

Mali

August 2017

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

10

Young refugees will benefit from the **DAFI tertiary education grant** offered by the German Govt. in 2017-2018

2,891

Returned refugees have benefited from **cash grant** upon arrival in Mali since beginning of the year

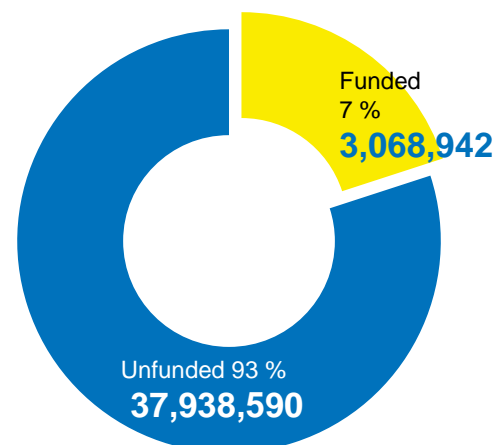
1,345

Men and women reached by sensitization sessions on **SGBV** in Gao, Kayes, Mopti and Timbuktu regions

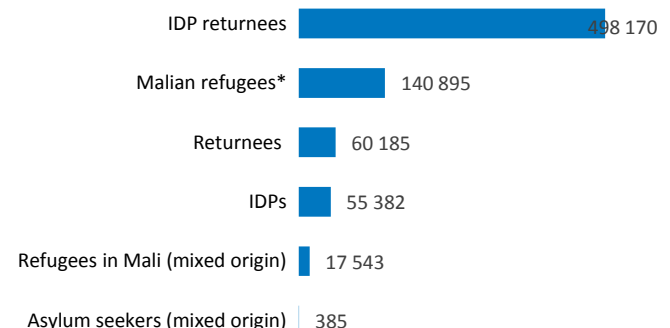
FUNDING (AS OF 31 JULY 2017)

USD 41,007,532

requested for Mali



POPULATION OF CONCERN



Figures as at July 31, 2017.

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



The hydraulic system in Gargando, Timbuktu region, restored by UNHCR through its partner ADES with funding provided in part by the Govt. of Japan, benefits IDPs, returned IDPs, returned refugees and local population. Photo ©: ADES 2017

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.
- Two UNHCR staff members were injured after unidentified armed men opened fire on them in Timbuktu on 22nd August, while they were circulating within a UNHCR vehicle. The authors and circumstances of the attack are still unknown, but this incident recalls how challenging the delivery of humanitarian assistance remains. On 19th August, the World Humanitarian Day was celebrated by humanitarian actors throughout the world to pay tribute to the humanitarian workers who have been kidnapped, injured or killed while providing protection and assistance to those in need. Sensitization messages on humanitarian principles were disseminated in Bamako, Gao, Kayes, Mopti, Menaka, Timbuktu and Kidal regions, and social activities with populations were organised in the field.
- Intercommunity tensions have remained palpable in the Mopti region since the violent attacks that occurred in June between the Dogon and Peulh communities. On the 5th August inter-communal clashes were reported by actors in the field between Dogons and Peulhs in the Koro circle. In Koro, a joint needs assessment mission that had taken place from 18 to 20 July revealed the presence of 250 displaced households with urgent needs in food, shelter/NFI and water.
- Several peaceful protests continued to take place around the referendum on the change of Constitution in the first part of August, until the President decided to withdraw it. On Friday 18th evening, President Keita officially announced via national television the suspension of the planned referendum.
- In this volatile context, the implementation of the Agreement for peace and reconciliation in Mali is slowly continuing to progress. On 5 September, the UN Security Council, at the request of the Malian authorities, adopted resolution 2,374 establishing a targeted sanctions regime on Mali. The resolution imposes a travel ban and assets freeze on individuals and entities engaged in actions or policies that threaten the peace, security, or stability of Mali. The 2015 Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali included in its article 54 language inviting the Security Council to adopt measures against those

undermining the implementation of the Agreement and the pursuit of its objectives but so far the Council had not followed through on this threat of sanctions.

- The need to uphold humanitarian principles remains of utmost importance to counter the shrinking of humanitarian space necessary to conduct life-saving activities. Incorporating protection mainstreaming principles and promoting a meaningful access, safety and dignity for humanitarian aid remains key to humanitarian actors.

Achievements



PROTECTION

Protection Cluster

- The humanitarian needs overview (HNO) process has started in the country. In Timbuktu, the HNO schedule was developed for data collection missions in the field. Between 28 and 30 August, the members of the regional coordination of the protection cluster started to work on data collection documents in Gao in the frame of the forthcoming HNO.
- On 22 August was held the monthly cluster meeting in Mopti, where the follow-up of the joint needs assessment mission in Koro was discussed. The mission had taken place from 18 to 20 July following intercommunity clashes in the region that had generated displacement. In particular, 15 separated/non accompanied children have been identified. Their situation will be assessed in more detail for proper action.
- In Mopti, the sub-cluster on child protection met on 15 August in order to set a child protection system in the region. The concept of child protection and possible activities were discussed and explained.
- In Kidal, a meeting was organized on 10th August on how to set a coordination mechanism of protection actors present in the area. Various possible approaches for protection monitoring and response to the needs of IDPs were discussed.
- On 3 August, the members of the protection cluster were trained on guidelines for an integrated approach of the prevention and response to SGBV in humanitarian action. It was recommended to advocate to the sub-cluster health for a reinforced referral mechanism of victims of GBV.

Achievements and Impact

- **Mixed migration:** The mayor of Bourem Inaly, Timbuktu region, requested the support of UNHCR for income generating activities to youth associations in the

commune, in the frame of UNHCR's project on mixed migration issues. This support would allegedly prevent them from leaving the commune in the search of self-reliance opportunities. He informed that several villages in the area are concerned with the phenomenon of migration. UNHCR and its partner ADES are in discussion to properly reply to these requests and address the issue in the area.

- **Social counselling:** 10 urban refugees received guidance or were referred to partners by UNHCR. The main issues raised by refugees was the need for support to health expenses.
- **SGBV:** With the aim of reducing the risk of SGBV and improving the quality of response in Gao, Kayes, Mopti and Timbuktu regions, 57 sensitization sessions were carried out on the risks and consequences of SGBV, early marriage and the importance of girls' education reaching at least 1,345 men and women from refugee returnee and local communities.
- **Social Cohesion:**
 - In the regions of Gao, Kidal, Menaka, Mopti and Timbuktu through the partners AMSS and Stop Sahel, 43 sensitization sessions on social cohesion reached 808 men and women from refugee returnee and local communities.
 - In the region of Mopti, following the inter-community clashes in the region of Koro, the partner AMSS was trained on the tools used by the thematic group on social cohesion in order to better identify social cohesion issues and develop a mapping of conflicts in the region.
 - In Mopti, 2 sensitization sessions on human rights and the negative impact of the free circulation of weapons were conducted through AMSS, reaching 16 persons (2 women and 14 men) among populations. Since the beginning of the year, 14 sessions on human rights were carried out. A sensitization session was also conducted on peaceful coexistence and reintegration of returned refugees.
 - From 9 to 11 August, a joint assessment mission took place in the Kidal region on the evaluation of the general situation and reinforcement of humanitarian coordination in the region. Group discussions were held with interim authorities, CMA, women and youth associations and the coordination of humanitarian agencies in Kidal. Humanitarian access, protection of civilians, child protection and social cohesion issues following violent incidents of July in Anefis and Takalout were discussed.
- **Statelessness:** On 18th August, the first national action plan on statelessness was adopted during a ceremony of the inter-ministry committee on statelessness that was held in Bamako with the presence of the *Ministre de la Justice Garde des Sceaux* Mamadou Ismaila Konate and the participation of representatives of UNHCR, the university community, NGOs, UN sister agencies and the media.

- **Protection Monitoring:** 19 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. Since the beginning of the year, 606 protection incidents have been collected and documented (temporary figure, as at 31 August 2017).
- **Voluntary repatriation:**
 - On 23 August, UNHCR and the *Commission nationale chargée des réfugiés* facilitated the voluntary return of 63 households (i.e. 198 persons) to Cote d'Ivoire. In total, since the beginning of the year, 403 persons have returned to Cote d'Ivoire.
 - 24 Centralafrican refugee households expressed the will to repatriate home. An information meeting is to be organized with those refugees willing to return in order to inform them on the actual security situation in their area of origin and allow them to decide on an informed basis whether to go back, given the deteriorating security situation in the country.
 - A refugee from DRC introduced a request for voluntary repatriation. Following positive tracing, UNHCR Kinshasa gave the green light for the repatriation process. The refugee is planned to return beginning of September.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Amid a deteriorating security conditions in the north and center, there is a risk that protection incidents will remain unidentified and undocumented as a result of insufficient resources to carry out protection monitoring activities in 152 communes at risk.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- **DAFI education grant:**
 - A follow-up visit was conducted to the tertiary education sites that receive the three refugee beneficiaries of the DAFI grant for 2016-2017. They are reportedly performing well in their studies and well integrated to the Malian population.
 - For the school year 2017-2018, the candidacies of 17 refugee children of 5 different nationalities were assessed. 10 refugee children will benefit from this education grant next year, i.e. 7 more than in 2016-2017.
- In the Menaka region, 3 school classes and 2 blocks of latrines are being constructed. The pace of progress is deemed satisfying.

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

- UNHCR's senior regional public health officer conducted a mission in the Kayes region during the last week of August and met with the local authorities and refugees on health related issues. Focus group discussions took place with the presence of the partner Stop Sahel about the health insurance scheme, community health centres, access to health services etc. The health strategy for 2017-2010 was developed together with Stop Sahel and should be validated shortly. Furthermore, brochures on the health referral path were disseminated to populations.
- In August, 14 urban refugees were taken in charge by the partner Stop Sahel for medical assistance.
- 2 families freshly enrolled in the health insurance scheme in August. Since the beginning of the year, 8 families have newly subscribed to the programme, out of an annual objective of 300.
- 16 focus groups were carried out in various refugee hosting sites on the importance of health insurance in Kayes region, reaching 486 persons.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Many urban refugees suffer from serious or chronic diseases. Due to resource constraints, it is not possible to assist all of them. A targeted support is provided to the most vulnerable only, leaving others relying on their own resources.
- Also, many urban refugees do not accept to contribute to health expenses through the health insurance scheme. Sensitization is carried out in order to explain the benefits of such a scheme.

**WATER AND SANITATION****Achievements and Impact**

- In Timbuktu area, a restored water point has been handed over to population in the village of Hassi Sidi Amar, with the presence of the partner ADES and local authorities. It will benefit both returnees and local population access to potable water.
- In Mopti region, 14 sensitization sessions on hand washing techniques were carried out with 507 refugee returnee and local community members. In total, since the beginning of the year, 68 sessions have been carried out.
- 1 borehole was drilled in Bourem in the region of Gao, and the restoration of three others was achieved. Two more are in progress, through the partner TSF.

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Achievements and Impact**

- In Timbuktu, the restoration of 100 shelters is over, with an implementation rate of 100%. All the 290 traditional shelters that were planned have been distributed, reaching an implementation rate of 100%. The 100 mud shelter that are being restored in Timbuktu and Lere have reached an implementation rate of 43% so far. The works have been slowed down by the heavy rain in the area.
- In Menaka, construction works of 80 mud shelter (40 in Ménaka and 40 in Anderamboukane) and of 50 traditional shelters (20 in Menaka and 30 in Anderamboukane) are in progress.
- In Gao, 100% of the planned 100 traditional shelters have been restored through TSF since the beginning of the year, and 240 out of planned 250 have been constructed.

**COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE****Achievements and Impact**

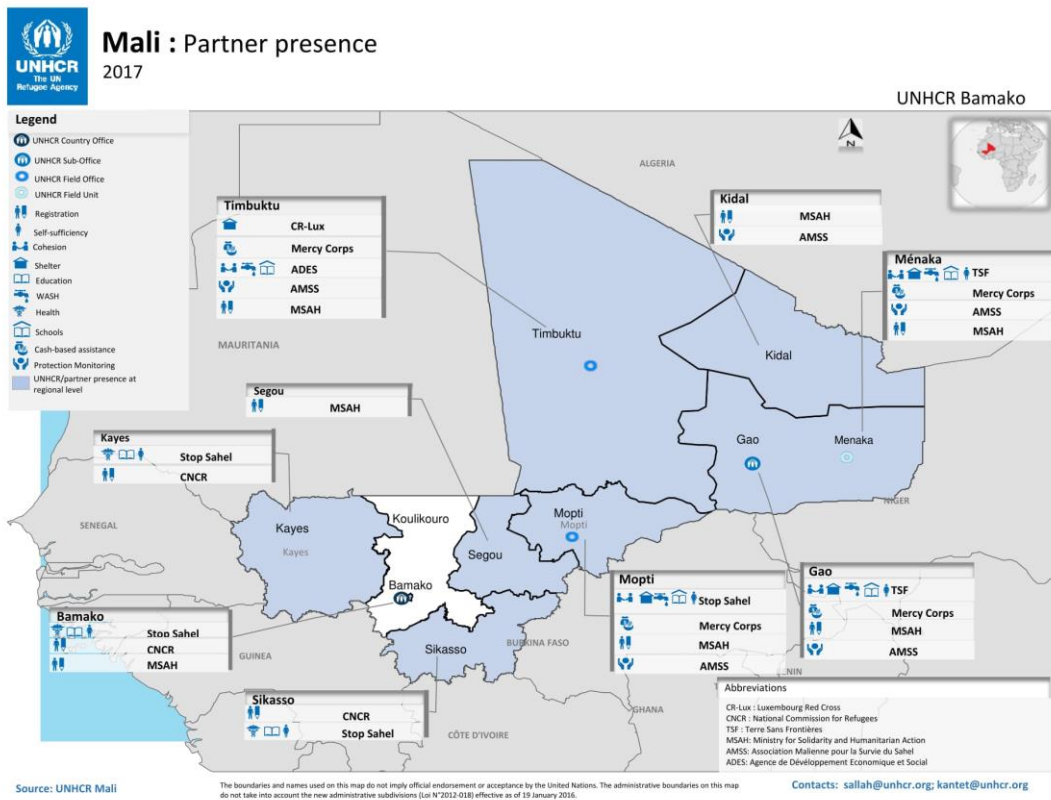
- **Cash grants:**
 - UNHCR, through its partner Mercy Corps, is providing cash grants to refugee returnees to meet their basic needs and support their reintegration since the beginning of the year. 6,000 returnees are targeted to receive this support in 2017. In Timbuktu, 671 persons have received cash grant since the beginning of the year out of the targeted 2,310. In Gao and Menaka, 1,966 persons have received cash grant since the beginning of the year. In Mopti, 254 persons have received cash grant since the beginning of the year, for a total of 2,891, i.e. over 48% implementation rate.
- **Income-Generation Assistance:**
 - UNHCR, through its partner TSF, proceeded with the follow-up of beneficiaries of income generating assistance in Gao region composed of refugee returnees, IDPs and local community members. 4 groups received animal fattening kits and 5 groups received gardening material. 10 more groups were identified to receive income generating activities support.
 - In Kayes region, warehouses for cereals are being constructed in three sites of the region. It is estimated that the sale of cereals allowed over 1,100 persons in the area (both refugees and host community members) to be food secure in this period of the year.

- The partner Stop Sahel benefited from a training on social surveying techniques in the frame of the self-reliance programme in urban areas.
- A follow-up visit of beneficiaries of support to income generating activities in Bamako has showed that 9 out of the 10 beneficiaries of the assistance have actually started their activities.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- **Self-reliance:** To support the social integration and self-reliance of urban refugees, a socio-economic survey is being conducted by Stop Sahel with candidates for assistance in order to select eligible beneficiaries. In August, 10 persons while interviewed with 106 cases are still pending.

Working in partnership

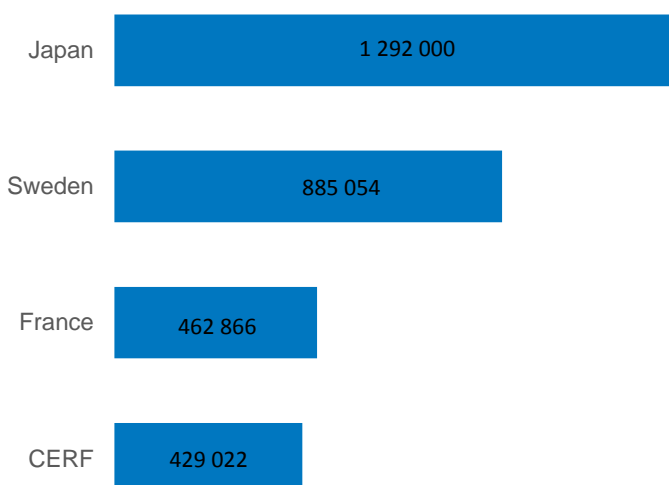


Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 3,068,942 million**, including **US\$ 1,785,622 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)



External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

United States of America (95 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M) | Priv Donors Spain (29 M) | Japan (25 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | France (14 M) | Germany (12 M) | Priv Donors Republic of Korea (12 M) | Italy (10 M) |

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

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