



Distribution of NFI kits to the population of Amanidarni by UNHCR's partner, Stop Sahel, January 2016, credit ©Stop Sahel

# MALI

## UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

01 - 31 January 2016

## KEY FIGURES

**709**

Persons of concern received NFI kits in the regions of Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu.

**28**

Cases of SGBV and child protection were identified and referred to receive assistance.

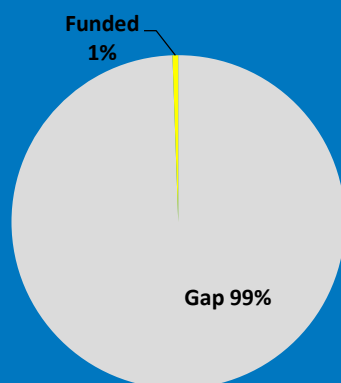
**477**

Asylum seekers obtained refugee status in Mali.

## FUNDING

**USD 49.2 million**

requested for the operation

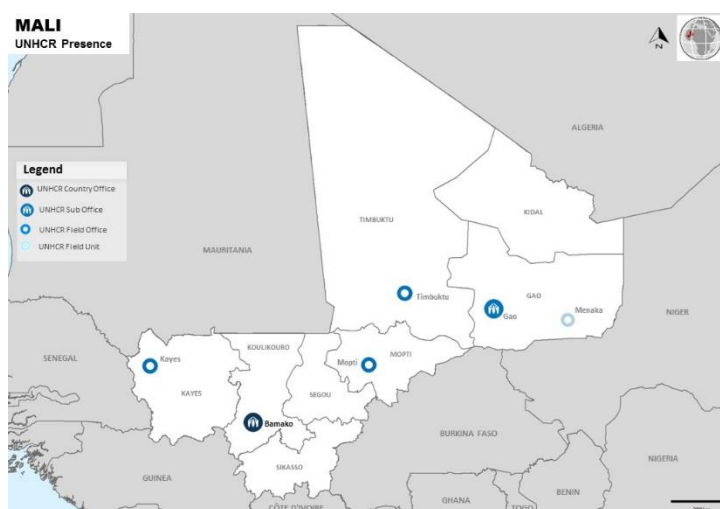


## PRIORITIES

- 850 Malian returnee households targeted to receive adequate and durable shelter
- 6,000 Malian returnees targeted to receive cash vouchers
- 2,500 Mauritanian refugees and local community members targeted to receive improved access to potable water
- 16,000 Malian returned refugees supported with their civil registration.

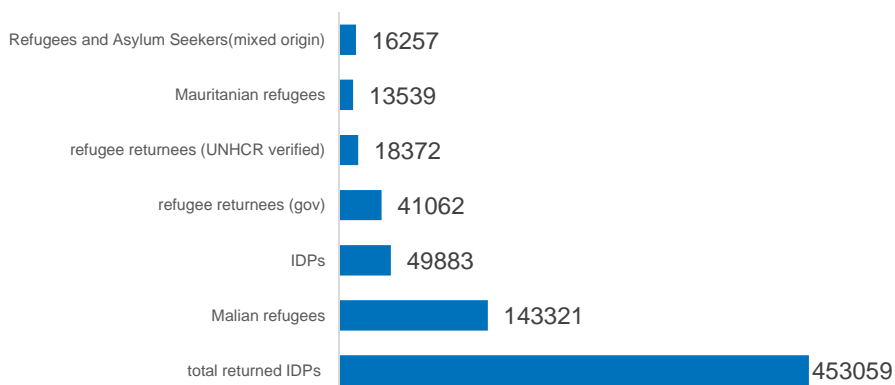
## HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR and FAO jointly delivered production kits composed of livestock and veterinary equipment helping refugee and local communities in Kayes gain access to agricultural production as part of its "Youth at Work: Rural Poverty Reduction" initiative.
- UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, delivered NFI kits to 102 households (709 persons of concern) including refugees, returned refugees and vulnerable households to provide them with basic necessities.



## Population of concern (as of 31.01.2016)

## Population of concern (January 2016)



## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

### Operational Context

The security and political situation in Mali remains unstable with persistent threats of terrorism and criminal activity affecting humanitarian operations, particularly in the north and the centre. Violations of basic human rights are still reported, prices of basic necessities are high, and local populations are in dire need of access to public services, documentation, water, and food security. To date, more than 143,000 Malian refugees in neighbouring countries and nearly 50,000 displaced persons in Mali are waiting to see whether conditions in their area of origin improve to allow them to return in safety and dignity.

The peace and reconciliation process continues to advance despite important challenges. Delays in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants and the construction of cantonments for Malian soldiers have raised concerns about recruitment of young Malians by armed groups taking advantage of the situation. An ambush on Malian military forces by an unidentified armed group was reported on 15 January 2016. On the same day, the Coalition of Azawad Movements (CMA) denounced the Malian armed forces and demanded an investigation into the execution of six members of its community in Goundam and Zizene (Timbuktu region) believed to be in retaliation for the ambush. Malian armed forces have denied involvement in the executions and the incident is currently under investigation by MINUSMA, the UN peacekeeping force. Since the creation of two new regions in Mali in 2012, Menaka and Taoudéni, delays in the appointment of interim authorities have also affected the implementation of the peace agreement. In January, the government appointed M. Daouda Maiga as governor of Menaka and M. Abdoulaye Alkadi as governor of Taoudéni marking the beginning of a regional administrative presence in those areas.

Due to ongoing terrorist threats, Mali remains in a state of emergency that was extended on 28 December 2015 until 31 March 2016. Reported movements of presumed terrorist groups in the north and central part of the country throughout January have continued to raise concerns of growing threats of violence perpetrated by terrorist and criminal groups. Terrorist attacks including the kidnapping of a Swiss national in Timbuktu on 8 January, an explosion and attack killing four Malian soldiers outside of Timbuktu 28 January as well as IED explosions in the areas of Kidal, Timbuktu, Menaka, and Mopti. A serious terrorist attack in Ouagadougou, capital of neighbouring Burkina Faso, left 29 dead and 30 wounded on 15 January. The attack was claimed by terrorist group Al Mourabitoune, recently affiliated with AQIM (Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb), the same perpetrators of the attack on Radisson Blu Hotel in Bamako in November 2015. In response, the governments of Mali and Burkina Faso announced joint efforts to counter the ongoing terrorism threat.

Access to persons of concern continues to be a challenge for UNHCR's humanitarian operations given the threats of terrorism and crime particularly in the North and increasingly in the Centre. Unsecured roads make the use of escorts and armoured vehicles mandatory in most risky areas, including where the UNHCR has field offices (entire Gao and Timbuktu regions, and parts of Mopti), as well as UNHCR's field unit in Menaka. Intercommunity tensions persist in Menaka leading to an unfavourable climate for refugees and displaced persons to return to the area and to new displacements. Despite challenging conditions, operations continue, providing support to the protection needs of persons of concern in these regions.

### Achievements

#### Protection

##### Protection Cluster

- The regional Protection Cluster in Timbuktu conducted an evaluation upon the return of 95 households to the village of Amanidarni in the commune of Soboundou. Findings from the evaluation indicated that a lack of housing as well as promiscuity posed potential risks for gender-based violence; a lack of essential goods and access to

potable water could lead to problems of social cohesion; and an absence of schools and a lack of schooling among children could expose them to rights abuse. The report also indicated that documentation was an issue. In response, government social development services distributed 14 tonnes of food; UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, provided 95 households with NFI kits, and Save the Children provided assistance in terms of health consultations.

- In Gao, the regional Protection Cluster identified access to justice as a critical problem for populations outside of Gao city. Some of the reasons cited included the absence of magistrates in certain jurisdictions or the slow processing of cases. There has been an urgent call made by the cluster working group, “Access to Justice and Rule of Law,” for the return of magistrates.

## Achievements and Impact

- **Status Determination:** 477 asylum seekers in Mali received recognition as refugees by the Malian government in January. This includes 89 asylum demands that were made in 2014 and 388 that were made in 2015.
- **Protection Monitoring:** UNHCR monitored 12 households of Syrian migrants (64 people) who were in transit to Timbuktu on the way to Algeria. No incidents were reported during their journey and they were registered by local authorities to verify their identities in Timbuktu before continuing their journey. The UNHCR office in Timbuktu also monitored 23 repatriated households (86 people) returning from Burkina Faso and Mauritania. In Mopti, the monitoring team encountered three repatriated households (11 people) returning from Burkina Faso. UNHCR monitors the rights and well-being of refugees and other persons of concern to ensure that rights are being safeguarded and needs are being effectively met.
- **Refugee Returnee Registration:** During the month of January, the government social development agency in Mali registered 194 households (635 people) in Gao, 20 households (73 people) in Mopti, and 331 households (1,102 people) in Timbuktu.
- **Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Child Protection:** UNHCR’s Gao office engaged in numerous activities to promote awareness on gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection. These included: advocacy among regional authorities to adopt a law against GBV; the identification and referencing of 20 refugee returnee children without birth certifications to the Norwegian Refugee Council’s legal assistance programs; and the identification of two refugee returnee individuals with specific mental health needs who have been waitlisted to receive assistance. In Mopti, eight sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) incidents were reported whereby individuals received medical and psychosocial support from Care International.
- **Tripartite Meeting:** The 5th Tripartite Commission Meeting between Mali-Niger-UNHCR was hosted in Bamako, Mali on January 28 in a cordial environment. For the first time MLA and Platform, signatory to the Accord for peace and reconciliation participated as observers. The meeting reaffirmed that conditions were not yet met for promotion of voluntary repatriation and up-dated its work plan to facilitate the process of repatriation of Malian refugees who have fled to Niger since the security crisis erupted in Mali in 2012.

## Education

### Achievements and Impact

- With advocacy support from the community services staff in Gao, three refugee returnee youth were able to restart classes at school. Parents expressed gratitude for these efforts, especially providing a safe space for their children to prevent idling in risky areas with remnants of war.
- An official ceremony took place in Acharane in the region of Timbuktu to deliver school equipment to education authorities. UNHCR’s donation of 75 tables with benches, 20 chairs, 6 desks and 2 closets will allow 155 students, including 65 girls, to go back to a more fully equipped school.

## Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The education infrastructure in the northern part of Mali remains largely destroyed in the aftermath of the conflict. Important needs remain in terms of rehabilitating, reconstructing and equipping schools to allow students and teachers to return.



## Health

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR registered 67 refugee households (214 people) to the local health insurance plan in Kayes. In addition, 325 refugees received their insurance cards provided by Assurance Maladie Volontaire (AMV) to access health-care services. Registration to the local insurance plan is expected to and improve their attendance rate at health centres and significantly reduce refugees' health expenses.



## Water and Sanitation

### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- To prevent future delays in drilling in Gao, UNHCR is considering directly implementing WASH activities or buying drilling equipment and making it available to partners for their activities.



## Shelter and NFIs

### Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, provided 95 refugee returnee households (663 people) from Mauritania with NFI kits in Amanidarni village in the region of Timbuktu. In Gao, NFI kits were distributed to four households (35 people) with specific needs deemed extremely vulnerable among refugee returnees and IDPs. Three refugee returnee households (11 people) from Burkina Faso received NFI kits in Sévaré, Mopti. These distributions allowed vulnerable households to equip themselves with basic necessities and reinforce their shelters.
- In the context of the intercommunity tensions between the Daoussak and the Fulani in the region of Menaka, internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Insilatene were provided with 40 tents, 15 tarps and 600 cloths. The representatives of the IDPs expressed gratitude for the support highlighting its importance in helping them restore their welfare and dignity.



*Distribution of NFI Kits in Amanidarni, January 2016, credit © Stop Sahel*



## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

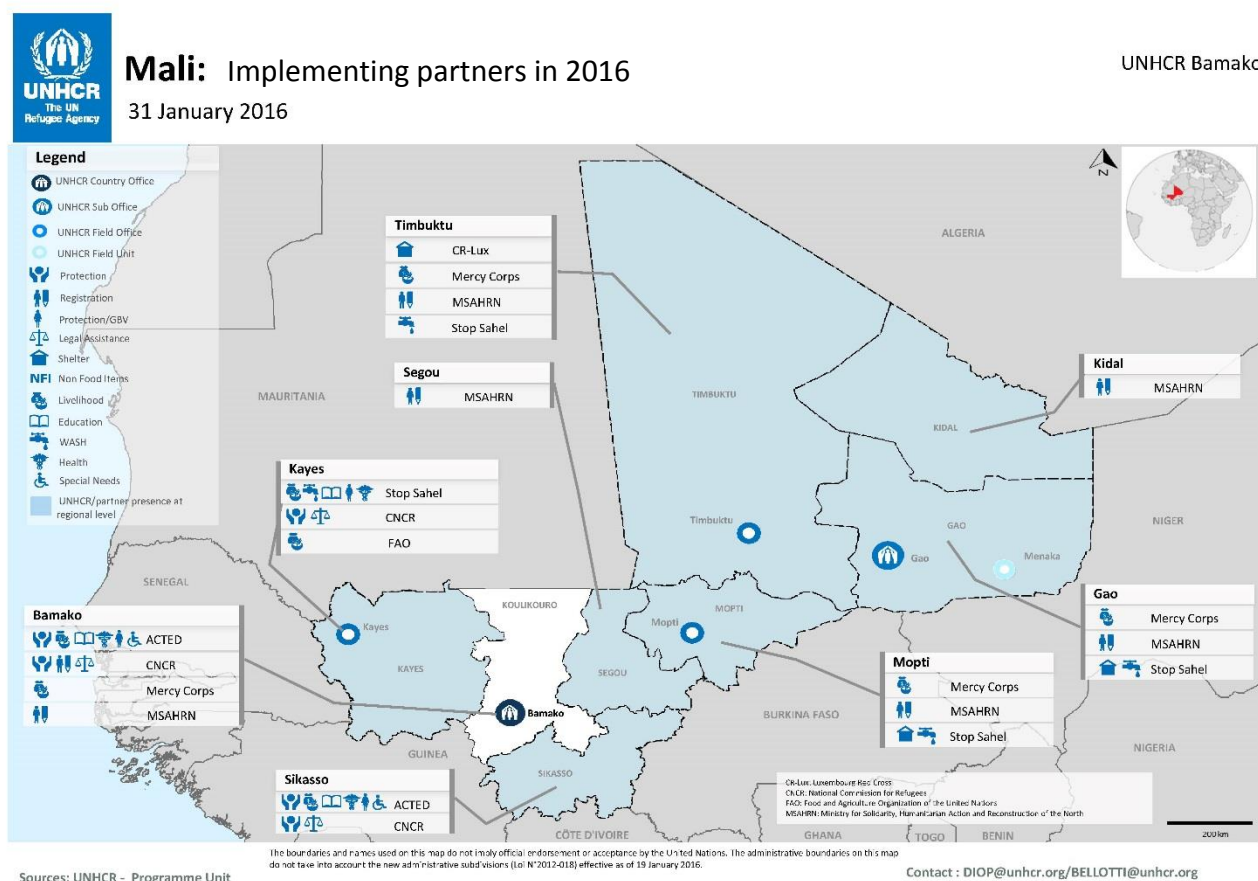
### Achievements and Impact

- On 18 January, UNHCR, in partnership with FAO, delivered the first batch of livestock to support refugees and local communities in Kayes to gain means and access to agricultural production. The production kits included livestock composed of 13 cows, 28 steers, nine goats, 10 billy goats and two rams. Additionally, a shipment of production kits with veterinary equipment were delivered on 22 January to the regional government agricultural agency to support the successful nurturing and breeding of livestock.



UNHCR and FAO deliver livestock to refugees and local communities in Kayes, January 2016, credit © UNHCR Mali

### Working in partnership



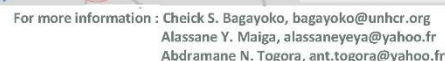
# FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amounts to **USD 272,315**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation.



## Mali situation map



Returnees and IDPs (Sources: Government of Mali, DND)

[Mali Situation UNHCR portal](#) – [UNHCR Mali Facebook](#) - [UNHCR Mali Twitter](#)