

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

## Mali Situation Update

**No 19 | 1 June 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, Mauritania 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>

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

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



UNHCR's implementing partner Save the Children show Malian refugee women how to cook CSB as part of efforts to improve the nutrition status in Goudoubo camp, Burkina Faso. UNHCR / H. Caux / May 2013.

### Statistics/ Registration

As of 31 May 2013, the total number of Malian refugees in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger and Togo is **176,986 individuals**. The estimated number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mali as a result of the crisis as of 21 May is **301,027 individuals** according to the Commission of Population Movements. The current number of Malian refugees and IDPs is **478,013 individuals**.

In Burkina Faso, UNHCR and the government have decided to temporarily maintain **49,945 individuals** – which is the registration figure as of 22 April 2013 – as the total Malian refugee figure pending the biometric registration which has been planned to start in August 2013, as well as the ongoing verification of the physical presence of refugees considered as “out of camps/rural”. The latter are scattered throughout the Sahel region of Burkina Faso. This figure will be updated as soon as these two exercises have been completed.

In Niger, UNHCR maintains a planning figure of **50,000 refugees** for the entire territory of Niger. Once the relocation of refugees in Mentés and Midal to Tazalite (scheduled to start in June) and the Level 2 Registration in Tazalite exercise have been completed,

UNHCR Niger will be able to issue more definitive statistics for refugees originating from Mali.

In Mauritania, the biometric registration of Malian refugees in Mbera camp which was launched by UNHCR and the Mauritanian authorities on 10 April as part of a nationwide exercise, continued in May. As of 31 May, **10,859 refugees** in the camp had been registered. UNHCR also launched its biometric registration of Malian refugees in the camp on 23 May. As of 31 May, **1,471 individuals** had been biometrically registered in the UNHCR proGres database.

### Major Developments

**Security:** In Mali, the security situation was volatile in the north hence, AFISMA and Malian forces continued to organize patrols in Timbuktu and Gao regions. The Kidal area continued to be under the control of *Mouvement National de Libération de l'Azawad* (MNLA) which has refused the presence of the Malian army in the area. The key threats to the civilian population in the northern regions remain insurgent attacks, stocks of abandoned munitions, unexploded ordnance, improvised explosive device, and inter-communal conflicts.

In Niger on 23 May, two insurgent attacks occurred simultaneously in a military compound in Agadez and a French uranium mine in Arlit region in Niger for which *Mouvement pour l'unicité et le jihad en Afrique de l'Ouest* (MUJAO) has claimed responsibility. The incidents caused 35 deaths including 10 insurgents and an unspecified number of people sustaining injuries. All the victims were Niger nationals. Agadez and Arlit are located 237 km apart in the Agadez region.

**Malian Elections:** The Malian government has confirmed **28 July** as the new date for the **presidential elections** with the second round scheduled for 11 August, if required. UNHCR is continuing talks with the Malian government in order to collect relevant information regarding refugee participation in the election. While UNHCR supports the voluntary participation of refugees in these elections, the UN refugee agency has emphasized

that its role will be strictly **humanitarian** and **non-political**.

UNHCR, in collaboration with the Malian Government and the Governments of the host countries, and in close consultation with the Malian refugees, will facilitate space for voter education and planning process. UNHCR will also ensure that refugees understand that their participation in the electoral process is voluntary. It is expected that registration whether inside and outside the refugee camps will be the responsibility of the Malian electoral bodies, who will work with host governments to establish voters' lists.

The Governments of Burkina Faso and in Niger have issued *note verbale* to assure Malian authorities that they will ensure the participation of Malian refugees on their countries in the Malian elections.

**Mali Situation Representatives/Protection Meetings:** To address some key issues in the Mali situation, UNHCR has made recommendations such as UNHCR bringing together relevant government stakeholders in Burkina Faso and Niger to draw up a concrete plan of action for maintaining the **civilian character of refugees** in the asylum countries. Another recommendation is the deployment of a child protection officer to help with the implementation of the strategy of **protection of refugee children**. This strategy deals with a number of complex issues such as improving the quality of education in camps, follow up on the cases of demobilized children, training in best interests determination so that humanitarian partners can move towards finding durable solutions for **unaccompanied** and **separated children**. UNHCR has also recommended leading an inter-agency work on issues of **discrimination** amongst refugee populations. This involves describing the acts of discrimination in societies with caste-like structures and describing the human rights violations involved.

The three recommendations were among others made during UNHCR Representatives and Protection meetings held in Burkina Faso in May to deliberate on certain key issues in the Mali Situation such as the participation of Malian refugees in the forthcoming Mali elections; access to asylum; preserving the civilian character of asylum; child protection-related issues; IDP returns, and discrimination within the refugee communities.

**WFP/UNHCR Joint Assessment Mission:** UNHCR and WFP undertook joint assessment missions in Mauritania and Burkina Faso through focus group discussions as well as household data collection which involved the participation of the refugees, some partners, authorities and host communities.

The objectives of the mission were to identify obstacles that exist for the Malian refugees' **self-sufficiency**, to review the **quality of the interventions** that are being implemented for the refugees as well as to **identify gaps** related to food security and related sectors such as health, water and sanitation.

In Mauritania, some of the major conclusions of the mission are: due to the current insecurity in northern Mali the refugee population will remain in Mbera camp for some time; food distribution system has become more efficient and that malnutrition levels in the camp have decreased from 20 % in 2012 to **13.1%** in 2013 for global acute malnutrition (GAM), and from 6% in 2012 to **3.1%** in 2013 for severe acute malnutrition (SAM); an estimated **80% of the refugees** and **86% of host community** households are **food-secure**; the presence of the refugees and their livestock places an additional **pressure on the environment** and the **scarce resources** in the region, therefore, additional efforts should be made to increase the **access to water, grazing areas and firewood**; and humanitarian interventions should increasingly focus on promoting and supporting **self-reliance** and **livelihoods** of the refugee population. Burkina Faso report is being finalized.

In Burkina Faso, the two agencies also undertook a feasibility study of **cash transfers** through discussions with refugee focus groups, host communities, local authorities and NGOs. That report is also being finalized.

## Child Protection

In all the camps in the three refugee hosting countries and in the urban area of Bobo Dioulasso in Burkina Faso, UNHCR's partners continued to organize activities that would contribute to the **development** and **well-being of children** through recreational activities and awareness raising on issues such as the consequences of involvement of children in armed conflict, child rights good hygiene practices and prevention of diseases in Child Friendly Spaces.

## Education

In Niger, as the Level 2 Registration progresses, information available show that approximately 60% of the Malian refugees in Niger are under 18. Of the estimated **11,500 primary school age children**, the **enrolment rate** in the three camps is only **34.4%** (3,966 children) with the **attendance rate** ranging from **50% to 94%**. Some of the factors for the low enrolment rate are the preference of the refugees to



keep children for domestic chores instead of enrolling them in schools and the transition from Malian curriculum to Niger curriculum. UNHCR and partner organizations are making efforts to remedy the poor attendance through discussions with parents and children concerning the importance of school attendance. In Intekan refugee hosting area where 3,484 children have been identified to start school, UNHCR and partners are constructing 10 temporary shelters and 15 semi-permanent classrooms while plans are in progress to construct five permanent classrooms by the end of June.

In Burkina Faso, efforts made by UNHCR and partners to encourage **preschool enrolment** in Goudoubo camp have reflected in **89.9%** of the **1,144 preschool children** enrolled. In Mentao and Goudoubo camps, arrangements have been made to extend primary education for two months in summer to compensate for the lost period due to the late start of the current school year. The current **enrolment rate** is **63%** of the **2,313 primary school age children** in Goudoubo camp and **21%** of the **3,503 primary school age children** in Mentao camp.

In Mauritania, it has been decided that **secondary school examination** will be organized in October 2013 for **113 qualified students** following a meeting between the Mauritanian and Malian education authorities, UNICEF, UNHCR, Intersos, *Ensemble pour la Solidarité et le Développement* (ESD), directors and teachers of camp schools, as well as refugee parents.

### Persons with Specific Needs

In Mauritania, UNHCR trained the staff of *Association pour la Lutte contre la Pauvreté et le sous Développement* (ALPD) and Intersos on vulnerabilities codes with the objective to improve the process of identification and the registration of persons with specific needs in the UNHCR proGres database. Currently **7.6%** of the total refugee population are registered as **persons with specific needs** in the database. The staff were also trained in the use of the participatory approach in programme implementation to help improve the involvement of the different refugee groups in it.

In Burkina Faso, the Ministries of Human Rights and Civic Promotion and Education trained 24 primary teachers in Mentao camp in **human rights issues** which focused on the rights of **women, children, people with disabilities** and other refugees to contribute to responding to the protection needs of persons with specific needs in view of the role of teachers in the community.

### Camp Management



A group of the refugee Executive Committee and the Youth Committee together with humanitarian workers who helped organize refugee committee elections in Goudoubo camp, Burkina Faso. UNHCR/H. Togogo/May 2013.

In line with UNHCR's approach of refugee **community participation** as well as **age, gender and diversity mainstreaming** (AGDM) in camp management activities, UNHCR, *Commission Nationale pour les Réfugiés* (CONAREF) and International Emergency and Development Aid (IEDA Relief in Burkina Faso, have started working with the refugees in Goudoubo camp for the refugees to elect members of the various **camp committees**. In the same camp, 24 refugees (with two women) have been identified to form a **community surveillance committee** which will support the camp security agents in community policing. In May, UNHCR trained 40 camp security agents (gendarmes) in community policing with the objective to enhance security in Goudoubo and Mentao camps.

In Mauritania, UNHCR is encouraging refugee women to create a voluntary committee to **promote women's participation** in decision making processes as well as the implementation of activities in the camp.

### WASH

UNHCR and partners continued to work to improve water and sanitation in the refugee camps. In Burkina Faso, the installation of three water points by the National Office for Water and Sanitation and a water point by the NGO HELP resulted in the **increase** in the daily water supply from 17 litres to **22.96 litres** per person in Goudoubo camp. The construction of **340 ventilated improved pit** (VIP) latrines in Mentao and Sag-nioniogo camps by Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and Burkina Faso Red Cross is in progress.

In Intekan refugee hosting area in Niger, refugees continue to receive water through water trucking from Eukinawane's borehole. The construction of 60 latrines and 56 showers has been completed, and 51 garbage containers provided to the refugees. The construction of a **solar-powered system** as part of the water pumping station in Abala camp, and a **new water treatment station** in Tabareybarey camp are in progress.

In Mauritania, UNHCR and WASH partners (UNICEF, *Solidarités International* and Oxfam) worked on a strategy to replace the emergency latrines constructed in the camp in 2012 with **semi-permanent latrines**. WASH partners have constructed 50 semi-permanent latrines with 80 more latrines under construction.

### Health/Nutrition

UNHCR worked closely with national health authorities and health partners to respond to a **cholera outbreak** in the region of Tillabéri, in the west of Niger that has left **nine people dead** including two Malian refugees. At the end of May, **310 cholera cases** had been recorded since the government of Niger declared the epidemic on 11 May, with 40 of the cases with two deaths among refugees in Mangaize and Tabareybarey camps. The statistics in the last week of May showed a decline in the cases.

In Burkina Faso, there were sporadic cases of **meningitis** in the Sahel region with **two suspected cases** involving refugees with **one death** during week 17 in Mentao camp. In Bobo Dioulasso, five suspected cases (Burkinabe) with two deaths were also reported. However, no district reached the alert threshold. A response plan was established with drugs made available in the health facilities in the districts for the management of cases.

Still in Burkina Faso, UNHCR is working with health and community outreach partners to **improve the nutrition status** in Goudoubou camp. The 42 trained community outreach agents are working with Save the Children camp to educate refugees on the **nutritional benefits** of corn soya blend (CSB) porridge and the preparation of the commodity as well as to promote its consumption. A pre-survey on the use of CSB involving 286 households in the camp showed different reasons for the **low consumption** of the commodity with 36.5% believing CSB posed health problems and 19.1% claiming the food item was difficult to prepare. In Goudoubou camp, the prevalence of **global acute malnutrition** (GAM) is **24.5%** for children aged 6 to 59 months, and that of **severe acute malnutrition** (SAM) is **5.3%**. According to WHO international

standards, the prevalence of GAM of less than 5% is acceptable.

In Niger, 77 new cases of severe acute malnutrition were treated in May, with 48% of the cases recorded in the refugee hosting area of Intekan. Moderate acute malnutrition is more prevalent with a total of 279 new cases recorded of which 36.9% of the cases recorded in Intekan.

Still in Niger, a **national nutrition survey** started on 27 May. Two teams composed of UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and *Institut National des Statistiques* are deployed to conduct the survey in Tabareybarey and Abala camps as part of the nationwide exercise. The survey will later be conducted in Mangaize camp and Intekan refugee hosting area.

In Mauritania, following discussions on **maternal and child healthcare** and **delivery of birth certificates** between the local health authorities and the partners in the health sector (Government of Mauritania, UNICEF, MSF, UNFPA/AMPF, UNHCR and ALPD), a decision has been made to issue **birth certificates for unassisted births** if the refugee women declare the birth in one of the camp medical facilities within 72 hours following the birth. After declaring the birth, the women and the babies concerned will be provided with medical care prior to the delivery of the birth certificates.

The health partners also launched the identification of midwives and traditional birth attendants (TBAs) in order to improve the capacity of the camp health facilities, to enhance the identification and referral of pregnant and lactating women to these facilities as well as to reinforce ongoing reproductive health activities such as family planning and obstetrical consultations.

### Shelter

To improve the shelter situation of IDPs in Mali, UNHCR, the lead of Shelter/Non-Food Items Cluster, is working with Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) to implement a shelter project "**livelihood support and emergency housing improvement**" for **750 households** Segou, Mopti and Bamako. In the project, IDP houses including those of host families will be expanded and families will be provided with some basic necessities such as access to water and electricity. NRC is training its teams to start the project.

At the beginning of the Malian crisis, the majority of IDPs lived with host families but currently, an estimated 75% of IDPs in Bamako and 50% in Mopti live in rented houses according to the results of studies and assessments on IDP shelter in Bamako and Segou conducted by NRC and by UNHCR in Mopti and Ségou. The critical problem identified in



houses where IDPs are living is **overcrowding**, with the average surface area being **1.2 square metres** per person as against the minimum standard of 3.5 square metres - a situation which is a potential source of problems such as **disease infection**.

### Livelihoods

In Burkina Faso, the government is making efforts to include refugee women in the national strategy for the **development of women initiatives**. The main projects to benefit refugee and host population women are: training in reproductive health and SGBV concepts; income-generating activities; credit schemes (ranging from 25,000 to 50,000 FCFA); installation of cereal mills in the camps; and distribution of hygiene kits to women. The projects are in the design phase and will be implemented in July 2013.

As part of efforts to **promote self-sufficiency** among the refugees in Burkina Faso, Save the Children, has received funding from Danida to train 80 refugees in **leather work** and **tailoring** in Goudoubo camp, after the partner successfully trained 100 refugees in **cloth dyeing** and in **soap making** which were funded by UNICEF.

In Mauritania, UNHCR, Intersos and ACF Spain has shared information on a planned implementation of **income generating activities** with representatives of refugee women in Mbera camp.

### Environment

With the aim of developing a strategy on environment for improving refugee protection, UNHCR has held discussions with national environment officers and camp management partners on mainstreaming the environment into the refugee and IDP **protection strategies** and **processes** in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger.

In Burkina Faso, OCADES monitored the use of the solar cookers that were introduced in the camps in a pilot project financed by GreenTech Consulting. The observations made in Mentao camp so far, indicate a good interest and potential for solar energy as an alternative energy source for cooking and lighting in the camp.

UNHCR continues to **promote peaceful coexistence** between refugees and host communities in the protection and assistance programmes in the Malian refugee situation. In the environment sector in Burkina Faso, UNHCR's partner HELP has prepared about 60 hectares of land for **pasture regeneration** in villages next to

refugee camps and sites. In **addition, 30,000 tree seedlings** have been prepared for reafforestation in Oursi in the Oudalan province in the Sahel region. Furthermore, **1,159 households** have benefited from **seed distribution** to promote food security in the host communities around the camps.

In Niger, after the one-month study on three energy sources - gas, kerosene and coal - in Abala camp, which resulted in the selection of gas as preferred domestic energy, UNHCR has held discussions with partners for the provision of cooking gas to refugees.

After a successful experiment in Abala and Tabareybarey camps, Oxfam has started the process of **solid waste management** in the Mangaize camp with 30 people trained, so far, on compost making for home gardening.



UNHCR Environmental Officer monitoring the use of stoves made of local materials in a host community household which benefitted from the training in domestic energy-saving techniques in Mentao camp, Burkina Faso. UNHCR/O.Lompo/May2013.

### Donor Relations

On 28 May, a member of the European Parliament, Mrs Stiffler, and representatives of the EU met with the Representatives of WFP and UNHCR in Nouakchott for a briefing on the humanitarian response to the situation of Malian refugees and a presentation on the conclusions of the UNHCR/WFP joint assessment mission held in the camp in May. On 29 May, Mrs Stiffler and a Representative of the EU Delegation in Mauritania went on mission in Mbera camp, accompanied by the Representative of UNHCR Mauritania, the Representative of UNICEF Mauritania and the Head of the humanitarian team of OCHA in Mauritania.

## FINANCIAL SITUATION

### UNHCR 2013 Budget for the Mali Situation: Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania and Niger (in million USD)

Operation	Refugee Programme	IDP Projects	Total
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	32.7		32.7
<b>Mauritania</b>	26.3		26.3
<b>Niger</b>	52.9		52.9
<b>Mali</b>		27.6	27.6
<b>Senegal Regional Office</b>	4.5		4.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>116.4</b>	<b>27.6</b>	<b>144</b>

UNHCR's total financial requirements for the Mali Situation for 2013 stand at **USD 144 million** for the existing refugee and IDP operations in Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger and Mali. UNHCR is grateful to donors who have thus far committed pledges amounting to **some USD 72.8 million** to respond to this crisis. UNHCR and its partners are appealing for urgent financial support from donors for the Malian displaced as the amount raised represents **50.6%** of the budget at this point.

### Contributions Received for the Mali Situation in 2013 in USD (as of 18 June 2013)

Belgium	1,293,661
Canada	1,492,537
CERF	3,809,450
European Union	4,469,987
Finland	1,277,139
Holy See	5,000
Japan	30,500,000
Luxembourg	974,026
Private Donors	531,566
Saudi Arabia	2,000,000
Spain	1,356,852
Switzerland	2,103,049
UN Programme on HIV/AIDS	58,000
United Kingdom	4,815,409
United Nations Children Fund	71,500
United States of America	18,100,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,858,178</b>

## UNHCR PRESENCE

<b>Burkina Faso</b>	(Offices) Ouagadougou, Dori, Djibo, Bobo Dioulasso (Camps)* Mentaou, Goudoubo, Sag-nioniongo
<b>Mali</b>	(Offices) Bamako, Kayes, Mopti (IDP site) Mopti
<b>Mauritania</b>	(Offices) Nouakchott, Bassikounou Camp - Mbera
<b>Niger</b>	(Offices) Niamey, Abala, Mangaize, Tillaberi, Tahoua (Camps) Tabareybarey, Mangaize, Abala (Official sites)* Agando and Chinwaren (‘Zone d’accueil’) Intekan

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

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### Mali Situation : Regional

31 May 2013



#### Affected People Key Figures

**301,027**  
Internally Displaced People

**176,986**  
Refugees Registered in neighbouring countries

**7,406**  
Awaiting Registration (in Niger)

#### Populations by countries of asylum and settlements

Countries	Camps	Sites	Urban	Zone d'accueil	Other	Total
Algeria					1,500	1,500
Burkina Faso	39,835	6,762	3,348			49,945
Mauritania		75,495				75,495
Niger	27,476	3,094	8,082	5,058		50,000*

