

MALI

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

01 – 30 November 2015

KEY FIGURES

7,805

birth certificates, issued from supplementary judgments, were registered into town registers of the regions of Kayes and Yelimane

1,133

Spontaneous refugee returnees provided with cash grants to support their reintegration in Mali

154

Shelters were rehabilitated in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu and Mopti

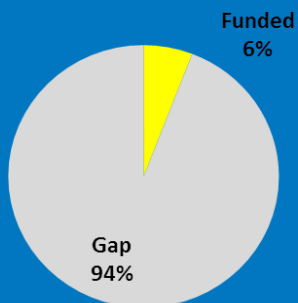
36

Survivors of SGBV were identified and provided support in Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao regions in November 2015

FUNDING

USD 67,8 million

requested for the operation

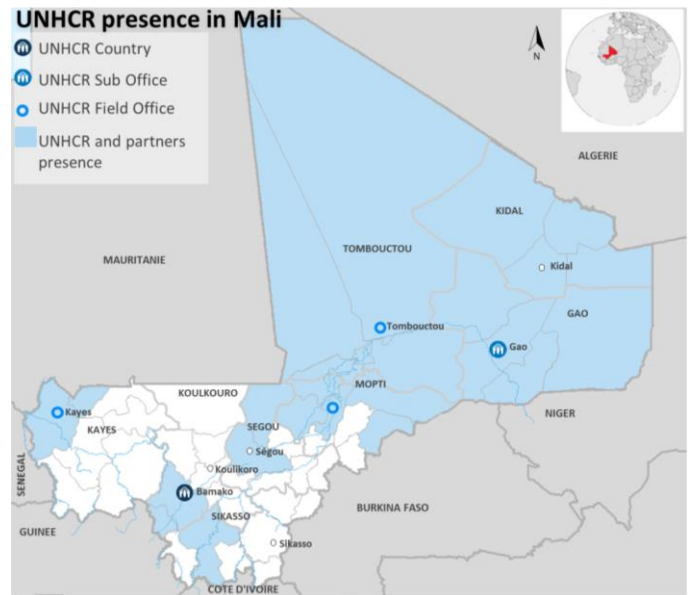


PRIORITIES

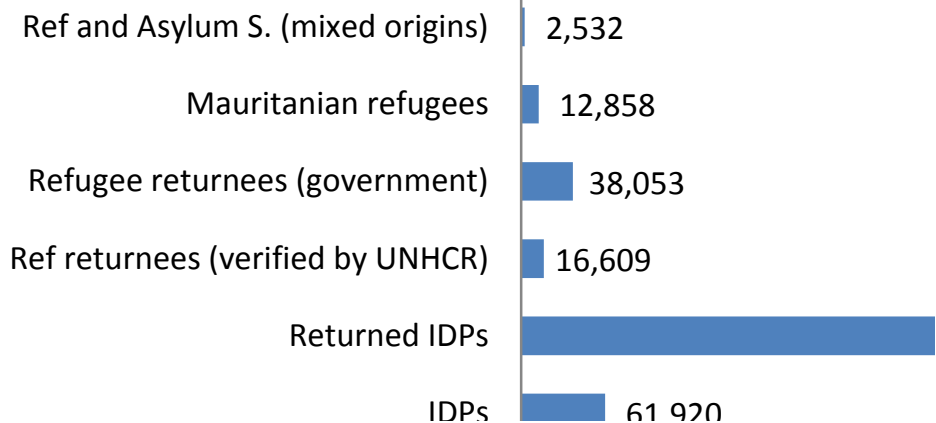
- Carry-out the cash reintegration assistance to 3.000 returnees
- Support shelter rehabilitation to returnees
- Advocate for adequate access to education of all returnee children
- Identify and provide support to survivors of SGBV

HIGHLIGHTS

- The cash based intervention (CBI) project is being implemented since 26 November by UNHCR’s partner, Mercy Corps as a pilot project aimed at supporting the reintegration of returnees through cash instead of NFIs. The project aims at assisting 16,000 returnees that arrived between 2013 and 2015 and that are registered in the government’s registration database and verified by UNHCR against the ProGres database in countries of asylum.
- UNHCR officially launched on 10th of November the implementation of its local integration strategy for 34 Ivorian refugees in Faragouaran, with the presence of local authorities.



Population of concern (as of 31.10.2015)¹



¹ Sources: Refugee returnees (government/DNDS and UNHCR – verified); Refugees and asylum seekers of mixed origins (government/CNCR), Mauritanian refugees (government / CNCR); IDPs/ Returned IDPs (government / DNDS).

UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

Mali is slowly pulling out of the intense political and military crisis which started in 2012, the northern part still being under the influence of various armed groups. Though the armed conflict has calmed down since mid-October, the insecurity across the country remains high due to aggravated terrorist and criminal threats. Violations of basic human rights are still reported, prices of basic necessities are high and local populations are in dire need of access to public services, documentation, water and food security. To date, more than 138,000 Malian refugees in neighboring countries and nearly 62,000 displaced persons in Mali are waiting to see whether conditions in their areas of origin improve to allow them to return in safety and dignity.

The implementation of the peace agreement signed by all parties in June 2015 is taking longer than expected. On 17 August, violent clashes between elements of the (pro-government) Platform coalition and the dissenting Coordination of Azawad movements (CMA) resumed and resulted in GATIA (pro-government) taking control of the CMA stronghold Anéfis (100 km south-west of Kidal). On 27 September the belligerents decided to engage in negotiations and organized a complex round of inter-community meetings. On 16 October, military chiefs and community leaders, CMA and Platform signed a joint communiqué and a roadmap related to the withdrawal of Anéfis, the cessation of hostilities, the release of prisoners, the freedom of movement for people and goods, the installation of interim local administration, and the establishment of nine commissions of reconciliation between Tuareg or Arab communities. However, although the Préfet of Menaka has returned to Menaka, along with the Sous-préfets from Anderamboukane, Tidermène, and Inékar, serious inter-community incidents continue in the region of Menaka.

Since mid-October, there are no reports on ceasefire violations by the former belligerents; however security incidents perpetrated by criminal and terrorist groups have been following an increasing tendency since the signing of the Agreement. They have increased in the north of the country and expanded into central and southern territories, as demonstrated by the terrorist attack in Bamako on a Hotel on 20 November. According to official reports, 22 people were killed (19 civilians, among which 13 internationals and 6 Malians, 01 Police officer, 02 terrorists). The attack was claimed on the same day by the terrorist group Al Mourabitoune, in coordination with AQMI, and on 22 November by the Liberation Front of Macina (FLM). An investigation is currently being conducted with the participation of foreign services. Moreover, according to external sources, AQMI has increased its presence since late October in the region of Timbuktu, calling for support to the jihad and warning those who try to inform International or Malian forces of their activities. This may indicate that the terrorist group is preparing actions to destabilize the reconciliation process in the north.

To counter this problem, Malian armed forces have launched anti-terrorism and anti-criminality operations in the regions of Mopti and Ségou. Yet, unsecured roads make the use of escorts and armored vehicles mandatory in the most risky areas, including where the UNHCR has field offices (entire Gao and Timbuktu regions, and partially Mopti region); access to persons of concern is therefore increasingly difficult. Although terrorism and crime create constraints on freedom of movement, there is no doubt that the recent agreement between parties in the North has created new hopes for stability and conducive conditions for returns in some areas.

Achievements



Protection Cluster

- The protection matrix developed by the protection cluster identified areas at risk allowing the UN multidimensional mission in Mali (MINUSMA) to conduct road patrols in these areas in order to secure them (e.g. Indelimane-Gao, Telemsi-Gao, Dorey-Gao and Gossi-Gao). The mission also takes into account the priority axes of the protection matrix before deciding the troops' deployment. Others protection cluster members (e.g. NGOs, UNMAS, or UNICEF) are also deploying their activities in the areas identified by the protection matrix. Members of the protection cluster in Timbuktu were trained on 24-26 November on how to use the Protection monitoring tools, at community level.

Achievements and Impact

- **Advocacy on statelessness:** UNHCR and the interministerial committee on statelessness held a retreat with civil society, law faculty professors, nationality law experts, to discuss the Malian legislation on nationality, and to adopt a national plan of action for the eradication of statelessness in Mali, on 17-19 November. The gathering was an occasion for the members to comprehend key issues such as the civil registry structure, the process and content of the demographic census and nationality provisions of the family and people's law. The committee identified major provisions in the law that can create statelessness situations, mainly for spouses of Malians citizens of foreign nationality and Malians living abroad. Thus, they suggested that the provisions be amended. On 20 November, UNHCR made a donation to Ségou's civil registry office, which comprised of desks, filing cabinets and a printer/photocopier. The donation aimed at reinforcing the delivery capacity of birth certificates in the region, which has declined over the past years.
- **Facilitation:** UNHCR continues to facilitate the voluntary return of refugees from countries of asylum to Mali. In the course of November, a total of 662 refugees in Burkina Faso approached UNHCR and expressed their wish to return to Mali before the end of the year. The UNHCR in Mali has transferred part of its budget to UNHCR in Burkina Faso to carry out this activity. During the month of November, UNHCR followed the return of 36 households from Tabarabarey camp in Niger to Gao, Ansongo, Ouattagouna and Tessit. Each member of these households received 35,000 FCFA, in the framework of UNHCR's program on facilitation of return.
- **Profiling:** UNHCR and its partner, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), have continued to profile returnee households over the course of the reporting period. DRC profiled in November, 70 households (258 people) who returned for the majority from Burkina Faso (01 returned from Mauritania, 01 was a household of IDPs). Measures are being taken to provide them with adequate support.
- **Awareness-raising on principles of international protection:** In cooperation with MINUSMA and ICRC, UNHCR gave a training on UNHCR mandate and principles of international protection with around 90 members of administrative,



Retreat on statelessness organized by UNHCR and the interministerial committee on statelessness © UNHCR, November 2015

local and security authorities as well as civil society in Menaka (17-18 November, and 16-19 November) and Gao (25-27 November). During the course of November, UNHCR's partner in Timbuktu, the DRC, organized 05 workshops on human rights, protection monitoring and UNHCR's mandate for 10 Local Protection Committees, including 185 participants.

■ **Sexual and Gender based violence (SGBV) in the North:**

During the month of November, 17 cases of SGBV (denial of resources, psychological, physical and sexual abuses) were identified in Mopti, 12 (rape, psychological and physical abuses, forced marriage, denial of resources) in Timbuktu and 07 in Gao (sexual and psychological violence, physical abuse, denial of resources). The total of SGBV identified since February 2015 amounts to 158 cases by the end



Awareness-raising activity on SGBV with women refugee returnees in Menaka © Handicap International, November 2015

of November 2015. 59 sessions were organized by HI and through local community support centers across the three regions and

touched more than 1,200 people, including refugee returnees, returnees and IDPs. As a result, an increasing number of SGBV cases are being identified towards the end of the year. Focal points were trained to draft complaints. Reinforcing capacities and knowledge of survivors on their rights is encouraging them to be more confident and less reluctant about the possibility to take their cases to the courts. SGBV cases dating back to 2012 were identified thanks to such community awareness activities and enabled UNHCR and HI to provide survivors with an adequate response to their needs. The use of image boxes has proven to be very useful in explaining SGBV to communities. Community focal points and community leaders have also reported that the number of forced marriages is decreasing. In the framework of the 16 days Campaign against SGBV, in November, UNHCR and HI in Gao also focused on training school teachers on women rights. 78 survivors were advised on their socio-economic insertion, and several were integrated in UNHCR's program for empowerment carried out by MercyCorps.

- In Timbuktu, the 12 identified survivors received psychosocial support and 03 survivors were provided medical assistance. 10 survivors of SGBV in Timbuktu which had been referred to UNHCR's partner, MercyCorps, were provided financial support for their socio-economic reinsertion.
- In Gao, 07 survivors received psychosocial support, and 10 survivors received legal counselling. There are 15 cases currently being examined by the justice system, among which 10 persons of concern. In the framework of the 16 days Campaign against SGBV, UNHCR and HI in Gao trained teachers on 26 November on women rights. Community activities and dialogue on SGBV were organized on 28-29 November in Gao City.
- In Mopti, 03 survivors were referred to medical centres. Community support centres and local leaders continued to be trained on SGBV issues. 17 survivors were provided psychosocial counseling.

- **Sexual and Gender based violence (SGBV) in Kayes:** 18 awareness-raising sessions were organized in 09 refugee sites in the region of Kayes to discuss early marriage with 427 people, among which 341 women (298 refugees and 43 locals) and 86 men (51 refugees and 35 locals). Participants were committed to pursuing the awareness-raising process among their communities.

- **Verification exercise of Mauritanian refugees in Kayes:** UNHCR, partners and local authorities launched a verification exercise of Mauritanian refugees on 23rd November in the region of Kayes. The operation should last until the end of December.
- **Birth certificates for Mauritanian refugees:** 551 people, including 309 refugees, were touched by sensitization activities on declaring births, in the regions of Kayes and Yelimane. By the end of November, 7,805 birth certificates, issued from supplementary judgments, were registered into town registers of the regions of Kayes and Yelimane.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- In the framework of the CBI pilot project, the lack of banks and financial institutions in most of the areas concerned and security concerns are a challenge.
- Adequate legal assistance and availability of help centers for survivors of SGBV remain serious gaps in the north of Mali. Access to effective remedy and fair trial is also a challenge since courts are not yet functioning properly. Access to appropriate medical care is also an issue, especially in remote areas. Absence of documentation (namely voluntary repatriation forms, but also birth certificates, identity cards) and lack of trust in the justice system prevents survivors from bringing their case before the courts.
- In view of the 2016 planning process, UNHCR carried out in cooperation with its partners and local authorities, participatory assessments based on age, gender and diversity, and aimed at evaluating the needs and possible solutions for refugee returnees in rural areas of Timbuktu region (12 November) and returnees in urban areas of Gao region (05 November).
- Members of the Protection Cluster in Timbuktu stated their preoccupation with regard to the enrolment of young people without jobs into militias, with the intent of participating in the DDR process. Additionally, this process creates aggravated risks as it feeds the arms and ammunition trafficking. Safe humanitarian access remains extremely preoccupying given the increase of terrorist presence in the north. Humanitarian actors have been forced to reduce movements. Protection committees need to be sensitized in order to ensure adequate remote protection monitoring.
- Within the region of Timbuktu, 3 registration points are currently functional (Soumpi, Goundam and Timbuktu). Two additional registration points (Dire and Lere) are planned.

Education

Achievements and Impact

- The official ceremony for the delivery of the school in Egaf Nanou (03 classrooms including latrines and wash basins) was held on 6 November. Since October, 150 students were able to attend the school under the guidance of 03 teachers, in good conditions.
- 308 school kits were donated in the region of Kayes and awareness-raising sessions were conducted on school registration, touching 48 men and 67 women refugees.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps


- In the region of Timbuktu, several schools are still closed because of insecurity. In November, UNHCR continued to advocate for access to education for 468 returnee children in the region of Timbuktu. Access to adequately equipped classrooms remains a major challenge in the region of Timbuktu. In the region of Mopti, many schools are still closed because of insufficient teaching staff. UNHCR is following closely access to education by children of returnees. In the region of Gao, many schools suffered the consequences of the conflicts, and still need to be rehabilitated. According to the Education Cluster, 288 schools remained closed by the 15th of November (94 in

Mopti, 86 in Timbuktu, 53 in Kidal, 52 in Gao and 3 in Segou), among which 17% are situated in areas where insecurity prevails.

 Health

Achievements and Impact

- In the region of Kayes, UNHCR and Stop Sahel, in cooperation with the local authorities, a campaign was conducted on cervical cancer and HIV/AIDS screening. 65 women were screened and provided counseling on family planning.
- Equipment to treat Ebola was donated to the local authorities of Kayes. From 13-15 November, 02 refugees participated in a training on preventive measures against Ebola.
- 64 refugee households (305 people) registered with the local health insurance plan in Kayes. The impact is considerable as it has permitted households to reduce significantly their health expenses and improved attendance rate at health centers.

 Water and Sanitation

Achievements and Impact

- Two water points were delivered in Singole and Heremakono (Region of Kayes). More than 1,000 people access water from these water points.
- Awareness activities on hygiene and sanitation and peaceful coexistence were conducted in Barbé, Massayadaga, Komoguel II and Banguetaba in the region of Mopti. 313 people, among which 190 women, participated in the discussions.
- 04 wells were built in Cherriffene Rhergo, Kel Oldy-Ouest, Imminégatha, and Gombatou (Region of Timbuktu).
- 02 water points were rehabilitated in Tiltane and Tinadjarof (region of Gao) by UNHCR’s partner, ACTED, providing access to water to 4,600 people in the area, and fostering peaceful coexistence between communities. 10 awareness-raising sessions were also organized in the region of Gao to encourage good hygiene practices and consequently the reduction of disease transmission (malaria and diarrhea in particular). These sessions touched 345 people, including 178 women.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Access to water remains a critical issue in the North of Mali, causing tensions between communities.



Ceremony for the delivery of the water point in Heremakono (Region of Kayes), © Stop Sahel, November 2015



Ceremony for the delivery of the water facility in Gombatou (Soboundou, Niafunke, Timbuktu) © Stop Sahel, November 2015.

Shelter and NFIs

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR rehabilitated 123 houses in Gao, 06 houses in Mopti, and 25 houses in Timbuktu. Shelter rehabilitation provides essential protection to households' physical integrity and privacy.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- The needs for adequate shelter for people returning to their areas of origin remain central. Most people return to houses that suffered the consequences of the conflicts and require rehabilitation. Usually, they do not have the economic capacity to buy the essential building material and basic necessities. The north has also suffered from serious floods and therefore households need support to rehabilitate their houses.

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

Achievements and Impact

- The CBI project is being implemented since November 26th by UNHCR's partner, Mercy Corps, as a pilot cash based intervention (CBI) aimed at providing cash to returnees instead of NFIs. The amount of cash provided to each beneficiary is 63,800 XOF per adult (110\$) and 29.000 XOF (50\$) per child. The project aims at assisting 16,000 returnees that arrived between 2013 and 2015 and that are registered in the government's registration database and verified by UNHCR against the ProGres database in countries of asylum. It is estimated that in 2015, only 3,200 returnees of the planned figure will be reached due to late a start. As of 09 December, the number of returnees assisted rose to 1,133 and transfers are being made swiftly.



Assistance in cash to IGAs in Timbuktu
© MercyCorps, November 2015

- UNHCR has partnered with STOP SAHEL, MINUSMA and FAO to carry out a project aimed at reinforcing peaceful coexistence in Sambaoulo (Dialloubé, region of Mopti) through the creation of a 10 acre garden-perimeter, including a water tower. 02 groups of 29 members each were created and are managed by small management committees composed of 10 members. These members were trained in November on composting and other agricultural techniques. 45 goats were also donated by MercyCorps to 05 community groups in Sambaoulo. 25 men and 05 women were trained on Income generating activities on 15-18 November in Boni, Mondoro and Hombori.


- 42 people in Timbuktu and Alafia received financial support to their income generating activities. Among those supported, 10 are survivors of SGBV. 05 workshops were organized to discuss accounting, marketing and enterprise management. 12 returnee households (34 adults and 21 children) received cash assistance for their reintegration process.



Training on management of IGAs by MercyCorps and UNHCR in the region of Gao © MercyCorps, November 2015

MercyCorps' project for economic empowerment, 42 people were provided cash allocations to support their income generating activities.

- An enclosed area was constructed in Fodemana (region of Kayes) and 100 chicks were donated to the women association in charge. As a result, today, 25 women refugees raise income from this activity. This activity also helps to bring proteins in the community's diet. 05 women were given goats (12 females and 03 males) to support their activity. Fences were built around the garden area of Dignigole and Brala to protect the production.

 Durable Solutions

Achievements and Impact

- UNHCR officially launched on 10th of November the implementation of its local integration strategy for 34 Ivorian refugees in Faragouaran, with the presence of local authorities. In close cooperation with local authorities, the non-governmental partner ACTED and the refugee and local populations, UNHCR developed a comprehensive local integration strategy for these protracted refugees, taking into account all aspects of their life, including legal support, water supply and sanitation, social cohesion and health. Education and self-reliance through work opportunities, agricultural activities and income generating activities are also core parts of the strategy. Moreover, UNHCR conducted advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives, with local authorities, local populations and land owners towards increasing the size of land areas available for refugees to cultivate. UNHCR has also, through its partner ACTED, rehabilitated and equipped the community health center, used by refugee and local populations, with solar panels and a green-energy refrigerator ensuring a cold chain. UNHCR plans to rehabilitate the transit center where the refugees currently live by June 2016, and to hand it over to the Malian authorities, while refugees will settle in surrounding villages.
- An awareness raising campaign was launched by UNHCR's partner, DRC, in Soboundou (Niafunke, Timbuktu region) touching 208 people including 85 women, on peaceful coexistence. Participants included refugee returnees, administrative and political authorities, community and religious leaders, civil society, local community support centers, who were able to build relationships of trust through dialogue. Radio messages on social cohesion were broadcasted in local languages (Tamasheq, Fulani, and Songhai).



UNHCR officially launched the local integration strategy of Ivorian refugees in Faragouaran, in close cooperation with local authorities. © UNHCR



Dialogue on Peaceful coexistence in Niafunke, Timbuktu © Danish Refugee Council, November 2015

 Logistics

Achievements and Impact

- The Quarterly NFI’s warehouses and PPE inventories were completed. UNHCR closed 2 warehouses in Mopti and Bamako out of 5.

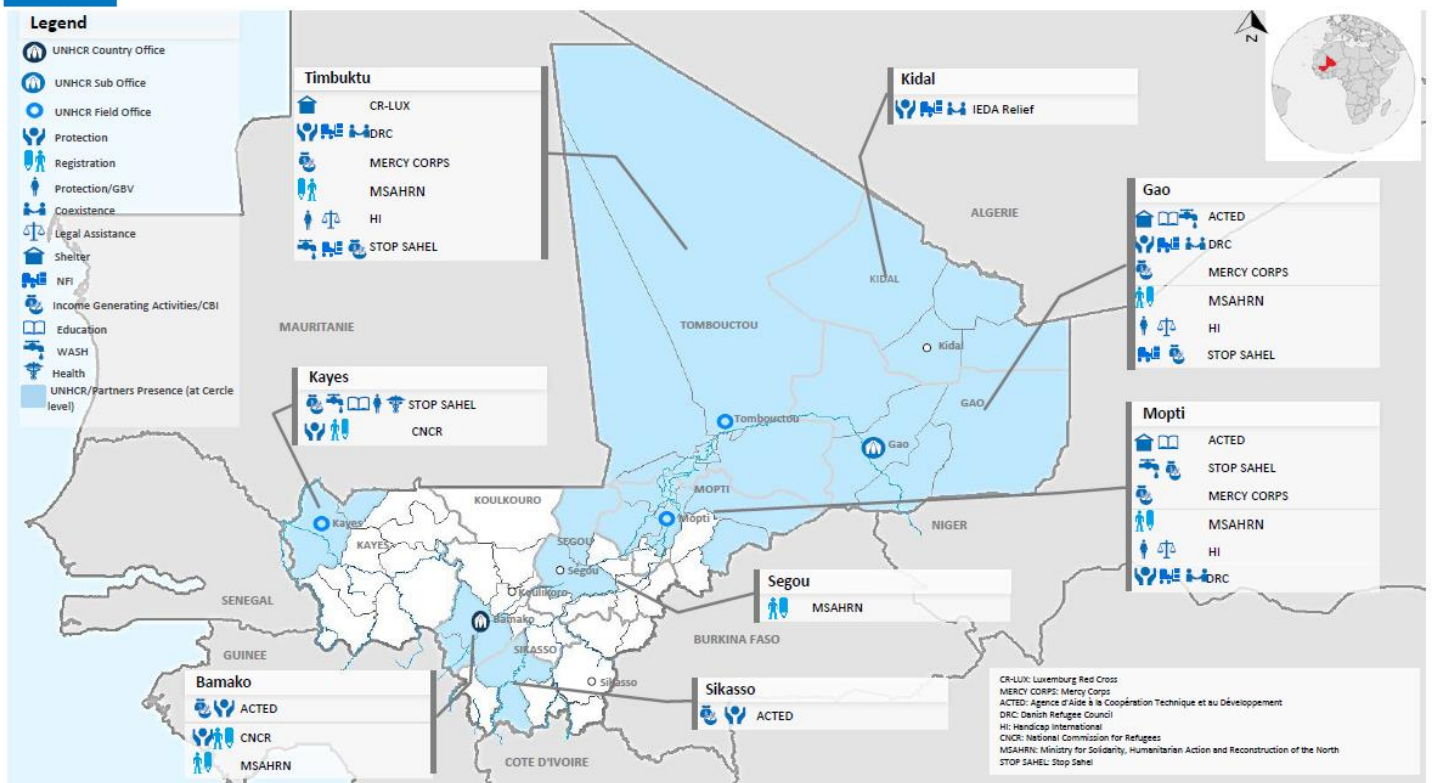
Working in partnership



Mali: Operational Partners in 2015

December 09, 2015

UNHCR Bamako



Sources: UNHCR - Programme Unit

The boundaries and names used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

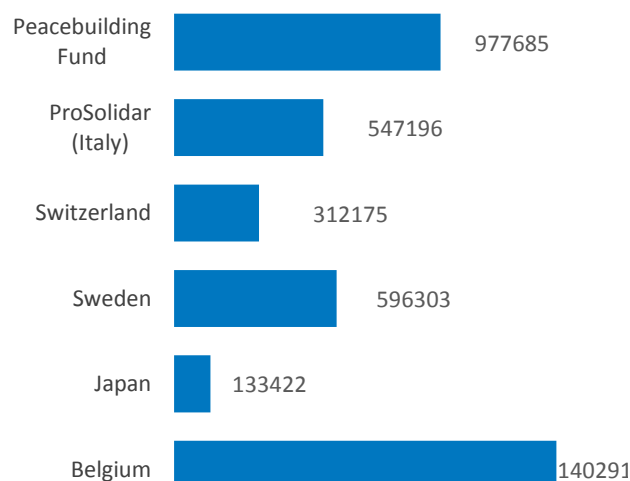
Contact : EKUTSHU@unhcr.org/TRAOREM@unhcr.org

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 3,969,729 million**, including **US\$ 2,692,778 million** for the 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)



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Links:

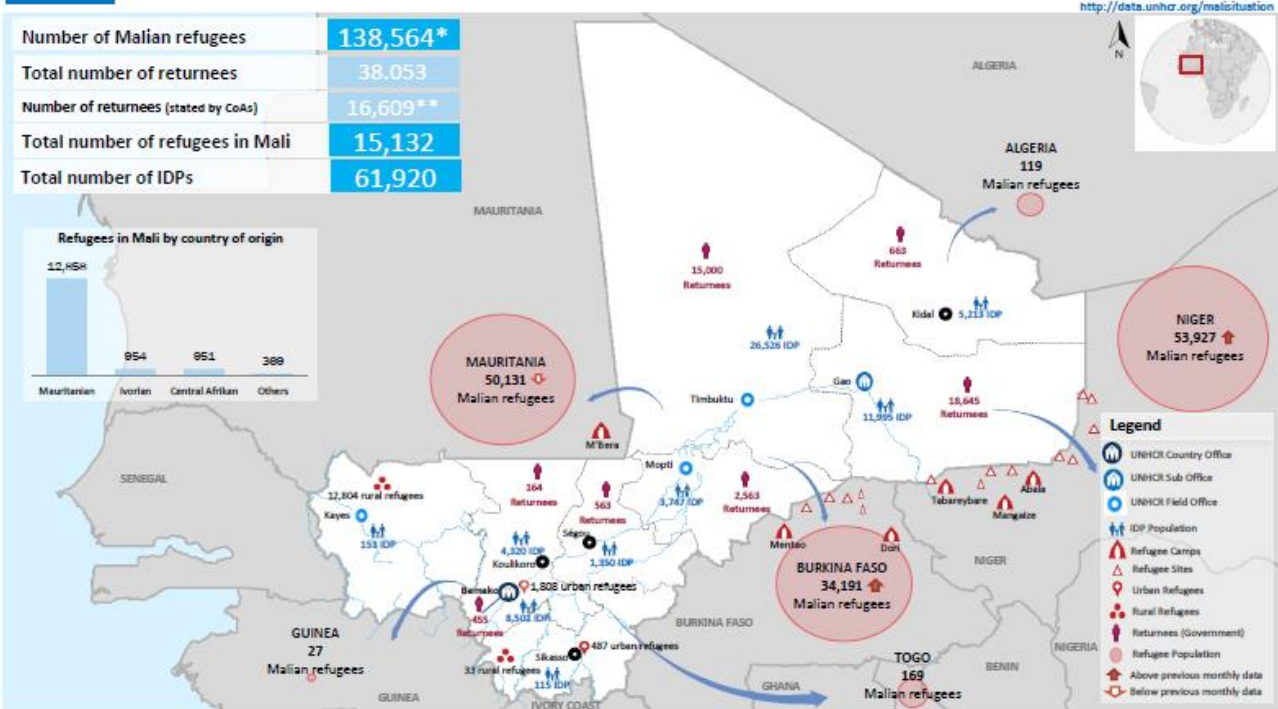
[Mali Situation UNHCR portal](#) – [UNHCR Mali Facebook](#) - [UNHCR Twitter](#) – [Launch of the Local Integration Strategy of Ivorian refugees in Faragouaran](#)

ANNEXES

MALI SITUATION MAP



Mali: Refugees, Returnees and IDPs
October 31, 2015



** Data from Malian asylum countries : only from Mauritania and Niger are updated.
 ** Data from Malian asylum countries : Only from Mauritania are updated.

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Malian refugees and returnees stated [Source: UNHCR]

Refugees in Mali [Source : Government of Mali, CNCR]

Returnees and IDPs [Sources: Government of Mali, DNDS, CNCR]

PRESS RELEASE ON LOCAL INTEGRATION STRATEGY IN FARAGOUARAN

LAUNCH OF THE LOCAL INTEGRATION STRATEGY OF IVORIAN REFUGEES IN FARAGOUARAN, SOUTH OF MALI

BAMAKO, MALI, 13 November 2015 (UNHCR) - UNHCR officially launched this week the implementation of its local integration strategy for refugees in Faragouaran, with the presence of local authorities, Mr. Yeya Farka Maiga, the administrator and supervisor of the Commission Nationale Chargée des Réfugiés, and Mr. Olivier Guillaume Beer, Deputy Representative of UNHCR in Mali. A visit of the refugee center and a symbolic delivery of cattle and tools also took place during the ceremony, on Tuesday.

The transit center is located in the region of Sikasso, and was set up in 1998. It was home, in the first place, to Sierra Leonean refugees and later to Liberian refugees who successively fled from war in their respective country and have since then returned home. Today, 34 Ivorian refugees live in the center. Most of them arrived between 2002 and 2005 following violent incidents that took place in the aftermath of elections in Côte d'Ivoire. The center is built on nearly 30 acres of land and hosts nine families. Most of the refugees living on the site are part of the Senoufo tribe, like the local population in the host area (region of Sikasso and circle of Bougouni).

In close cooperation with local authorities, the non-governmental partner ACTED and the refugee and local populations, UNHCR developed a comprehensive local integration strategy for these protracted refugees, taking into account all aspects of their life, including legal support, water supply and sanitation, social cohesion and health. Education and self-reliance through work opportunities, agricultural activities and income generating activities are also core parts of the strategy.

UNHCR focuses current efforts to strengthen either agro-pastoralist or trade activities, depending on each family's project, in order to generate income and become self-reliant. "Our approach towards refugees in Mali is to find a durable solution that allows them to recover their dignity and to rebuild their lives, rather than to indefinitely provide them with assistance", stated Olivier Beer in his speech. In this respect, all households wishing to be supported in their agricultural activities received a plow, two oxen, a cart and a donkey thanks to the project. A household wishing to sell second-hand clothes received the necessary equipment for this activity, and another one was provided with a newly rehabilitated and fully-equipped clothes shop. "I used to earn a living by assisting my brother. Today, I have my own business. I already have clients and I can plan for the future" explained Abdelkarim, a refugee now manager of the new shop.

Moreover, UNHCR conducted advocacy and awareness-raising initiatives, with local authorities, local populations and land owners towards increasing the size of land areas available for refugees to cultivate, from 5-7.5 acres to 12 acres.

These various measures should allow refugees to increase their agricultural production from 50 to 80 per cent, ensure food security all year round and access basic social services thanks to the sale of any production surplus.

With regard to legal assistance, UNHCR will continue to discuss with local authorities on the possibility to naturalize refugees. "In order to foster peaceful coexistence with local populations, the project not only benefits refugees but is also aimed at supporting the population living in Faragouaran", explained Yaya Bagayoko, the mayor of the town, before addressing warm thanks to refugees. "Since their arrival in Mali in 2002, they have had very good relationships with the host population". UNHCR has thus, through its partner ACTED, rehabilitated and equipped the community health center, used by refugee and local populations, with solar panels, a green-energy refrigerator, therefore ensuring a cold chain.

This local integration strategy aims at helping refugees recover their dignity. This is why the whole strategy was developed together with them. "Thanks to this support, we can consider that our local integration is a success", claimed Irène Gonto, the representative of refugees living in Faragouaran. UNHCR plans to rehabilitate the transit center by June 2016, and to hand it over to the Malian authorities, while refugees will once and for all leave the center to settle in surrounding villages.

This press release is available at the following links: [UNHCR Mali Facebook page, English](#); [UNHCR Mali Facebook page, French](#); [UNHCR Regional Blog, KORA](#)