside the camps to undertake agro-pastoral activities. According to WFP, the food rations provided **2,186 kilocalories** (86 kilocalories above the required minimum of 2,100 kilocalories).

Environment: During the month of December, UNHCR, through its partner OCADES/CARITAS, distributed **firewood** to refugees in Ferrerio, Mentao, Damba, Goudebou and Gandafabou camps for cooking purposes. A total of **22,730 refugees** made up of **4,546 households** benefitted from the firewood. Due to logistical constraints, the firewood distribution will start in Sag Nioniogo camp in January 2013.

The promotion of the use of energy-efficient stoves had encouraged refugee households to make a total of **1,322 clay stoves** and **260 metallic stoves** as of 31 December. Under the current environment strategy, UNHCR and partners are involving the refugees to help rehabilitate the environment through **a reforestation programme**. As of 31 December, **over 8,000 plants** had been planted in Ferrerio, Mentao, Damba and Gandafabou camps.

In view of the environmental challenges facing UNHCR's Malian refugee operation, Environmental Foundation for Africa undertook a mission in Burkina Faso with the objective, to provide support towards the development of an environment strategy in line with the Government's priorities in the sector which will equally respond to different demands in the refugee operation. The Foundation will share the mission report in due course.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

- The total supplementary **requirements for the Mali situation** stand at **USD 123.5 million** and UNHCR's total revised budgetary requirements for its overall activities in countries affected by the Mali situation amounts to **USD 181.9 million** for 2012.
- UNHCR is grateful to donors who have thus far committed pledges amounting to approximately **USD 77.4 million** to respond to this crisis. The amount represents approximately **63 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

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

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

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