



UNHCR staff visits the association of returned refugees' vegetable garden in Menaka region. Photo © UNHCR Mali

KEY FIGURES

600

Mauritanian refugees who expressed their interest in being naturalised have their file being handled by a legal consulting company that supports the naturalization process

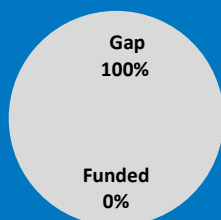
50

Protection incidents have been reported in north and central regions of Mali since January 2017

FUNDING

USD 40 million

requested for the operation

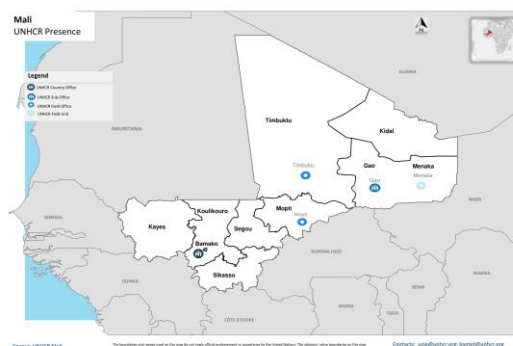


PRIORITIES

- 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
- 4,000 protection incidents planned to be reported
- 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

A delegation of the Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team (STAIT) visited Mali from 13rd to 20th February with the aim of improving the efficiency of the humanitarian response in Mali. The mission focused on leadership, coordination, access



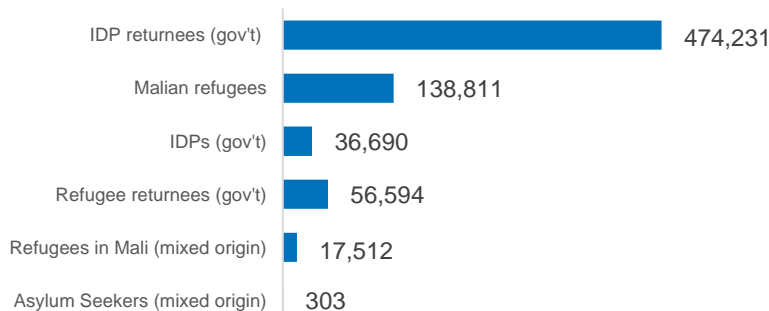
and accountability to affected populations, protection, and the humanitarian-development nexus in the context of an integrated mission. UNHCR took an active part in the visit.

On 8 and 9 February was held in Bamako a national workshop on the revision of the protection cluster strategy in presence of 36 participants from national authorities, UN agencies, NGOs regional clusters and MINUSMA.

The 8th meeting of the tripartite commission UNHCR/Mali/Niger was held in Niamey on 23 and 24 February on the repatriation of Malian refugees in Niger. The 2nd meeting of the tripartite commission UNHCR/Mali/Mauritania took place in Nouakchott on 28 February. A work plan for March to May 2017 was drafted.

Project proposals for underfunded CERF funding have been submitted for the Mali situation. UNHCR submitted two projects: one to the NFI/Shelter Cluster for an amount of 300.000 USD, and one to the Protection Cluster for 300.000 USD. In total, USD 7 million have been allocated under the underfunded CERF budget for Mali this year.

Population of concern (December 2016)



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

UNHCR continues to operate in a volatile security environment with 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. Some 138,811 Malian refugees remain in neighbouring countries and 36,690 internally displaced persons in Mali are waiting to see whether conditions in their area of origin improve to enable them to return in safety and dignity. The volatile security environment continues to destabilize local communities, jeopardize the protection of civilians, and prevent forcibly displaced persons from returning to their homes, while further threatening their access to already limited basic social services. Inter community violence broke out in the week between 13th and 19th February in the regions of Ségou and Mopti (Macina area) between nomadic cattle breeders and farmers that generated a retaliation chain and led to internal displacement in those regions.

The threat of terrorism and criminality persists with security forces facing almost daily attacks in the northern and central regions. In the northern regions, the threats of IED and abduction of Westerners remain high, while the central regions face increasing threats from active extremist armed groups. Especially in the border areas with Burkina Faso and Niger, we continue to see the influence of terrorism take hold with many schools remaining closed, and limited presence of security forces or local authorities. The Mayor of Fatoma informed that he left Fatoma for Bamako on 7th January due to repeated death threats that he has been receiving since his election on 20th November. Thereafter on the 10th February local authorities informed that eight other Mayors left their duty fearing for their personal security. Periodic FAMA incursions in the central and border areas seem to have little effect as extremists seem to have fled prior to their arrival and the local population bearing the brunt during the operation and potentially again after their departure with extremists possibly avenging what could be seen as betrayal. In effect the central region continues to deteriorate, and is the urgent need of a substantial security force presence, not only periodic incursions to enable the return of stability with the return of local authorities. The implementation of the peace agreement of Algiers continues to be hindered. At the 20th session of the Commission Technique de Sécurité (CTS) that took place in Bamako on the 16th February, participants agreed that mixed patrols ("Mechanisme Operationel de Coordination" - MOC) start on 20th February in Gao. However, on 20th February, CMA actually refused to take part of the patrols. Those patrols were eventually launched in Gao on the 23rd February and the MOC Coordinator, Colonel Rissa Ag Sidi Mohammed, informed that limited patrols would begin in Gao city although limited to within the city limits until they have heavy-weapon. On the other hand, positive developments took place; interim authorities were installed in Kidal on the 28th February without any major incident.

Achievements



Protection

Protection Cluster

- **Visit of a STAIT delegation:** A delegation of the Senior Transformative Agenda Implementation Team (STAIT) visited Mali from 13rd to 20th February with the aim of improving the efficiency of the humanitarian response in Mali. The mission focused on leadership, coordination, access and accountability to affected populations, protection, and the humanitarian-development nexus in the context of an integrated mission. A retreat gathering the STAIT delegation and members of the humanitarian country team was held on 20th February in Bamako before their departure of the country. UNHCR took an active part in the visit (through meetings with security, protection cluster, senior management of the office and participation of field offices to their visit in the centre and the north).
 - **CERF:** Project proposals for underfunded CERF funding have been finalized and submitted for the Mali situation. UNHCR submitted one project to the Protection Cluster for 300.000 USD including protection monitoring and response activities. In total, USD 7 million have been allocated under the underfunded CERF budget for Mali this year.
 - **Protection cluster revised strategy:** On 8 and 9 February was held in Bamako a national workshop on the revision of the protection cluster strategy in presence of 36 participants from national authorities, UN agencies, NGOs regional clusters and MINUSMA. The workshop was conducted under the presidency of Angèle Djohossou, Representative of UNHCR in Mali.
 - **Inter-community clash in Macina:** In Mopti, an emergency meeting was organised on 15 February following the inter-community violence that broke out in the area of Macina, Ségou region. Advocacy towards authorities was reinforced for a better protection environment and coordination between the Segou and Mopti regions. Assistance in NFI, water and health care has been provided to the IDPs by NGOs (MSF, NRC). Further assistance is being transported to the region by NRC and the authorities.
 - **Inter-community violence in the Ségou and Mopti regions:** Following the inter-community violence that happened in Macina and tehn in Tenenkou, regions of Ségou and Mopti, 2,954 persons have been reportedly displaced (CMP figures as of 22 February) in those two regions. Advocacy on protection is being conducted towards authorities and Minusma assessment missions are ongoing. Planning of missions has been recommended in order to reinforce coordination, support regional clusters as needed and plan the participation to protection assessments.
 - **Timbuktu:** On 16 February, the field office participated to the first inter-cluster meeting. A tool on indicators of the clusters' functions was presented for coordination purpose.
 - **Gao:** On 20 February, a workshop was conducted on the access to civil documentation with the participation of local and regional authorities and members of the civil society. Key issues associated with this theme were discussed and an action plan developed.
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- **Relocation of refugees to Faragouaran:** On 15 February, two families who occupied UNHCR's premises were relocated in Faragouaran, Sikasso region, with the help of CNCR. Another family of asylum seekers refused the same solution.
 - **Naturalization of Mauritanian Refugees:** A database of the documentation situation of Mauritanian refugees is being developed. 625 refugees have already been screened. It shows that:
 - 145 minor refugees have birth certificates, while 254 do not
 - 31 adult refugees have birth certificates while 80 of them do not
 - 90 refugees have a refugee card, while 20 of them do not possess the document

- A list of over 600 refugees who expressed their interest in being naturalised was transmitted to the legal company Dofini Consult that is going to support the naturalisation process.
- **Social counselling:** 15 refugees were received for counselling at the weekly reception session in Bamako, mostly for transport document and social assistance and were referred to partners for assistance.
- **SGBV:** Discussions are ongoing with the rural radio of Kayes to sign an agreement for radio sensitisation on SGBV issues throughout the region.
- **Education:** In Bamako, a detailed roadmap was developed together with pupils' parents and school directors for the monitoring of the 460 refugee pupils receiving primary education and the 235 pupils receiving secondary education.
- **Protection Monitoring:** The field office of Mopti conducted a refresher session towards the 9 protection monitors of AMSS on 2 February. International protection, persons of concern to UNHCR, monitoring, incident reporting, social cohesion and SGBV were discussed.
- Since January 2017, 50 protection incidents have been reported in the regions of Gao, Kidal, Ménaka, Mopti and Timbuktu, mostly for issues of theft, attempt of rape, and threat.
- **Statelessness:** On 30 January, the *substitut du Procureur de la République* met with the field office of Timbuktu and expressed his will to accompany UNHCR in justice related activities. Documentation issues and its impact on the risk of statelessness were raised.
- **Persons with Specific Needs:** UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, provided assistance to 5 urban refugees in Bamako, mostly for health care.
- **Registration:** On 30 January, UNHCR in Timbuktu met with the *Direction Nationale du Développement Social* (DNDS) on registration issues. It was noted that all registration points are operational. The need to reinforce sensitisation mechanisms was identified, and the issue of registration of Malians from Algeria (who did not have the refugee status) was discussed.
- **Tripartite Commissions:** The 8th meeting of the tripartite commission UNHCR/Mali/Niger was held in Niamey on 23 and 24 February on the repatriation of Malian refugees in Niger. It was recommended to continue the facilitation of return of Malian refugees expressing the wish to return home.

The 2nd meeting of the tripartite commission UNHCR/Mali/Mauritania took place in Nouakchott on 28 February. A work plan for March to May 2017 was drafted.

- **Repatriation to CAR:** On 21 February, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary repatriation to the Central African Republic of two refugee households.



Shelter and Non-Food Items

Shelter/NFI cluster

- Project proposals for underfunded CERF funding have been finalized and submitted for the Mali situation. UNHCR submitted one project to the NFI/Shelter Cluster for an amount of 300,000 USD including shelters to returnees.
- In Timbuktu, the regional cluster started to update the 2017 mapping of actors in order to identify needs and gaps.

- In Gao, surveys for shelter needs have started among beneficiaries through the partner TSF with the aim of identifying those in need of shelter assistance.



Health

- **Health:** A convention agreement between the *union technique de la mutualité* and Stop Sahel has been drafted for the enrolment of refugees to the health insurance following a meeting on 13 February.
- **Family planning:** 8 sensitisation sessions were held in the Kayes region on the importance of family planning, that reached 243 persons, among which 213 refugees and 30 Malians.
- **SGBV:** On 3 February was held a meeting on SGBV strategy in the premises of UNICEF in Bamako. Latest developments and main activities linked to the national strategy were presented and discussed. A retreat of SGBV focal points should take place soon. In Mopti, a meeting took place with Management System Health, an NGO working in the field of response to SGBV in the frame of the reinforcement of the partnerships on SGBV in the region.



Water and Sanitation

- **Menaka:** The construction of three boreholes that were started in 2016 in Menaka continues, despite delays due to the theft of a machine and mechanical disorders. The three boreholes are in the finalisation phase.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

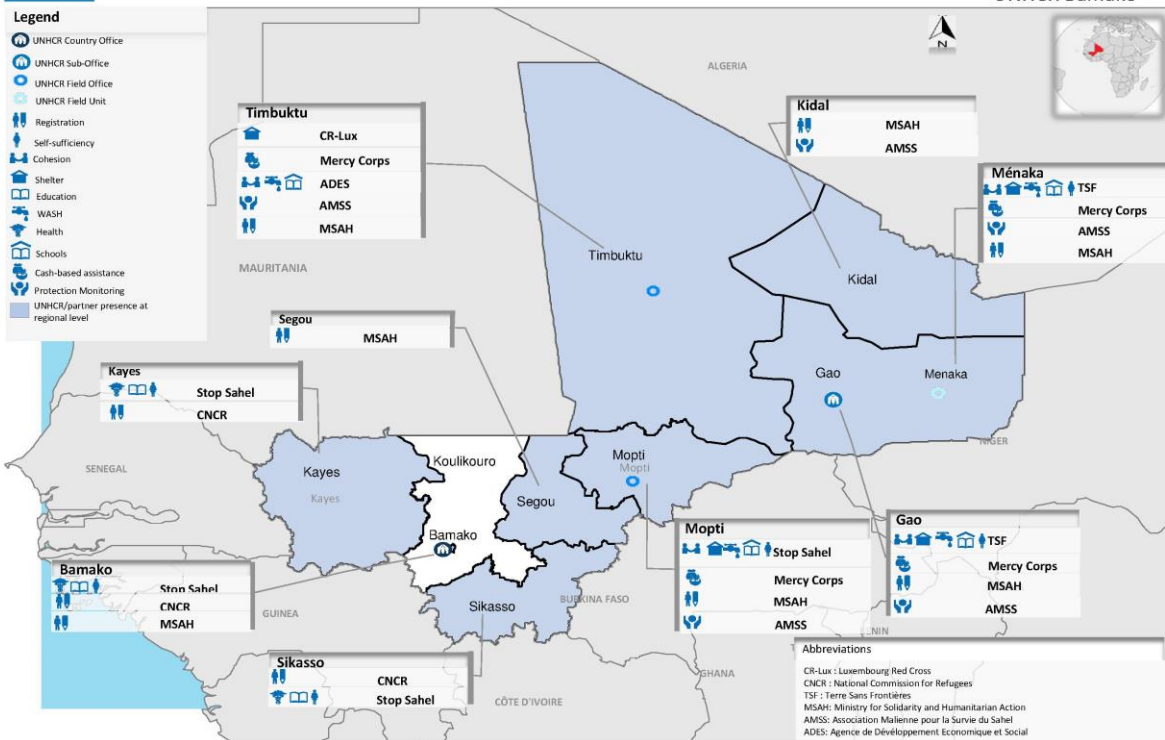
- **Cash assistance in Kayes:** A mission was conducted during the week of 13th February in refugee sites around Kayes for monitoring cash activities. While the project has well started in many sites and income generating projects are being planned, delays have been observed in some of them.
- **RELANCE project:** The Relance gardening project is continuing for the group of women of the garden of Djidara, in Gao region, through the partner TSF. The project is having an impact on nutrition of the concerned households. Some gaps have been noted, such as the reinforcement of the fences and motor pump for water.
- **Faragouaran:** In the week of 20 to 26 February, evaluations were conducted in Faragouaran on the impact of support to self-reliance.
- **New partner in Faragouaran:** On 21 and 22 February, a joint mission UNHCR/CNCR/Stop Sahel was organised in order to introduce Stop Sahel, UNHCR's new partner in Faragouaran, to local authorities and refugees.
- **Cash based intervention:** A monitoring mission was conducted in Ansongo, Gao region, from 21 to 23 February for follow-up of CBI assistance and profiling of the village. Local authorities were met and focus group discussions took place with returned refugees.
- **Timbuktu:** On 7 February, a joint visit UNHCR/ADES/Mercy Corps took place in the Abaradjou garden in Timbuktu, that belongs to 42 local associations and that is being only partially exploited, in order to identify support needs for further gardening, outlets and capacity building.
- **Social Cohesion:** In Gao, five sensitization sessions took place through the partner AMSS reaching 124 persons from all communities.

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.

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FINANCIAL INFORMATION

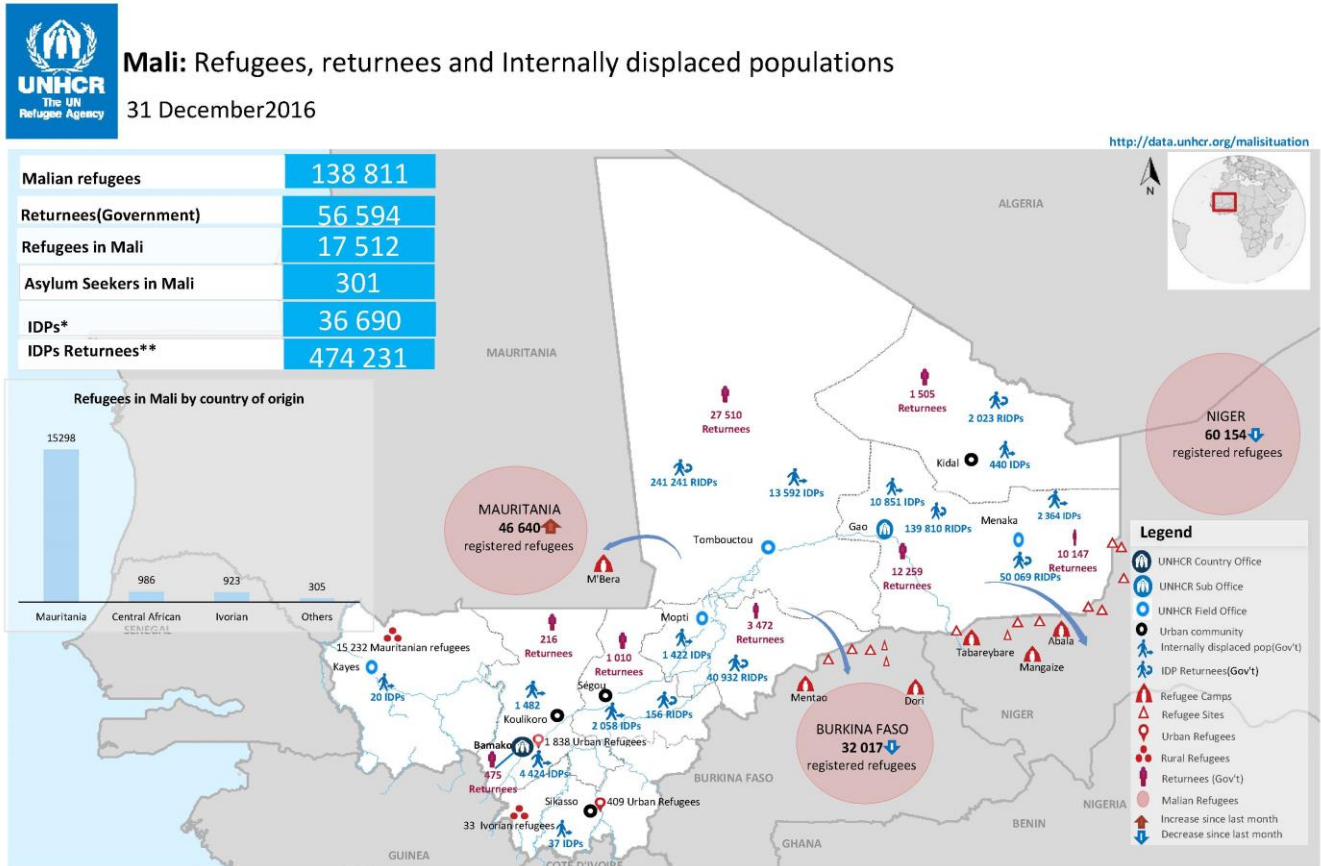
UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors that have contributed to this operation.

We would like to extend a special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017 including: Australia, Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017: Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Finland, Indonesia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Morocco, New Zealand, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Zambia and Private Donors.

ANNEXES

Mali situation map



* Figures from IDPs dated as of October 2016
 ** Figures from IDPs Returnees dated as of October 2016

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Malian refugees (Sources: UNHCR)

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

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

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Links:

[Mali Situation UNHCR portal](#) – [UNHCR Mali Facebook](#) - [UNHCR Mali Twitter](#)