

UNHCR Mali Situation Update

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This update provides a snapshot of UNHCR and its partners' response to the influx of Malian refugees into Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania. The refugee response is led by UNHCR and is undertaken in coordination with the host governments.

Detailed operational information can be found on:

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

**the UNHCR public website: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4f79a77e6.html>

Malian Refugees by Country of Asylum as at 20 July 2012

Country of Asylum	Malian Refugees	Others of Concern*	Source
Niger	49,289	2,591	CNE, UNHCR
Burkina Faso	89,258	-	CONAREF/UNHCR
Mauritania	91,604	-	Government/UNHCR
Togo	20	-	Government/UNHCR
Guinea	44	-	Government/UNHCR
Total	232,806	2,591	
Grand Total			235,397

Malian IDPs as at 12 July 2012

Population	Total number	Source
IDPs	166,811	Protection Cluster/WFP

Contributions Received

Contributions (USD)	
Austria	331,126
Brazil	300,000
Canada	1,500,000
CERF	6,469,616
Denmark	1,802,127
European Union	2,649,007
France	657,894
Germany	1,283,370
Ireland	746,269
Japan	1,260,875
Luxembourg	258,398
Norway	2,479,749
Spain	37,313
Sweden	2,077,562
Switzerland	518,672
United States	27,000,000
Private donors	494,446
TOTAL	49,866,424

In addition, UNHCR has received contributions towards its operations in West Africa and Mauritania presented in its Global Appeal. Contributions are from Brazil, CERF, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, ECOWAS, the European Union, Finland, France, Japan, Switzerland, the United States, the UN Peacebuilding Fund and the UN Population Fund.



Burkina Faso / Damba refugee camp / A Malian refugee family gets ready to get into their shelter in order to protect themselves from a sand storm. Many refugees, who are mainly nomads, chose to reproduce the traditional accommodations they had in Mali rather than use the tents UNHCR was offering. The few tents that had been installed were ripped off by a windy storm some days earlier UNHCR/ H. Caux / July 4, 2012

UNHCR Financial Requirements – (in million USD)

Country	ExCom approved Budget (with adjustments)	Supplementary requirements	Revised total budget
RO Senegal*	50.6	123.4	174
Mauritania	7.8	30.3	38.1
TOTAL	58.4	153.7	212.1

The budget for the UNHCR Regional Office in Senegal covers operations in 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, and Senegal.

Highlights

- The current political instability in Bamako and the insecurity in northern Mali continue to trigger important influxes of refugees into the neighboring countries of Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger.
- Altogether, the crisis has now displaced over 400,000 Malians. As of 20 July, 232,806 Malians have found refuge in neighboring countries. Additionally, a minimum of 166,811 men, women and children are displaced inside Mali.
- To accommodate the constant influx of refugees in Mauritania, a new camp is in preparation in the region of Agbor, 65 km away from the Malian border.
- Due to limited funding, UNHCR continue to focus its aid on protection and immediate life-saving activities. While the situation in the camps is improving, many challenges still exist, especially in the areas of water and sanitation. In some camps, refugees are still living on daily water supplies below “emergency standard”.
- The cholera epidemic which is affecting many parts of the Sahel region is progressing. Nine (9) cases of cholera have been reported in Tabareybarey camp in the Ayorou prefecture, region of Tillabéri, Niger. At 15 July, 2,900 cases and 58 death have been reported in the Tillabéri region. Cases have also been reported in Mali.
- There is an urgent need for funds to scale up WASH response, especially given the serious implications of the cholera outbreak.
- Despite sizable donations received recently, a general lack of funding for the Mali situation continues to seriously hamper operations on the ground. As of 20 July UNHCR has received USD 49.9 million for activities related to this crisis. This represents only 32.5% of the total requirements. Funding is still urgently needed to improve conditions for displaced Malians.
- UNHCR is currently elaborating a contingency plan mapping the needs and response for an eventual major influx due to military intervention in North Mali.

Protection response

In Mali, as of 12 July, the total estimated displaced population (IDPs) amounts to 166,811. IDPs are originally from Timbuktu (57%), Gao (35%), Kidal (3%) and Mopti (3%). Thirty-six percent (36%) or 59,811 men, women and children are displaced in the southern part of the country. The displaced population in the North is estimated to 107,000 (64%). Displaced in the southern part of the country have found refuge in Mopti (19%), Bamako (7%), Segou (5%), Sikasso (4%), and Kayes (0.4%). 90% of the displaced are accommodated by host families residing in urban environments, 8% are able to ensure their own shelter and 2% have settled in public sites. The commission of “**population movement**” and the direction of Civil Protection have finalized the census and identification form for protection needs and vulnerability. A work plan is in progress which will allow the determination of population movements’ history and of most affected areas. Host communities report to be insufficiently resourced to support the displaced -- they are lacking food, NFIs and sanitation installations. In the south, half of the displaced families reported to be separated from their relatives – many men remained home to take care of their lands and cattle. According to the **child protection** cluster 175 boys, between ages 12 and 15 are used among the various armed groups in North Mali. According to various sources, force would not be used to attract the recruits. They are discreet and attract children by offering them money, food, mobile phones, bicycles, motorcycles. Three cases of victims of **cholera** have been reported in Gao in the first week of July. According to the Protection cluster the **sanitary situation in the north of the country** would be particularly affected because of the unavailability of fuel which is needed for the functioning of the water purification systems. An evaluation of the impact of the conflict on **access to education** has been conducted by the education cluster in north Mali. The findings reveal that most schools in the north have been looted or burnt down and that 80% of education staff are now displaced to south Mali. In Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal schools are closed or education suspended. UNHCR and its partners are **monitoring population movements, trends** and specific **protection needs** of affected populations. UNHCR is **building capacity** and **conducting advocacy** with the protection cluster, inter-cluster and governmental counterparts in regards to **protection standards, humanitarian principles, needs identification** and **access to humanitarian assistance**.

In Niger, as of 20 July over 51,880 men, women and children have crossed the Malian border since the beginning of the insecurity in Mali in January. Ninety-five percent (95 %) of registered refugees are Malians, the remainder are Niger national returnees. They are hosted in the three camp sites of Abala, Mangaize and

Tabareybarey, or found in settlements in the Tilia region. The recent arrivals have declared having left Mali because of food insecurity and political instability. The **relocation** process of refugees from the five spontaneous sites of MBeidou, Tinfagate, Tidirgalene, Gadouel and Intadabdab, close to border areas in the Ayorou region, which started at the end of May, was successfully completed. **Sensitization campaigns** about the need for refugees to **join official sites** are being carried out by UNHCR and partners and are ongoing. Plans to carry out a verification exercise and to conduct a **level 2 registration** to improve the quality of the information are underway. In Tabareybarey camp, in the prefecture of Ayorou, **SGBV activities** are being implemented following refugee registration with the Niger authorities. UNHCR's field team is running **SGBV awareness workshops** in the camp. Community leaders, administrative and security forces from Abala and NGOs are attending the workshops. The **Refugee Education Working Group** held its first meeting the week of July 9. **Summer classes** are currently being implemented in Tabareybarey and Mangaize camps for primary and secondary level students. Field visits were carried out to the **spontaneous site locations** of Kizamou, Miel and Shinegore which hosted many refugees who are now in camps. The visit aimed at ascertaining the conditions prevailing at the border areas and to prepare for further arrivals. It has been noticed that many refugees in Miel are living under challenging conditions due to the lack of adequate shelter, food or medical care. Eighty-one (81) suspected cases of **whooping cough** have been reported on the site. The visit highlighted the need to facilitate the **transfer** of refugees from Miel to Abala, the nearest refugee camp. While some of the refugees there might have genuine grounds to remain on the improvised site owing to their agricultural or pastoral activities, others do not have such ties and in their cases, moving to a refugee camp is the best option. A further assessment of the challenges faced by these refugees will be undertaken.

In Burkina Faso, on 25 June the total registered Malian refugees were at 89,258. UNHCR, partners and the local authorities have developed a plan for a **level 2 registration** process as a data collection tool. The start of the level 2 registration process is planned for 27 July. An increase in the refugee figures is expected after the completion of the level 2 exercise. From 10 to 12 July, the UNHCR protection team conducted a sensitization programme in the Mentao, Gandafabou and Ferrerio sites on the importance of the level 2 registration. The **relocation of refugees** from spontaneous to official sites is ongoing. **Relocation operations** are carried out jointly by UNHCR, CONAREF and the local authorities. Joint awareness missions with the aim of **sensitizing refugees** on the necessity to join official sites to benefit from protection and aid are conducted in coordination with the local authorities and are also ongoing. The continued **monitoring of the civilian character of the camps** remains an important issue. Refugees have been alerted to UNHCR's zero tolerance policy on the issue of **SGBV** and have been informed of mechanisms in place in case incidences would occur. A **protection training plan** has been elaborated for junior UNHCR protection staff, as well as governmental and non-governmental partners for all refugee sites. The training is being delivered in conjunction with UNICEF and started 9 July. Finally, UNHCR lead a mission aiming at developing an **education strategy** for the Malian refugees in Burkina Faso. UNICEF, CONAREF and the Ministry of Education were met to discuss issues related to the curriculum to be used for refugee education in Burkina Faso, and to decide whether education would be predominantly camp based or in local schools. Education interventions will be harmonized in different sites across the country in light of prospective repatriation. While an agreement was not reached on children's schooling from September onwards yet, all partners will begin remedial classes shortly and regular coordination meetings will take place in Ouagadougou where most decisions vis a vis education are to be centralized. **Classes** for 606 children from the refugee communities of Mentao and Damba began on 9 July. In partnership with the local education authorities, Plan Burkina has recruited five (5) qualified teachers from the refugee community and five (5) local teachers to conduct the remedial classes. Six (6) additional teachers are to be recruited. UNHCR is looking for partners to manage the education programme in the province of Ouadalan where no activities have started yet.

In Mauritania, as of 20 July, 91,604 Malian refugees have been registered and are hosted in Mbera camp. An average of over three hundred refugees is still arriving daily. Refugees are still well received by the host community and the authorities. No tension or other forms of conflict between the refugees and the local population have been reported thus far. In light of the **continued influx**, in collaboration with authorities, UNHCR has started the establishment of a **second camp**. On 8 July UNHCR received authorization from the Mauritania Government to create the **new camp in Aghor**, a village located 65 km away from the border with Mali. Camp preparation is underway. In the meanwhile, UNHCR and its NGO partner ALPD continue the level 1 **registration** of the new refugee population in Fassala and their **transfer** to Mbera camp. The majority of the Malian refugees in Mauritania are from the region of Timbuktu (87%), others are from the regions of Mopti (8%) and Segou (5%). Sixty-two percent (63%) of refugees are 17 years old or younger, 34% are between the ages of 18 to 59, and 2% are older. Fifty-five percent are female and 90% are of Tuareg origins. The remainder (10%) is of Berber origin. The **registration of children of school age** continues. As of July 15, 3,637 refugee kids have been enrolled in the four primary schools established in the camp. An **educational solution** needs to be found for 80% of children of primary school age who remain without access to school. Funding is sought to provide education to these children. Recreational activities targeting children from 3 to 6 years old in Mbera camp were launched in the child friendly spaces recently created. Finally, UNHCR and Intersos developed an action plan to strengthen humanitarian **staff capacity** and the **community structures** in Mbera camp. Priority actions related to the

training of staff, gender-based violence (SGBV) and the **referral system** of **vulnerable refugee cases** are being put into place.

Life-saving assistance

UNHCR continues to provide refugees and the host population in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania with basic assistance including water and sanitation, primary health care, education, shelter and core-relief items. While the situation for refugees in the camps is improving, much still needs to be done to ensure that refugees receive assistance according to humanitarian standards in all sectors. UNHCR is also looking into developing operational strategies to provide adequate aid to refugees in spontaneous sites as well as for an important population of urban refugees.

In Niger, assistance continues to be provided in the areas of food, water and sanitation. UNHCR and partners have succeeded in bridging the gap in **daily water allowance** for refugees in Abala and Tabareybarey camps who are respectively receiving 13 and 20 litres of water per person daily. The situation of **latrines** and **showers** is also improving slowly but **gaps** remain to reach emergency standards in all camps. Additional work in the area of water and sanitation is ongoing in all camps despite constraints related to the start of the rainy season. **In Tabareybarey camp**, the distribution of plastic sheets and construction kits to new arrivals is ongoing. UNHCR's partner CADEV distributed **NFIs** to 1,000 people. The regular **food basket distribution** is underway and is planned for the other camps in the coming weeks. UNHCR, UNICEF, and WFP conducted an initial assessment on the feasibility of conducting a **general nutrition evaluation/survey for malnutrition** in the camp. The assessment which was being held at Tabareybarey camp the week of July 16 involved the Niger Ministry of Health. The construction of 10 latrine blocks is underway. Regarding **cholera prevention**, 12 health agents from Red Cross Niger have been deployed and four MSF-Suisse health agents are on a permanent basis in the camp. Aqua tabs and soap were distributed to families. **In Abala camp** plans are made for the camp extension with 840 new tents. The construction of community shelters is also being planned. In Abala, 120 m3 of water from the borehole is delivered to the bladders on a daily basis. **In Tilia**, the exploration activities for the borehole in Agando have started. In the refugee sites of Chinawaren and Agando, 100 m3 of water is provided on a daily basis. The NGO Akarass is running three (3) mobile clinics and 249 consultations were done during the week of 9 July. The global acute malnutrition and global severe malnutrition rates are high, respectively 16.1% and 2.5 % as revealed through MUAC screening.

In Burkina Faso, while improving the situation of **water and sanitation** remains a challenge. Despite ongoing work in the area, as of 15 July, refugees in Ferrerio site are still receiving the water equivalent of 9lts/person/day. Refugees in Mentao sites are receiving approximately 12lts/person/day, and those in Damba are receiving 14lts/pers./day. UNHCR's standards for daily water allocation during emergencies are of 10lts/pers/day. However, we should be aiming for 20lts/person/day in stable conditions. Important **gaps** also exist for the construction of **latrines** and **showers**. Currently only 25% of latrines needed and 28% of the showers to reach the emergency standard have been built in Ferrerio camp, the most populated Malian refugee site in Burkina Faso. In Mentao and Damba the standards for latrines have been reached, those for shower construction are 75% achieved. **Hygiene promotion** activities are ongoing in all camps. With a population of over 20,000 refugees, the improvement of the **water and sanitation** conditions in Ferrerio site is critical and requires more funding. The bad road conditions and the start of the rainy season are making this challenge increasingly difficult to meet. UNHCR is working with Burkina Faso's Ministry of Public Health and its two main partners MDM in the Soum province and Medecins Sans Frontieres in Oudalan to ensure the availability of **primary health care** and support of specialized cases for refugees and Burkinabe population surrounding the camps.

In Mauritania, UNHCR's partner for **WASH**, Solidarité International, completed the equipment of the second borehole built by the Mauritanian authorities. Currently, three boreholes are operational in the camp and supply an average of 640 m3 to 720 m3 of clean water per day. Despite this important development and increase in the supply of water, the **average supply per refugee and per day remains between 8 and 9 liters**, below the emergency standard, due to the continuous arrival of new refugees. As of 15 July, 1,616 communal latrines were installed in the camp by OXFAM and Solidarités International (56 persons per drop hole compared to a standard 50). UNHCR and Oxfam have also installed 586 showers. During the week of 9 July, OXFAM trained refugees on hygiene and sanitation. As of today, nine nutritional rehabilitation centers are operational in the refugee camp: one Intensive Nutritional Rehabilitation Center (CRENI), four Nutritional Rehabilitation Centers for Severe Malnutrition (CRENAS), and four Nutritional Rehabilitation Centers for Moderate Malnutrition (CRENAM). The **measles vaccination** campaign continues in Fassala for refugees who just arrived, prior to their transfer to Mbera camp. UNHCR, WFP and its partner for assistance distribution, the CSA, continue the distribution of one-month food rations for 90,000 refugees. As of 15 July, 50,000 of the 90,000 beneficiaries had received their food ration. The food distribution continues. UNHCR has started preparation for the new camp of Aghor. As of 15 July, 10 hectares of lands were cleared, sixteen (16) tents, two (2) water tanks of 2500 liters each were installed and four (4) latrines were being built.

Financial situation

The total supplementary requirements for the Mali situation stand at 153.7 million and UNHCR's total revised budgetary requirements for the countries responding to the Mali situation amounts to USD 212.1 million for 2012. UNHCR's total financial needs for the Mali crisis in **Mauritania amount to USD 38.1 million**. In **Burkina Faso Niger and Mali**, UNHCR's additional financial requirements **have increased to USD 123.4 million**. The overall plan is based on providing emergency aid to **440,000 Malian refugee and IDPs until the end of the year**.

UNHCR is grateful to donors who have committed **pledges amounting to USD 49.9 million** to respond to this crisis thus far but remains very concerned with the overall funding shortfall. Currently **only 32.5%** of the total financial requirements has been raised.

UNHCR and its partners are **calling for urgent financial support** for the Malian refugees and displaced.

UNHCR presence

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

Working with partners

UNHCR is coordinating its life saving activities with the following partners:

Niger	Commission Nationale d'Eligibilité (CNE), Ministries of Defense, Interior and Health, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, WHO, OCHA, MSF (CH) (water/sanitation) UNAIDS, ICRC, CADEV (warehousing/transportation of NFIs), IOM (relocation), Islamic Relief (tent installation/site clearing), AFRICARE, ACTED (camp management/Water), PLAN NIGER (WASH), OXFAM (water).
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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*). The Humanitarian Coordinator proposed a review of the working approaches with the ad hoc committee attached to the Prime Minister's Office and to continue to work closely with local and government authorities in the refugee affected areas.

Burkina Faso	CONAREF, <i>Comité National des Réfugiés</i> under the umbrella of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CONASUR (Social Affairs Department), WFP, WHO, UNICEF, FAO, Burkina Faso Red Cross Society (Shelter/NFI distribution/sanitation), Christian Relief and Development Organisation (CREDO), and SRDO (food and core relief items distribution, community services), Oxfam, HELP, Plan Burkina (WASH), MSF France (Water trucking), <i>Église des Assemblées de Dieu</i> (water), <i>Vétérinaires du Monde, Médecins du Monde</i> Spain, Hope87, <i>Médecins du Monde France</i> , Ministry of Public Health of Burkina Faso (Health), HELP (water).
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Weekly coordination meetings are held by UNHCR with the Government, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, ADRA, ICRC, ECHO, MSF and *Terre des Hommes*. Joint missions are undertaken with partners.

Mauritania	Ministry of Interior, Commissioner for Food Security (non-food items and food distribution), UNICEF (education), UNFPA, MSF Belgium, MSF France (health), Lutheran World Federation (camp management), OXFAM, Solidarités International (water/sanitation), Intersos (community services), WFP/UNHCR (food), ALPD (protection monitoring activities, management of a reception center in Fassala and transport of refugees from Fassala to Mbera).
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National level:

Bi-weekly coordination meetings: The meetings are co-chaired by the National Coordinator appointed by the Ministry of Interior and UNHCR and include UN agencies, NGOs, members of the national civil society and donors.

Monthly sectorial meetings: Meetings on Health, Nutrition and WASH are held to update the work plans for each of these sectors. The sectorial meetings are organized by UNHCR and attended by the organizations intervening in these sectors as well as the authorities.

Field level:

Coordination meetings: Three times per week the local authorities, UNHCR's implementing partners - ALPD, the Lutheran World Federation, Intersos, Solidarités International, UNHCR's operational partners - WFP and UNICEF, MSF Belgium, IFRC, OXFAM, and Mauritanian Red Crescent attend the coordination meetings presided by UNHCR.

Weekly thematic meetings: Meetings on Health, Nutrition, Site Planning and WASH including the organizations intervening in these sectors are held.

Mali

Ministères de l'Administration Territoriale, de l'Action Humanitaire, de la Solidarité et des Personnes Agees, et de la Protection Civile. U.N. Organizations, NGOs, OIM, OCHA.

Coordination mechanisms in Mali: The UN cluster system is activated for IDP protection. The protection Cluster is lead by UNHCR. There are two sub clusters: child protection (UNICEF) and gender-based violence (UNFPA). It normally meets once every two weeks. The Commission of population movements (lead by IOM).