



## HIGHLIGHTS

**6,373**

refugee returnees have benefitted from facilitation assistance for their voluntary return to Mali since Jan 2016.

**625**

mud shelters and traditional shelters built since Jan 2016 to help returnees, IDPs and host community members return to safety and dignity in the privacy of a home.

**6,016**

refugee returnees have received a one-time cash assistance in 2016 to support their self-determined basic needs.

**89%**

of primary school urban refugee children received satisfactory marks to advance to the next grade level.

## Population of concern

**577,010** people of concern in Mali

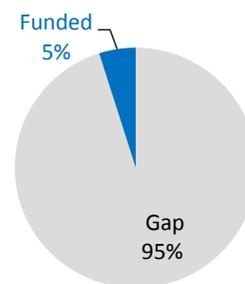
**134,693** Malians still in exile in the region

Country	Total
Asylum Seekers (mixed origin)*	284
Returned refugees (gov't)	52,028
Refugees in Mali (mixed origin)*	17,881
IDPs (gov't)	33,042
IDP Returnees (gov't)	474 231
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>577,010</b>

Figures as at 31 August 2016 , \* as at 31 July 2016

## Funding

**USD 49.2 million** requested



## UNHCR Presence



Map Sources: UNCS, UNHCR. The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Creation date: 07 March 2016.

### Offices:

6 offices located in: Bamako, Gao (covering Kidal), Kayes, Menaka, Mopti, Timbuktu

### Staff:

71 national staff  
 22 international staff  
 8 Int'l UN Volunteers, 2 Nat'l UN Volunteers

### Governmental Partners:

- Ministry for Solidarity and Humanitarian Action
- National Commission for Refugees

### Non-governmental partners:

- ACTED
- Association Malienne pour la Survie du Sahel (AMSS)
- Luxembourg Red Cross
- Mercy Corps
- Stop Sahel

## MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- The security situation in the north and central regions of Mali remains fragile amid the slow implementation of the 2015 Peace and Reconciliation Accord. While armed conflict is not expected to resume, the growing threat of terrorism and persistent criminality is having a serious impact on humanitarian access to persons of concern in the north. Moreover, elevated intercommunity tensions continue to impede the voluntary returns of Malian refugees.
- Despite the volatile security situation, UNHCR has facilitated the voluntary return of nearly 6,373 Malian refugees from the asylum countries of Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania since January 2016.
- In an effort to reduce the risk of statelessness and strengthen the protection of stateless persons, the Malian government officially acceded to the 1954 and the 1961 conventions on statelessness in May 2016.
- Mali, Mauritania and UNHCR signed a Tripartite Agreement for the voluntary return of Malian refugees living in Mauritania on 16 June 2016.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- In order to support a more favorable protection environment, **120 protection monitors** have been deployed throughout the regions of Gao, Kidal, Mopti, Menaka and Timbuktu to identify and report on protection risks and human rights violations faced by refugee returnees, IDPs and host populations. Since June 2016, **266 incidents** have been recorded with the highest number of incidents occurring in Gao and key issues relating to extortion, injuries and looting. Individual cases have been referred to partners in the Protection Cluster for urgent response.
- **4 former practitioners of excision** among Mauritanian refugees who committed to stop this practice received income-generating assistance to support new livelihood projects.
- UNHCR supported the documentation needs of Mauritanian refugees in Kayes region by distributing **866 birth certificates** and **41 identity cards**. Moreover, **299 refugee children** have been identified for supplementary judgements to receive birth certificates.
- **211 Mauritanian refugee children** were registered in primary school in Kayes region of which **49 children** received accommodation assistance provided by host communities to help them attend school on a regular basis.
- **Nine literacy centres** in Kayes region are providing a learning space for nearly 250 adult Mauritanian refugees and host community members to develop their basic literacy skills in order to support their self-reliance and integration.
- As of August 2016, **625 out of 850 shelters** planned for 2016 are complete: 322 traditional shelters and 303 mud shelters. This assistance helps returned refugees, IDPs and host community households restore personal security, dignity and self-sufficiency.
- **Two water points** were realized in Kayes region improving access to potable water for **799 Mauritanian refugees and host community members** while reducing their risks linked to illnesses and violence against women and children in refugee sites.
- **6,016 returned refugees** in Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu received a one-time **cash assistance** to help them access self-determined basic needs and reintegrate into their communities in a safe and dignified manner.

## CRITICAL UNMET NEEDS

- **15,165 returned refugees** in Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu continue to await for cash assistance to meet their immediate needs.
- **163 urban refugees** who have requested support for income-generating activities continue to wait for assistance.
- **640 returned refugees** identified as persons with specific needs remain unable to access protection and assistance support.
- **28 registration agents** are needed to help cover severely understaffed registration points in the north of Mali to improve the quality of registration for returning refugees.
- **55%** of needs in water, education and health to support the peaceful coexistence of returned refugee and host communities in the north of Mali remain unmet.

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