

UNHCR Mali Situation Update

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Malian Refugees by Country of Asylum as at 19 March 2012

Country of Asylum	Malian Refugees	Others of Concern*	Source
Niger**	18,965	1,874	Government, CNE, UNHCR
Burkina Faso	22,974	-	CONAREF
Mauritania	39,490	-	Government
Togo	20	-	Government
Guinea	45	-	Government
Total	81,494	1,874	
	Grand Total		83,368

*Includes 1,874 returning Niger nationals. The previous figure of 6,651 persons of different nationalities in Tchindadaren site are now confirmed by the Government as being Malian nationals.

**The figure is based on initial ongoing registration and subject to change.

Malian IDPs

as at 19 March 2012

Population	Total number	Source
IDPs	93,439	Government/WFP



A young Malian refugee girl is about to drink the unclean water she collected from a local well in Ferrerio, northern Burkina Faso. UNHCR / H. Caux

UNHCR Financial Requirements – (in million USD)

Country	ExCom approved Budget	Supplementary requirements	Revised total budget
RO Senegal*	50.4	25.3	75.7
Mauritania	7.8	10.3	18.1
TOTAL	58.2	35.6	93.8

* The budget for the UNHCR Regional Office in Senegal covers Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The supplementary financial requirements presented in this Appeal include Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Mauritania.

Contributions (USD)	
CERF	2,199,939
United States	7,000,000
TOTAL	9,199,939

In addition, UNHCR has received contributions towards its operations in West Africa and Mauritania presented in its Global Appeal from ECOWAS, the European Commission, Denmark, Switzerland, the United States and the UN Population Fund.

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

Highlights

- **New rapid protection assessments:** UNHCR emergency teams in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania continue to undertake rapid protection assessments of the displaced populations, registration, relocation



of refugees to safer places, as well as life-saving activities in collaboration with the respective governments, other UN agencies and partners in the affected Sahel region.

- Niger: UNHCR carried out a joint mission with OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, AFRICARE, Niger Red Cross Society to assess the situation of 6,600 refugees in Tilia, prefecture of Tchintabaraden.
- Burkina Faso: UNHCR and the Government conducted on 8 March a joint mission to Ferrerio site to meet with refugees and assess their needs.
- Burkina Faso: A rapid needs assessment of refugees was conducted in Somgande Transit Centre in Ouagadougou on 7 March.
- Mali: A first joint mission including the Government, donors and NGOs took place on 3 March to Gao to assess the situation of IDPs. The protection cluster was officially activated.
- Guinea: UNHCR conducted a joint mission to Siguiri with WFP and the National Commission for the Integration and Monitoring of Refugees (CNISR) from 13-17 February to assess the situation of refugees.

Registration/Relocation: UNHCR has initiated household-level registration in coordination with the governments along with establishing a screening mechanism to identify vulnerable people in the refugee hosting countries. Government officials and partners are being trained for this purpose. In Niger, the registration of refugees in all sites has been completed, except in Tchintabaraden. In Burkina Faso, registration in Ferrerio, Gandafobou and Goutourou refugee sites in Deou prefecture has been completed and the team continues to register refugees in Soum Province. Registration in Mauritania is ongoing. UNHCR continues to face difficulties accessing remote areas, including with security escorts, to properly undertake the exercise. While registering in Mauritania, vaccinations are being given to the most vulnerable, children and pregnant women and malnourishment testing is being undertaken.

- **UNHCR registration update:**

- Niger: Initial registration with the Government is ongoing in all four provinces of displacement.
- Burkina Faso: UNHCR and CONAREF completed registration in Ferrerio, Gandafobou, Goutourou Gnegne in Deou Prefecture. The team continues to register refugees in Mentao, Soum Province, Djibo town and Damba. The registration exercise may take longer than planned as refugees are scattered over the Sahel region and due to movement of the nomadic population to different locations.
- Burkina Faso: Two refugee registration exercises took place in Somgande Transit centre in Ouagadougou on 27 February and 7 March by UNHCR and the Government.
- Mauritania: Out of the 39,490 refugees registered by the authorities, 26,638 have been registered by UNHCR in preparation for their relocation to Mbera camp.

- **UNHCR relocation update:**

- Niger: UNHCR and IOM teams were in Chinegodrar to register refugees willing to relocate to Abala site. Since 17 March, UNHCR/IOM has relocated 2102 refugees from Chinegodrar to Abala site.
- Burkina Faso: All refugees from Inabao transit centre, Seh, Koutougou, Oudalan and Soum province were transported to Ferrerio and Damba site by 15 March in collaboration with CONAREF.
- Burkina Faso: 962 refugees were relocated from the "August 4th stadium" to the Somgandé Transit Centre, 200 kilometres away from the border, pending the determination of a more appropriate site by the Government. The Somgandé Transit centre is a children's rehabilitation centre which will be operational soon.
- Mauritania: UNHCR has relocated all 39,489 Malian refugees/8002 families from Fassala to the refugee camp in Mbera. As of 19 March, UNHCR will have a transit location in Fassala. UNHCR in Fassala will continue to register newcomers in Fassala and route them to Mbera.
- Guinea Conakry: 11 refugees were relocated from Conakry to Siguiri in collaboration with the Government.

- **Rapid health assessments:**

- Niger: UNHCR led on 9 March a joint initial rapid assessment of the refugee population with the Government, UN agencies and NGOs in the three districts of Ayourou, Abala and Ouallam. UNHCR, Ministry of Health and WHO will conduct an assessment in Taoau area.

- Mauritania: Medical and nutritional screening of the refugee population with the support of UNICEF and MSF Belgium is ongoing.
- To date, UNHCR has transported over **40 tons of core relief items** from its stockpile in Douala, Cameroon by air (6 airlifts) and 9 road deliveries from the Accra, Ghana warehouse to assist 20,000 refugees in Niger, 15,000 refugees in Burkina Faso, and 6,000 refugees in Mauritania. So far 1,160 tents have been delivered to the refugee sites. UNHCR is also locally procuring food and non food items as required in host countries.
- **UNHCR Coordinator for the Mali Situation**, Mr. Valentin Tapsoba, was on mission to Mauritania from 11 to 15 March. He met with the authorities and the UN Country team to discuss coordination of the refugee emergency. He also met with refugees at the Mbera refugee camp to discuss their needs.
- The **first financial contributions** against the Supplementary Appeal were pledged from the US Government and the Central Emergency Response Fund. In addition, UNHCR has received contributions towards its operations in West Africa and Mauritania presented in its Global Appeal from ECOWAS, the European Commission, Denmark, Switzerland, the United States and the UN Population Fund.

Background

In Mali, the situation remains very volatile with reports of ongoing fighting and general insecurity. Over 93,400 persons are reported as internally displaced. People continue to leave Mali at a regular pace to find protection in the neighbouring countries of Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania. More than 22,700 have now fled Mali to Burkina Faso since mid-January according to the authorities. Refugees told UNHCR that Malians who were unable to flee during earlier fighting are now trying to leave their hiding locations in Mopti, Gao, Telemsi, Lere, Timbuctu, Gossi, Intilit or Menaka as they to be caught up again in renewed conflict between the Malian army and rebels.

Protection response

Rapid protection assessments: As per the continued UNHCR rapid protection assessments (interviews with a series of refugee focus groups), there is no evidence of *refoulement* and refugees have been able to access the borders of neighbouring countries to seek asylum. There is no evidence of presence of armed elements in the refugee locations so far. The refugee sites are being provided with protection from the government gendarmerie and military and safer areas are being identified for relocation. As many of them have lost livelihoods and possessions, including cattle, they continue to live on assistance provided by the host governments, UN agencies and NGOs.

Niger: The joint mission carried out by UNHCR, OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, AFRICARE and the Niger Red Cross Society to review the situation of 6,600 refugees in Tilia, prefecture of Tchintabaraden, showed that refugees in the area come from Andrambukane (Mali). They are in an extremely isolated and insecure area near the border where regular monitoring and delivery of assistance remains difficult. They have no food and water, sanitation, health, nutrition, as well as other services are pressing humanitarian assistance gaps.

Burkina Faso: The UNHCR emergency response team and Government officials went to Ferrerio site/village on 8 March and met with refugees who informed UNHCR that the host community so far is allowing them and their large number of livestock to use the already scarce resources such as water and grazing land. However, resources are in danger of depletion and water, food, health (critical lack of medicines) and shelter remain main priorities for them.

The rapid assessment of refugees in Somgande Transit Centre in Ouagadougou conducted on 7 March revealed that many refugees have not yet been able to come and register. Most refugees have fled due to fear of reprisals against both Tuaregs and Fulani in Bamako and Mopti, Sourgou areas in northern Mali. They also fear attacks from militia (Arab, Sonrai and Tuareg) who engage in acts of banditry. There is evidence of unaccompanied children and teenage students who have fled alone.

Guinea Conakry: A joint mission of UNHCR with WFP/CNISR (National Commission for the Integration and Monitoring of Refugees) was undertaken to Siguiri to assess the situation of a small group of refugees. A second mission is underway in Upper Guinea in connection with the relocation of the refugees to Siguire to help develop recommendations for a wider involvement of the UN system.

Mali: The first joint mission between the Government, UN agencies, donors and NGOs (UNHCR, UNICEF, OCHA, WFP, IOM, embassies of France, Canada, Denmark, USAID, ECHO, Government departments of International Cooperation, Agriculture and Catholic Relief Services,) was organized. Participants met with IDPs on 3 March and noted a serious deterioration in the protection of the displaced population exacerbated by five consecutive years of food crisis in the north. IDPs and host communities expressed serious concern about their security. The mission team noticed many cases of separated families and an absence of many heads of household. The monitoring of cases of reported unaccompanied minors is therefore essential and some cases of

sexual violence were reported. Access to care and support systems is nonexistent in Gao. There is lack of basic services (food, health, education, shelter). Although IDPs are being hosted by families, the reserves of these families is fast dwindling. Sharing of temporary shelters is resulting in overcrowding and tensions are rising between the host and IDP communities. The Protection Cluster has been activated in Mali. UNHCR and UNICEF will undertake a rapid needs assessment mission to Gao, to register and profile IDPs to provide protection and facilitate the distribution of assistance.

Mauritania: Protection officers continue to conduct interviews with refugees to identify their protection needs and risks in Mbera camp. A protection training for 25 gendarmes, deployed for the security of the camps, was undertaken on 10 March with a focus on international protection, UNHCR code of conduct, the civilian and humanitarian character of camps, as well as interview techniques.

Life-saving assistance

In all hosting countries, UNHCR continues to increase its logistics capacity for the relocation of refugees and the distribution of non-food items. Emergency shelters continue to be provided along with the establishment of basic infrastructures. Partners continue to be identified to provide access to basic emergency health and nutrition services at reception and transit centres.

In **Niger**, MSF Switzerland will implement activities related to water supply and sanitation in refugee areas. MSF has set up water bladders in Ayourou, Mangaize, Chinegodrar and Ouallam sites, as well as water and sanitation infrastructure in Abala camp. UNHCR will conduct a survey of permanent water supply to replace the water trucking to the sites. Health: UNHCR will provide transport and ambulances for refugees, undertake the rehabilitation and expansion of health centres, and procure basic medical equipment in Departments of Tillabery, Ouallam and Fillingue. Site planning: Some 500 tents and five plastic rolls and NFIs are prepositioned in Abala refugee site and 50 have already been erected. NFIs: A general distribution of NFIs to refugees was completed in Tiguezefane, Kizamou, Abala, Miel and Mangaize on 15 March 2012.

In **Burkina Faso**, refugees continue to face water shortages. Three water bladders were installed in Mentao refugee site with donations from MSH and MSF France. NFIs: NFIs are being shipped to Dori for distribution to refugees in Soum and Oudalan provinces. Non-food items were distributed in Somgande for the registered 233 families. Food: WFP distributed seven tons of food for refugees in Somgande for two weeks. Health: Médecins du Monde (Spain) is undertaking an evaluation with the Government's health services in Oudalan provinces to evaluate their capacity. Vétérinaires du Monde has started an evaluation of refugees' livestock (several thousands) in Oudalan and Soum provinces. There is a general fear that the current drought in the Sahel region will affect animals (both local and refugee livestock).

In **Mauritania**, UNHCR continues to distribute NFIs, supply water and food rations for more than 20,000 refugees. Health: The local health services continue to conduct the medical and nutritional screening of the refugee population, with the support of UNICEF. So far, near 10,100 children between the age of 1-15 years have been screened. Close to 1,700 children were vaccinated and 4,700 persons needing medical attention were referred to local health services. UNHCR is working with UNICEF and MSF Belgium to develop an inventory for medical supplies for refugees. Water: UNHCR installed three water tanks in the refugee camp in Mbera and another tank in the Fassala refugee site. These tanks were provided by UNICEF. Site planning: Preparation of the refugee camp in Mbera continues, including with the establishment of facilities for accommodation of 30,000 refugees. These include notably 7,500 family tents (1 per family); six distribution centres; 3,000 latrines and showers, one health centre; two community centres for women, six schools, etc. Refugee representatives participate in all discussions regarding the transfer of refugees and allocation of tents. Food: Since the start of the crisis, UNHCR has procured and distributed 15-day rations to some 24,500 refugees in Fassala and Mbera camp. UNHCR continues to procure food locally (15-days ration) to deliver to refugees pending WFP food distribution.

In **Mali**, the ICRC and the Malian Red Cross Society distributed food to IDPs in Aguelhoc, Tessalit, Meneka, Lere and Niafounke areas.

UNHCR presence

Niger	Niamey, Ouallam
Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou, Dori
Mauritania	Nouakchott, Bassikounou
Mali	Bamako

Working with partners

UNHCR is identifying partners and coordinating life saving activities with the following:

<p>Niger :</p>	<p>Commission Nationale d'Eligibilité (CNE), Ministries of Defense, Interior and Health, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, WHO, OCHA, MSF (CH) (water/sanitation) UNAIDS, ICRC, CADEV (continuous registration system), IOM (relocation), Islamic Relief (tent installation/site clearing), AFRICARE, ACTED (site planning/shelter).</p>
<p>Coordination mechanisms in Niger: UNHCR is part of the existing coordination mechanisms at the ministerial level, technical level and amongst UN/NGO partners. A UN cluster system is in place involving the Government and the national early warning body (Système de Relèvement Précoce, Système d'Alerte Précoce). A first coordination meeting was called on 13 March by UNHCR with 13 NGOs, IOM, International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and UNICEF to elaborate UNHCR' s protection and operational strategy, coordination and assignment of activities in different sites.</p>	
<p>Burkina Faso</p>	<p>CONAREF, <i>Comité National des Réfugiés</i> under the umbrella of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CONASUR (Social Affairs Department), WFP, WHO, UNICEF, Burkina Faso Red Cross Society, Christian Relief and Development Organisation (CREDO),and SRDO (food and core relief items distribution, community services), OXFAM (WASH), MSF France, Vétérinaires du Monde, Médecin du Monde Spain (Health), Médecin du Monde France (Health).</p>
<p>Weekly coordination meetings are held by UNHCR with the Government, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, ADRA, ICRC, ECHO, MSF and <i>Terre des Hommes</i>. Joint missions are undertaken with partners.</p>	
<p>Mauritania</p>	<p>UNICEF, UNFPA, MSF (Belgium), Lutheran World Federation (camp management), Islamic Relief, <i>Solidarités International</i> (water/sanitation), Intersos (community services), WFP/UNHCR (food), ALPD (NGO partner for protection monitoring, reception and registration), Ministry of Interior, Commissioner for Food Security</p>
<p>Weekly coordination meetings: The meeting was co chaired by the National Coordinator appointed by the Ministry of Interior and UNHCR and includes UN agencies, international NGOs, members of the national civil society and donors. Daily coordination meetings: UNHCR's implementing partner (ALPD) and the missions of Intersos UNFPA, Initiatives, ICRC, OXFAM, UNICEF, MSF Belgium, Solidarités International, the Lutheran World Federation, Acord, Au secours attend daily meetings lead by UNHCR in Bassikounou.</p>	
<p>Mali</p>	<p>Ministry of Territorial Administration, OCHA, MSF (Health).</p>
<p>Coordination mechanisms in Mali: The UN cluster system is activated for IDP protection.</p>	

