

Mali

February 2018

Mali continues to face a volatile security situation amid growing threats of terrorism, criminality and intercommunity tensions in the northern and central regions.

Local populations face important protection risks amid limited access to public services, documentation, shelter, water, education and food security.

Despite significant challenges, the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Accord advances slowly in order to re-establish peace and security in the region.

KEY INDICATORS

2,157

Burkinabe refugees of which **354 households** have been registered by UNHCR-DNDS as of **22 February**.

64

Protection Incidents related to extortion, injuries and deaths, were **collected and documented**.

600

People on the move were identified by **protection monitors** in Bamako, Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu.

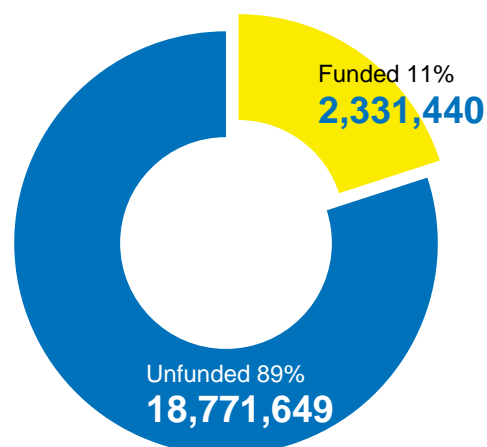


In the commune of Lere in Timbuktu, a UNHCR mission exchanges with returnees' beneficiaries of livelihoods programmes.
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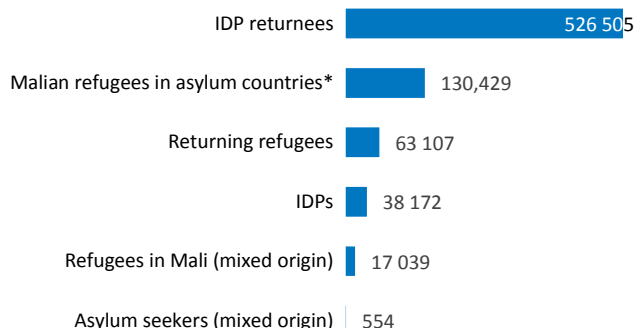
FUNDING (AS OF 13 FEBRUARY 2018)

USD 21,103,089

requested for Mali



POPULATION OF CONCERN



Figures as of 31 December 2017.

* Source: UNHCR. All other figures sourced from the Government of Mali.

Update on Achievements

Operational Context

- The security situation in Mali remains volatile with threats of terrorism, criminality and intercommunity violence in the north and central regions impacting the protection environment for civilians and limiting humanitarian access. Violation of human rights continue to be recorded with local populations facing limited access to public services, documentation, water, education and food security.
- The humanitarian aid is ~~frequently blocked or slowed down due to~~challenged by the security situation notably in the center and northern regions of the Mali. Aid workers often face issues when planning or attempting to reach local populations to provide the required assistance.
- On 9th February, a landmine explosion occurred in Mopti causing the death of seven civilians including five women, while eighteen others were injured. Following this act, the Malian Prime Minister Soumeylou Boubeye visited Mopti on the 11th with a delegation formed of seven ministers and 15 deputies to further look into the situation in the region. During his visit, the PM expressed the commitment of the Malian government to hold the elections in July 2018 as planned. Additionally, he stated that the fight against violence is being taken to the next level, saying "We have decided to deploy a large force of the Defense and Security Forces to ensure that there is no square meter beyond the control of the state".
- On 21st February, an explosion of an artisanal mine in the north-east of Mali killed two French soldiers and wounded another. The scourge happened in an area bordering Niger which is also known to serve as a hotspot for jihadist groups that the G5-Sahel joint force is mandated to fight. The attack reportedly occurred on the Ansongo-Menaka, up to Indelimane axis. The information was later confirmed by the Malian Armed Forces (FAMA).
- The Tessalit forum on the consolidation of peace and reconciliation was launched on 22nd February in Tessalit, Kidal. The event brought together regional actors to discuss the regional peace and reconciliation system but to also develop a participatory approach of local actors in the implementation of the peace process initiated by Mali since the signing of the 2015 Peace Agreement of Algiers. The event, organized by the "Collectif des ressortissants de la Région", in partnership with the Government, through the department in charge of the reconciliation was marked by the presence of the region's governor, heads of tribes and communities, traditional and religious leaders, leaders of the armed groups, as well as a public from Kidal.
- ~~Some thirty~~ European Heads of States and Governments and G5 Sahel representatives took part in a High Level International Conference on the Sahel held 23rd February in Brussels, Belgium. The Malian President, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, was present as well as ~~three members of the government:~~ the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, ~~Tieman Hubert Coulibaly,~~ the Minister of Defense, ~~Tiena Coulibaly~~ and that

of Economic and Finance, ~~Dr. Boubou Cisse~~. This high-level conference mobilized 414 million euros to support the G5 Sahel Joint Force.

- Within the framework of the Niger-Mali-UNHCR Tripartite Commission on the Voluntary Return of Malian Refugees Living in Niger, the tenth meeting of the commission took place on 22nd February in Niamey, Niger. This event was headed by the Nigerian Secretary General of the Ministry of the Interior, Public Security, Decentralization and Customary and Religious Affairs, President of the National Commission of Eligibility for the Status of Refugees. UNHCR was represented by both Niger and Mali operations. The UNHCR Mali delegation was led by the Representative Ms. Angele Djohossou accompanied by her team. The Malian government was represented by the Technical Adviser at the Malian Ministry of Solidarity and Humanitarian Action, along with a delegation. The event was organized upon the initiative of the Malian government and at the invitation of the Republic of Niger. At the end of this gathering, the counterparts expressed their utmost appreciation of the fruitful collaboration in finding durable solutions for the Malian refugees, and reminded the importance of continuing the joint effort to create favourable return conditions.
- On the, 23rd of February, another meeting gathered the Group of Experts of the three Tripartite Commissions (Mali/Niger/Burkina Faso/Mauritania/UNHCR) to work on a 2018 action plan that organizes a follow-up on the activities and provides feedback. This gathering was also organized in preparations of a ministerial meeting on 24th February regarding the Malian refugees' security problem and the acceleration of their organized voluntary repatriation. This high-level meeting gathered UNHCR's representatives, the Ambassador Representative of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Burkina Faso, the Minister of Interior and Decentralization and the Director General of Territorial Administration President of the National Consultative Commission for Refugees (CNCR) of Mauritania, the Minister of Solidarity and Humanitarian Action of Mali, the Minister of State, Minister of the Interior, Public Security, Decentralization and Customary and Religious Affairs of Niger.
- Following the new arrivals of Burkinabe refugees and asylum seekers to the commune of Gossi in Timbuktu, Mali, UNHCR and its governmental partner CNCR accomplished the registration mission for these persons. In total, the teams registered 2,157 people (of which 354 households, with a breakdown of 1,174 women and 983 men) of Burkinabe refugees. These figures remain provisional pending verifications and updates that will be performed in Bamako by the joint UNHCR-CNCR database management team. Additionally, at the end of the mission, the registration team observed a significant presence of Burkinabe refugees in other circles. An estimation by the mission considers that there are approximately 8,000 unregistered refugees. These people are said to be present in over 30 sites in the communes of Gossi and Ouinerden. Moreover, based on the previously-shared update, UNHCR is still coordinating the overall humanitarian intervention and the life-saving response with other humanitarian actors to assist with the most urgent needs such as shelter, food and non-food, health and water, sanitation and hygiene.

- While the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) is mainly targeting IDPs for the NFI and WASH distribution, the lack of adequate shelters remain a major challenge for the Burkinabe refugees. Since their arrival, they have been living in improvised tents made of random materials. They are therefore exposed to unfavourable weather, notably the persons with special needs, including children, elderly and people with serious medical conditions. Furthermore, the roving medical team assessing the situation and the needs of the displaced persons in Gossi, has been reporting daily diagnosis of significant medical conditions among the Burkinabe refugees and the internally displaced persons in Gossi area. Most of the cases suffer from diseases such as acute respiratory infections, malaria, diarrhoea and others. Based on that, UNHCR is ensuring medical assistance for some 618 persons of which 480 refugees since 7th February 2018. Although the registration of these populations is ongoing, it is worth mentioning that the access of UNHCR and its governmental partner CNCR to certain areas is challenging thus hampering the humanitarian activity. ~~In addition to that, another difficulty lies in the fact that most registered refugee children have no birth certificates.~~

Achievements



PROTECTION

- **Protection Cluster**
- **Bamako:**
- On 1st February, the cluster's coordination participated in a working session organized by the Ministry of Solidarity and Humanitarian Action in preparation for the next political meeting of the Technical Commission for the Rehabilitation of Post-Conflict Areas (CRZPC). At the end of this meeting, it was decided that OCHA will support the revision of the Emergency and Rehabilitation Plan's indicators on the implementation of the Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali and the inclusion of humanitarian sectors (including protection and shelter) in the Synergie Nord platform.
- On 2nd February, the cluster's coordination participated in the ICC meeting and discussed the challenges faced in responding to protection alerts in Gao, Menaka, Mopti and Timbuktu regions.
- On 7th February, the cluster's coordination met with the Head of Geneva Call Africa Office to discuss how the organization will participate in the cluster. The NGO should intervene in Mali in the area of child protection associated with the armed forces as well as the prevention and response to SGBV in the regions of Gao and Mopti. FAMAs, local populations (including Fulani and Dogon communities) and Peace

Agreement groups are targeted by international humanitarian norms in conflict situations.

- On 14th February, the protection cluster participated in the official launch of Mali's Humanitarian Response Plan for 2018. At the launch, a special emphasis was placed on the need to move towards the humanitarian – development nexus. This process requires coordination between the state, humanitarian and development actors and donors.
- On 21st February 2018, the Protection Cluster held its monthly meeting during which an analysis of the protection situation in 2017 and January 2018 was presented. From this presentation, it was noted that the protection monitoring recorded 831 protection incidents in 2017 against 650 in 2016. Among the human rights violations and events that impacted the civil protection environment in 2017 were inter-communal conflicts which weakened social cohesion, mainly in the regions of Kidal, Menaka and Mopti, and led to populations' displacements inside the country and the targeted killings of communal elected officials and influential people. The perpetrators of these violations are mainly unidentified gunmen.
- **Gao:** Consultations between UNHCR and other humanitarian organizations on the reported populations' movements in N'Tillit commune continued. The Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) actors positioned themselves to assess the situation of IDPs. UNHCR and CNCR deal with issues related to people in need of international protection from Burkina Faso. The monitoring of movements continues in cooperation with other humanitarian organizations at the regional level.
- **Mopti:** On 7th February, UNHCR held a meeting with its partner TSF to discuss the strategy for the 2018 activities. Discussions focused on the economic revival, shelter-infrastructure and mixed migration components. For the good implementation of pending projects, site proposals by area of intervention were made giving priority to municipalities in the operational area. Other meetings will be held to finalize the discussions. The subject regarding the management of the recovery fund and traditional emergency shelter funds for the year 2017 was also evoked.
- **Timbuktu:** On 9th February, UNHCR participated in a meeting with the Governor of Timbuktu and other humanitarian actors. The meeting focused on the decision of the Chief of the Armed Forces' General Staff, who banned the movement of motorcycles and pickup vehicles in the region of Mopti and in certain circles of Segou and Niafounke in Timbuktu. The Governor urged humanitarian actors to collaborate with the authorities and report any movements outside the city.

Achievements and Impact

- **Mixed Migration:**

- As part of strengthening their partnership, UNHCR and IOM held a meeting in Bamako on 9th February to continue the exchanges on the joint work program. It was agreed to coordinate on joint activities such as protection monitoring with an adequate referencing system and the use of a common questionnaire as well as awareness campaigns to maximize the impact of messages on mixed migration. It was agreed to set up an IOM / UNHCR working group on mixed migration to develop and formalize a framework for collaboration between the two agencies to better address the complex nature of mixed migration.
- As part of the protection monitoring activities performed by UNHCR's partner, AMSS at the entry and transit points in Bamako, Gao, Mopti and Tombouctou, more than 600 people on the move were identified, including more than 120 persons returned back from Algeria. No persons of concern to UNHCR among these persons. It is worth mentioning that 9 alleged smugglers or persons involved in smuggling in Gao were arrested. According to the analysis, this arrest caused a slowdown in the waves of people on the move.
- As part of the monitoring of Malians on the move returning from Libya, UNHCR met with its governmental partner DNDS regarding the access to these persons and the revision of the form. It was agreed to revise the DNDS questionnaire to facilitate access and identification of potential persons of concern to UNHCR among these persons.
- Regarding finding durable solutions for people on the move, the implementation of livelihood and self-reliance programmes targeting UNHCR's persons of concern and local communities continues in Gao, Kayes, Mopti and Timbuktu.

■ **Multi-Year Multi-Partner Protection & Solutions Strategy (MYMPSS)**

- ~~Following the 2016 New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, UNHCR was tasked to develop and implement the Declaration through the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) that sets out the key elements for a comprehensive response to any population movement. In this context, UNHCR Executive Committee announced in 2016 the creation of multi-year multi-partners pilot strategies aiming at institutionalizing a collaborative long term planning to develop more innovative programmes with development and stabilization partners.~~
- ~~Identified as one of the pilot, UNHCR Mali is currently finalizing its Multi-Year Multi-Partners Protection and Solutions Strategy (MYMP). The Strategy has been developed in consultation with key partners, and works towards achieving the economic, legal, socio-cultural, and civil-political dimensions of solutions working with local and national authorities to strengthen communities while reducing the risk of disenfranchisement among people of concern as well as host communities. The MYMP describes UNHCR's contribution to the CRRF over the period 2018-2022.~~

- **Social Cohesion:** In the regions of Gao, Kidal, Menaka, Kayes and Timbuktu through the partners AMSS and Stop Sahel, 11 sensitization sessions on social cohesion reached 127 men and women from returnees and local communities. Since the beginning of the year, 26 sessions were organized.
- **Protection Monitoring:** 64 protection incidents were collected and documented through UNHCR's partner AMSS during this month, mostly in the regions of Gao, Kidal, Mopti and Timbuktu. Most of the reported incidents relate to extortion, injuries and deaths. So far, since the beginning of the year, 176 incidents have been reported, on an annual prediction of 1,000.
- **Cash-Based Interventions:** 1 household composed of 5 individuals benefitted from cash assistance in February.
- **Registration:**
 - During the first week of February, the government partner (DRDSES) registered 3 households of which 9 individuals. Since the beginning of 2018 and as of the first week of February, the partner registered 29 households, of which 70 people (30 men and 40 women).

**EDUCATION****Achievements and Impact**

- In 2018, UNHCR seeks to support access to education for 700 Mauritanian refugee children at primary school level in Kayes region and other refugee children at primary, secondary and tertiary level in Bamako.
- Within the framework of access of children to schools for the 2017-2018 scholastic year, performance monitoring targeted high school students and the 13 DAFI beneficiary students. They were well integrated and have attended classes with great diligence.
- A meeting was held with the students' parents' committee. A 2017-2018 action plan, which focuses on sensitization activities, school follow-ups and home visits, was developed. Performance monitoring was conducted at the level of 6 students including 5 boys and 1 beneficiary of the academic professional training. Recommendations regarding library attendance were made for these 6 students.
- A school assistance included 3 beneficiaries of an academic professional training of which 2 girls and 1 boy were directed for a greater attendance to courses.

**HEALTH****Achievements and Impact**

- In order to improve the state of health of the population, 937 people were assisted, including 530 females and 407 males broken down by 769 Burkinabe refugees, 29 IDPs and 139 persons from the host population. These people benefited from medical consultations and treatments through a roving medical team by UNHCR's partner Stop Sahel.
- 2 households composed of two family members each adhered to the health insurance scheme.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Due to the lack of resources, the medical needs of many urban refugees suffering from serious or chronic diseases are unmet. UNHCR is therefore seeking support to be able to expand its health access assistance beyond the most vulnerable cases.
- Although the issue of many refugees refusing to contribute to the health scheme expenses continues, UNHCR is also continuing its sensitization sessions in order to raise awareness on the benefits of the scheme.
- While the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) is mainly targeting IDPs for the NFI and WASH distribution, the lack of adequate shelters remain a major challenge for the Burkinabe refugees in Gossi region. Since their arrival, they have been living in improvised tents made of random materials. They are therefore exposed to unfavourable weather, notably the persons with special needs, including children, elderly and people with serious medical conditions. Furthermore, the medical roving team assessing the situation and the needs of the displaced persons in Gossi, has been reporting daily diagnosis of significant medical conditions among the Burkinabe refugees and the internally displaced persons in Gossi area. Most of the cases suffer from diseases such as acute respiratory infections, malaria, diarrhoea and others.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

- In Mopti region, UNHCR and its partners set an objective to rehabilitate 5 water points in 2018. Furthermore, 2 water points were already identified in the commune of Hombori (Garma and Darwal Sadya).
- In Timbuktu region, UNHCR and its partners are currently identifying new sites in need of water and sanitation interventions. For 2018, UNHCR aims to restore or construct 3 improved water systems in villages. It is to note that 5 boreholes exist and are currently operational.



SHELTER AND NFIS

Achievements and Impact

- In Mopti region, UNHCR and its partners will rehabilitate 80 shelters, of which 40 of mud and 40 traditional. Furthermore, 11 returnees were identified in Douentza city and will benefit from these rehabilitations.
- In Timbuktu region, UNHCR and its partners constructed and rehabilitated 100 mud and 290 traditional shelters. Additionally, 53 vegetal shelters were constructed. The annual target is to construct 90 durable mud shelters, to distribute 180 construction kits for traditional shelters that are also suitable for nomad and semi-nomad lifestyles, and to stock 40 emergency ones.

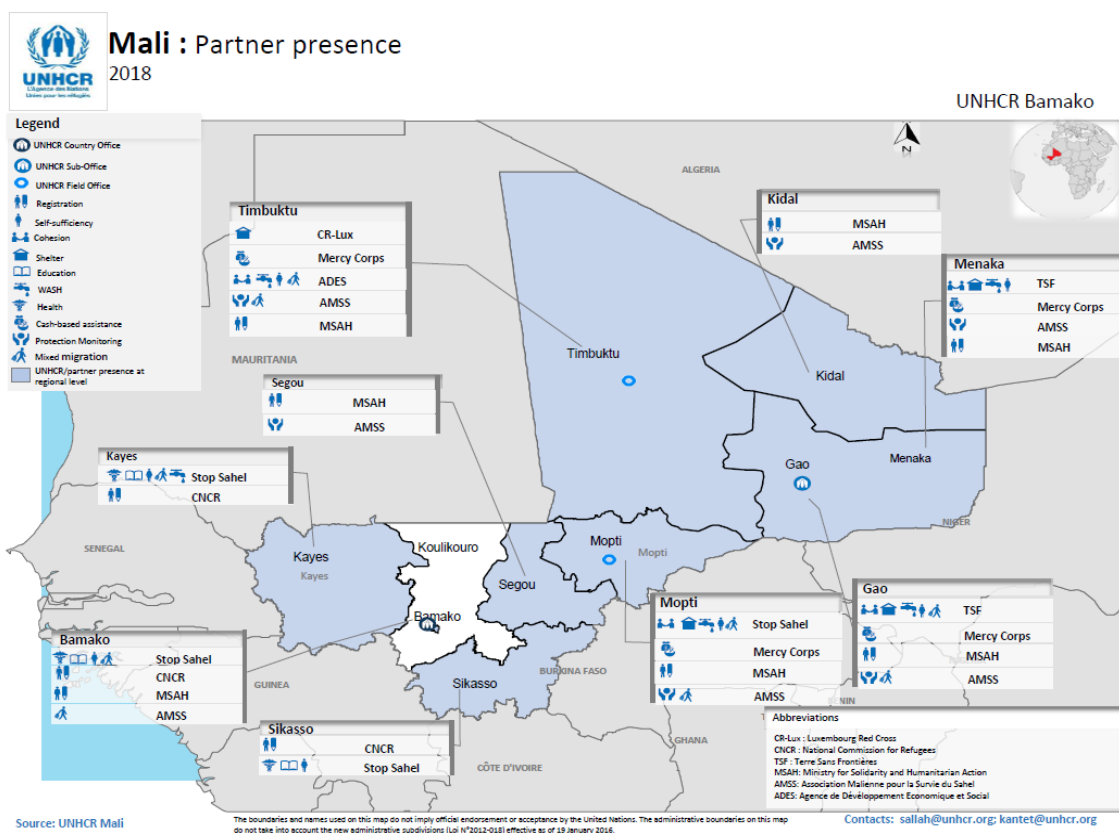


COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Achievements and Impact

- **Income-Generating Assistance:**
 - **Bamako:** As part of support for social integration and refugee empowerment, 6 social surveys were conducted on a number of 81 pending funding requests.
 - In line with the aforementioned subject, the official distribution of certificates was performed to 18 refugees including 11 men and 7 women beneficiaries of a three-month program. These persons are now ready to face the job market.
 - **Gao:** On 22nd February, 10 associations were supported with equipment and tools for fattening, food processing, poultry farming, event management, agroforestry and fishing by UNHCR's partner, TSF.
 - **Mopti:** As part of empowerment activities, 3 beneficiary women were identified by the partner Stop Sahel. Another follow-up was made regarding 7 other beneficiaries including 5 women active in small businesses and catering services in the communes of Mopti and Socoura.

Working in partnership

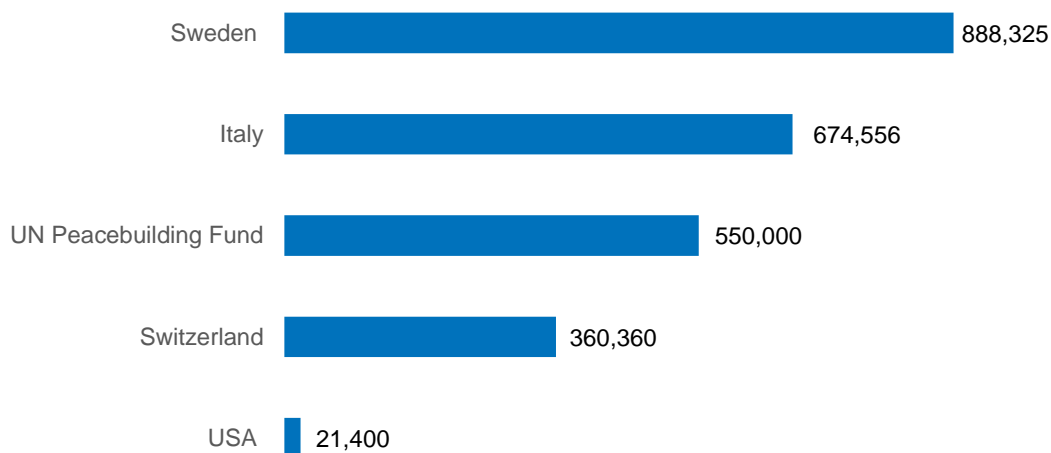


Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 2,331,440** million, including **US\$ 3,188,140** million for the Mali situation.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Earmarked funding received (in USD)



Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2018

Sweden (98 M) | Norway (43 M) | Netherlands (39 M) | United Kingdom (32 M) | Denmark (25 M) | Australia (19 M) | Switzerland (15 M)

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 20XX

Algeria | Bosnia and Herzegovina | Canada | China | Estonia | Finland | Iceland | Indonesia | Kuwait | Lithuania | Luxembourg | Monaco | Montenegro | New Zealand | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | Turkey | UN Peacebuilding Fund | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private Donors

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