



MALI

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

01 - 29 February 2016

KEY FIGURES

190

Livestock animals distributed to support income generating activities for refugees and local communities in Kayes

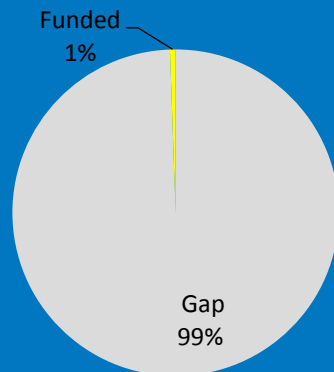
5,000

Community members in Mopti benefited from rehabilitated water distribution system, including refugee returnees

FUNDING

USD 49.2 million

requested for the operation



PRIORITIES

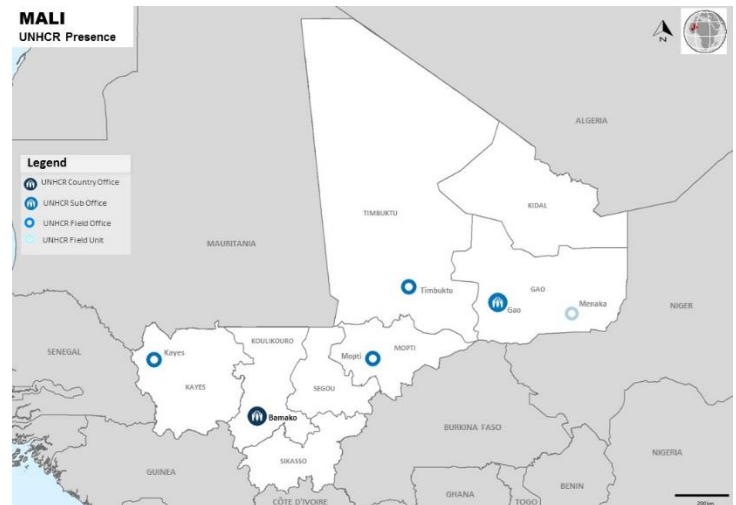
- 850 Malian IDP returnee households targeted to receive adequate and durable shelter
- 6,000 Malian refugee returnees targeted to receive cash vouchers
- 2,500 Mauritanian refugees and local community members targeted to receive improved access to potable water
- 1,000 refugee children targeted to receive educational support

Recipients of livestock production kits in Kayes in February 2016, credit ©UNHCR Kayes

HIGHLIGHTS

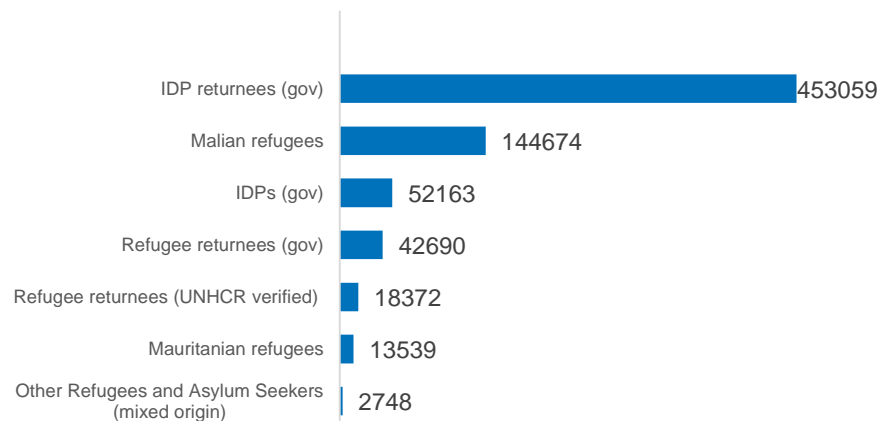
- UNHCR supported 299 refugee children in Kayes to gain proper identity documentation by requesting supplementary judgements by the National Commission for Refugees.

- 5,000 community members - including 440 refugee returnees - gained access to potable water with the rehabilitation of a water distribution system in Mopti.



- UNHCR marked the first anniversary of Mali's accession to the Abidjan Declaration on the Eradication of Statelessness in West Africa with a special ceremony where UNHCR donated equipment to support the government's civil registration activities.

Population of concern (February 2016)



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

The security and political situation in Mali remains unstable with growing threats of terrorism and criminal activity affecting humanitarian operations, particularly in the north and the centre. Violations of basic human rights continue to be 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, 144,674 Malian refugees in neighbouring countries and 52,163 displaced persons in Mali are waiting for security and socio-economic conditions in their area of origin to improve to take the decision to permanently return in safety and dignity.

Cooperation between the Coordination des Mouvements de l'Azawad (CMA) and Plateforme, as well as between Malian armed forces (FAMA) and other signatory groups of the accord for peace and reconciliation indicate positive advancements in the implementation of the peace and reconciliation process despite important challenges. However, in the region of Menaka, mounting intercommunity conflict between Daoussacks and Ibogolitans, as well as between Daoussacks and Peulhs led to an increase of IDPs between January (49,883) and February (52,163), as well as some 1,000 new arrivals of Malian refugees in Niger in search of international protection during the same period. Intercommunity tensions persist in Menaka leading to an unfavourable climate for refugees and displaced persons to return to the area.

The larger concern in the northern part of Mali remains the aggravated threats of terrorism and criminality. As a result, Mali remains under a state of emergency. Numerous attacks and explosions of improvised explosive devices (IED) in the regions of Mopti (particularly in the district of Douentza), Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu were recorded throughout the month of February. On 12 February, a complex attack on the MINUSMA camp in Kidal killed three peacekeepers and wounded 30 others. Most terrorist attacks continue to target national and international security forces, but the risk of international civilian personnel being targeted for potential hostage takings or kidnappings remains high.

The escalating threat of terrorism is destabilizing local communities, preventing displaced persons from returning to their homes and further threatening access to already limited basic social services. For humanitarian actors, access to persons of concern continues to be the biggest challenge.

Achievements



Protection

Protection Cluster

- In Menaka, at the beginning of February, the Protection Cluster carried out a rapid protection assessment led by the Protection Cluster co-facilitator, Danish Refugee Council, following the degrading protection environment for civilians due to rising intercommunity conflict. Members of the Protection Cluster (ACTED, DRC, UNHCR, GREFFA and ANDS) organized sensitization sessions, trainings and meetings with local authorities, religious and community leaders on social cohesion and the prevention of intercommunity conflicts. Additionally, the working group on the fight against anti-personnel mines continued its sensitization activities on the risk of explosive devices. Thus far, the group has sensitized 6,903 people in the districts of Menaka and Ansongo between December 2015 and February 2016. In mid-February, a consultation group, facilitated by UNHCR, was put in place in Menaka to coordinate and monitor the activities of humanitarian actors working in the region. At the same time, a mechanism was put in place to enhance coordination and communication between humanitarian aid workers and local authorities in Menaka.
- UNHCR participated in a workshop on the management of child protection cases facilitated by IRC and the Direction Régionale de la Promotion de la Femme, de l'Enfant et de la Famille (DRPF) with funding from UNICEF in Gao. During the workshop it was recommended that members of the Child Protection Working Group update

their activity maps in a timely and comprehensive manner to create a stronger overall base of information to support identification and follow-up of child protection activities.

Achievements and Impact

- **Status determination:**
 - UNHCR and its partner, Stop Sahel, requested the National Commission for Refugees (CNCR) in Kayes to provide supplementary judgements for 299 refugee children born in Mali in order to get registered and be delivered birth certificates.
 - 71 refugees from the Central African Republic received favourable refugee status determination by the Malian government in Bamako.

- **Eradication of statelessness:** On 25 February, UNHCR commemorated the first anniversary of the Abidjan Declaration on the Eradication of Statelessness in West Africa at the Direction nationale de l'état civil. Mali is the 10th African state to accede to the 1954 and 1961 conventions on statelessness. During the ceremony, UNHCR donated equipment to the government agency overseeing civil registration.

- **Advocacy:** UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, provided promotional material for Mali's Direction Régionale de la Promotion de la Femme, de l'Enfant et de la Famille (DRPFEF) in support of their national program against excision in Kayes. This included manuals and training guides on medical, psychosocial and legal support for survivors of excision and female genital mutilation.

- **Rights of asylum seekers:** In an effort to strengthen its cooperation with educational institutions in Mali, UNHCR provided a course on the rights of asylum seekers at the Ecole pour le Maintien de la Paix Alioune Blondin Beye of Bamako for members of the Malian armed forces (FAMA).

- **Protection monitoring:** UNHCR monitored 23 households of refugee returnees in Timbuktu and 24 households of refugee returnees in Mopti.

- **Registration:** The government social development agency registered 105 refugee returnee households (331 people) in Gao, 13 refugee returnee households (64 people) in Mopti, and 81 refugee returnee households (218 people) in Timbuktu.



Government administrator receiving UNHCR equipment donation at the Direction nationale de l'état civil February 25, 2016 on the occasion of the ceremony marking first anniversary of Abidjan Declaration on the Eradication of Statelessness, credit © UNHCR Bamako

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Registration:** In the context of a challenging security environment, scattered population groups, and ill-resourced teams, UNHCR and its partner, DRDSES, have made several recommendations to improve the registration of returned refugees in Timbuktu. These include: encouraging village chiefs and local authorities to accompany government registration officials to register returned refugees in returnee areas; strengthen sensitization campaigns to promote the registration of refugee returnees in particular in the areas of Lere, Aljounoub and Tichilit; and maintain good collaboration and communication with the Ministry of Social Development.

Education

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- UNHCR is advocating with the World Food Programme for school canteen program support for five schools in the villages of Nagara, Bokoro, Melga, Boutiguissse and Tichy Gansoye located in the region of Kayes as a means to encourage school retention within the Mauritanian refugee population.



Health

Achievements and Impact

- 28 Mauritanian refugees received their insurance cards provided by Assurance Maladie Volontaire (AMV) to access health-care services. Sensitization campaigns on how to access health insurance will be carried out among Mauritanian refugees throughout the year. UNHCR aims to reach 500 refugees in 2016 to improve their access to medical services.



Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, partners and local authorities held an event on 10 February in Boni, Mopti, to mark the rehabilitation of a water distribution system by UNHCR that is expected to help 5,000 members of that local community, including 440 refugee returnees, gain access to potable water.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- There remains a strong demand among returnees to build and restore watering points in the Northern regions including Gao, Timbuktu, Mopti and Menaka. UNHCR, along with its partners, have put forward a proposal to build 12 boreholes equipped with manually operated water pumps and restore 10 water points. Moreover, UNHCR will look to train and revitalize 22 water management committees throughout the region.



Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR's partner, Luxembourg Red Cross, has begun training volunteers on survey methods in four communes to conduct targeting activities and the procurement of supplies to rebuild and construct shelters for refugee returnees and vulnerable local populations in the region of Timbuktu. Given the recent return of Malian refugees from Mauritania and Burkina Faso, there is a strong demand for shelter materials.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR, through its partner ACTED, began the distribution of hygiene kits to girls and women (13-49 years old), aiming to support 629 people including urban refugees in Bamako and Ivorian refugees in the village of Faragouran in the Sikasso region.

- UNHCR, in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), continued to deliver production kits to support refugees and host communities to gain means and access to agricultural production in Kayes as part of its “Youth at Work” program. The livestock production kits included: 52 steers and 23 cows for cow fattening projects, 40 rams and 9 goats for goat fattening projects, 27 steers and 9 cows for cow milk production projects and 30 rams for goat milk production projects. In addition, veterinary products, foodstuffs and office material were provided to support the villages raising the livestock, including Horongnewa, Beta, Souena Toucouleur and Nagara.



Recipient of livestock production kit in Kayes from UNHCR-FAO joint “Youth at Work” program, credit © UNHCR Kayes

- UNHCR conducted two joint missions with its partner Mercy Corps implementing cash-based interventions (CBI) projects to respond to refugee returnees’ immediate reintegration needs and income generating activities among women’s associations in Gao. The monitoring mission found that refugee returnees used the CBI funds to support income generating activities, livestock purchases, construction and rehabilitation of homes as well as the purchase of land. Women participating in income generating activities displayed a high level of independence and a strong work ethic to master techniques to grow their vegetable gardens.



Women associations in Gao participate in vegetable gardening activities to promote self-reliance and income generating activities, credit © UNHCR Gao

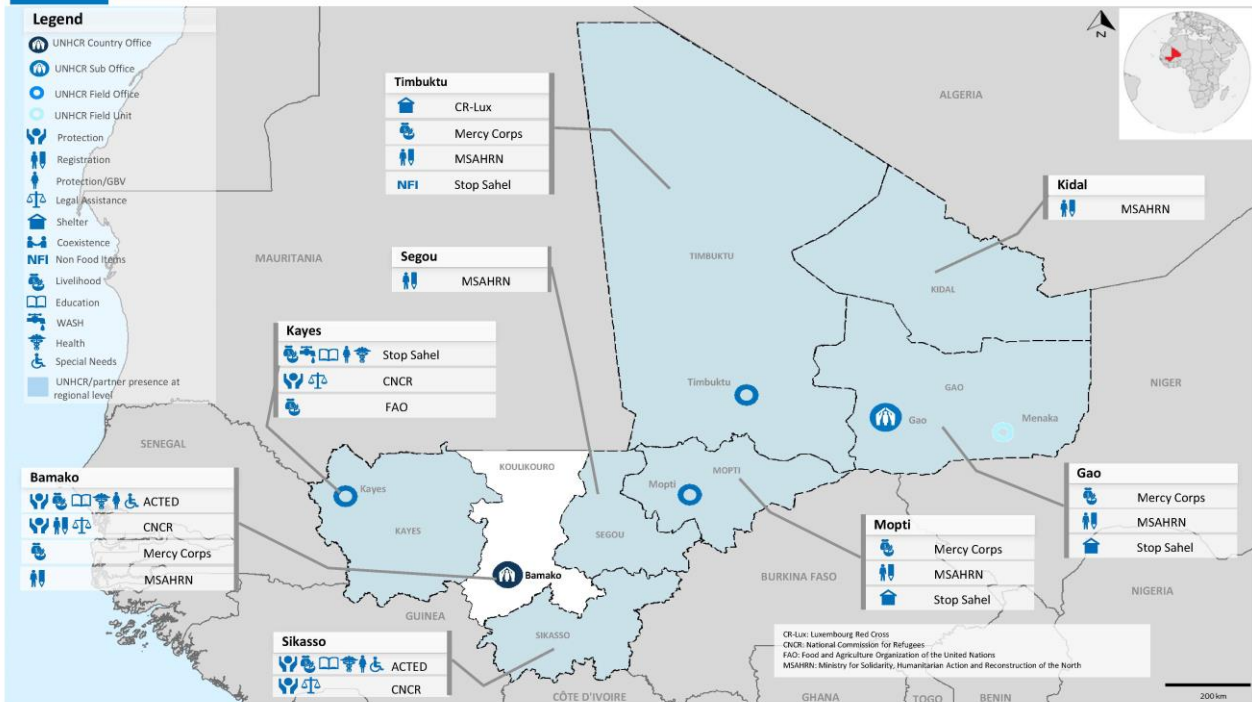
Working in partnership



Mali: Partner presence

29 February 2016

UNHCR Bamako



Sources: UNHCR - Programme Unit

The boundaries and names used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. The administrative boundaries on this map do not take into account the new administrative subdivisions (Loi N°2012-018) effective as of 19 January 2016.

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amounts to **USD 272,315**. **Funding received (USD)**

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

UN Peacebuilding Fund

\$272,315



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Links:

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ANNEXES

Mali situation map

