



MALI

UNHCR OPERATIONAL UPDATE

01 June – 31 July 2016

KEY FIGURES

238

Urban refugee children attending primary schools in Bamako successfully completed their school year to move onto the next grade level.

1,610

Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Niger benefited from transportation assistance during their voluntary return to Mali.

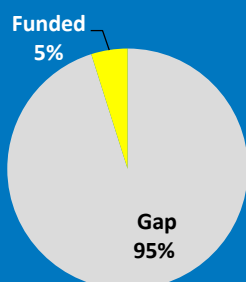
172

Protection incidents were reported in the regions of Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu.

FUNDING

USD 49.2 million

requested for the operation

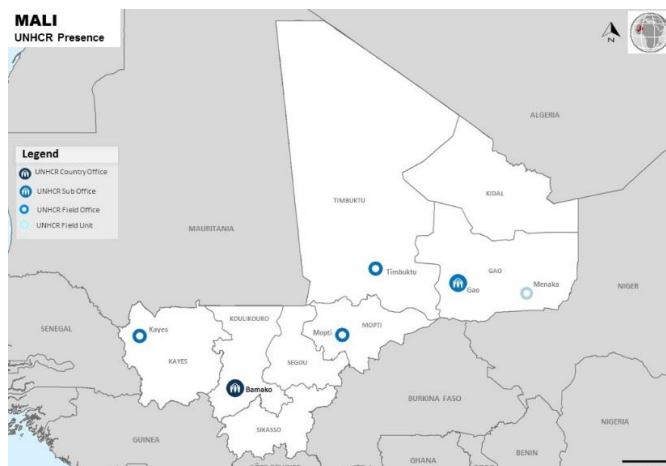


PRIORITIES

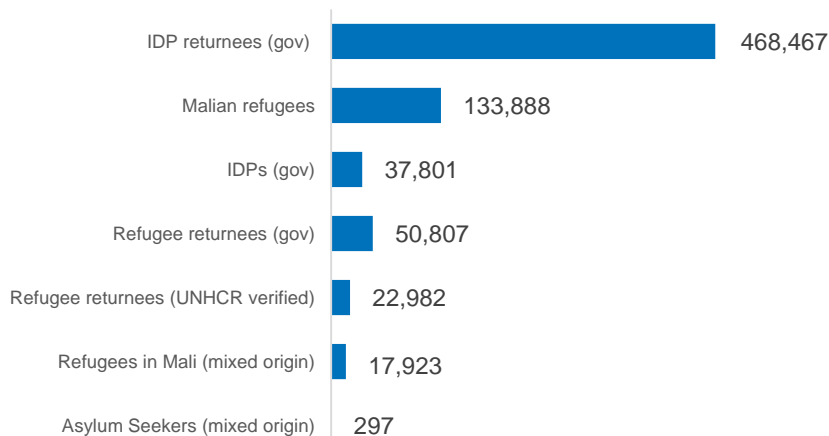
- 850 Malian IDP returnee households targeted to receive adequate and durable shelter
- 6,000 Malian refugee returnees targeted to receive a one-time cash-based assistance
- 2,500 Mauritanian refugees and local community members targeted to receive improved access to potable water
- 1,000 refugee children targeted to receive educational support

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR, through its partner Mercy Corps, delivered a one-time cash-based assistance to 6,016 returning refugee in the regions of Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu to help them reintegrate in a safe and dignified manner. A strong need for cash assistance remains among newly returned refugees and those who are vulnerable among previously returned.
- UNHCR's partner, Luxembourg Red Cross, has completed 84% of traditional shelters (152 out of 180) and 20% of mud shelters (45 out of 220) planned for Timbuktu region in 2016. This assistance will help refugee returnees and IDPs gain access to safe, dignified and appropriate shelter.
- UNHCR welcomed its new Representative to Mali, Ms. Angèle Djohossou.



Population of concern (June 2016)



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

UNHCR continues to operate in a volatile security environment with persistent threats of terrorism, criminality and intercommunity violence affecting humanitarian access in parts of the north and centre. Growing insecurity as a result of serious attacks such as the terrorist attack against the Nampala military camp on July 19 prompted the Malian government to recently extend the country's state of emergency status until March 29, 2017. In the north, violations of basic human rights are reported and certain local populations continue to lack access to public services, documentation, water, and food security. Some 133,888 Malian refugees remain in neighbouring countries and 37,801 internally displaced persons in Mali are waiting to see whether conditions in their area of origin improve to enable them to return in safety and dignity.

On June 29, 2016 the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 2295 renewing the mandate of MINUSMA for one year. The mission was authorized to adopt a more "proactive and robust posture" in the protection of civilians against asymmetric threats and is expected to increase its troop levels. This renewal takes place in the context of ongoing challenges with respect to the implementation of the peace agreement in the areas of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) and cantonments.

The recent nomination of interim government authorities triggered a series of youth-led demonstrations in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu and Bamako with demonstrations in Gao escalating into violence on July 12 when three protestors were killed, 35 were injured and a dozen security forces were also injured. Furthermore, simmering tensions between combattants of Platform Movement and the Coordination of movements of Azawad (CMA), both signatories of the peace accord, led to clashes on July 21 and 22, then again on July 30, resulting in severe losses (exact numbers unknown), including civilians and children, as well as internal displacements. This confrontation was condemned to be in violation of the Algiers, Anéfis and the recently signed Niamey accords. MINUSMA reinforced its presence since the renewed fighting and continues to intercept armed convoys that try to move towards or from Kidal.

The threat of terrorism and criminality remains high in the north and centre of Mali. National and international security forces remain the target of most attacks, but international civilian personnel are at higher risk of hostage takings or kidnappings. The IED threat remains high in most areas of the North. On July 19, the Malian military camp in the town of Nampala in Ségou region suffered a terrorist attack causing 17 deaths and 35 injuries among soldiers. This attack, claimed by Ansar Dine, took place 70km south of the town of Bassikounou in Mauritania where UNHCR has an office. On July 26, Malian Special Forces captured a top commander of Katiba Macina affiliated with terrorist group Ansar Dine triggering concerns of potential retaliation attacks. This further contributes to the observed tendency of sliding insecurity from the north to the centre of Mali.

The volatile security environment continues to destabilize local communities, jeopardize the protection of civilians, and prevent forcibly displaced persons from returning to their homes, while further threatening their access to already limited basic social services. The insecurity also compromises their ability to re-engage in socio-economic activities critical to rebuilding their lives. Access to persons of concern for the delivery of humanitarian protection and assistance in the north and centre of Mali has become a significant challenge for UNHCR and other actors. Frequent criminal attacks continue to be reported on several major routes in the North. In addition to insecurity, the rainy season has rendered certain highways difficult for road travel, impeding access to certain zones of intervention throughout the country.

The need to uphold humanitarian principles is 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

- On July 20, UNHCR participated in an inter cluster meeting organized by OCHA to discuss the 2017 Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP). The centrality of protection was discussed as a strategic objective to include in the HRP for the next three years.
- On July 27, the national Protection Cluster held a training session in Bamako for the inter-ministerial committee on the integration of the Kampala Convention into Mali's regulatory framework with an aim to better protect IDPs. Members of the technical committee and other humanitarian actors gained a harmonized understanding of the Kampala Convention and worked towards an action plan to accelerate the process of integration.
- The Protection Cluster in Gao reported activities in the areas of transitional justice, human rights and sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) prevention and response. GREFFA, supported by UN Women, carried out 12 sensitization campaigns on SGBV in the commune of Soni Aliber reaching 876 local community members. In the district of Ansongo, local protection committees, supported by Save the Children, carried out five sensitization sessions on child protection reaching 639 people. Nine cases of child protection were documented and referred to ICRC and Save the Children for medical and food assistance, respectively. Furthermore, the Coordination des Associations et ONGs féminins au Mali (CAFO) responded to several cases of physical aggression and early/forced marriage.
- **New Representative:** UNHCR Mali welcomed its new Representative, Ms. Angèle Djohossou, who presented her credentials to the Mali's Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and African Integration, Mr. Abdoulaye Diop on July 26, 2016. Ms. Djohossou officially succeeds Mr. Ousseni Compaore as UNHCR's representative in Mali. From Benin, she has served with UNHCR for over 23 years occupying numerous senior level posts in Guinea, Afghanistan, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia.



A training session with members of the inter-ministerial committee on the integration of the Kampala Convention on July 27 in Bamako. © UNHCR Bamako



Ms. Angèle Djohossou, UNHCR's Representative in Mali, presents her credentials to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation and African Integration on July 26, 2016. © UNHCR Bamako

- **World Refugee Day:** On June 20, Mali celebrated World Refugee Day under the theme of 'With Refugees' to recognize the contributions and courage of those forced to flee, as well as acknowledge the efforts of the Malian government, partners and host communities to provide life-saving assistance and support integration efforts. Festivities across the country included a colourful array of activities including a caravan of visibility, musical and theatrical performances, art exhibitions, speeches, poems and testimonies by returning refugee on the effort to rebuild their lives with the support of UNHCR and its partners. The events took place in the five regions where UNHCR has an office presence including Bamako, Gao, Kayes, Mopti and Timbuktu.



UNHCR Timbuktu organized a caravan of visibility with the regional orchestra ADDAHAR singing hymns of gratitude in three local languages of Arabic, Tamashek and Sonrhail to celebrate World Refugee Day on June 20.
© UNHCR Timbuktu

- **Statelessness:** The Malian government officially ratified two Conventions on Statelessness in New York on May 26. Following these events, UNHCR Timbuktu donated office equipment to local authorities in the town of Timbuktu to support their efforts to prevent statelessness and better respond to the protection needs of local populations.
- **Protection Monitoring:** In June and July, UNHCR's partner AMSS identified and referred 172 protection incidents among displaced and host communities in the regions of Gao (88), Mopti (32) and Timbuktu (52). The incidents relate to issues of injuries, death threats, sexual violence, arbitrary arrests, robbery, theft, extortion and illegal occupation, among others. In Gao, the rise of criminal activity along the highway routes and the escalating intercommunity tensions were observed as contributing factors to reported incidents. In Mopti, the rainy season has led to flooding in Youwarou and Douentza heightening potential vulnerabilities of local populations.
- **Voluntary Repatriation:** In June, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary return of 1,285 Malian refugees from Burkina Faso (520), Mauritania (418) and Niger (347) to Mali. In July, 325 Malian refugees from Niger also received assistance to help ensure their safe and dignified return to Mali. Meanwhile, two Mauritanian refugee families (19 individuals) returned voluntarily to Mauritania on July 28 from the site of Gourel Hacourou in the district of Yélimané in Kayes.
- **Registration:** In June, the Directeur régional du développement social et de l'économie solidaire du district (DRDSES) registered 1,860 refugee returnees from Bamako (8), Gao (193), Ménaka (20), Kidal (178), Ségou (187), Koulikoro (2) and Timbuktu (1,272).
- **Documentation:** To improve refugees' access to documentation, UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, carried out 38 sensitization session on birth certificate registration and delivery and 10 sessions on naturalization and the importance of civil status documentation for Mauritanian refugees and host community members in the region of Kayes. As a result of these campaigns, eight births were declared and one supplementary judgement was requested for a refugee child.

UNHCR is reviewing five naturalization requests and 16 convention travel documentation requests received by Mauritanian refugees. In Bamako, two births were registered among urban refugees and one person without documentation requested support to receive convention travel documentation.

- **Persons with Specific Needs:** In Bamako, 78 urban refugees with specific needs (51 women, 27 men) received financial and medical assistance through UNHCR's partner ACTED to address chronic illnesses, protection needs and emergency medical needs.
- **Sexual and Gender-based Violence:** In Kayes region, UNHCR's partner Stop Sahel carried out 38 sessions (visits, counselling, talks) reaching over 706 Mauritanian refugee and host community members on the consequences of

early/forced marriage and excision. Beyond gaining greater awareness of SGBV issues, one SGBV survivor was identified and referred for medical assistance. In Mopti region, fifteen previous SGBV survivors were referred to UNHCR's partner, Mercy Corps, for assistance through income generating activities.

Education

- In the region of Timbuktu, the volatile security situation continues to prevent children and teachers from returning to school. In the district of Goundam, 52 schools remain closed. In an effort to encourage girls' education and reduce the protection risks related to early marriage, UNHCR in Timbuktu gave NFI gifts to three girls from each of the 17 schools in the town of Timbuktu who received top marks in their school.
- Over 340 Mauritanian refugees and host community members in 18 different refugee sites in Kayes region participated in sensitization sessions organized by Stop Sahel on the topics of literacy centres, boarding options for refugee children and school canteens. These sessions resulted in refugee children from the site of Hassisidi receiving shelter in Kardidi while refugee children in Senebodi being offered family boarding options in Bokédiamé. These boarding options will help increase the number of refugee children able to attend and stay in school and reduce their protection risks. With respect to literacy centres, members have begun contributing funds to support their maintenance in the sites of Kairou, El M'Barké 2, Hassidouyou and Gourel Hakourou.
- Due to the cancellation of a planned joint mission to evaluate five schools attended by Mauritanian refugee children in Kayes, these schools will not be integrated into a school canteen program in 2016 – 2017. This could affect the attendance rate of refugee children in those schools due to their lack of access to regular meals and their remote distance from schools. In the 2015 – 2016 school year, the enrolment rate of Mauritanian refugee children in primary and secondary school was 26%.
- In Bamako, 89% of primary school refugee children (117 girls and 121 boys) received satisfactory marks to advance to the next grade level, while 72% of secondary school children (31 girls and 22 boys) passed their year-end exams. In secondary school, 21 students (13 girls and 8 boys) were candidates for the Diploma for Basic Education (Diplôme de l'Enseignement Fondamental) of which three students successfully passed their exams to advance into high school.



UNHCR offers NFI gifts to girls receiving top grades in their schools in Timbuktu on June 20. © UNHCR Timbuktu

Health

- In the region of Kayes, 10 sensitization sessions on health insurance access and voluntary screening for HIV/AIDS reached 192 Mauritanian refugees and host community members, leading to 21 new health insurance registrations. In Bamako, 11 urban refugee households (35 individuals) received financial support through UNHCR's partner ACTED to cover their health insurance costs. The healthcare registrations help refugees gain access to more affordable health care services to improve their health status.

Food Security and Nutrition

- UNHCR's field unit in Menaka advocated on behalf of 67 facilitated refugee returnee households arriving in the communes of Menaka and Anderamboukane to get food assistance from local NGO Gourma and its partner.

Water and Sanitation

- In the region of Mopti, UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, have started construction of a water tank in the commune Haire in the site of Longue and the rehabilitation of two water points in the sites of Fétonialé and Karaldiango. To support these activities, WASH and peaceful coexistence sensitizations were held around these two water points, as well as water points in Sévaré and Garmi.
- In the region of Kayes, three water points were realized in the refugee sites of Kounougale and Khairou. One borehole in Khairou is expected to help 355 people from Khairou and 799 people from the nearby site of El Mbrake2 access potable water. Two boreholes were deemed negative as a result of high salt levels and insufficient water. In addition, a highly used water point in the site of Brala was also improved with the construction of a new water distribution system. Four WASH sessions reaching 86 persons garnered greater community participation to actively implement and maintain rigorous health standards around the water points.
- In Gao and Menaka regions, UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, identified and chose the sites of Wadicharaf (Gao) and Madina and Essakane (Menaka) to construct three boreholes with pumps. Another three water points will be rehabilitated in the sites of Timigredene and Akalafa (Gao) and Ehewatte (Menaka).

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter and NFI Cluster

- On June 29, the shelter sub-cluster meeting in Timbuktu reviewed contingency stocks among humanitarian partners and local authorities revealing that presently there is almost no available stock of emergency shelter or NFIs. UNHCR has provided its partners Luxembourg Red Cross and Red Cross Mali with 100 emergency shelter tents for contingency purposes. On July 29, the cluster advised that the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) would lead a rapid evaluation of the NFI assistance needs of IDPs following the clashes in Kidal on July 21 and 22.
- On June 30 and July 28, the national shelter cluster held its monthly meetings in Bamako during which the members discussed the use of CBI in shelter and NFI interventions. Members also approved a harmonized needs assessment form to be used by cluster members during an assessment.
- In the region of Gao, UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, distributed tool kits to 1,232 refugee returnee and IDP households (5,489 individuals) and soap to 1,152 refugee returnee and IDP households (5,006 individuals) in the districts of Gao, Ansongo, Menaka and Anderamboukane. Shelter construction kits were also distributed to 250 households from these same districts (except Ansongo). So far, 24 of 130 mud shelters (18%) have been constructed and 15 of 120 traditional shelters (13%) have been completed.
- In the region of Mopti, UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, supported local shelter committees in the distribution of material kits and tool kits to 152 households in the districts of Douentza and Mopti of which 100 are mud shelters and 52 are traditional shelters. One hundred family tents were also distributed to 100 newly returned refugee returnees in the commune of Farimaké in the commune of Douentza.



Distribution of 100 family tents to refugee returnees in the commune of Farimaké in the district of Youwarou. © Stop Sahel

Furthermore, 511 persons with specific needs including 160 children received NFI assistance including cloths, soap, mosquito nets and plastic mats. Among refugee returnees, returnees and IDPs who received assistance, they included HIV survivors, handicapped persons, GBV survivors and women and children at risk.

- In the region of Timbuktu, UNHCR, through its partner Luxembourg Red Cross, completed the delivery of construction material kits to 400 shelter beneficiaries among refugee returnees, IDP, IDP returnees and other vulnerable populations. So far, 152 out of 180 traditional shelters previewed for the year have been completed (84%); while 45 out of 220 mud shelters have been constructed (20%). The restoration of nine schools in the region of Timbuktu is currently underway.



Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

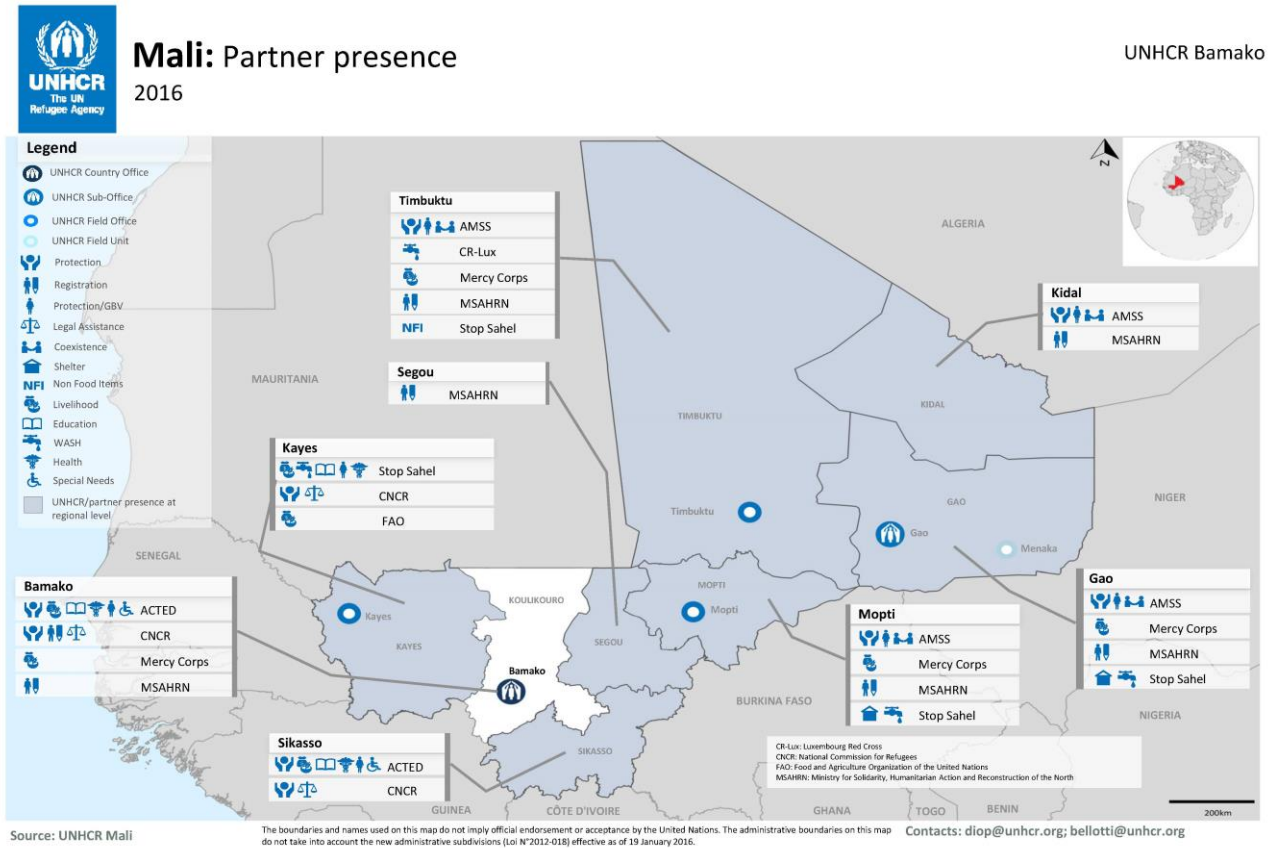
- **Cash-Based Assistance:** UNHCR's partner, Mercy Corps, has distributed a one-time cash assistance to 6,016 refugee returnees in the regions of Gao (2,939), Mopti (822) and Timbuktu (2,255) surpassing the target of 6,000 for 2016. There remain important unmet needs in terms of cash assistance until the end of 2016 as the target achieved represents only 28% of actual needs.
- **Cash Working Group:** On July 26, UNHCR hosted a monthly reunion of the Cash Working Group (CWG) in Bamako to discuss cash assistance to vulnerable persons particularly in the context of insecurity in the north of Mali. One of the concerns raised among members of the CWG was the disparity in rates paid to financial service providers. Members agreed to share best practices at the next meeting and discuss ways to harmonize rates among different actors.
- **Promoting Income-Generating Activities:** UNHCR, through its partner Mercy Corps, is engaging local authorities and beneficiaries to identify and select zones of intervention and beneficiaries among refugee returnees and host community members in the North of Mali to receive assistance for their income-generating activities. The security situation remains precarious making it difficult to reach certain localities and sites.
 - In Mopti region, 13 agricultural groups composed of 478 beneficiaries including refugee returnees, IDPs, returnees and host community members were selected to receive support for their vegetable gardening activities. In addition, 85 out of 137 beneficiaries have been confirmed to receive assistance for their income-generating projects. To support better access to finance, twenty-one village-level savings and credit associations have been put in place or restructured in the district of Douentza.
 - In the region of Gao, Mercy Corps is in the process of verifying 28 refugee returnee households pre-selected to receive cash assistance to pursue their income generating activity projects. Furthermore, 20 agents of village-level savings and credit associations in the communes of Gao, Gossi and N'Tillit participated in a training session to develop their skills to effectively manage savings and credit cooperatives.
 - In the region of Timbuktu, government authorities, refugee returnees and host community beneficiaries selected nine zones to receive support for agricultural activities and six zones for livestock activities. These activities are expected to assist refugee returnees' reintegration, as well as promote peaceful coexistence between refugee returnees and host community members.
- **Improving Livelihoods:** UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, are supporting Mauritanian refugee and host community members to strengthen their livelihood capacities, skills and infrastructure across different refugee sites in the region of Kayes.

- *Livestock support:* 35 vulnerable refugee households (210 people) received livestock support in the form of dairy goats to support their means of subsistence. After formally agreeing to abandon the practice of excision, four former practitioners from the sites of Ergui, Boullagui, El MBarke2 received rams and sheep herding equipment to help them transition into new forms of livelihood. Over 558 households from 10 different refugee sites will have access to 15 tons of livestock feed (1.5 ton/site) to access food for their livestock and strengthen their capacities to continue production during the lean season.
- *Skills development:* 100 refugees and host community members benefited from a training on Community-based enterprise development (C-BED) to help their plan and improve their business projects.
- *Infrastructure support:* Two out of three cereal banks have been constructed at the sites of Khairou and El Mbarke2. Approximately, 18 tons of sorghum cereal have been made available to nine sites to help refugees (approximately 2,706 persons) and local community members gain easier access to affordable cereals during the lean season. Thirteen wagons were distributed to 13 host community households to support their agricultural activities. In addition, five chicken coops have been built in five sites, with five others still under construction.



UNHCR's partner, Stop Sahel, distributes wagons to assist host community members with their agricultural activities in seven refugee sites across the region of Kayes. © Stop Sahel

Working in partnership

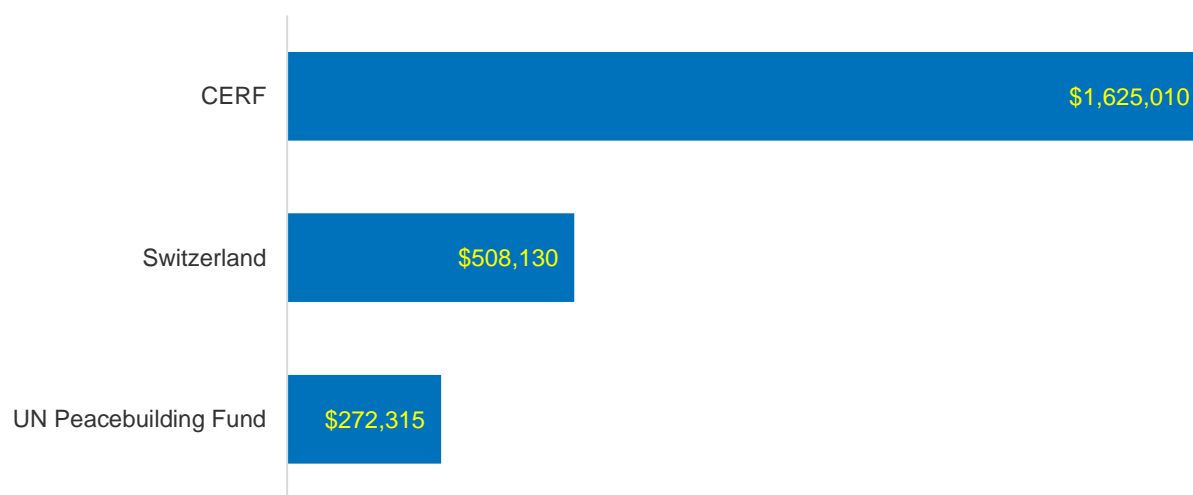


FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to **USD 2,405,455**.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors that have contributed to this operation.

Funding received in USD

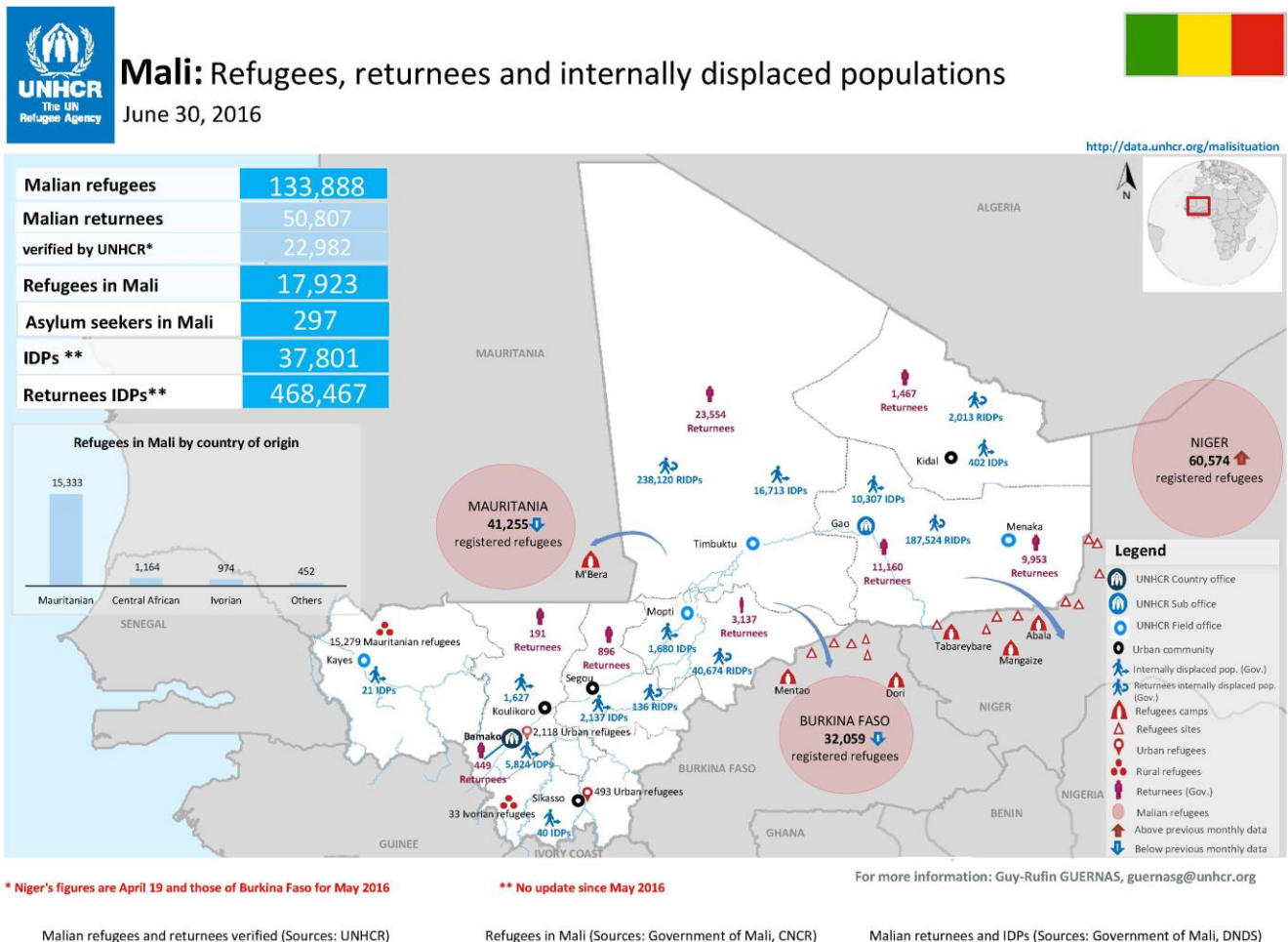


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ANNEXES

Mali situation map



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