



UNHCR and its partner ADES carry out monitoring activities for the restoration of water points in the region of Timbuktu.  
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## KEY FIGURES

**930**

Mauritanian refugees and host community members from the region of Kayes participated in sensitization sessions on the prevention and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

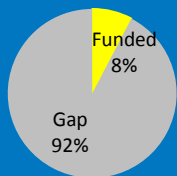
**627**

refugee returnees and local community members participated in sensitization sessions on social cohesion to foster greater tolerance and understanding between communities.

## FUNDING

**USD 40 million**

requested for the operation

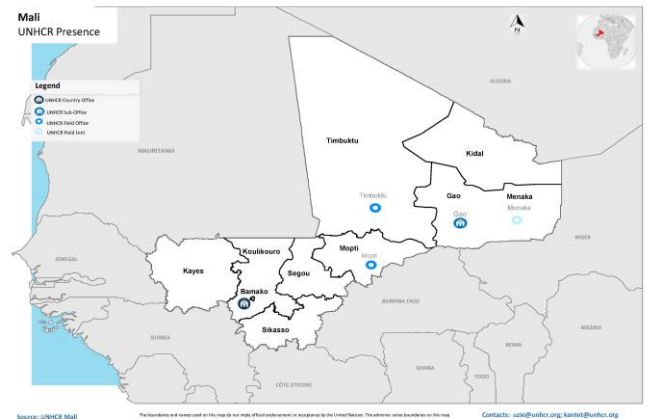


## PRIORITIES

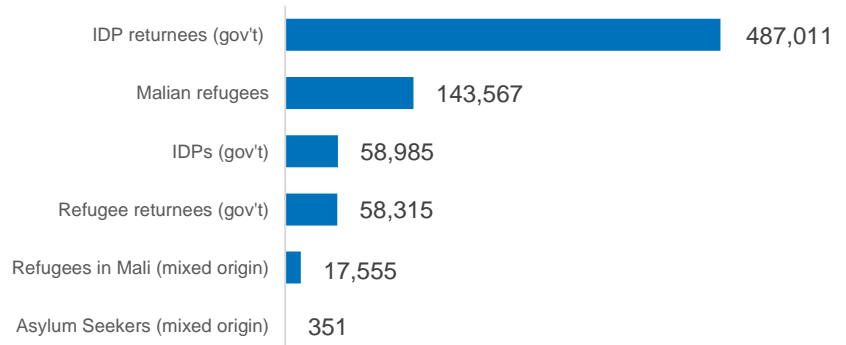
- 7 partners targeted to receive support and capacity development for the response of humanitarian needs of IDPs
- 1,000 Malian refugee returnees targeted to receive production kits for agriculture/livestock/fishery activities
- 1,500 Mauritanian refugee children targeted to be enrolled in primary education
- 3,500 Mauritanian refugees targeted to receive production kits for agriculture/livestock/fishery activities
- 400 urban households targeted to receive cash grants

## HIGHLIGHTS

- 79 protection incidents were registered in the regions of Gao, Mopti, Timbuktu, Menaka and Kidal during the month of May. The majority of incidents relate to extortion, early and forced marriage, injuries, robberies and death threats. Since January 2017, 335 incidents have been registered with the majority of incidents taking place in Gao and Timbuktu.
- UNHCR's partner, AMSS, carried out a sensitization activity on the protection of *talibé* children and human rights in a time of conflict that reached 23 people including refugee returnees and local community members in the region of Gao.
- UNHCR's partner, Stop Sahel, carried out 63 sensitization sessions on the importance of education for children, particularly girls, in the region of Kayes. These sessions reached 1,183 persons including Mauritanian refugees and local community members.



## Population of concern (April 2017)



## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

### Operational Context

UNHCR continues to operate in a volatile security environment with the threat of terrorism, criminality and intercommunity violence affecting humanitarian access in northern and central Mali. In the north, violations of basic human rights are reported and certain local populations continue to lack access to public services, documentation, water, education and food security. In the regions of Taoudenni and Timbuktu, the food security cluster reported deteriorating pasture conditions affecting livestock with an estimated 83 percent of livestock in Taoudenni expected to perish before the next rainy season if no action is taken.

The implementation of the 2015 Peace Agreement continues to progress slowly amid obstacles to the cantonment and DDR process and the reinstallation of authorities. Following the *conference d'entente nationale* (Conference for national harmony) that took place between 27 March and 2 April 2017, a special commission was set-up to draft the charter for peace, unity and national reconciliation, presented on 3 May. While interim authorities have been installed in the five regions of the north since end of April, their limited operational capacity presents challenges to governance and provision of basic services. Preparations for the district, regional, legislative, presidential elections and constitutional referendum are underway.

The terrorism threat remains elevated with national and international security forces facing daily attacks in the northern and central regions. In particular, the terrorist group known as JNIM (*Group to Support Islam and Muslims*) continues to present a credible menace for peace and stability of the country having claimed a series of attacks during the month of May. On 2 May, an attack against the Malian armed forces in Ségou region killed nine soldiers and injured five others. This was followed by three mortar attacks against the MINSUMA camp located near the airport in Timbuktu on 3 May, 15 May and 21 May. Since June 2016, 105 attacks have been carried out against the Malian defence and security forces, 76 against MINUSMA and 20 against French forces. JNIM's significant mobilization capabilities present a menace to the capital of Bamako which remains under the threat of potential terrorist attacks. In addition, an armed attack was carried out against MINUSMA peacekeepers near its camp located in Aguelhok in Kidal region leading to the death of two peacekeepers and injuring one. In response, MINUSMA carried out a sweeping operation leading to the arrests of nine suspects. No one has yet claimed responsibility for this attack.

The central regions face a growing presence of active extremist armed groups that present heightened challenges for humanitarian access. The fragile protection environment is aggravated by the proliferation of weapons, illicit drug trafficking and the absence or limited presence of state authorities in parts of the centre and north of the country. In response, the French *Barkhane* operation carried out a counter-terrorism operation to confiscate arms, ammunition and elements of IEDs in the central regions. Furthermore, the UN deployed a rapid intervention force of Senegalese troops with the aim of fighting increased extremism and intercommunity violence in the central regions.

### Achievements



Protection

#### Protection Cluster

- In Timbuktu, the Protection Cluster participated in the Mine action sub-cluster meeting led by UNMAS to discuss sensitization activities on the risks related to remnants of war explosives, mines and IEDs, particularly in Rharous

following an attack on a military camp. It was reported that cluster members have reached 3,057 individuals in the districts of Niafouké, Goundam, Gourma Rhaorous and Timbuktu during the month of April.

- In Bamako, the Protection Cluster met members of the Commission on Truth, Justice and Reconciliation (CVJR) to discuss its mission and role in accompanying SGBV survivors. The CVJR advocated for greater implication of protection actors in the regions of the north and center. They also discussed the coordination of interventions and the harmonization of referral systems to avoid duplications. Two internally displaced persons from the commune of Serere in Timbuktu region were interviewed and referred to the Commission for Truth, Justice and Reconciliation (CVJR) to submit their depositions in Mopti region. One of the displaced benefited from psychosocial assistance.
- In Gao, the Protection Cluster advocated within the civil-military coordination meeting for strengthened security measures, particularly the intensification of patrols in collaboration with existing forces, to respond to growing threats registered in urban centers, major highways and remote areas that is affecting humanitarian activities (e.g. field mission) and is a major preoccupation of populations fearing for their lives and the security of their possessions.
- In Timbuktu, the sub-cluster on Gender-Based Violence (GBV) reported that in the first trimester of 2017, 160 cases of SGBV were reported with an elevated number of cases related to sexual violence. The problem of access to services for SGBV survivors was highlighted, particularly given the fact that 96 percent of actors focus on prevention activities. There was a call for actors to do a collective follow-up on the reported cases in the commune of Bintagoungou in Goundam district.

- **New Office in Bamako:** UNHCR's representation office in Bamako, Mali has moved and is now located in Hamdallaye ACI 2000, rue 75, near Hotel *Les Colonnes*.
- **Repatriation of Central African refugees:** There are 85 Central African refugees whose files are being treated for voluntary repatriation, principally to Bangui and Carnot. Despite the volatile security situation, increasing requests for repatriation among Central African refugees has been observed, attributable to the growing perception of a return to peace and stability in numerous localities in the country, notably Bangui. UNHCR is carrying out information sessions to inform refugees on conditions in the zones of return to help them make informed decisions about their voluntary repatriation.
- **Documentation:** UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, carried out 24 focus groups on the importance of birth certificates and birth declarations reaching an estimated 494 Mauritanian refugees and host community members in the region of Kayes. These sensitization sessions resulted in five households declaring births in order to obtain birth certificates. Furthermore, 217 birth certificates were distributed to Mauritanian refugees to facilitate their access to basic services including health and education.
- **Registration:** On 9 and 10 May, UNHCR's protection unit organized a training and refresher course on the usage of the *ProGres* database to its government partner, the *Commission Nationale Chargé des Réfugiés* (CNCR). The training aimed to improve the maintenance of, and quality of information from *ProGres* in order to ensure accurate planning of protection activities.
- **SGBV:**
  - **Kayes:** 34 information sessions on harmful practices to the health of women and girls and the consequences of excision and early marriage were held in 34 villages in the region of Kayes. Reaching nearly 930 persons including Mauritanian refugees and host community members, the sessions helped participants better

understand the different types of sexual and gender-based violence as well as measures to prevent and respond to cases. The impact of these sessions include the identification and provision of assistance to one survivor of forced marriage and one person with specific needs. In addition, two former practitioners of excision were identified and will receive income-generating revenue assistance to support their transition into small commerce and livestock activities.

- **Gao and Mopti:** 22 information sessions were organized in the regions of Gao (21), Timbuktu (2) and Mopti (1) to raise awareness about the negative consequences of SGBV, including early and forced marriage, the importance of education for young girls and forced genital mutilation. The information sessions reached some 376 persons including refugee returnees and local community members.
- **Social cohesion:**
  - **Gao, Timbuktu and Mopti:** UNHCR, through its partner AMSS, carried out 29 sensitization sessions on social cohesion reaching 627 persons in the regions of Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu. The sensitization sessions offered the opportunity mobilize community members including refugee returnees and local community members to discuss and debate the themes of tolerance and harmonious living, youth and peace, and acceptance and tolerance.
- **Protection Monitoring:** 79 protection incidents were recorded in May in the regions of Gao, Menaka, Timbuktu, Mopti and Kidal. Key issues relate to extortion of goods, forced marriages, injuries, robberies and death threats. Since January 2017, 335 protection incidents have been registered. Protection monitoring continues to face challenges due to the volatile security environment and the limited number of protection monitoring agents on the field as a result of limited funds.
- **Social counselling:** During the weekly reception session for refugees and asylum seekers at the UNHCR representation in Bamako, 34 refugees received counselling. Major concerns relate to transport documentation, medical issues and financial assistance for income-generating revenue activities. Certain cases were referred to partners for assistance.
- **Child Protection:** In Gao, UNHCR's partner, AMSS, carried out a sensitization activity on the protection of *talibé* children and human rights in a time of conflict. This reached 23 people including refugee returnees and local community members in the towns of Hombori and Galou.
- In celebration of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia (IDAHOT), UNHCR's protection unit made an in-house presentation to improve the level of understanding on the rights of lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, trans- and intersex (LGBTI) persons relevant to the mandate of UNHCR and to discuss ways of improving the identification of protection risks and strengthen the protection response for LGBTI persons in Mali.

## Shelter and Non-Food Items

### Shelter/NFI cluster

- The National Coordinator for the Shelter Cluster conducted a visit to Gao between 23 and 26 May to discuss projects and challenges with cluster members in the region. Some challenges discussed included the need for an evaluation of shelter needs and gaps as well as a manual of best practices for the restoration of shelters and the distribution of traditional shelter kits.
- The identification and evaluation of needs for vulnerable households affected by the crisis in northern Mali in need of shelter assistance is underway by UNHCR's partners (Stop



The national coordinator for the Shelter Cluster visits a restored shelter in Gao region during a field mission. © UNHCR Mali

Sahel, TSF and Red Cross Luxembourg) in the regions of Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu. UNHCR's partners are carrying out awareness sessions with community members to engage them actively in the strategy for implementing the shelter activities. The implementation of shelter activities faces ongoing challenges in Mopti due to frequent security incidents in the zones of return.

## Education

- UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, held an information session on preparations for the DEF and BAC examinations for students and parents among urban refugees in Bamako. Following further interviews, eight candidates will benefit from support to prepare of their exams.
- 63 sensitization sessions on the importance of education for children, in particular girls, were carried out in the region of Kayes. The sessions reached 1,183 parents including Mauritanian refugees and host community members. Parents gained a greater appreciation for the importance of monitoring their children's progress. In addition, 15 families accepted to take charge of the food needs for children frequenting schools that are far away from their residences.



## Health

- **Health Insurance for Mauritanian refugees:** UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, held 12 sessions on the importance of health insurance reaching 355 persons including Mauritanian refugees and host community members in the region of Kayes. As a result of these sessions, nine new households registered to the healthcare plans to help them gain access to health care at a more affordable rate.
- **Medical assistance:** 13 persons with specific needs among refugees in Bamako received assistance through UNHCR's partner, Stop Sahel, to address chronic illnesses and medical treatments. Two persons with specific needs among Mauritanian refugees also received assistance to address medical issues.
- **Family planning:** One information session on the advantages of family planning was held in Kayes region. The session reached 47 women including Mauritanian refugees and host community members.



## Water and Sanitation

- In Mopti region, three information sessions reaching 122 refugee returnees and host community members were organized by UNHCR's partner, Stop Sahel, to share information on hygiene and sanitation around water points, including the treatment of water for consumption, waste management, water-borne diseases and unity and reconciliation around water points. The sessions allowed participants to put the lessons into practice for their own well-being and the well-being of their families.



## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- **Cash grants for refugee returnees:** UNHCR's partner, Mercy Corps, distributed cash grants to 369 refugee returnees (145 adults and 224 children) in the regions of Gao, Menaka, Mopti and Timbuktu to support basic needs and

reintegration within local communities. The identification and verification process continues, but faces challenges as a result of the ongoing insecurity and the nomadic lifestyle of refugee returnees.

■ **Self-reliance activities:**

- **Timbuktu:** UNHCR's partner, ADES, distributed production kits to three associations focused respectively on livelihood, artisanal crafts and baking activities. The association Toumast in the commune of Alafia composed of refugee returnees received livelihood kits including troughs, foodstuffs, goats and billy goats. The cooperative of Mora composed of refugee returnees, primarily women, received kits including knives, clothing, work tables, tanned hides, dyes and oils to pursue their tissue work. The association of Soubour that includes refugee returnees, IDPs and local community members received flour, salt, yeast and clothing, among other items, to support their bakery pursuits.
- **Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu:** Identification and evaluation activities are underway to identify associations that include women and youth, alongside individuals among refugee returnees, IDPs, IDP returnees and host community members that are most in need of livelihood assistance. The areas of assistance include trainings, cash grants and equipment for agricultural and pastoral activities, retail, micro-businesses and entrepreneurship, among other sectors.

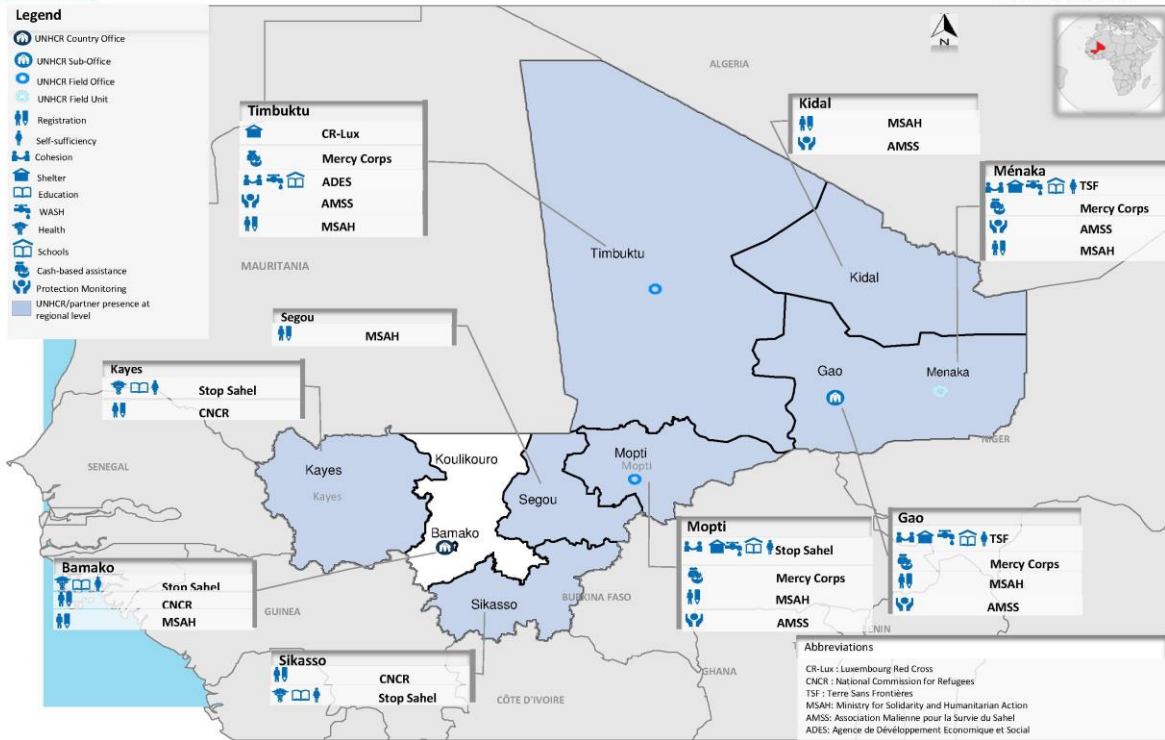


# Working in partnership



## Mali : Partner presence 2017

UNHCR Bamako



Source: UNHCR Mali

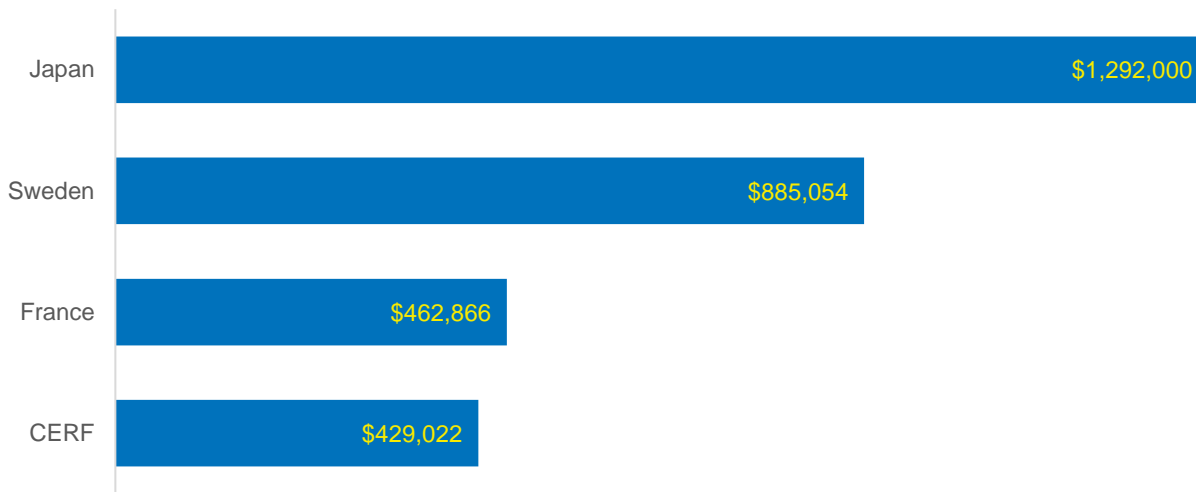
The boundaries and names used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. The administrative boundaries on this map do not take into account the new administrative subdivisions (Loi N°2012-018) effective as of 19 January 2016.

Contacts: [uzie@unhcr.org](mailto:uzie@unhcr.org); [kantet@unhcr.org](mailto:kantet@unhcr.org)

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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### 2017 funding in USD



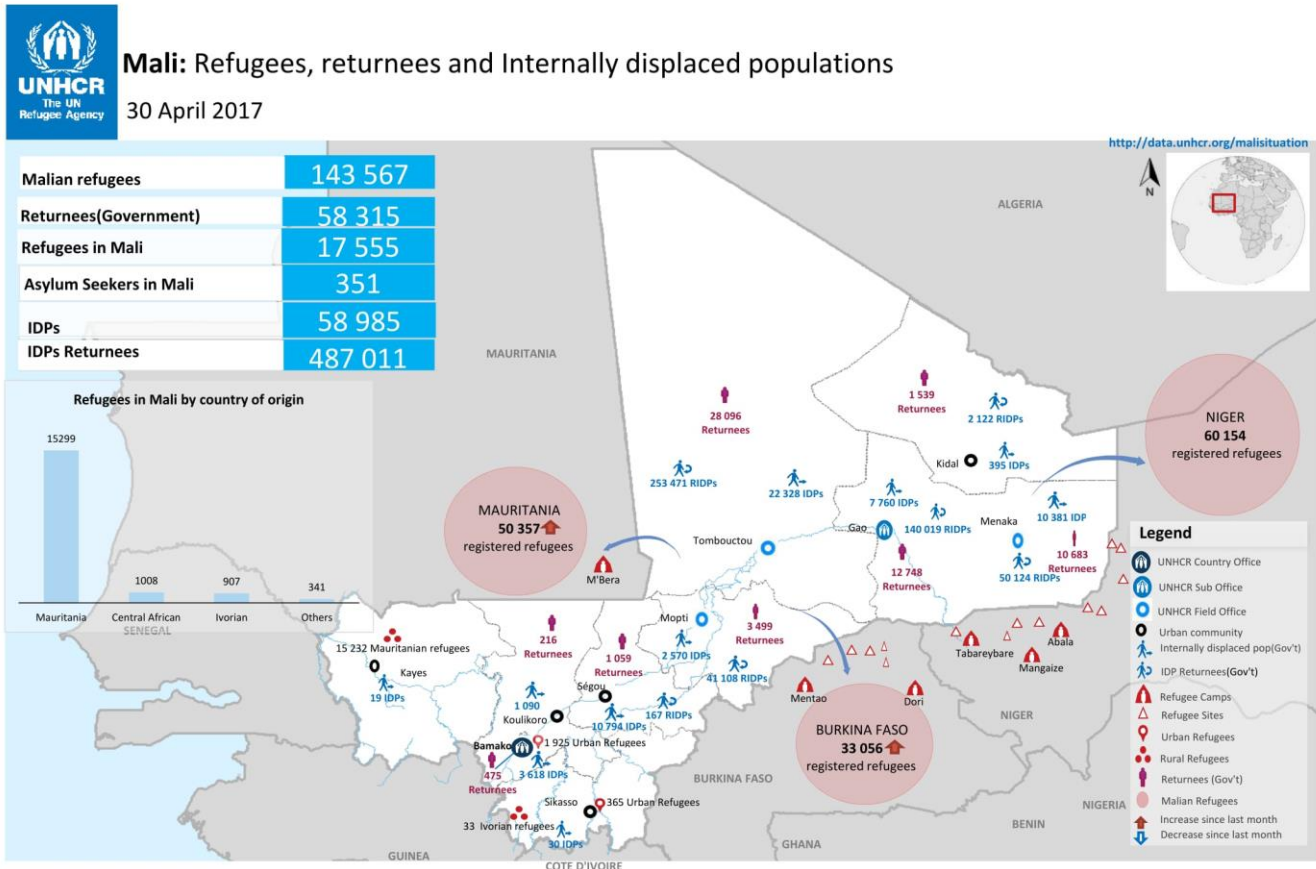
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# ANNEXES

## Mali situation map



\* figures from Niger dated as of December 2016

For more information: kantet@unhcr.org  
doren@unhcr.org

Malian refugees ( Sources: UNHCR)

Refugees in Mali (Sources: Government of Mali, CNCR)

Malian Returnees and IDPs (Sources: Government of Mali, DNDS)

**Contacts:**

Isabelle Michal, External Relations Officer, [michal@unhcr.org](mailto:michal@unhcr.org), Tel: +223 75997262  
 Thu Trang Nguyen, Associate Reporting Officer, [nguyen@unhcr.org](mailto:nguyen@unhcr.org), Tel: +223 75998907  
 Mahamadou Diallo, Public Information Assistant, [diallmah@unhcr.org](mailto:diallmah@unhcr.org), Tel: +223 94945268

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