

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 15 May 2012

Country of Asylum	Malian Refugees	Others of Concern*	Source
Niger**	38,242	2,255	CNE, UNHCR
Burkina Faso	56,817	-	CONAREF/UNHCR
Mauritania	61,287	-	Government/UNHCR
Togo	20	-	Government/UNHCR
Guinea	44	-	Government/UNHCR
Total	156,410	2,255	
	Grand Total		158,665

*Includes 2,255 returning Niger nationals.

**The figure is based on initial ongoing registration and subject to change.

Malian IDPs as at 15 May 2012

Population	Total number	Source
IDPs	146,900	Government/WFP

Contributions Received as at 14 May 2012

Contributions (USD)	
Brazil	300,000
CERF	5,839,939
Denmark	1,802,127
France	657,984
United States	7,000,000
Private donors	22,927
TOTAL	15,622,887

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



Malian refugee women gather in Mangaize site to meet with the UNHCR and WFP delegations. They have left everything behind in Mali and can only rely on the generosity of the local communities and the Niger government, and on the assistance from aid agencies. UNHCR / H. Caux

UNHCR Financial Requirements – (in million USD)

Country	ExCom approved Budget	Supplementary requirements	Revised total budget
RO Senegal*	50.4	25.3	75.7
Mauritania	7.8	10.3	18.1
TOTAL	58.2	35.6	93.8

* 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. The supplementary requirements will be revised upward as the number of refugees has already exceeded the initial planning figures.

Highlights

- UN High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres together with WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin visited Niger from 4 to 7 May to draw attention to the double folded humanitarian situation on food crisis compounded by the recent arrivals of the Malian refugees in the Sahel region. They called on the international community to help Malian refugees and host communities and emphasized that a political solution is urgently needed to prevent the situation in the region from turning into a global crisis. They also emphasized that urgent financial support is needed for these operations which are critically under funded.
- The current political instability in Bamako and the insecurity in northern Mali are triggering continuous influxes of refugees into Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania. Close to 12,000 Malian refugees have arrived in neighboring countries since late April.
- In Burkina Faso, the working environment is getting increasingly difficult following security incidents involving both civilians and refugees. The United Nations has raised the Sahel region to level 2 on the Security Level System.
- A logistical challenge ahead is the rainy season, which is expected to start in May. Many of the refugee sites will be completely cut off and inaccessible. Stockpiling of basic relief items and shelter material needs to be undertaken now. This will not be possible without additional financial resources.

Protection response

In Mali, the protection cluster continues to meet bi-monthly. Following monitoring missions to Mopti where IDPs and host community leaders were met, UNHCR and cluster members are finalizing a National Protection Cluster Strategy. A working group on access, assessment and assistance of IDPs in Bamako has been created during the regular Protection cluster meeting. The group composed of IOM, CRS, ACTED, PLAN and UNICEF will be chaired by UNHCR as the protection Cluster coordinator. On May 4, UNHCR organized a training on the protection of IDPs in an emergency context and on a community based approach to the protection cluster members. OCHA, UNFPA, IOM, CNCR, ECHO, Direction Generale de la Protection Civile, Plan Mali, and Welthungerhilfe participated to the training.

In Niger, UNHCR working with CADEV has completed the registration of some 2000 new arrivals in Abala camp. Since 2 May the National Commission for Eligibility CNE is registering urban refugees in Niamey. So far 1,115 refugees have been registered. The registered refugees received food assistance by NGO Samaritan Purse. Non-food items will be distributed by UNHCR working in close collaboration with CADEV. A joint IOM/UNHCR mission departed on 10 May to assess a new refugee movement in the Bani Bangou area (Ouallam Province). Since the first week of May an estimated 2,735 refugees, mainly women and children, have been reported in the area -- refugees were offered to be transferred at Abala camp. Working closely with UNICEF and the social workers of the Ministry of Population, UNHCR installed one open air stall for recreational activities for children in Abala camp. Approximately 265 children (131 boys and 134 girls) have already started singing, dancing, and drawing session. The recreational activities will help identify traumatized refugee children and could be used to develop sensitization themes for children. As of May 15, there are 8626 refugees in Abala camp.

In Burkina Faso, following a meeting on 25 April between UNHCR, refugee leaders from North, Centre and South Mentao and local authorities from the Soum Province, it was decided to relocate all refugees from North and Central Mentao to South Mentao. Relocation of the refugees was planned for 11 May. A similar agreement was achieved on 23 April in Damba, following which refugees from the periphery of Damba village were relocated to the Damba site. Refugees were assisted with plastic sheets while OXFAM provided them with water and set-up latrines on the site. As of 25 April, of the 3165 refugees (539 families) previously identified by UNHCR in Ferrerio village, 2,123 (365 families) have been relocated to Ferrerio site.

In Mauritania, UNHCR continues with the relocation of refugees from Fassala to Mbera. The registration process shows that the majority of the refugees are from Timbuktu (87%), Mopti (8%) and Ségou (5%) regions. The estimated breakdown of the refugee population is as follows:

- 61,1% in the age range of 0 to 17 years; 36,6% in the age range of 18 to 59 years; 3,3% in the age range of 60 years and above;
- 53% females and 47% males; 90% Tuareg and 10% Arabs (Berbers).

Monitoring of the refugee relocation process continues. Individual assessments and home visits are carried out to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable among those arriving in Mbera camp are given due attention.

UNHCR and Intersos launched an awareness campaign for pregnant and lactating women on the importance of prenatal care and immunization. A total of 99 pregnant and 31 lactating women benefited from this activity thus far. The campaign continues with the purpose to reach the entire refugee population.

To better coordinate preventive SGBV actions in the camp, UNHCR will re-adjust the Standard Operating Procedures already adopted in Mauritania to adapt to the context of the refugee camp in Mbera.

On 30 April, classes started in Mbera camp. To date, 2,221 refugee children (1,164 boys and 1,057 girls) have been enrolled in the four primary schools established in the camp. A gap of more than 81% of primary school aged children remains uncovered. Registration of children of school age continues. Only two of the four schools are equipped with latrines and one with a distribution point of water. The main gaps in the area of education remain the lack of 38 classrooms, fencing, school equipments and materials, latrines and radio handset to coordinate activities.

UNHCR increased the frequency of formal and informal meetings with community committees, such as the Women's and the Youth Committees, in order to improve community structures in Mbera. The challenge is to make the members of these committees understand the concepts of volunteerism, representation and the essential role and objectives of community committees.

From 7 to 11 May, UNHCR Senior Regional Public Health Officer was on mission to Mauritania to assess the possibility of engaging new partners in the area of public health and nutrition.

Life-saving assistance

UNHCR continues to provide refugees and the host population in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania with basic assistance including water, primary health care, tents and core-relief items. However, much more needs to be done to ensure that refugees receive assistance according to humanitarian standards.

In Niger, UNHCR has finalized an agreement with ACTED and AKARASS. ACTED will be responsible for camp management and water supply in Abala camp until June when the boreholes are expected to be completed in the camp. AKARASS will be responsible for water supply, registration and distribution of NFIs and primary health care in Tillia. Two other partners will be added for primary health care and psychological counseling of refugees with specific protection cases. Discussions are ongoing with Islamic Relief and Oxfam to handle environmental issues and provide assistance in all refugee sites in Tilabery and to handle educational issues in all refugee sites and camps. Islamic Relief will also be responsible for primary health care in Mangaize.

Two boreholes have been provided by OXFAM and WORLD Vision in Mangaize. Discussions with World Vision are ongoing to create one more borehole for the new camp establishment in Mangaize. 110m³ liter of water per day is provided to all refugees in Abala camp. PLAN Niger continues with the water trucking within the Ayorou region in the areas of Gawdel and Mbeidou and is planning to do the same in the sites of Ntaadabdad and Tinfagatt.

In Abala camp, 115 bathrooms, and 83 latrines are operational while 7 bathrooms and 29 toilets are under construction. In the new Mangaize refugee camp, 12 latrines are being constructed. Meanwhile in Mangaize, PLAN Niger, OXFAM, MSF and WORLD Vision have formed a group of hygiene workers. Measures have been put in place for training, coordination and harmonization of the different WASH activities. In Abala a sensitization programme on hygiene is ongoing and collection of wastage continues in Abala and Mangaize.

Nevertheless, close to 2000 latrines are currently needed in Abala camp to meet the standard of 20 persons per latrine. Currently there are only 131 functional latrines leaving a gap of 1,838 or nearly 93%. USD 500,000 is required immediately to bridge this gap. To cover all household needs in the medium term (approx. 9,000 households) UNHCR requires USD 2,217,150.

With a total population of over 39,000 refugees the drinking water requirements are almost 788 cubic meters/day with a specific allocation of 15 litres minimum per pers./day. The volume of water delivered at present to all sites is insufficient. The gap is of 403 m³ per day or 52% of the needs. UNHCR needs between USD 150,000-200,000 to find a permanent solution to supply water to more than 2,000 refugees in the camps.

UNHCR also needs to invest in supplying water to the livestock belonging to refugees in Abala camp. The boreholes drilled in the camp have produced salt water making it undrinkable. Water supply in existing wells is insufficient for livestock at present and the quantity is fast dwindling due to the dry season. If no solution is found, this will have a crucial impact on the main livelihood of these populations.

Despite recent distributions, less than half of the refugee population in Niger has received basic core items and a tent.

In Burkina Faso, the water situation also remains critical. As of 12 May refugees in Damba site are receiving 10lts/person/day whereas refugees in Mentao site are receiving approximately 8lts/person/day which is below UNHCR emergency standards of 10lts/pers/day and well below the standard of 20lts/person/day in stable conditions. UNHCR and its partner have started to drill and rehabilitate boreholes which will increase the water supply to an expected 15lts/person/day for some 15,000 to 16,000 refugees in Ferrerio site. Two boreholes per site will soon become operational in Gandafabou, Goudebou, Mentao and Damba sites. Water has been trucked to Mentao site by OXFAM. There are also insufficient sanitation facilities in the face of a growing refugee population. The same goes for NFIs and shelter. At present, only 15% of the shelter requirement and 35% of the NFIs requirements are being met and many refugees are in desperate need of shelter and basic relief items. Present resources cannot cover these needs. With the arrival of the rainy season in May, shelter and sanitation are a major concern.

In Mauritania, UNHCR organized two relocation convoys transporting 2105 refugees from Fassala to the Mbera refugee camp. UNHCR, working in close collaboration with the CSA, continued distribution of 391 tons of food, the equivalent of the 15 days food rations delivered for 56,000 Malian refugees. 95% of the refugees benefited from food distribution. In addition, UNHCR and WFP planned food distribution for 7,000 newcomers who will be receiving 75 tons of cereals, 16.1 tons of pulses, 5.4 tons of oil, 1.1 tons of salt, 10.75 tons of sugar and 4.3 tons of CSB.

21 water distributions points including 246 taps are installed in Mbera camp. On 4 May, a WASH assessment mission revealed that a total of 660m3 of water are supplied every day in Mbera. This is the equivalent of 560m3 or 9 liters/person/day for the refugees and 100 m3 for the host population (60m3 for the livestock and 40m3 for household consumption). Here again, the water situation is critical. The water delivered daily to refugees is barely reaching emergency standards and is far below the standard of 20lts/person/day in stable conditions.

The lack of latrines also continues to be a major concern for refugees in Mauritania. As at 13 May, UNHCR has installed 222 communal latrines (276 persons/latrine) in the Mbera refugee camp. Considering the standard of 20 persons per drop-hole in communal latrines, a minimum of 2,842 latrines need to be installed to allow refugees to live in satisfactory sanitation conditions. Plans are in place for Solidarites International to continue the construction of 2,500 latrines and Oxfam to install an additional 1,000.

As of today, 305 of the 450 hectares of land made available by the authorities for the camp have been cleared. In addition 3 schools, 1 reception and 1 distribution center and 7,396 family tents have been set up in Mbera refugee camp.

Despite our relentless efforts, thousands of families continue to be sheltered in community sheds, exposed to bad weather and protection risks, due to the lack of tents.

Financial situation

In light of the recent development in Mali and the continuous influx of Malian refugees in neighboring countries, UNHCR is currently revising its response plan and financial requirements based on increased planning figures. Assuming its leading coordination role in the refugee response, this revision is being done in close consultation with partners. UNHCR's financial requirements for Niger have been included in the revision of the CAP for the country and the Office will also be part of the Humanitarian Action Plans that are under development in Burkina Faso and Mauritania.

UNHCR is grateful to donors who have committed pledges amounting to USD 15.6 million to respond to this crisis but remains very preoccupied with the overall funding shortfall. From 4 to 7 May, the High Commissioner, António Guterres and WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin visited Niger to draw attention of the international community to the double folded humanitarian situation on food crisis compounded by the recent arrival of the Malian refugees and to make further appeals to the international community for more donor support to the Sahel region at large. UNHCR has thus far received only approximately 40% of the funding for the additional requirements for this crisis or 15% of the current total requirements.

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.

UNHCR is considering establishing sector working groups on education, health nutrition, and WASH, drawing from representatives in each of the existing cluster group to deal specifically with refugees.

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 has two sub clusters: child protection (UNICEF) and gender-based violence (UNFPA). It meets once every two weeks except in emergencies.