

UNHCR Mali Situation Update

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This update provides a snapshot of UNHCR and its partners' response to the influx of Malian refugees into Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania. The refugee response is led by UNHCR and is undertaken in coordination with the host governments.

Detailed operational information can be found on:

**the UNHCR web portal for the Mali situation: <http://data.unhcr.org/MaliSituation/regional.php>

**the UNHCR public website: <http://www.unhcr.org/pages/4f79a77e6.html>

Malian Refugees by Country of Asylum as at 4 July 2012

Country of Asylum	Malian Refugees	Others of Concern*	Source
Niger	42,461	2,526	CNE, UNHCR
Burkina Faso	65,009	-	CONAREF/UNHCR
Mauritania	88,825	-	Government/UNHCR
Togo	20	-	Government/UNHCR
Guinea	44	-	Government/UNHCR
Total	196,359	2,526	
	Grand Total		198,885

Malian IDPs As at 28 June 2012

Population	Total number	Source
IDPs	155,042	Protection Cluster/WFP

Contributions Received

Contributions (USD)	
Austria	331,126
Brazil	300,000
Canada	1,500,000
CERF	6,469,616
Denmark	1,802,127
European Union	2,649,007
France	657,984
Germany	1,283,369
Luxembourg	258,398
Spain	37,313
Sweden	2,077,562
Switzerland	518,672
United States	17,000,000
Private donors	26,025
TOTAL	34,911,109

In addition, UNHCR has received contributions towards its operations in West Africa and Mauritania presented in its Global Appeal. Contributions are from Brazil, CERF, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, ECOWAS, the European Union, Finland, France, Japan, Switzerland, the United States and the UN Population Fund.



Niger / Mangaize refugee site / A young refugee Malian refugee girl just collected water from a borehole in Mangaize site. Water is a scarce resource in Niger and in the Sahel countries in general. The ongoing arrival of refugees from Mali is putting a strain on the meager resources of the local populations. UNHCR / H. Caux / May 5, 2012

UNHCR Financial Requirements – (in million USD)

Country	ExCom approved Budget (with adjustments)	Supplementary requirements	Revised total budget
RO Senegal*	50.6	123.4	174
Mauritania	7.8	30.3	38.1
TOTAL	58.4	153.7	212.1

The budget for the UNHCR Regional Office in Senegal covers operations in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. The supplementary financial requirements presented in this Appeal include Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, and Senegal.

Highlights

- The current political instability in Bamako and the insecurity in northern Mali continue to trigger important influxes of refugees into neighboring countries. While the flow of new arrivals are stable in Burkina Faso and Niger, great numbers of Malians continue to arrive daily in Mauritania. In the last two weeks of June, the population of Malian refugees in Mauritania's Mbera camp has increased by 15,000.
- Borders in all four countries (Burkina Faso, Niger, Mauritania, and Mali) remain open. There are no reports of refoulement or people being turned away from the borders to neighboring countries.
- Altogether, the crisis has now displaced over 350,000 Malians. As of 4 July, 196,359 Malians have found refuge in Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger. Additionally, a minimum of 155,042 men, women and children are displaced inside Mali.
- Due to limited funding, UNHCR continue to focus its aid on protection and immediate life-saving activities. Operations are focusing on meeting minimum humanitarian standards, but many challenges still exist, especially in the areas of water and sanitation and basic aid. Refugees are often living on daily water supplies below "emergency standard". As well, the sanitary conditions in most camps are a recipe for epidemics, especially considering the arrival of the rainy season.
- The security situation in the whole West Africa region affected by the Mali crisis remains difficult and continues to restrict humanitarian aid at different levels according to location.
- Overall the health and nutrition status of the refugee population appears to be satisfactory and similar to levels to that of the host population. However, with the arrival of the rainy and lean season it is expected that acute malnutrition will rise.
- The majority of registered refugees in Niger and Burkina Faso are dispersed in spontaneous sites and/or official established camps. Refugees have also been reported in urban settings, mainly in the capitals. For the most part, the activities of UNHCR have thus far concentrated on the refugees in official camps and sites. Operational strategies to provide adequate aid to refugees in spontaneous sites and urban settings are currently being developed.
- A general lack of funding for the Mali situation continues to seriously hamper operations on the ground. As of 28 June UNHCR has received USD 34.3 million for activities related to this crisis. This represents only 22% of the total requirements. Funding is urgently needed to improve conditions for displaced Malians.

Protection response

In Mali, the total registered displaced population (IDPs) in the south is 48,042. 90% are accommodated by host families residing in urban environments, 8% are able to ensure their own shelter and 2% have settled in public sites. They have found refuge in Mopti (54%), Bamako (20%), Segou (17%), Sikasso (7%), and Kayes (0.4%). In northern Mali the displaced population is estimated to 107,000. IDPs are originally from Gao (60%), Timbuktu (40%), Kidal (6%) and Mopti (5%). Host communities report to be insufficiently resourced to support the displaced -- they are lacking food, NFIs and sanitation installations. In the south, half of the displaced families reported to be separated from their relatives -- many men remained home to take care of their lands and cattle. To date the Child Protection Cluster has identified 410 unaccompanied children and 92 separated children. One hundred and seventy-five (175) children have also been reported to be used by armed groups in North Mali. The sub-cluster indicates that the population of unaccompanied street children in Kidal, Timbuktu and Gao, estimated at 500, is subject to many risks including recruitment and abuses by armed elements. Seventeen (17) cases of sexual violence have been reported by displaced women and 8 children victims of sexual abuses have been identified by UNICEF. In addition, thirteen (13) cases of victims of unexploded ordinances have been reported. Forced imposition of the sharia law by Islamic groups has been reported in the localities of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal and their surroundings -- women are unable to move freely and forced to wear Hijab -- children forbidden to practice sport -- some shops are closing -- a couple has been whipped in public as a demonstration of punishment for not obeying the new laws. An evaluation of the impact of the conflict on **access to education** has been conducted by the education cluster in north Mali. The findings reveal that most schools in the north have been looted or burnt down and that 80% of education staff are now displaced to south Mali. In Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal schools are closed or education suspended. As protection cluster lead, UNHCR is **monitoring population movements, trends** and specific **protection needs** of affected populations. We are **building capacity** and **conducting advocacy** with the protection cluster, inter-cluster and governmental counterparts in regards to **protection standards, humanitarian principles, needs identification** and **access to humanitarian**

assistance. During the week of June 25, UNHCR conducted sensitization on humanitarian principles and the “do not harm” principle with the INGO forum (Forum des ONG International au Mali). Finally UNHCR is also providing assistance to displaced Malians through the **provision of NFIs and shelter.** New displacements of population have been reported since Islamist groups confirmed their control over the northern part of the country during the week of 25 June.

In Niger, as of the end of June over 44,000 men, women and children have been registered with UNHCR. Ninety-four (94 %) percent of registered refugees are Malians, the remainder are Niger national returnees. They are hosted in the three camp sites of Abala, Mangaize and Tabareybarey, or found in settlements in the Tilia region. During the last week of June, 414 Malian refugees have arrived in Niger camps. The **relocation** process of refugees from the five spontaneous sites of MBeidou, Tinfagate, Tidirgalene, Gadouel and Intadabdab, close to border areas in the Ayorou region, which started at the end of May, was successfully completed. **Sensitization campaigns** about the need for refugees to **join official sites** are being carried by UNHCR and partners and are ongoing. An important **physical family verification** exercise was completed by UNHCR’s registration team in Niger camps. The exercise reveals that 60% of Malian refugees in Niger are 17 year old or younger, 36 % are between the ages of 18 to 59, and less than 4% are over 60. Fifty-three percent (53%) are female and 58% of Malian refugees in Niger are from the region of Menaka. UNHCR plans to carry out a verification exercise and to conduct a **level 2 registration** to improve the quality of the **information.** We are seeking funding to undertake this activity. Recent **interviews with refugees** indicate that the latest arrived are fleeing based on humanitarian grounds basically for lack of food and water as well as because armed men were occupying the territories where they live and farm. Finally, very recent information received from the Abala authorities are pointing out to the **imminent arrival of new influxes** of refugees who would have fled following the recent events which took place in Gao (Mali) during the last week of June.

In Burkina Faso, the **relocation of refugees** from spontaneous to official sites is in process in the provinces of Soum and Oudalan. **Relocation operations** are carried out jointly by UNHCR, CONAREF and the local authorities. Joint awareness missions with the aim of **sensitizing refugees** on the necessity to join official sites to benefit from protection and aid are conducted in coordination with the local authorities. UNHCR has completed the level 1 **registration process** and statistics on 65,009 refugees are available. UNHCR, partners and the local authorities have developed a plan for a **level 2 registration** process as a data collection tool. Here again, UNHCR is seeking funding to undertake the operation. The continued **monitoring of the civilian character of the camps** remains an important issue. Refugees have been alerted to UNHCR’s zero tolerance policy on the issue of **SGBV** and have been informed of mechanisms in place in case incidences would occur. No cases of SGBV have been reported so far. Agreements on **education** are being finalized between UNHCR, UNICEF, Save the Children and Terre des Hommes. Child friendly places and schools in Ferrerio, Mentao and Gandafabou will be established. The child protection cluster has obtained permission to use the Malian educational curriculum. Finally, a **protection training plan** has been elaborated for junior UNHCR protection staff, as well as governmental and non-governmental partners for all refugee sites. UNHCR will deliver the training in conjunction with UNICEF. It will start the week of 9 July.

In Mauritania, every day **important influxes** of refugees continue to cross the border from Mali. During the last two weeks of June, 15,000 new refugees have arrived at Mbera camp. Refugees have thus far been well received by the host community and the authorities. No tension or other forms of conflict between the refugees and the local population have been reported. **Interviews** will be conducted to better understand the trends behind the new influxes. In the meanwhile, UNHCR and its NGO partner ALPD continue the level 1 **registration** of the new refugee population in Fassala and their **transfer** to Mbera camp. As of 4 July the total number of registered Malian refugees in Mauritania amounts to 88,825. In light of the continued influx, UNHCR has started the elaboration of a plan to establish a **second camp** in conjunction with UNICEF and the local authorities. The majority of the Malian refugees in Mauritania are from the region of Timbuktu (87%), others are from the regions of Mopti (8%) and Segou (5%). Sixty-two percent (62%) of refugees are 17 years old or younger, 35% are between the ages of 18 to 59, and 3% are older. Fifty-four percent are female and 90% are of Tuareg origins. The remainder (10%) is of Berber origin. The **registration of children of school age** continues. As of July 1 3,637 refugee kids have been enrolled in the four primary schools established in the camp. An educational solution needs to be found for 80% of children of primary school age who remain without access to school. Funding is sought to provide education to these children. Finally, UNHCR and Intersos developed an action plan to strengthen humanitarian **staff capacity** and the **community structures** in Mbera camp. Priority actions related to the **training** of staff, gender-based violence (**SGBV**) and the **referral system of vulnerable refugee cases** are being put into place.

Life-saving assistance

UNHCR continues to provide refugees and the host population in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania with basic assistance including water and sanitation, primary health care, education, shelter and core-relief items. While the situation for refugees in the camps is improving, much more needs to be done to ensure that refugees receive

assistance according to humanitarian standards. UNHCR is also looking into developing operational strategies to provide adequate aid to refugees in spontaneous sites as well as for an important population of urban refugees.

In Niger, assistance continues to be provided in the areas of food, water and sanitation. Since 15 June a new **borehole** is functioning in Abala camp. UNHCR and partners have succeeded in bridging the gap in **daily water allowance** for refugees in Mangaize camp. However, refugees in Abala, Ayorou and Tilia are still living on allowances of approximately 13 litres per day or less – below emergency standards. The situation of **latrines** and **showers** is also improving slowly and important **gaps** remain to reach emergency standards in all camps. At the **new Tabareybarey camp**, efforts are being made to consolidate the water supply system. 60,000 litres are being provided by water trucking by Plan Niger. Ten (10) blocks of latrines are operational. Additional work is ongoing despite constraints related to the start of the rainy season. A **health centre** operated by MSF is operational since the creation of the new camp. Five hundred (500) **NFI kits** to 400 refugees and 100 beneficiaries from the host community have been distributed by World Vision. **Plastic sheeting** was also distributed to 800 families in camps by partner Islamic Relief. Plan Niger continues to provide support through **nutritional programmes**, attending pregnant and lactating women, as well as severely and moderate malnourished children. In Mangaize camp, MSF Suisse recently completed a **vaccination campaign** targeting women and young girls. The vaccines administered included measles and tetanus as well as vitamin A, Albendazole and Pentavalent. The rainy season has started and the state of roads is degrading rapidly making access to Abala refugee camp more difficult. Pre-positioning of aid needs to continue. Funding is needed in this area as well.

In Burkina Faso, **food distribution** took place in the different sites of Mentao camp for 3,610 refugees in the North, 5,891 in the South and 2,677 in the Centre. The **water and sanitation** situation in Burkina Faso is also critical. Despite ongoing work in the area, as of 30 June, refugees in Ferrerio site are still receiving the water equivalent of 7lts/person/day. Refugees in Mentao sites are receiving approximately 12lts/person/day, and those in Damba are receiving 14lts/pers./day. UNHCR's standards for daily water allocation during emergencies are of 10lts/pers/day. However, we should be aiming for 20lts/person/day in stable conditions. Important **gaps** also exist for the situation of **latrines** and **showers**. Currently only 14% of latrines needed to reach the emergency standard of 50 persons per latrine have been built in Ferrerio, the most populated Malian refugee site in Burkina Faso. The standards have been reached in Mentao and Damba. **Hygiene promotion** activities are ongoing. The improvement of the water and sanitation conditions in Burkina Faso is critical and requires more funding. With the arrival of the rainy season this is a major concern. In mid-June 500 **tents** have been distributed to the same number of families in North Mentao.

In Mauritania, the results of an analysis on water consumption conducted by Solidarite International in Mbera camp indicates that refugees receive a minimum of 9.6 litres of clean **water** per day. As of June 24, 1,201 communal **latrines** have been installed by UNHCR, Solidarite international and OXFAM in Mbera camp. The construction of a third **borehole** was completed during the last week of June. Pumping tests are currently being done. The rehabilitation of 3 water through for **livestock** has also started. The **measles vaccination** campaign continues in Fassala for refugees who just arrived, prior to their transfer to Mbera camp. UNHCR recently established a **nutrition working group** including UNICEF, MSF, ACF, WFP ADICOR and the Ministry of Health. All health actors are now involved in the development of a weekly **health data collection system**. As of today seven **nutritional rehabilitation centres** are operational in the refugee camp: one Intensive Nutritional Rehabilitation centre (CRENI), two Nutritional Rehabilitation Centers for Severe Malnutrition (CRENAS) and four Nutritional Rehabilitation centres for Moderate Malnutrition (CRENAM). On 12 June a general **food distribution** worth one-month was established in the camp for 70,000 refugees. The food basket included rice, pulses, oil, salt, CSB and dates.

Financial situation

The total supplementary requirements for the Mali situation now stand at 153.7 million and UNHCR's total revised budgetary requirements for the countries responding to the Mali situation amounts to USD 212.1 million for 2012. UNHCR's total financial needs for the Mali crisis in **Mauritania amount to USD 38.1 million**. In **Burkina Faso Niger and Mali**, UNHCR's additional financial requirements **have increased to USD 123.4 million**. The overall plan is based on providing emergency aid to **440,000 Malian refugee and IDPs until the end of the year**.

UNHCR is grateful to donors who have committed **pledges amounting to USD 34.2 million** to respond to this crisis thus far but remains very concerned with the overall funding shortfall. Currently **only 22.7%** of the total financial requirements has been raised.

UNHCR and its partners are **calling for urgent financial support** for the Malian refugees and displaced.

UNHCR presence

Niger	Niamey, Ouallam
Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou, Dori
Mauritania	Nouakchott, Bassikounou
Mali	Bamako

Working with partners

UNHCR is coordinating its life saving activities with the following partners:

Niger	Commission Nationale d'Eligibilité (CNE), Ministries of Defense, Interior and Health, UNICEF, UNFPA, WFP, WHO, OCHA, MSF (CH) (water/sanitation) UNAIDS, ICRC, CADEV (warehousing/transportation of NFIs), IOM (relocation), Islamic Relief (tent installation/site clearing), AFRICARE, ACTED (camp management/Water), PLAN NIGER (WASH), OXFAM (water).
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Coordination mechanisms in Niger: UNHCR is part of the existing coordination mechanisms at the ministerial level, technical level and amongst UN/NGO partners. A UN cluster system is in place involving the Government and the national early warning body (*Système de Relèvement Précoce, Système d'Alerte Précoce*). The Humanitarian Coordinator proposed a review of the working approaches with the ad hoc committee attached to the Prime Minister's Office and to continue to work closely with local and government authorities in the refugee affected areas.

Burkina Faso	CONAREF, <i>Comité National des Réfugiés</i> under the umbrella of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CONASUR (Social Affairs Department), WFP, WHO, UNICEF, FAO, Burkina Faso Red Cross Society (Shelter/NFI distribution/sanitation), Christian Relief and Development Organisation (CREDO), and SRDO (food and core relief items distribution, community services), Oxfam (WASH), MSF France (Water trucking), <i>Église des Assemblées de Dieu</i> (water), <i>Vétérinaires du Monde, Médecins du Monde</i> Spain (Health), <i>Médecins du Monde France</i> (Health), HELP (water).
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Weekly coordination meetings are held by UNHCR with the Government, OCHA, UNICEF, WFP, WHO, ADRA, ICRC, ECHO, MSF and *Terre des Hommes*. Joint missions are undertaken with partners.

Mauritania	Ministry of Interior, Commissioner for Food Security (non-food items and food distribution), UNICEF (education), UNFPA, MSF Belgium, Lutheran World Federation (camp management), Solidarités International (water/sanitation), Intersos (community services), WFP/UNHCR (food), ALPD (protection monitoring activities, management of a reception center in Fassala and transport of refugees from Fassala to Mbera).
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Weekly coordination meetings: The meetings are co-chaired by the National Coordinator appointed by the Ministry of Interior and UNHCR and include UN agencies, NGOs, members of the national civil society and donors.

Daily coordination meetings: The local authorities, UNHCR's partners- ALPD, the Lutheran World Federation, Intersos, Solidarités International, WFP, UNICEF, MSF Belgium, IFRC, and CRM attend the daily coordination and the thematic meetings on Health and Wash chaired by UNHCR in Bassikounou.

Mali	Ministry of Territorial Administration, OCHA, MSF (Health).
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Coordination mechanisms in Mali: The UN cluster system is activated for IDP protection. The protection Cluster is lead by UNHCR. There are two sub clusters: child protection (UNICEF) and gender-based violence (UNFPA). It normally meets once every two weeks.