



UNHCR

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

Mali Situation Update

No 18 | 1 May 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:

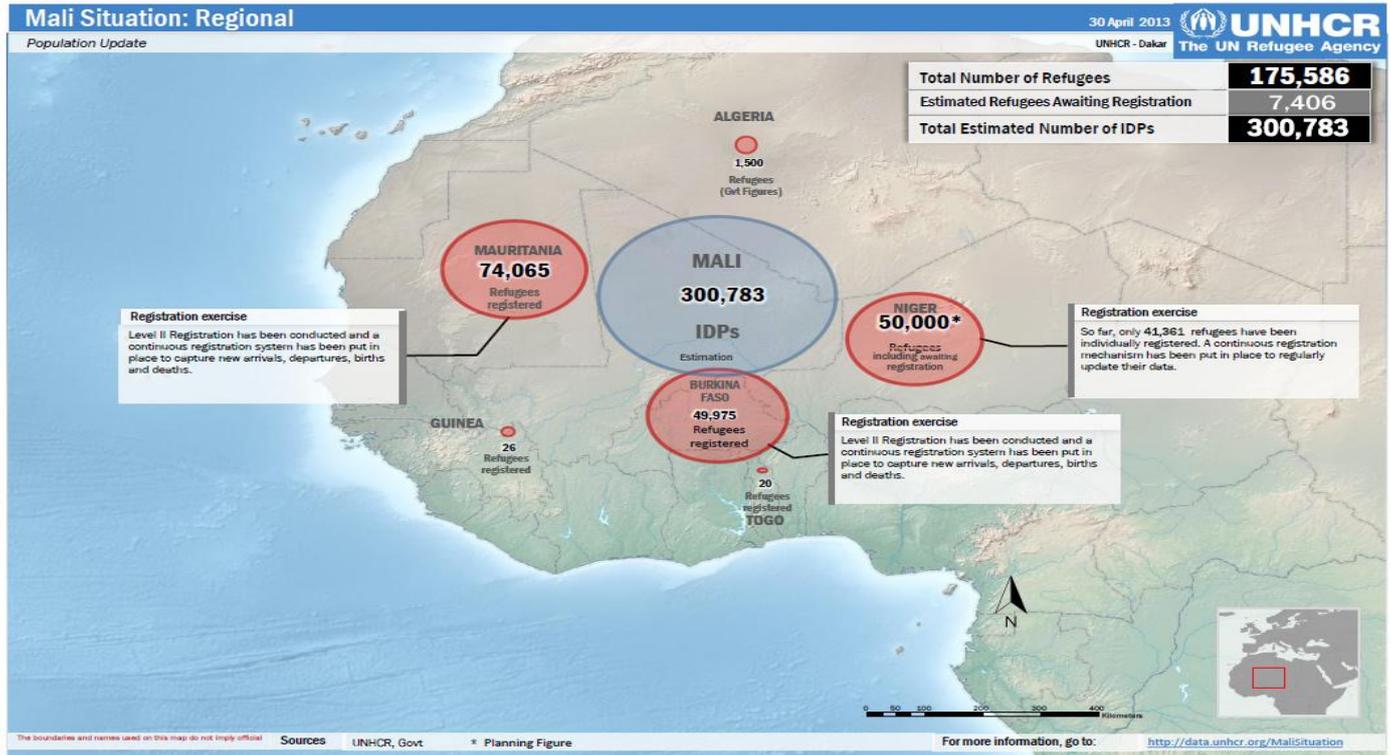
**UNHCR web portal for the Mali situation: <http://data.unhcr.org/MaliSituation/regional.php>

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

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

People of Concern

(As of 30 April 2013)



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

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

Contributions Received for the Mali Situation in 2013 in USD (as of 2 May 2013)

Belgium	1,293,661
Canada	1,492,537
CERF	2,464,143
European Union	4,469,987
Finland	1,277,139
Japan	30,500,000
Private Donors	494,941
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	5,000,000
Total	57,397,220

GENERAL HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 30 April 2013, the total number of Malian refugees in Algeria, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Mauritania, Niger and Togo is **175,586 individuals**. The estimated number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mali as a result of the crisis as of 30 April is **300,783 individuals** according to the Commission of Population Movements. The current number of Malian refugees and IDPs is **476,369 individuals**.
- The Malian Government has set **7 July** for the first round of the Malian **presidential elections** and **21 July** for the **legislative elections**.
- On 25 April, the UN Security Council adopted **Resolution 2100 (2013)** to create a **UN peacekeeping force for Mali**, MINUSMA, to take over from AFISMA on 1 July 2013.
- On 5 April, the UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, Mr. Robert Piper, visited refugees in Goudoubo camp in Burkina Faso.
- 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 57.4 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 **only 39.8%** of the budget at this point.

MALI

Security/Political Update

Two weeks after two serious security incidents in Timbuktu led to the loss of at least 37 lives, including five civilians, the *Mouvement Arabe de l'Azawad* (MAA) members reportedly captured Ber, 53 km east of Timbuktu, on 21 April. The incident in Ber, which made many Tuaregs flee to neighbouring countries to escape possible reprisals, further illustrates the growing tension between the Tuareg and Arab communities. In a separate incident, an insurgent set off an explosion in Kidal market on 12 April, killing him and four Chadian soldiers.

UN agencies met in April to discuss procedures for deploying staff members to Timbuktu and Gao as the security situation stabilizes in those areas. The objectives of the deployment will be to monitor the population movements, monitor protection-related issues, support government ministries, and provide basic assistance to the population.

On 25 April, the UN Security Council unanimously adopted **Resolution 2100 (2013)** to create a UN peacekeeping force, United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), to take over from the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) on 1 July 2013. MINUSMA, the 12,600 member force, has the mandate to stabilize key population centres as well as to support the: a) implementation of the transitional road map; b) protection of civilians and UN personnel; c) promotion and protection of human rights; d) delivery of humanitarian assistance; e) cultural preservation; and f) national and international justice for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Mali.

On the political front, the Malian Government has set **7 July** for the first round of the Malian **presidential elections**, with a run-off scheduled for 21 July. The first round of the **legislative elections** is scheduled to take place on **21 July**, and the second round on 11 August. The MNLA claims that the Government has refused to negotiate with its members, therefore, it will not accept the timetable for the general elections. On the possibility of the elections taking place in the far north (Kidal area) which is not under governmental control, the Government seems to be optimistic that it can carry out the elections in that area.

Regarding the estimated 300,000 IDPs, the Government has announced measures which will enable all eligible voters among them to exercise their voting rights. The Government also announced plans to send delegations to neighboring countries such as Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger to register eligible voters among Malian refugees. Hence, a Government mission to the three countries was scheduled for between 24 April and 4 May to discuss the registration procedures with those countries' national officials.

The involvement of UNHCR, the UN refugee agency whose work is humanitarian and non-political in character, to assist the refugees to vote should be dependent upon several protection considerations such as a secure, free and fair voting environment. UNHCR, in collaboration with the Malian Government and the

Governments of the host countries, and in close consultation with the Malian refugees, may facilitate space for dialogue on the electoral process and for the elections authorities to register voters.

Protection Response

IDP Statistics: The Commission for Population Movements, in its latest report published on April 30, has stated **300,783 individuals** (43,050 households) as internally displaced persons in Mali. The increase from 282,548 persons as at the end of March is primarily due to the extension of registration activities by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) and to the registration of IDPs who had refused to be registered in the past.

Shelter: Normally in the north of Mali, the months of April and May are set aside to rehabilitate buildings and houses. The houses abandoned by IDPs last year and earlier this year are therefore likely to further deteriorate due to the climactic conditions, and incidents of looting which caused some damage to some houses. The Mopti Shelter Sub-cluster, with UNHCR as lead, estimates that **4,000 houses** in the north - Goa, Mopti, Kidal, Timbuktu, etc. - will need significant renovation work. In addition, an **estimated 2,500 tents** belonging to nomads have been badly damaged and need replacement. Consequently, it has been estimated that some USD 2.3 million will be needed for the repairs of houses and the replacement of tents. The Shelter Cluster, with UNHCR as lead, is preparing a three-month strategy to help those affected in accordance with the expected needs of IDPs and the host communities.

Capacity Building: On 13 April, UNHCR started training Malian soldiers on **international humanitarian law** in an effort to prevent ethnic reprisals once they are deployed to the north. The lectures are designed to make rank-and-file soldiers aware of the difference between combatants and civilians; the protection due humanitarian workers, children, displaced persons and other civilians; and the prohibition against taking hostages, torture and looting among others. The training was one of six scheduled sessions on **human rights** and **international humanitarian law** sponsored by the European Union, UNHCR, OCHA and other agencies. So far, 600 soldiers have been trained.



A UNHCR Protection Officer giving a lecture on international humanitarian law at the Koulikoro Military Camp in Mali. UNHCR/ E. Cue/April 2013.

NIGER

Protection and Assistance

New Arrivals: In April, **1,414 new arrivals** from northern Mali to the camps and sites in Niger were reported from various Government sources. The refugees came mainly from the surrounding villages of Menaka and Kidal and said they fled because of insecurity with exactions and acts of violence perpetrated by armed groups, as well as fear of possible reprisals by the Malian army.

Relocation: The relocation of refugees/returnees from Agando and Chinwaren border sites to the refugee hosting area of Intekan started on 9 April and was completed on 1 May. In total, some **6,920 individuals - 5,058 Malian refugees** and **1,862 Niger returnees** - were relocated. On 24 April, a special convoy of some 800 animals (camels, horses, cattle and sheep) with their herders reached Intekan. This special convoy of animals was organized to enable the Malian Tuareg refugees to live according to their lifestyle and traditions in the nomadic area of Intekan. As some refugees were reluctant to move to Intekan, UNHCR and the authorities have decided to organize a daily monitoring to Agando in order to make transport arrangements when necessary, for those who will later decide to move.

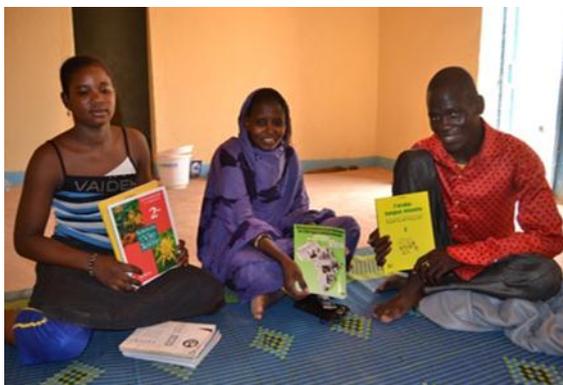


Partial view of the 'zone d'accueil' in Intekan where refugees have settled after being relocated from Agando and Chinwaren in the Tahoua region in Niger. UNHCR/B.Ntwari/April 2013.

With regards to the relocation of the arrivals of March 2013 from the border sites of Mentés and Midal, a joint UNHCR-CNE mission went to Tassarar on 18 April and identified a new site. Discussions took place with the hosting community in Tazalite to open another vast refugee hosting area like the one in Intekan.

SGBV: UNHCR's SGBV referral systems in the camps and in urban settings enabled UNHCR and partners to detect some 19 SGBV cases majority of which were related to harmful traditional practices such as early and forced marriage, in the first quarter of the year. Response to these cases included **medical assistance** to the survivors, **psychosocial support**, **legal advice**, and **livelihoods support**. Referral systems are in place in Mangaize, Abala and Tabareybarey camps, as well as Ayorou town. By June 2013, UNHCR plans to establish two new referral systems in the city of Niamey, and in Intekan refugee hosting area where prevention activities started as soon as refugees were relocated there.

Education: UNICEF, UNHCR and partners continue to make concerted efforts in order to help Malian refugee children to have a bright future through education. In April, UNHCR provided support in terms of **accommodation, books** and **other basic needs** to **36 refugee students** from Mangaize camp attending Ouallam Public College. UNICEF and Plan Niger are also offering the students **18,000 FCFA** (approximately USD 36) each for a period of three months to motivate them to attend classes regularly.



Refugee students from Mangaize camp who attend Ouallam Public College in Niger. UNHCR/A. H. Eliassen/ April 2013

WASH: As it was agreed with the hosting community in Intekan, the emergency repair of the well of Eukinawan village (700 metres deep) has been carried out to ensure access of water to both the host community and the relocated refugees/returnees. While thorough rehabilitation of the well is in progress, an average of 17.34 litres of water per person is provided daily to refugees through three cisterns making round trip from Eukinawane to the eight bladders (10,000 litres each) installed in the hosting area. In Intekan, 50 latrines and 48 showers have been constructed so far. In Mentés and Midal, two bladders are providing water to refugee through a water trucking system.

Health: A total of **2,968 medical consultations** were recorded in Abala camp, and Agando and Chinwaren sites of which **24.2%** concerned **children under 5**. The most prevalent diseases were **respiratory infections (33%)** and **malaria (13%)**.

In collaboration with UNHCR, *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF France and MSF Suisse) vaccinated children against measles in Mangaize, Tabareybarey and Abala camps. During the relocation process from Agando and Chinwaren to Intekan, UNHCR, Akarass and the Ministry of Health vaccinated more than **1,000 children** against **polio**, **2,500** children against **measles**, as well as vaccinated **2,000** children with Penta vaccine to

immunize them against other diseases. A mass vaccination campaign for Mentés and Midal has been planned to start shortly.

Food Assistance Cash Vouchers: The cash voucher project to enable refugees to **buy food in the market** instead of receiving food rations in kind, was successfully launched in April in Mangaize camp with the first procurement at local traders taking place on 26 April. Some **488 families** (family size of one and two member(s)) representing 731 individuals were the first beneficiaries of the project. Against their vouchers, they were able to obtain food up to a value of **6,000 FCFA per person/per month** (approximately **USD 12**). It was collectively decided between UNHCR, WFP and the refugees central committee that the vouchers should include all food items (and not be restricted to the dry food basket) but would exclude drinks (except tea). The Government is closely involved in the different phases of the project through the participation of the *Comité National d'Eligibilité* (CNE) - from the validation of the project by the community, to the training, and the supervision of the first purchase transactions and monitoring and evaluation.

Regarding food assistance for April for the other refugees, **32,182 individuals** received their food rations in Tabareybarey, Abala and Mangaize camps. The **6,920 individuals** (1,065 households) relocated from Agando and Chinwaren to Intekan also received their food rations. The daily food ration per person provided by WFP - 400g of rice, 100g of yellow peas, 25g of vegetable oil, 50g of corn soya blend (CSB) and 5g of salt - provided 2,182 kilo calories per day against the required minimum of 2,100 kilocalories.



A refugee woman received her 6,000 FCFA coupon that she can use to buy her food supplies in Mangaize market in Niger. UNHCR/K. Sossouvi/ April 2013.

Energy/Environment: In another pilot scheme in April, a sample of 150 refugee households in Abala camp received cooking stoves that run on **gas, kerosene or coal** (80% mineral and 20% wood). The objective of the scheme was to **identify a source of energy** to be made available to the refugees to prevent them to sell parts of their food rations in order to purchase firewood for cooking purposes. When the alternative energy source is introduced, it will contribute to the **protection of the scarce natural resources** in wood around the camps. The survey has indicated that **gas would be the refugees' best option**. UNHCR and its partners are considering the way forward and how to harmonize the supply of domestic energy in the camps.

Shelter/Other Infrastructure: In efforts to provide refugees with adequate shelter, the **new canvas shelters** designed to **reduce the effects of heat** have been piloted in Mangaize and Abala camps, and have been greatly appreciated by the refugees. After consultation with partners and refugees, the new canvas shelters will be distributed in all camps and refugee hosting areas. In Intekan, 948 households have received the new shelters with a team of 40 volunteers to assist them to build their shelters. Still in Intekan, 30 hangars have been installed to serve as health, registration, education, and other community infrastructure.



New canvas shelters installed in Mangaize and Abala camps in Niger. UNHCR/K. Djemissi/ April 2013.

Government and Donor Relations: On 20 April, the Director General of ECHO met with UNHCR's deputy Representative in Niamey. They discussed political developments of the Mali crisis, and ECHO's funding support to the UNHCR's response to the Mali situation.

Protection and Assistance

Registration: In April, the continuous registration of Malian refugees resulted in an increase in the total number from **49,184 individuals** in March to **49,975 individuals**.

Refugee Documentation: As part of the strategy for **civil status documentation** for refugee children born in Burkina Faso, UNHCR and CONAREF are taking steps in order to ensure that each child will receive a **birth certificate** either through public hearing (for those whose births were not declared within 60 days as prescribed by the law) or through the civil status officer (new born children).

Child Protection: In April, UNHCR and UNICEF Protection Officers in Burkina Faso prepared a joint plan of action for the protection of refugee children which will be submitted to the Senior Management of the two agencies for validation. The plan of action focuses on strengthening the coordination on issues such as **family separation, response for other children at risk, psychosocial support, SGBV** as it relates to children, documentation, monitoring and reporting on **violation of children rights** which will be part of the protection monitoring.

Camp Security: With regards to the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on camp security which was signed by UNHCR and the Government in February 2013, the deployment of security officers in the camps was completed in April, with a special attention on ensuring the presence of female security officers in each post at the camp level.

Education: On 13 April in Goudoubo camp, UNHCR and Plan Burkina inaugurated **24 new classrooms** with **eight school offices** and latrine facilities constructed with UNHCR funds. During the ceremony, the UNHCR Country Representative, Mr Stephane Jaquemet, expressed gratitude to Burkina Faso authorities for their hospitality towards refugees hosted in the country and urged the children to work hard in school as the international community contributes towards rebuilding Mali for their return. In all, Plan Niger constructed 45 classrooms in Mentao and Goudoubo camps. There are currently **676 pupils** in Goudoubo camp school with **3% of them from the host community**.



Refugee pupils in their new classroom and a teacher helping refugee children cross a road close to the new school compound in Goudoubo camp in Burkina Faso. UNHCR/M. Bah/April 2013.

In April, UNHCR and UNICEF organized two meetings on education in Ouagadougou with the overall aim of improving the response to education of the Malian refugees. The first meeting, held on 4 April, brought Senior Management of the two agencies as well as UNHCR Community Services and Education staff together to discuss a **gap analysis**, define **strategies**, and establish **coordination mechanisms** in the education sector. Among the decisions made, UNHCR would focus on issues related to construction of schools while UNICEF would focus on administrative issues such as policy and curriculum. Subsequent to that meeting, UNHCR and UNICEF organized a workshop on 19 April with the participation of all education partners and Government entities with the objective of increasing the coordination of education activities. One of the major outcomes of the workshop was the distribution of roles for all partners in the education sector.

WASH: In April, water supply per person per day remained above 20 litres in Mentao camp. In Goudoubo camp, there was a slight increase from 16 litres in March to 17 litres. In Sag-nioniogo camp, where the supply remained at 8.5 litres, the Luxembourg Red Cross has finished drilling a **61-metre deep borehole**. The water has been tested and is good for human consumption. The partner and UNHCR are finalizing the water network around the camp that will serve both the refugee and host populations. In addition, a 50 cubic metre water tank is expected to be constructed in the coming weeks.

The latrine/shower situation in Goudoubo camp was 20 persons per latrine and 43 persons per shower. In Mentao camp it was 31 persons per latrine and 39 persons per shower. In Sag-nioniogo camp where it was 84 persons per latrine and 73 persons per shower, Burkina Faso Red Cross has started the construction of **40 ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrines** as well as **40 showers** with UNHCR funds.

Nutrition: As part of the interventions being designed to help improve the high prevalence of acute malnutrition and anemia among women and children in the camps, particularly in Goudoubo camp, UNHCR met with WFP and other partners as well as donors to elaborate a nutrition strategy which include **blanket feeding** of children aged 6 to 35 months in Goudoubo camp and the distribution of **micro nutrition powder** in all the camps for children aged 6 to 59 months.

In addition, UNHCR, in collaboration with International Emergency and Development Aid (IEDA Relief) and *Médecins du Monde* Spain (MDM Spain), **trained 42 community outreach agents** who will first undertake a pre-survey on the **effective use of CSB powder** by the refugees and subsequently train refugees on the recommended preparation method of the commodity to increase its nutritional value. The health centre in Goudoubo town run by MDM Spain has also improved its capacities to treat moderate malnutrition cases in Goudoubo camp while referring severely malnourished cases to the Selbo local health centre. In Goudoubo 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%. In the same camp, the high prevalence of anemia is over 60% among children of the same age group, and approximately 50% among women aged from 15 to 49 years.

Food Assistance: In April, **36,417 individuals** received their food rations in Goudoubo, Mentao and Sag-nioniogo camps, as well as in Deou, Dibissi and Tin-Hedja spontaneous sites. The food basket, provided by WFP, was composed of 400 g of cereals, 100 g of beans, 50 g of CSB, 25 g of cooking oil and 5 g of salt and provided 2,186 kilocalories per day per person.

Non-Food Items Assistance: In Mentao and Goudoubo camps, UNHCR through its partner, IEDA, distributed blankets, buckets, jerry cans, plastic carpets, mosquito nets and soap to 27,468 persons. The Monaco Red Cross also distributed **265 “CB Energy” solar lamps** to **pupils** and **teachers** of Sag-nioniogo primary school as well as to **refugees with specific needs**. Local pupils received 104 lamps, refugee pupils received 115 lamps while teachers received nine lamps. Refugees with specific needs received 37 lamps.

UNHCR-WFP Joint Assessment Mission: UNHCR and WFP started a Joint Assessment Mission in order to identify the **obstacles to refugees’ self-sufficiency** as well as to review the **quality of food assistance** that is being provided to the refugees. A report on the current food security needs as well as a joint plan of action will be made available in due course. The team was in Sag-nioniogo camp and Bobo-Dioulasso between 25 and 30 April and was scheduled to be in the Sahel camps in the first week of May.

Shelter: In April, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) distributed 630 shelter kits composed of wooden poles, nylon cord, plastic and straw mats and plastic sheetings in Goudoubo and Mentao camps to the refugees for the construction of shelters following a storm which affected some 400 shelters. NRC provided technical assistance to the refugees and is doing needs assessment in the camps in order to assist other refugees repair their shelter.

Environment/Domestic Energy: In Mentao camp, 41 tonnes of firewood were distributed to **3,613 households** to cover the month of April. In Goudoubo camp, **1,639 households** had been served with firewood as of 25 April. Households received between 8 kg and 20 kg depending on its size.

In efforts to promote the use of energy-saving stoves, *Organisation catholique pour le développement et la solidarité* (OCADES Caritas) assisted 400 households to build **mud stoves** in Mentao and Goudoubo camps. In the same camps, OCADES Caritas organized 20 awareness raising sessions on issues related to the rational use of environmental resources for 600 refugees, of whom 542 women.

Fifteen households in Mentao, Goudoubo and Sag-nioniogo camps have been selected for a one-month **pilot project** on the use of **solar cookers** as an alternative to firewood cookers. The project, which has started in Goudoubo and Mentao camps, is financed by GreenTech Consulting, in collaboration with some Italian students.

On 30 April in Dori, UNHCR, FAO, UNDP and OCHA organized a workshop on the Environmental Assessment of the **impact of refugee livestock** in Seno, Soum and Oudalan provinces in Burkina Faso following a study carried out by an environmental consultant who produced a report on the issue. The main objective of the workshop was to further **explain the strategies** in the report to the key stakeholders to enable them to adopt the strategies in order to **minimize the impact of refugee settlement** in the Sahel Region. The Governor of the Sahel region, other local authorities, as well as refugee leaders participated in the workshop. The Governor stated that the discussion around environmental issues was pertinent and called for a **concerted and negotiated approach** in implementing the adopted solutions.

Emergency Preparedness: In responding to the humanitarian needs that resulted from floods which occurred last year in the northern region of Burkina Faso, UN agencies identified gaps in the response mechanism. Against this background, OCHA, UNHCR and WFP organized an emergency response simulation exercise on 2 and 3 April with the overall objective to assess the existing coordination mechanisms and address gaps in order to ensure a high level of preparedness among all actors for the effective management of an emergency. Over 30 staff from UN agencies, Governmental agencies and NGOs participated in the exercise. One of the major recommendations after the exercise is the need to strengthen the coordination mechanism between national structures and UN agencies by harmonizing contingency plans at both national and inter-agency levels.

High-Profile Visits: On 5 April, the UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, Mr Robert Piper, visited Goudoubo camp. Accompanied by the UNHCR Country Representative, Mr. Stephane Jaquemet, Mr Robert Piper visited the school as well as met with the refugee leaders who made a request for the restoration of peace in Mali. Mr. Piper assured the refugees that he will communicate their request to UN headquarters in New York and that the United Nations Security Council is looking at the Mali crisis very closely.



The UN Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, Mr. Robert Piper, addresses refugees in Goudoubo camp, Burkina Faso. UNHCR/M. Bah/April 2013.



President of the Red Cross, Mr. Jean-François Mattel, addresses refugees in Sag-nioniogo camp in Burkina Faso. UNHCR/H. Reichenberger/April 2013.

On 26 April, the President of the French Red Cross, Mr. Jean-François Mattel, visited Sag-nioniogo camp. Mr. Jean-François Mattel, accompanied by the Ambassador of France to Burkina Faso, Mr. Emmanuel Beth, met with the refugee leaders to discuss the situation of the refugees. He also visited the health post run by the French Red Cross as UNHCR implementing partner. During the visit, Mr. Mattel announced plans to organize psychosocial support activities for the refugees.

MAURITANIA

Protection and Assistance

Biometric Enrolment of Refugees: On 10 April, UNHCR and the Mauritanian authorities launched the biometric registration of Malian refugees in Mbera camp as part of a nationwide exercise. As of 30 April, **5,175 refugees** in the camp had been registered by the registration team of the *Agence Nationale du Registre de la Population et des Titres Sécurisés* (ANRPTS) with UNHCR giving the necessary assistance to facilitate the exercise.

Participatory Assessment: On 11 April, UNHCR conducted a participatory assessment in Mbera camp, in collaboration with the Mauritanian authorities and the humanitarian organizations working in the camp. The exercise was conducted through discussions with refugee focus groups based on the **age, gender and diversity mainstreaming (AGDM) approach**. The results of the exercise will allow the humanitarian organizations involved in the multi-sectoral response to the refugee situation to reorient their ongoing programmes to better address the essential needs of the Malian refugees.

SGBV: In April, UNHCR held a meeting with the partners involved in the prevention of and response to SGBV to put in place a reporting system in collaboration with community agents in order to collect more

information and do a better follow up on SGBV cases identified as well as to reinforce the referral system of SGBV cases.

Education/Child Protection: In April, UNHCR, UNICEF and Intersos worked on the elaboration of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on Child Protection. With the support of UNHCR and UNICEF, Intersos has created **sports** and **cultural activities committees** in the six schools in the camp. UNICEF also organized a working session with the members of children clubs to clarify the terms of reference of these clubs as well as their management. The school Directors and their assistants have expressed their willingness to facilitate the creation of other sports clubs, as well as theatre and hygiene clubs in the schools. Intersos distributed sportswear and sports equipment to the school clubs.

UNICEF and Intersos have started the **construction of semi-permanent classrooms** in collaboration with UNHCR and its partner for camp management, LWF. Further to that, UNHCR and the partners in the education sector have decided to replace all the tents serving as school infrastructure with semi-permanent infrastructure following a storm which caused damage to some school tents.

On 24 and 25 April, the Mauritanian Regional Director of National Education (DREN), accompanied by the District Inspector for National Education (IDEN) based in Bassikounou, visited the six schools in Mbera camp to assess the facilities in the schools and collect data on refugee education.

WASH: In April, the five boreholes operational in the camp had the capacity to supply 26.7 litres of water per person per day. However, the per capita consumption was 14 litres.

The current latrine and shower situation is 39 persons per latrine and 49 persons per shower. UNHCR and WASH partners (UNICEF, *Solidarités International* and Oxfam) worked on the elaboration of a strategy to replace the emergency latrines constructed in the camp in 2012 with semi-permanent latrines.

The WASH working group updated its database on WASH infrastructure and indicators in order to improve the coordination of WASH activities, follow up on the impact of activities on the refugees in Mbera camp as well as identify unmet needs in the sector.

Action Contre la Faim Spain distributed hygiene kits to **1,680 pregnant and lactating refugee women** in the camp.

Health and Nutrition: In April, **12,512 medical consultations** were recorded in the camp. Of these, the main diseases were **respiratory diseases** (upper: 17.43%, lower: 22.31%) and **diarrheas** (12.64%).

A suspected case of cholera was detected in the camp and was referred to the Centre of Treatment of Cholera run by MSF Belgique for laboratory tests but the results did not confirm the diagnostic of the disease. Nevertheless, UNHCR and the partners in the Health and WASH sectors continued to strengthen their efforts to prevent cholera in Mbera camp and its surroundings. As part of the efforts, cholera kits have been pre-positioned in Bassikounou with kits sufficient to treat 625 persons, pre-positioned in Mbera camp.

On 10 April, *Médecins Sans Frontières Belgique* (MSF Belgique) opened a fourth health post in Mbera camp. It has also strengthened the capacity of its medical team to give round-the-clock care in the camp. MSF Belgique also opened an additional nutritional rehabilitation centre for severe acute malnutrition (CRENAS) in Mbera camp and trained the staff assigned to the centre. There are currently 12 nutritional centres operational in the camp.

The "**African Vaccination Week**" took place in Mbera camp between 24 and 30 April during which 1,415 refugee children aged from 0 to 11 months benefited from **routine vaccination activities** and 14,064 refugee children aged from 12 to 59 months benefited from **mass vaccination activities** organized by the regional health authorities, with the support of the partners involved in the health sector.

Food Assistance: During the general food distribution of April, **72,247** individuals (96.3%) out of the 75,030 planned beneficiaries collected their food rations provided by WFP and distributed by UNHCR's implementing partner, the CSA. The food basket per person per day was 400g of rice, 25g of vegetable oil, 100g of beans and 50g of CSB. This represents the equivalent of 2,159 kilocalories per person per day.

Non-Food Items Assistance: Between 17 and 20 April, UNHCR distributed non-food items to refugee families of size 3 and above, who arrived in Mbera camp between January and March 2013. A total of **4,094 families** received blankets, kitchen sets, plastic mats, mosquito nets, cooking stoves, plastic buckets and jerry cans.

Livelihoods: ACF Spain has allocated a total amount of 22,800,000 Ouguiyas (USD 76,382) in cash transfer projects to **1,200 pregnant and lactating refugee women** to enable them to start income generating activities. Each woman received **19,000 Ouguiyas** (approximately USD 63).

Donor Relations: A technical expert and a nutritionist of ECHO Dakar undertook a mission to Mauritania. The representatives of ECHO Dakar held briefing and debriefing sessions with the UNHCR Country Representative in Mauritania. The nutritionist of ECHO also visited the region Hodh el Charghi to follow up on the nutritional programmes implemented in Mbera camp.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Burkina Faso	(Offices) Ouagadougou, Dori, Djibo, Bobo Dioulasso (Camps)* Mentao, Goudoubo, Sag-nioniongo
Mali	(Offices) Bamako, Kayes, Mopti (IDP site) Mopti
Mauritania	(Offices) Nouakchott, Bassikounou Camp - Mbera
Niger	(Offices) Niamey, Abala, Mangaize, Ayorou, 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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