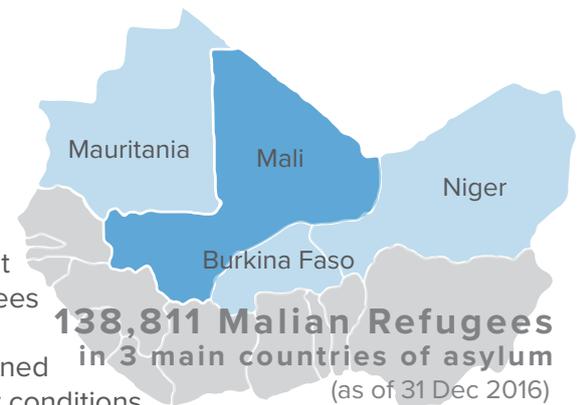


Finding Solutions

Finding durable solutions for Malian refugees is a challenge amid a volatile security environment in Mali. Ongoing violence amongst armed groups, intercommunity tensions and, heightened terrorism continue to foster an insecure and volatile environment, hampering the voluntary return of refugees.

Voluntary return and reintegration are the key solutions and resettlement is used as a protection tool. In total, there are over 57,000 Malian refugees returned according to the Government of Mali. The Commission de Mouvement de Populations registered 814 persons who voluntarily returned to Mali between January and February 2017, despite the volatile security conditions that do not permit for an organized return.



Malian refugees in Burkina Faso

Development

Achievements of work plan were reviewed and recommendations were made in the 5th meeting of the tripartite commission between the Governments of Burkina Faso, Mali and UNHCR in April and in the 8th meeting of the tripartite commission between the Governments of Niger, Mali and UNHCR in February.

In the 2nd meeting of the tripartite commission between the Governments of Mauritania, Mali and UNHCR in February, a joint action plan was adopted.

Ways Forward

Due to the volatile security conditions, it remains unfavourable to organize a large scale return operation in safety and with dignity. Nevertheless, it is estimated that around 10,000 refugees are expected to return from Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger in 2017. Additionally, 135 individuals are expected to be resettled.

History

In early 2012, fighting broke out in northern Mali. What started as a secessionist insurrection, later became a complex conflict, followed by international community military intervention that helped Mali to keep its territorial integrity. The instability drove 160,000 persons into refuge in neighbouring countries.

Achievement

The tripartite agreements were signed between the Governments of countries of asylum, Mali and UNHCR: in 2014 for Burkina Faso and Niger; and 2016 for Mauritania.

UNHCR has been providing a return package to refugees who notifies UNHCR before leaving the country of asylum. It includes a Voluntary Repatriation Form that is equivalent to an identity document in Mali prior to the issuance of a national identity card by Malian authorities; a transport cash grant equivalent to \$70 in countries of asylum; and an additional cash grant of \$130 (adult) and \$70 (child) upon return in Mali.

UNHCR supports the reintegration of refugee returnees in accessible zones through community-based interventions in the areas of protection monitoring with child protection, SGBV and intercommunity and land-based conflicts being key areas of priority, as well as supporting social cohesion and livelihoods activities.

In 2015, UNHCR developed a regional strategy for the Malian refugees and IDPs. The strategy includes ways forward for a regionally-coordinated approach, maintaining open borders and a facilitated approach to voluntary repatriation, fostering resilience and socio-economic self-reliance to the extent possible, promoting partnership and innovative ways forward; and communicating and messaging.



UNHCR is committed to fully engage in the 2030 Agenda processes in the West Africa region to leverage the SDGs for increased protection and solutions for forcibly displaced persons. The Agenda's promise to leave no one behind is pivotal for the inclusion of refugees, IDPs and stateless persons in regular development planning.