



HIGHLIGHTS

6,934

refugee returnees have benefitted from facilitation assistance for their voluntary return to Mali since Jan 2016.

850

mud shelters and traditional shelters built since Jan 2016 to help returnees, IDPs and host community members return to safety and dignity in the privacy of a home.

8,453

refugee returnees have received a one-time cash assistance in 2016 to support their self-determined basic needs.

695

urban refugee children received financial assistance to start the 2016/2017 school year.

Population of concern

584,681 people of concern in Mali

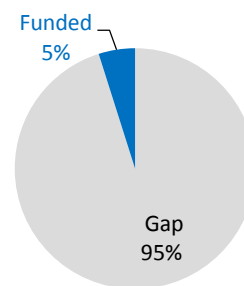
135,985 Malians still in exile in the region

Country	Total
Asylum Seekers (mixed origin)*	363
Returned refugees (gov't)	55,539
Refugees in Mali (mixed origin)*	17,858
IDPs (gov't)	36,690
IDP Returnees (gov't)	474 231
Grand Total	584,681

Figures as at 31 October 2016

Funding

USD 49.2 million requested



UNHCR Presence



Map Sources: UNCS, UNHCR. The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Creation date: 07 March 2016.

Offices:

6 offices located in: Bamako, Gao (covering Kidal), Kayes, Menaka, Mopti, Timbuktu

Staff:

71 national staff
22 international staff
8 Int'l UN Volunteers, 2 Nat'l UN Volunteers

Governmental Partners:

- Ministry for Solidarity and Humanitarian Action
- National Commission for Refugees

Non-governmental partners:

- ACTED
- Association Malienne pour la Survie du Sahel (AMSS)
- Luxembourg Red Cross
- Mercy Corps
- Stop Sahel

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- The security situation in the north and central regions of Mali remains fragile amid the slow implementation of the 2015 Peace and Reconciliation Accord. While armed conflict is not expected to resume, the growing threat of terrorism and criminality is having a serious impact on humanitarian access to persons of concern in the north. Moreover, persistent intercommunity tensions continue to impede the voluntary returns of Malian refugees.
- Despite the volatile security situation, UNHCR has facilitated the voluntary return of nearly 6,934 Malian refugees from the asylum countries of Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania since January 2016.
- In an effort to reduce the risk of statelessness and strengthen the protection of stateless persons, the Malian government officially acceded to the 1954 and the 1961 conventions on statelessness in May 2016.
- Three tripartite commissions between Mali-UNHCR-Mauritania, Mali-UNHCR-Burkina Faso and Mali-UNHCR-Niger are actively cooperating to support more favorable conditions for the voluntary return of Malians who have been forced to flee.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- In order to support a more favorable protection environment, protection monitors located in the regions of Gao, Kidal, Mopti, Menaka and Timbuktu have recorded **571 protection incidents** since June 2016 among refugee returnee, IDP and host populations. The highest number of incidents continue to occur in Gao with key issues relating to extortion, injuries, death threats and looting. Individual cases have been referred to partners in the Protection Cluster for urgent response.
- UNHCR supported the documentation needs of Mauritanian refugees in Kayes region by distributing **2,537 birth certificates** and **130 identity cards**. Moreover, **299 refugee children** received supplementary judgements to access birth certificates in 2017.
- **695 urban refugee children in Bamako** (460 in primary school, 235 in secondary school) received financial assistance in order to start the 2016/2017 school year in October 2016.
- Since September 2016, **26 sensitization sessions on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV)** have been organized in the regions of Gao, Menaka and Timbuktu to raise awareness on prevention measures and consequences of SGBV. These sessions reached 832 returned refugees and host community members.
- Returned refugees, IDPs and host communities located in the regions of Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu have benefitted from the construction and restoration of **850 shelters**: 400 traditional shelters and 450 mud shelters. This assistance helps them restore personal security, dignity and self-sufficiency.
- **19 boreholes** have been restored/constructed to improve access to potable water, health and hygiene for returned refugees and host community members in Gao, Menaka, Mopti and Timbuktu, as well as for Mauritanian refugees and host community members in Kayes region.
- **8,453 returned refugees** in Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu received a one-time **cash assistance** to help them access self-determined basic needs and reintegrate into their communities in a safe and dignified manner.
- **Nine literacy centres** in Kayes region are providing a learning space for nearly 250 adult Mauritanian refugees and host community members to develop their basic literacy skills in order to support their self-reliance and integration.
- **93 refugees from Ivory Coast** who fled their homes following a civil war that began in 2002 were provided with assistance to facilitate their voluntary repatriation to their homeland.

CRITICAL UNMET NEEDS

- **6,310 returned refugees** in Gao, Mopti, Menaka and Timbuktu continue to await for cash assistance to meet their immediate needs.
- **163 urban refugees** who have requested support for income-generating activities continue to wait for assistance.
- **3,089 returned refugees** identified as persons with specific needs remain unable to access protection and assistance support.

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