

Mali

July 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

100

Youth started a training session on **business management** in Kayes region

100%

Of the 290 **traditional shelters planned in Timbuktu** region have been restored

68

Sensitization sessions on **sexual & gender based violence** carried out in Gao, Kayes, Mopti and Timbuktu regions

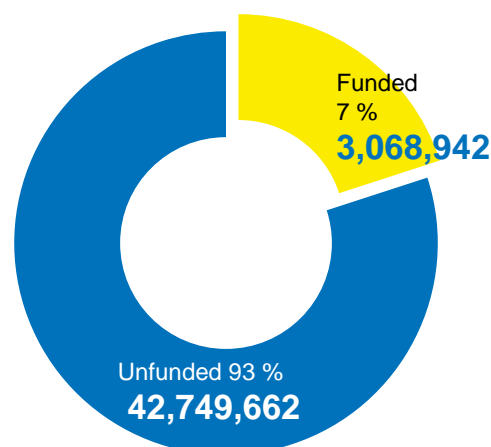


In the Mopti region, UNHCR is cooperating with local associations on peaceful coexistence related issues, UNHCR, July 2017

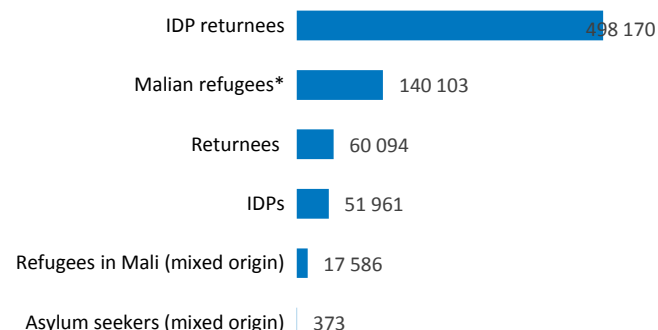
FUNDING (AS OF 24 JULY 2017)

USD 3,068,942

requested for Mali



POPULATION OF CONCERN



Figures as at June 30, 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 return of the Malian administrative authorities in Kidal that had been planned for 20 July, was postponed by the Government to a later date to be determined.

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, banditry and abduction of Westerners remain high, while the central regions face threats from active extremist armed groups.

Tensions remain perceptible between armed groups in the regions of Kidal and Menaka. On 9 July, a convoy of the Malian army forces was ambushed 50 km west of Menaka on the Ménaka-Ansongo axis. Four vehicles were taken by the assailants and 9 soldiers reportedly missing. On 26 July, violent clashes were reported in the Menaka region between *Plateforme* and CMA in Takelout, 34 km from the city of Menaka. According to the media, the *Plateforme* (GATIA) left the area to reach the region of Kidal.

Intercommunity tensions have remained palpable in the regions of Kidal, Menaka and Mopti since the violent attacks that occurred in June between the Dogon and Peulh communities in Mopti region. Similarly, ongoing tensions and attacks between the Daoussahack and Imghad communities in the region of Menaka and between Idnanes and Imghad have raised concerns about protection risks to civilians.

All these incidents have impacted the operation, as internal displacement movements have been reported in Gao, Kidal, Ménaka and Mopti regions.

The forthcoming constitutional referendum continues to be a point of social contention. On 15 July, the platform "A bana: touche pas à ma constitution!" organised a demonstration requesting the President to cancel the planned reform of the Constitution. Demonstrations also took place in Kayes, Koulikoro, Koutiakala, Mopti, Ségou and Sikasso, as well as in cities in Europe and the USA where significant Malian communities reside. On 24 July, the activist Madou Kanté known on social media as "Madou ka journal" was the victim of an assassination attempt while travelling through Boulkassoumbougou, Bamako. Madou

Kanté is a strong supporter of the "No" camp with regards to the constitutional referendum and had recently been threatened by supporters of the "Yes" vote.

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

- Several coordination meetings took place in response to violent clashes and incidents that prevailed throughout the month in the Gao and Ménaka regions. On 27 July, the inter-agency coordination group (GIAC) met under the lead of OCHA to discuss the situation in Gao, Ménaka and Kidal and the 2017-2018 contingency planning for Gao. The humanitarian access to persons in need and the drought were among key issues raised. In Mopti, GIAC held an extraordinary meeting on the situation in Koro following the inter-community clashes in Koro, where a rapid needs assessment mission was requested in Dioungani and Diankabou.
- The displacement of 243 families from Kidal was reported in the region of Gao. According to the authorities, recent incidents generated the displacement of between 4.000 and 5.000 persons in the region of Ménaka. Furthermore, the presence of 697 displaced households was reported in the region of Kidal and 32 in Tessalit. In the district of Bourem in the Gao region, where displacement was also reported, a needs assessment mission was conducted with the participation of UNHCR's partner AMSS. Conclusions are forthcoming, but according to first information received, the most urgent needs include shelter, food and non-food items and psychosocial support. In Koro, a joint needs assessment mission took place from 18 to 20 July revealing the presence of 250 displaced households with urgent needs in food, shelter/NFI and water.
- The Protection Cluster led by UNHCR and co-led by the Norwegian Refugee Council hold its monthly meeting in Bamako. The protection situation in Koro, Ménaka and Kidal were among the main points on the agenda. Follow-up actions on the recommendations made by the STAIT mission in February were also discussed.
- From 24 to 27 July, a training on humanitarian mediation and negotiation was organized by NRC to the cluster members in order to strengthen their capacities in

negotiation and advocacy on humanitarian access to people in need in conflict affected areas.

- On 12 July, the Access to Justice and Rule of Law Working Group of the Protection Cluster met to discuss the obstacles to access to justice and civil documentation. The intensification of action by members and capacity strengthening of State actors as well as the treatment of pending cases were recommended.
- On 13 July, the *Commission Mouvement de Population* (CMP), a sub-cluster of the Protection Cluster, met to discuss the displacement of populations in Talataye (Ansongo area) and Tarkint (Bourem area). The Director the *Direction Nationale du Développement Social (DNDS)* recalled the rules of coordination of figures on internal displacement.
- During the meeting of the sub-cluster on VBG that was held on 18 July, the Commission on Truth, Justice and Reconciliation reported 1,165 cases of violation of rights, including 95 VBG cases since the beginning of their activities in the region. It was pointed out that victims tend to refuse to report violations of rights due to fear of reprisal.

Achievements and Impact

- **Tripartite Commissions:** On 21 July the Tripartite Commission Mali-Mauritania-UNHCR on the voluntary return of Malian refugees in Mauritania took place in Bamako. The progress on the implementation of the work plan adopted at the second meeting of the Commission on 28 February 2017 in Nouakchott was assessed.
- **Documentation:** UNHCR's partner, Stop Sahel, carried out 24 focus groups region on the importance of birth certificates and declaration of births with the participation of Mauritanian refugees and host community members in Kayes region. 28 birth certificates were also distributed, and 176 more were collected to start their naturalization process. The process is already in progress in 5 more sites of Kayes region. In total, 1,200 Mauritanian refugees are targeted to receive Malian citizenship in 2017.
- **Social counselling:** 8 urban refugees received guidance/were referred to partners by UNHCR. The main issues raised by refugees included access to travel documents and support for income generating activities.
- **SGBV:** With the aim of reducing the risk of SGBV and improving the quality of response in Gao, Kayes, Mopti and Timbuktu regions, 68 sensitization sessions were carried out on the risks and consequences of SGBV, early marriage and the importance of girls' education reaching at least 1,300 men and women from refugee returnee and local communities.
- **Social Cohesion:**
 - In Gao region, 32 sensitization sessions on the themes of pardon, reconciliation, peace, inclusive participation, tolerance and respect were

carried out reaching 519 men and women from refugee returnee and local communities. As a result of these sessions, participants gained a greater understanding of the importance of living together, accepting one another and sharing public goods.

- In Mopti region, 4 sensitization sessions on social cohesion reached 71 men and women from refugee returnee and local communities. One sensitization session was organized on human rights in Hombori through the partner AMSS, reaching 14 men and women.
- In Timbuktu region, 2 sensitization sessions on social cohesion reaching 45 men and women from refugee returnee and local communities were held by AMSS.
- **Protection Monitoring:** 107 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, 596 protection incidents have been collected and documented (as at 30 June 2017).
- **Voluntary repatriation:**
 - On 12 July, UNHCR and the *Commission nationale chargée des réfugiés* facilitated the voluntary return of 25 households (i.e. 92 persons) to Cote d'Ivoire. The main areas of return are Korhogo, Bouake, Daloa and Divo.
 - On 14 July, UNHCR finalized the voluntary return process of 2 households (i.e. 7 persons) to Bangui, CAR. They all left Mali on 18 July. 23 central African households (i.e. 44 refugees) expressed their wish to be voluntarily repatriated to CAR. The list is in the process of being verified.

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

- Out of 67 refugee students assisted, 36 students (19 girls and 17 boys) passed the DEF exam (*diplôme d'études fondamentales*).
- An assessment mission is in preparation in the Kayes region by Stop Sahel in view of setting up five community dormitories for Mauritanian refugee children and local children for the 2017-2018 school year. 2 sensitization sessions on this subject

were conducted reaching 372 men and women from refugee and host community members.



HEALTH

Achievements and Impact

- 20 urban refugees benefited from medical assistance through UNHCR's partner, Stop Sahel. Since the beginning of 2017, 96 urban refugees with serious medical conditions have benefited from medical assistance. 4 sensitization sessions were conducted on the benefits of the medical insurance that reached 169 refugees (91 men and 78 women).
- In the Kayes region, the partner Stop Sahel received 41 subscription cards to the medical insurance and distributed them to the refugees who recently enrolled in the insurance scheme.
- 4 focus groups were carried out in 7 sites on the importance of health insurance in Kayes region reaching 178 persons (86 men and 92 women)
- **Community mobilization:** In the Kayes region, an induction was organized for the newly recruited community workers on the health insurance approach.
- **Persons with specific needs:** Within the context of the World Refugee Day thematic together #WithRefugees, a focus group discussion with handicapped refugees was organized by Stop Sahel and the refugee community (*Union des Réfugiés au Mali*) in Bamako, to which UNHCR's Representative took part. The participants explained the most significant issues and challenges that they face in their daily life in Bamako and expressed their main needs in the social, economic and health sectors. Those needs will orientate UNHCR's activities for this population.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The payment of the health insurance scheme is still pending for 18 urban refugees who enrolled in the programme. 49 more have paid their inscription fees, for a total of 67 urban refugees who have paid for the scheme since the beginning of the year.



WATER AND SANITATION

Achievements and Impact

- In Timbuktu area, a restored water point has been handed over to population in the village of Aratene, commune of Gargando. It will benefit both returnees and local population access to potable water.

- In Mopti region, 10 sensitization sessions on hand washing techniques were carried out with 218 refugee returnee and local community members.
- 1 borehole was drilled in Bourem in the region of Gao



SHELTER AND NFIS

Shelter and NFIs Cluster

- In Timbuktu, the Shelter and NFIs Cluster met with the NGO Catholic Relief Services on 28 July to discuss the needs in shelter following the flooding in the Goundam circle. Tonka, Gargando and Goundam were identified as the priority areas.
- In Gao, a meeting of the shelter / NFI cluster took place on 27 July. Discussions focused on the assessment of the gaps of the cluster action and the possible support to households affected by the flooding.

Achievements and Impact

- In Timbuktu, the restoration of 100 mud shelters is in progress, with an implementation rate of 75%. All the 290 traditional shelters that were planned have been distributed, reaching an implementation rate of 100%.
- In Mopti, 33 out of 49 mud shelters have been restored, i.e. an implementation rate of 67%. Furthermore, 43 traditional shelters have been built.
- 100 out of 150 mud shelters have been restored since the beginning of the year and the totality of the planned 100 traditional shelters have been finished and delivered in the regions of Gao and Menaka.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

Achievements and Impact

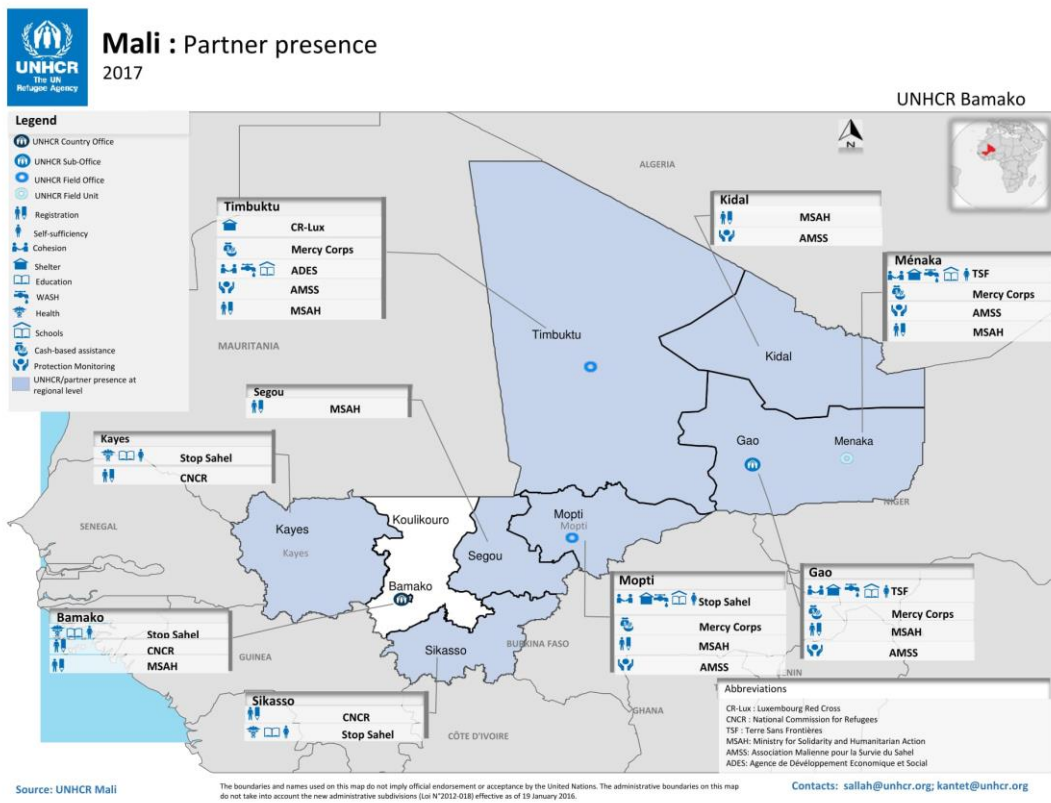
- **Cash grants:**
 - UNHCR, through its partner Mercy Corps, is providing cash grants to refugee returnees to meet their basic needs and support their reintegration since the beginning of the year. 6,000 returnees are targeted to receive this support in 2017. In Timbuktu, 554 persons have received cash grant since the beginning of the year out of the targeted 2,310. In Gao and Menaka, 1,964 persons have received cash grant since the beginning of the year.

- On 5 July, follow-up visits were conducted by Mercy Corps to 8 beneficiary households on the actual use of cash grants that showed that the main expenses relate to education, health and clothes.
- **Self-reliance:** 3 urban refugees who were learning how to drive obtained their driving license demonstrating an important step forward for self-reliance opportunities.
- **Income-Generation Assistance:**
 - UNHCR, through its partner Terres Sans Frontières, proceeded with the follow-up of 16 groups in Gao region composed of refugee returnees, IDPs and local community members who benefited from income-generating assistance in the forms of vegetable gardening, livestock and animal fattening activities. Furthermore, 32 persons received individual assistance to support their livelihood activities. In addition, 4 groups received animal fattening kits and 12 groups were constituted for animal breeding. Training was conducted to 12 groups on fattening techniques and to 12 additional groups on breeding techniques.
 - In Mopti region, 11 households including refugee returnees and host community members received income-generating assistance in the form of livestock to support their livelihood activities. 61 persons received support in the form of material. 11 more persons received animals. Furthermore, 2 groups were identified to receive assistance in the commune of Gandamia.
 - In Timbuktu region, 10 groups received support for small business activities, animal breeding or fattening through the partner ADES. In total, since the beginning of the year, 20 groups have been supported, i.e. 50% of the targeted 40 for 2017.
 - In Kayes region, training sessions for 100 youth started on business management through the partner Stop Sahel. Follow-up and counselling sessions were conducted to 42 beneficiaries on the use of cash based assistance.

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 July, 15 persons were interviewed with 105 cases are still pending.

Working in partnership

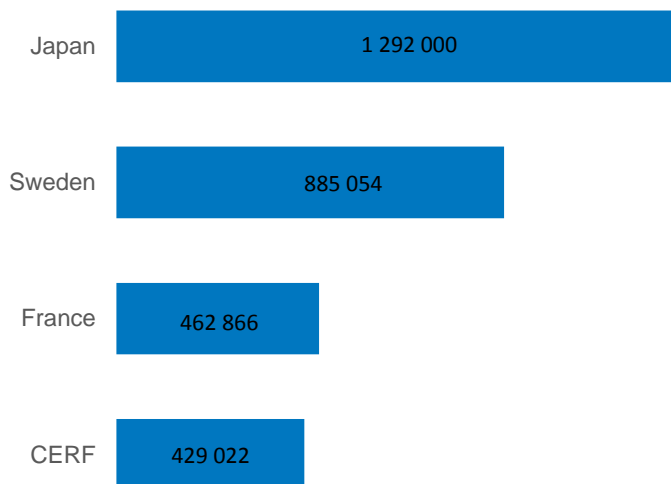


Financial Information

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.

Funding received (in million 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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