

## A struggle for survival: escaping from Mali

Like nearly 200,000 other internally displaced people who have fled violence in northern Mali, Hidjaba is struggling to care for her family; 'I am ready to do anything to be able to buy food for my children'.

**Since January multiple waves of violence have tested the resilience of civilians caught up in the conflict.**

UNHCR is providing non-food assistance to thousands of families, but is stretched in its efforts to help the displaced people of Mali.

[Read more about the conflict in Mali](#)



[Read more](#)



## Refugee stories

### Education programme in Malawi gives hope to refugee musician

A Congolese refugee, Jean Lusambo, has become one of the many beneficiaries of an educational programme designed to develop the skills of refugees in Dzaleka camp.

Before becoming a refugee, Jean was a successful poet, journalist and part-time musician, and became depressed when he was forced to flee to Malawi. Since his enrolment however, **he has learnt new skills in**



### Photo Gallery: Displaced women of the Congo

Years of near ceaseless violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has brought with it **endemic levels of sexual and gender based violence.**

In this photo set we see Congolese women who have fled their homes in search of refuge and safety from these terrors, and hear their stories.

communications and is feeling much more positive about his future.

[Read more about Jean's journey](#)



## Emergency update

### Number of Syrian refugees hits half-a-million as winter sets in

The number of registered Syrian refugees has now exceeded 500,000, with **estimates suggesting there may be up to 1 million in the first half of 2013**. It is also likely that hundreds of thousands of unregistered refugees will come forward in the coming months, as resources diminish in host communities.

With the onset of winter, life in the refugee camps is becoming extremely challenging. **UNHCR and its partners are working tirelessly to prepare for the winter**, distributing thermal blankets and winter clothing, providing gas heaters, and building storm drainage systems.

[Read more about UNHCR's work to help Syrian refugees this winter](#)

## In the news



### Dialogue on Protection Challenges 2012

UNHCR and **some 400 religious leaders and faith experts** met in Geneva to discuss the relationship between religion and refugee protection.

[Read more about the event here](#)



### Critical report released on Nauru processing centre

A regional asylum processing centre used by Australia has been **criticised by UNHCR** for falling short of international protection standards.

[Read more on the report](#)

[View the gallery](#)



### Angelina Jolie visits Syrian border

UNHCR's Special Envoy, Angelina Jolie, recently returned to the Jordan-Syria border to meet with newly arrived refugee families, and view the progress of the current winterization project.

[Watch a video of her visit here](#)



### Did you know?

An Africa-wide treaty on the protection of internally displaced people came into force in December. Across Africa, there are 9.7 million internally displaced people of whom almost 7 million receive UNHCR assistance. **This is more than any other continent.**



### Generous contribution in troubled times

In the face of expanding humanitarian crises, donor nations have pledged **US\$550 million to UNHCR in 2013.**

[Find out more](#)

### Get involved - Spread the word

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The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR)

Website: [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

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