

**UNHCR**United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
Haut Commissariat des Nations Unies pour les réfugiés

Mali Situation Update

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Refugee children in Mberra camp, Mauritania. 7 July 2012. UNHCR/ E. Villechalan

This update provides a snapshot of UNHCR and its partners' response to the displacement of Malian in Mali itself and into Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania. The refugee response is led by UNHCR and is undertaken in coordination with the host governments. More detailed operational information can be found on:

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

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

Contributions Received

Malian Refugees by Country of Asylum (as at 7 September 2012)

Country of Asylum	Malian Refugees	Others* of Concern	Source
Niger	54,546	3,072	CNE, UNHCR
Burkina Faso	107,929**	-	CONAREF/ UNHCR
Mauritania	106,265**	-	Government/ UNHCR
Togo	20	-	Government/ UNHCR
Guinea	44	-	Government/ UNHCR
Total	268,804	3,072	

* 3072 are returning Niger nationals.

** The Level 2 Registration will confirm the figures.

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 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 for the Mali Situation (USD)

Austria	331,126
Brazil	300,000
Canada	1,500,000
CERF	6,469,616
Denmark	1,802,127
European Union	5,099,987
France	657,894
Germany	1,283,370
Ireland	746,269
Italy	645,995
Japan	1,260,875
Luxembourg	258,398
Netherlands	5,714,284
Norway	2,479,749
Spain	37,313
Sweden	2,077,562
Switzerland	1,563,604
United States	27,000,000
Private donors	528,528
TOTAL	59,756,697

In addition, UNHCR has received contributions towards its operations in West Africa and Mauritania presented in its Global Appeal 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.

General Highlights

- In Mali, political instability in Bamako, insecurity and widespread abuses of human rights in northern Mali, as well as lack of access to basic needs continue to force Malians to flee either within Mali or into neighbouring Burkina Faso(**107,929**) Mauritania(**106,265**) and Niger(**54,546**).
- **UNHCR Regional Representative of West Africa and Coordinator for the Mali situation**, Mr Valentin Tapsoba visited Niger from 12 to 18 August to meet with refugees in the camps and to evaluate their current situation. Mr Tapsoba also met with government representatives and the Heads of UN agencies in Niger.
- **UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator**, Mrs Valerie Amos was on mission in Mali from 28 to 30 August to assess the emergency situation and response received so far.
- A delegation of the **African Union** (AU) visited Mbera camp in Mauritania on 27 August to assess the Malian refugee situation.
- In Burkina Faso, the **Level 2 Registration** which started in Soum province on 26 July continues in refugee hosting sites and is scheduled to be completed by the end of September.
- In Niger, an estimated 400,000 people have been affected by the recent floods in the country. Local reports indicate that about 50 people have lost their lives and more than 15,000 houses have been destroyed as a result of the floods. The floods also destroyed hundreds of hectares of rice fields in the country which is already facing food crisis. The regions of Tillaberi, Dosso and Tahoua were the most affected. In **Tillaberi region** which hosts an estimated **36,300 Malian refugees**, the floods rendered the camps inaccessible.
- UNHCR and its education partners require **urgent funds** to provide **education** for an estimated **97,870 school-age** Malian refugee children in Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania as the new school year starts in **September/October 2012**.
- Due to **limited funding**, UNHCR can only provide a threshold response to the Malian refugee crisis, limited to basic protection and **lifesaving activities**, leaving other important activities, such as education, unaddressed.

MALI

- In Mali, figures of Internally Displaced Persons, (IDPs) remain **185,889 persons**. The Commission on Population Movements is yet to release new figures. UNHCR continues to work with the Commission on Population Movements during the second phase of IDP profiling exercise in order to enhance the collection of data on persons with specific needs.
- UNHCR has been informed that an estimated **800 persons of the “Bella” minority** group (one of the ethnic groups who face societal discriminations in Mali) are among the IDPs in Mopti region. UNHCR and WFP are planning to conduct a mission there to assess their protection and assistance needs.
- The Child Protection sub-cluster under the lead of UNICEF continues to organize awareness campaigns on the **dangers of mines and explosive remnants of war** (ERW). Since the beginning of August, over **15,000 posters and leaflets** have been distributed throughout Mali and **radio programmes** continue in order to increase awareness on the problem. In addition, UNICEF has trained 36 trainers in mines and ERW education.
- During the week of 27 August in Mopti, a Child Protection sub-cluster was established with the inclusion of representatives of Ministry of Family, Women and Children Affairs in order to improve child protection response. Mopti currently hosts an estimated 38,800 IDPs.

NIGER

Protection Response

- In August, the number of new arrivals from northern Mali was estimated at 2,234 persons compared to 3,656 in July. The decrease of 39 per cent was attributed by the refugees to the rainy season which made accessibility to the camps difficult. The new arrivals mainly came from Gao, Menake Ansonga, Tinnahama, Karou, Ouatagouna, Labzanga, Bintia, Tessi, Farou, and Fafa.
- In Abala camp, **40 individuals with mental disabilities** have been identified among the current population of 14,265. UNHCR and partners are seeking ways to improve their well-being.
- UNHCR and UNICEF have planned to design a framework to enhance the monitoring of **Unaccompanied and Separated Children** in the refugee camps. Currently, 257 of such children have been identified.
- UNHCR, UNFPA and Oxfam are working on how to evaluate **SGBV** situation in the camps and discuss a plan of action that will include capacity building and community sensitization in the camps. At the meeting, it was decided that a Working Group on SGBV be created to include the government, UN agencies and local NGOs.
- UNHCR undertook a Protection monitoring mission in Tilia and the sites of **Agando and Chinwaren** during the week of 27 August. After the mission, UNHCR discussed the possibility of sharing an office space with IOM in Tilia in order to be closer to the estimated **8,330** refugees to improve their protection needs.

Life-saving Assistance

- The water available in Abala, Mangaize, and Agando which was between 6.6 to 9.7 l/pers/day during the week of 13 August is currently between 6.7 to 7.8 l/pers/day In Abala where water consumption per person per day is currently **7.8 litres**, a water supply network financed by UNHCR at the cost of **165,000 USD** is operational and will enable refugees to get closer to the emergency standard of 15 litres per person per day. UNHCR and WASH partners continue to work hard to improve the situation.
- The latrine and shower situation remains alarming in four camps/sites: **335** persons/latrine and **110** persons/shower in **Abala**; **188** persons/latrine and per shower in **Agando**; **126** persons/latrine and **210** persons/shower in **Mangaize**; **106** persons/latrine and per shower in **Chinwaren**. In **Tabareybarey**, there are **only four showers** available for an **estimated 8,400 refugees**. The emergency standard for both latrines and showers is **≤50 persons**. UNHCR is urgently searching for a new partner for hygiene and sanitation activities as *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF) France will now focus its activities on health and nutrition.
- In the camps of **Tabareybarey** and **Mangaize** where each camp recorded 11 cases of **cholera** between June and mid-August, there have been no more records of the disease due to the sustained efforts of UNHCR and partners to combat the disease with the participation of the refugees. However, the epidemic has not been declared over since new cases continue to be reported among the local population. During the week of 27 August **two individuals** from the **host community** in **Ayorou department** were treated for cholera.
- In the camp of **Tabareybarey**, **18 cases of measles** were reported during the week of 27 August. *Médecins Sans Frontières Suisse* organized a vaccination campaign for children aged between 9 months and 15 years old in the camps and in surrounding villages.
- A nutrition survey in August 2012 reveal that the prevalence of **Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM)** in **Ayorou is 15.5%** ; **Abala is 18.7%**; and **Mangaize is 21.2 %**. The prevalence of **Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM)** in **Ayorou is 3.1%**; **Abala is 3.8%**; and **Mangaize is 7.2%**. UNHCR and partners are putting in place a mechanism to address the situation.
- WFP food pipeline situation shows that the quantity of cereals and Corn Soya Blend (CSB) available for general food distribution can cover the refugee population for the months of September and October. Pulses (and Corn Soya Blend for blanket feeding) are out of stock for the month of September. According to WFP, it is considering buying the food items locally or abroad but the process could take up to three months. It is making efforts to resolve the shortages for the month of September.

- On 24 August, UNHCR signed a partnership agreement with the **French Embassy** and **Netherlands Development Organization (SNV)** for the distribution of **energy-saving stoves** to both refugees and host communities in Abala and Mangaize in order to reduce the pressure on environmental resources.

BURKINA FASO

Protection Response

- The **Level 2 Registration** has been completed in nine sites in Soum and Oudalan provinces and is currently taking place in Ferrerio camp. After Oudalan province, the exercise will take place in urban areas of Ouagadougou (Somgande) and Bob-Dioulasso.
- Further to Level 2 registration, the Office has instituted the "Continuous Registration" process to ensure the registration of persons who, for some reason, were not registered and also of new arrivals. In recent weeks, the rate of new arrivals into Burkina Faso (mainly from Gao, Timbuktu and Gossi) remains low. All new changes (including new arrivals) captured in "Continuous Registration" process will be updated on monthly basis, after the conclusion of Level II registration.



Level 2 Registration exercise in Mentao camp. 5 August 2012. UNHCR/ H Reichenberger

- UNHCR and *Comité National des Réfugiés* (CONAREF) are currently discussing the issue of **birth certificates** for children born in Mali who were never issued birth certificates or children born in Burkina Faso of refugee parents, who have not yet declared their births.
- UNICEF and Plan Burkina are organizing activities in the areas of **psychosocial support for refugee children, prevention and response to child abuse, recreation** as well as awareness campaign on **education and drug abuse** in camps in the Soum Province.
- Due to the **lack of schools** in some refugee camps in Burkina Faso, some refugee children **attend host community schools** thus putting a **strain on resources** in those schools. In some villages in the provinces of Oudalan, and Soum, the number of **refugee children far exceeds that of local children**. UNHCR and UNICEF do not only have to address refugee education needs, but will also need to consider addressing some needs of the host population who have **shared scarce education resources** with the refugees.

Life-saving Assistance

- In **Gandafabou** camp, water trucking activities by Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) has helped increase water available from **0.6 to 1.7 litres/pers/day**. With that quantity, there is still the urgent need to increase water trucking activities in order to reach the emergency standard of 15 litres/pers/day particularly when there have been confirmed cases of cholera in Burkina Faso. Water trucking activities remain the best solution pending the planned relocation of refugees to Goudebo where water available is currently estimated at 11 litres/pers/day.
- WFP, Catholic Relief Services and Burkina Faso Red Cross organized **general food distribution** for the month of August in the camps. The food ration distributed in Damba and Mentao lacked super cereal and salt, as well as was short of 70g of beans and 10 g of oil per person per day. Thus, the food ration served would give a daily calorie intake of less than the required 2100 kcal.

- UNHCR, Red Cross and Plan Burkina distributed **Core Relief Items** including blankets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets and soap for 868 household in Gandafabou and 2,180 households in Fererio.
- According to UNICEF reports, there have been cases of **cholera** in Burkina Faso. During the week of 20 August, sixteen suspected cases were recorded in Tokabangou health centre located 5km from the Burkina Faso - Niger border. All the **16 cases** were from Nguèleye village close to the border with Niger. **Seven new cases** with one death were recorded during the week of 27 August in the same village. **One out of five samples** taken for tests confirmed the disease. Fact finding missions were undertaken by the Minister of Public Health and health partners following the outbreak. Awareness campaigns on cholera prevention continue in the camps.

MAURITANIA

Protection Response

- In August, the number of new arrivals from northern Mali was an estimated 7,625 persons. Compared to 7,659 in July, there was a decrease of 34 persons.
- UNHCR and UNICEF carried out a training session in Bassikounou on the **Standard Operating Procedures** for **SGBV prevention and response**. Twenty-nine humanitarian staff working for UN agencies and NGOs involved in the humanitarian response to the situation of Malian refugees participated.
- UNHCR is monitoring the refugee **relocation process** from Fassala to Mbera. UNHCR and partners continue to identify **persons with specific needs** at the transit centre of Fassala and in the refugee camp of Mbera to ensure that their needs are prioritized.
- UHCR, Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and Solidarités International are making preparations for the launch of the Level 2 Registration exercise which has been scheduled for 15 September. The construction of a registration center is in progress.

Life-saving Assistance

- The average quantity of water available remains **7 litres/pers/day**. UNHCR, OXFAM and *Solidarités International* continue with the efforts to reach the emergency standard of **15 litres/pers/day**.
- In Mbera camp, **diarrhea** which used to be the most frequent cause of consultation among refugees (**30 per cent**) has decreased by **15 per cent** through the efforts of UNHCR, partners and the refugee community to encourage good hygiene practices among the refugee community.
- Records at the health centres show that **25 per cent of consultations** were linked to malaria. UNHCR and Médecins Sans Frontières Belgium launched the distribution of **26,043 mosquito nets** to help prevent the disease in the camp. In addition UNFPA, Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) supplemented the distribution with a total of **2,706** nets.
- UNICEF has registered **7,000** refugee children in the age range of 6 to 24 months in preparation for a blanket feeding programme. The current number of children under five years in the nine nutritional rehabilitation centres operational in the camp is **3030**. Compared to **2,437** beneficiaries at the beginning of August there is an increase of **593** beneficiaries(24 percent).
- WFP and *Commissariat à la Sécurité Alimentaire* (CSA) organized two **general food distributions** (bimonthly) for refugees during the month of August. The food rations made available during the first distribution provided the equivalent of 1,820 kcal per person per day while the rations of the second distribution provided the required 2,190 kcal.
- UNHCR and Oxfam launched the distribution of 108,780 soaps provided by Oxfam to cover the needs of 93,750 refugees for one month.

- On 1 September, UNHCR signed a sub agreement for a period of three months with a national NGO, SOS Desert, for the implementation of activities in the area of **environmental protection**. The activities will include collection of dead wood within 100 km to provide firewood refugee families and the supply of **6000 energy-saving stoves** to refugee families.

FINANCIAL SITUATION

- The total supplementary **requirements for the Mali situation stand at 153.7 million** and UNHCR's total revised budgetary requirements for its overall activities in countries affected by 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 30.3 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.
- While UNHCR is grateful to donors who have thus far committed pledges amounting to **USD 59.8 million** to respond to this crisis, the Office remains extremely concerned about the overall funding shortfall. **Only 38.9%** of the total financial requirements have been raised thus far.
- UNHCR and its partners are **appealing for urgent financial support** from donors for the Malian displaced.

UNHCR PRESENCE

Niger	(Offices) Niamey, Abala, Mangaize, Ayourou (Camps) Tabareybarey, Mangaize, Abala (Official sites)* Agando and Chinwaren
Burkina Faso	(Offices) Ouagadougou, Dori, Gorom-Gorom, Djibo, Bobo Dioulasso. (Camps)* Mentao, Damba, Ferrerio, Gandafabou, Goudebo, Sanioniongo/Somgande, Bobo Dioulasso
Mauritania	(Offices) Nouakchott, Bassikounou Camp - Mbera
Mali	(Offices) Bamako, Kayes (IDP site) Mopti

* Apart from the official camps and sites, some refugees are living in spontaneous settlements.



Awareness campaign on cholera prevention in Tabareybarey camp, Niger.
15 August 2012, UNHCR/C. Arnaud