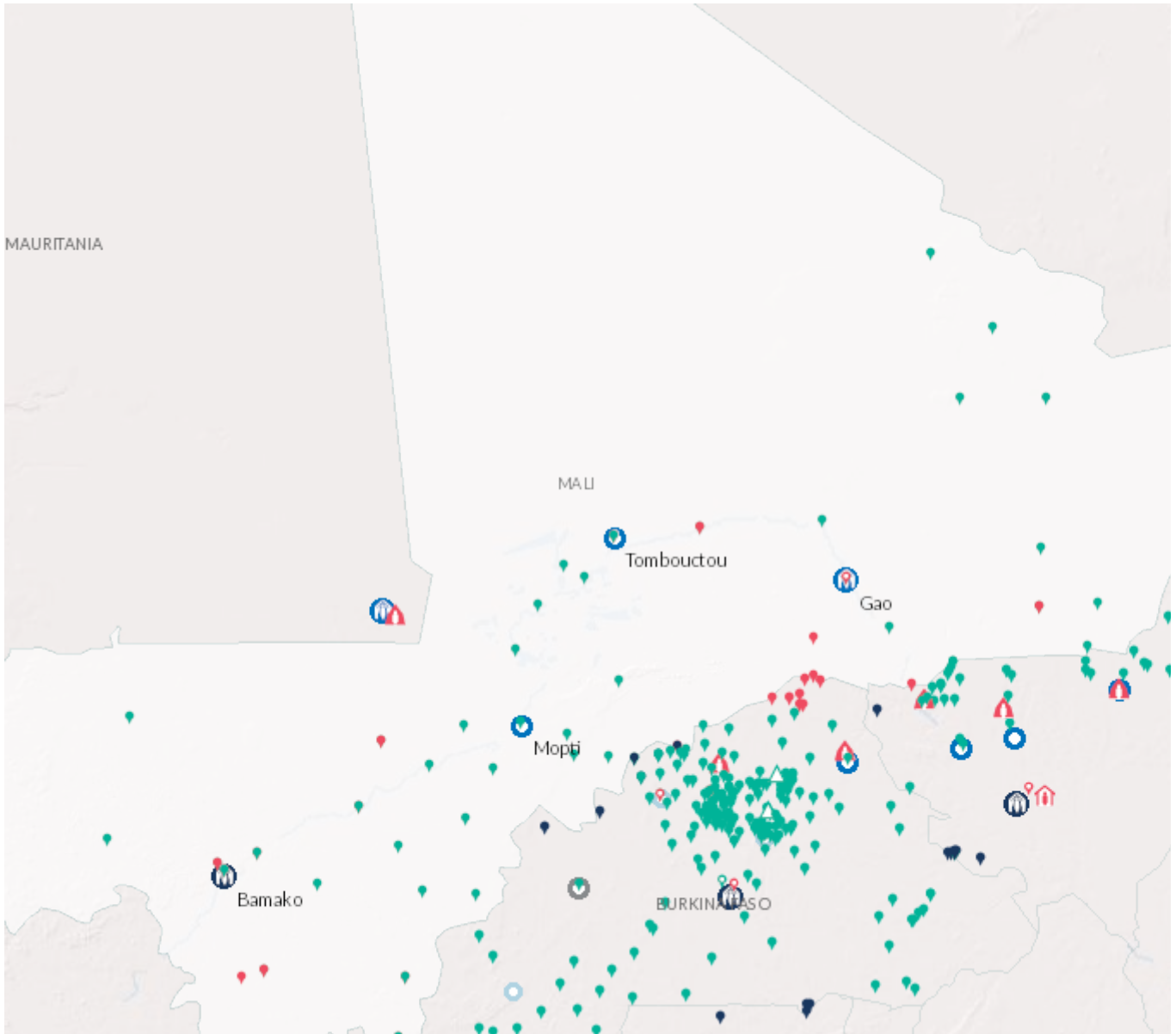


Operation: Mali

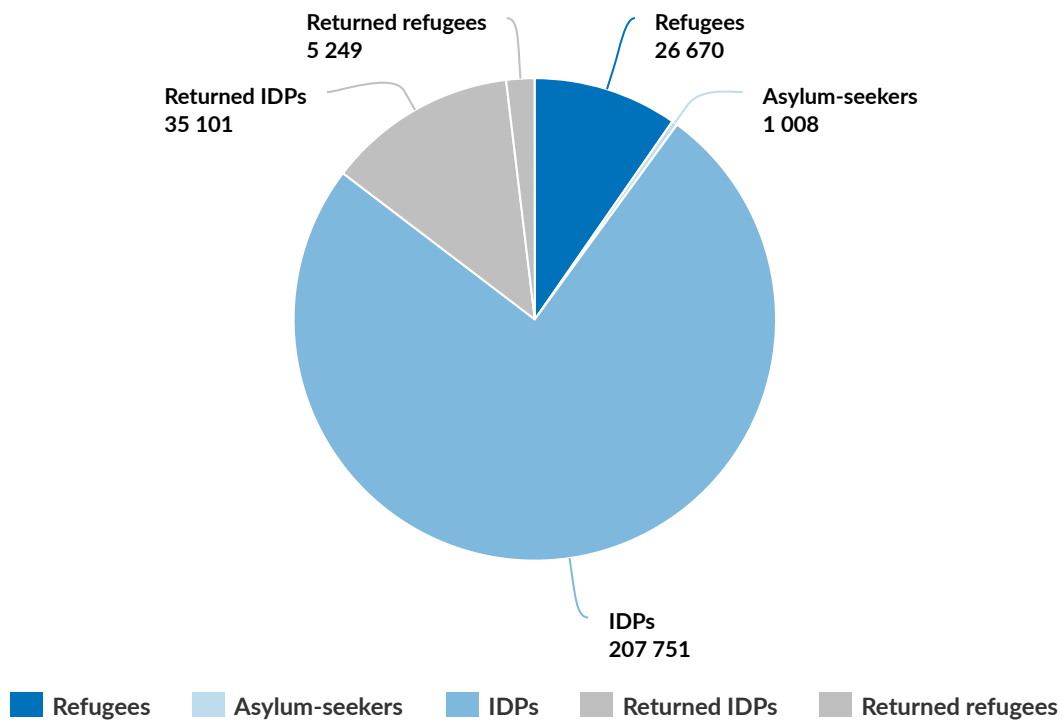


The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

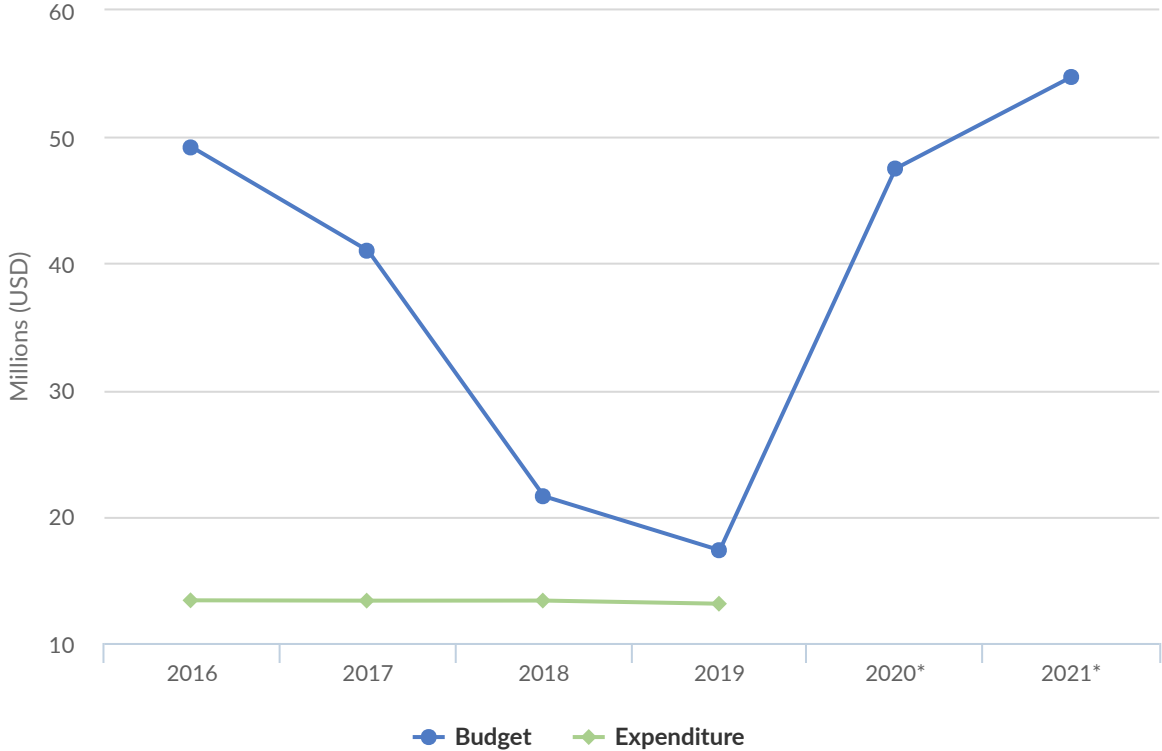
People of Concern

INCREASE IN
79% 2019

| | |
|------|---------|
| 2019 | 275,779 |
| 2018 | 154,432 |
| 2017 | 84,081 |



Budgets and Expenditure for Mali



Operational environment

In 2020, the operational context in Mali was characterized by uncertainty, following a partial coup d'état which led to a military takeover and the emergence of a transitional Government, amid deep security and humanitarian concerns. This instability is expected to continue, with the current Government mandated to oversee an 18-month transition, which might extend the uncertain socio-political environment until early 2022, following which a new Government will be elected and established.

In this regard, addressing priority issues such as the implementation of the 2015 Peace Agreement, in the context of insecurity and communal conflicts may be hampered. The recent cabinet reshuffle may also impact UNHCR's operations in Mali, by compelling the Office to reaffirm its advocacy priorities with the Government and adapt to different ways of working.

Signatory to both the 1951 Convention relating to refugee status and its 1967 Protocol, Mali maintains a welcoming policy towards refugees and asylum-seekers, who enjoy the same rights as Malian citizens and have access to basic services.

In line with the national legal framework, the Government of Mali assumes protection responsibilities such as registration and documentation with UNHCR's support. It also established a National Committee on statelessness, which adopted UNHCR's Global Action Plan to End Statelessness by 2024. In early 2020, following influxes of refugees from Burkina Faso and Niger, the Government of Mali agreed to grant refugee status on a prima facie basis to refugees from Burkina Faso and Nigeria.

In Mali, UNHCR carries-out its activities and coordinates with a wide range of partners and major stakeholders, the UN Country Team, the Humanitarian Country Team, Government line Ministries, national and international NGOs, as well as actors from the private sector, an area of cooperation that will be further explored in 2021. Further, UNHCR in Mali actively participates in inter-agency sectoral coordination meetings, as well as monthly Cluster coordination meetings.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic and the first confirmed cases in Mali, UNHCR has continued to stay and deliver, responding to those in need, including to an influx of more than 5,000 returning refugee from Burkina Faso, as well as a fire which destroyed a site for 1,600 IDPs in t Bamako. UNHCR intervened in support of the Government to provide vital assistance to survivors of the fire. However, national measures on movement restrictions have led to the suspension or postponement of several events and meetings with key stakeholders, the reception and orientation of people of concern, as well as the provision of core relief items to northern and central areas, where most of the forcibly displaced population reside.

Key priorities

In 2021, UNHCR will continue to strengthen the capacity of Government and other partners to respond to the needs refugee and asylum-seeker; advocate for, and sensitize, people of concern engaging in irregular movements and those at risk of statelessness; and identify and secure durable solutions, particularly for those in situation of protracted displacement.

For returnees, UNHCR will focus on enabling Malian refugees to make an informed decision on return, facilitate the reception of 35,000 of those who express a desire to do so, and ensure their durable socioeconomic reintegration, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals and UNHCR's Strategic Directions 2017-2021.

In response to IDPs, UNHCR will continue to promote the Kampala Convention's provisions on the protection and assistance to IDPs. The Office will also strengthen its emergency responses, as well as synergies between

the Protection Cluster's actors, for which UNHCR is the lead, and the Government's technical sectors. In parallel, promoting the centrality of protection and monitoring the integration of protection mainstreaming principles into all humanitarian action will remain a priority.

In line with its multi-year and multi-partner protection and solutions strategy, UNHCR in Mali will focus on:

- Advocating for legislation in compliance with international protection standards for refugees, IDPs, and stateless persons, as well as strengthening institutions for protection.
 - Ensuring that all Malian refugees with the desire to return, are able to do so in safety and dignity; and ensuring that IDPs and returnees in 20 priority communes are sustainably (re)integrated, with the basic needs of the most vulnerable met.
 - Strengthening refugee self-reliance and ensuring access to national services, while working to meet the basic needs of the most vulnerable and ensuring that comprehensive solutions are achieved for 40% of those in a protracted situation of displacement.
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