



Conference for the 16 days of activism to end violence against women with UNHCR presence © UNHCR Mali

KEY FIGURES

767

birth certificates were delivered to Mauritanian refugee children in the region of Kayes

1,484

Malian returnees have benefited from cash-based assistance in November

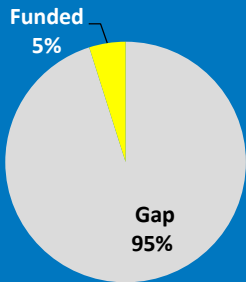
49

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

FUNDING

USD 49.2 million

requested for the operation

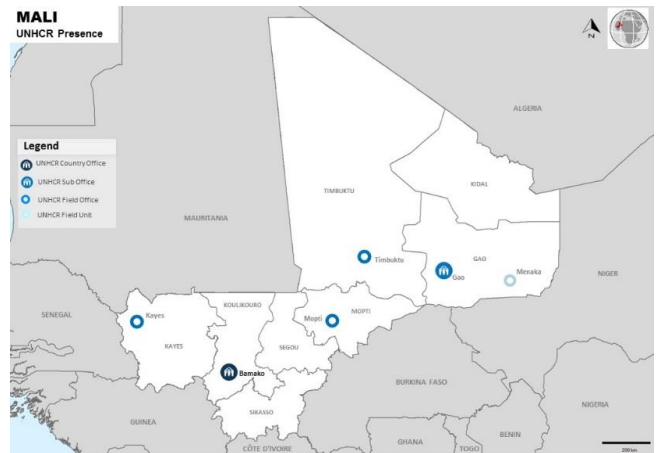


PRIORITIES

- 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

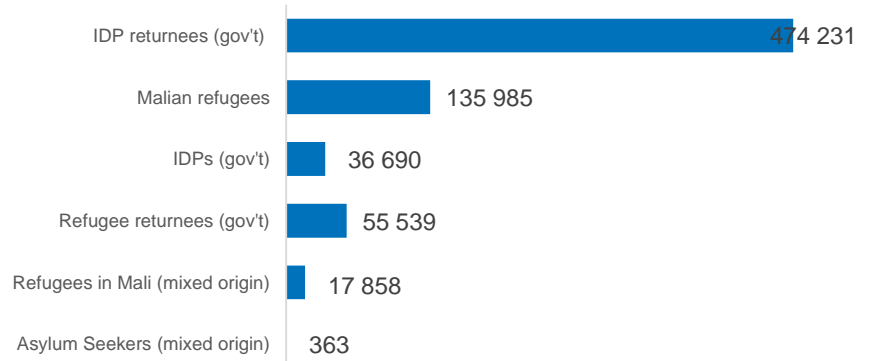
HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR's partner, Association Malienne pour la Survie du Sahel (AMSS), identified 49 protection incidents among forcibly displaced and local population members in the regions of Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu. Gao recorded the highest number of incidents with extortion representing the majority of incidents.



- UNHCR, in partnership with Mercy Corps, distributed a one-time cash-based assistance to 1,484 Malian returned refugees in the regions of Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu to support their access to basic needs and reintegration.
- UNHCR in cooperation with its partners and populations of concern held participatory evaluations based on age, gender and diversity in the regions of Bamako, Kayes, Mopti, Gao, Menaka and Timbuktu. These evaluations provide the basis for UNHCR's country operation planning for 2017 and 2018.

Population of concern (October 2016)



UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

Operational Context

UNHCR continues to operate in a volatile security environment with threat of terrorism, criminality and intercommunity violence affecting humanitarian access in northern and central Mali. In the north, violations of basic human rights are reported and certain local populations continue to lack access to public services, documentation, water, education and food security. Some 134,814 Malian refugees remain in neighbouring countries and 36,690 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. 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.

On 20 November, Mali held municipal elections amid serious challenges posed by the absence of candidate lists in 15 communes in the north, as well as security, climatic and logistical challenges in 50 other communes in other northern and central regions. The former rebel coalition *Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad* (CMA) had earlier rejected the elections through intimidation and check-points. Incidents of destruction of electoral material, threats, and violence were recorded in the north and centre in the lead up to and on the day of the election. The final election results have yet to be published and are expected to influence the security situation and the future of the Algiers Agreement. The implementation of the Algiers Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation continues to confront delays with respect to the deployment of mixed patrols, the installation of interim authorities in the North and the cantonment process.

The threat of terrorism persists with security forces facing almost daily attacks in the northern and central regions. In the northern regions, the threats of IED and abduction of Westerners remain high, while the central regions face increasing threats from active extremist armed groups. Security measures in the city of Bamako in southern Mali are also intensifying leading up to the Africa-France Summit that will take place in January 2017. On 6 and 7 November, the town of Banamba located 140km north of Bamako was attacked by armed men in vehicles who targeted a prison, national police force and a bank. The assailants fled after freeing 21 prisoners and stealing vehicles and motorcycles. On 29 November, two suicide car bombs exploded near Gao airport killing both bombers, injuring two security agents and causing significant damage to MINUSMA living quarters. An investigation is under way.

The threat of criminality also remains elevated, particularly with robberies along certain major highways in the north and centre. On 16 November, five staff members of an NGO were robbed on the N'Gourma-Douentza route by four unidentified individuals. On 17 November, staff of another NGO travelling in Alata located 130km north of Menaka were robbed of their possessions by armed men. Humanitarian actors face constraints with respect to accessing persons of concern in zones of elevated insecurity.

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

- In accordance with the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO) and the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), the Protection Cluster has submitted 19 projects by 18 organizations, 12 of which are NGOs, to seek funding to cover its humanitarian response in 2017 for a total of USD 30.8 million.

- **Mopti:** On 4 November, the protection cluster in concert with the civil affairs section of MINUSMA restarted its social cohesion commission, *Groupe Thématique Cohésion Sociale*. The commission proposed a template to collect information on conflicts in the region.
 - **Gao:** From 1 - 4 November, in the context of protection cluster coordination, UNHCR, UNMAS and UNICEF, held capacity building sessions with 24 field officers on the fight against anti-personnel landmines. The training will help trainers carry out sensitization sessions to persons of concern under UNHCR's mandate in return areas in the north and centre of Mali.
 - **Gao:** On 18 November, the protection cluster participated in a coordination meeting on civil-military activities held by OCHA. The discussions were focused on prevention and awareness activities related to the risk of mines in the village of Hanouna and the regular exchange of information of forces patrolling major highways to facilitate humanitarian access and circulation of personnel and goods.
 - **Timbuktu:** On 15 November, the regional protection cluster had a meeting with the head of protection of civilians unit of MINUSMA to discuss the protection matrix and response to protection incidents
 - **Timbuktu:** On 16 November, the regional protection cluster participated to the regional humanitarian coordination committee led by the governor of the Timbuktu region. 58 SGBV cases were reported between May and October, 80% of which were referred. 36.350 persons were sensitized in the period and 194 protection incidents reported (83 of which referred). 203 persons received an ID card and 889 children birth certificates.
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- **2nd Anniversary of Statelessness Campaign:** UNHCR celebrated the second anniversary of the launch of the worldwide campaign to end statelessness, *#IBelong*, by hosting a series of sensitization activities including a roundtable on Radio Mikado, a SMS messaging campaign and an interview series with ORTM television show.
 - **Participatory Evaluations based on age, gender and diversity:** UNHCR in conjunction with its partners and populations of concern held participatory evaluations based on age, gender and diversity in the regions of Bamako, Kayes, Mopti, Gao, Menaka and Timbuktu. The discussions engaged populations on concern on a range of issues from health, protection, education, food security, shelter and livelihoods. These evaluations provide the basis for UNHCR's country operation planning for 2017 and 2018, helping humanitarian actors better understand the ongoing needs and the knowledge, skills and capacities within populations to address those needs.
 - **Voluntary Repatriation:** In October, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary return of 147 Malian refugees from Niger whereby the large majority have been registered in the commune of Anderamboukane in Menaka region. Since January 2016, nearly 6,707 Malian refugees from Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania have benefitted from UNHCR's facilitation assistance for their voluntary return to Mali.
 - **Intention of Return:** A verification and registration exercise of Ivorian refugees in Sikasso region found that 57 households (199 individuals) expressed interest for a voluntary return to Côte d'Ivoire. 41 households indicated an interest to return by the end of 2016, while the rest indicated 2017.
 - **Registration:** In October 2016, the *Direction Nationale du Développement Social* (DNDS) registered 1,187 returnees from Gao (485), Menaka (72), Kidal (2) and Timbuktu (628).
 - **Cash-based assistance:** As of 27 November, 1,484 Malian returned refugees have benefited from a one-time cash-based assistance in the regions of Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu. This cash-based assistance is expected to help returned refugees meet their immediate needs upon return.
 - **Protection Monitoring:** UNHCR's partner, *Association Malienne pour la Survie du Sahel* (AMSS), identified 49 protection incidents among forcibly displaced and host community members in the regions of Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu. The region of Gao recorded the highest number of incidents with more than 50% of cases relating to extortion. Other incidents were linked to injuries, death threats, looting, injuries and sexual violence. Since the implementation of the protection monitoring program in June 2016, 583 incidents have been collected.

■ Documentation:

- **Sensitization campaigns:** In Kayes region, UNHCR's partner, Stop Sahel, held 15 sensitization sessions on the importance of birth declarations and documentation including birth certificates and naturalization. The sessions reached 513 Mauritanian refugees and host community members with one birth declared on refugee sites as a result of the sensitization campaign.
- **Birth certificates:** 767 birth certificates were distributed throughout 39 refugee sites in Kayes region. This documentation prevents statelessness and allows children born in Mali to exercise their rights with proper documentation.

■ SGBV:

- UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, held 12 sensitization sessions on the consequences of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), early marriage and excision reached 180 Mauritanian refugees and host community members in Kayes region. As a result of these sensitization efforts, two refugee women received counselling on the consequences of early marriage.
- Three SGBV prevention and awareness sessions were organized by UNHCR's partner AMSS in Timbuktu reaching 71 participants including returned refugees and host community members. One session was held in Gao reaching 15 participants.
- UNHCR organized activities with government and civil society partners in Bamako, Gao, Mopti and Timbuktu to promote the United Nation's "16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence" hosted by the *Direction régionale de la promotion de la femme, de l'enfant et de la famille*.

- **Persons with Specific Needs:** UNHCR, through its partner ACTED, provided assistance to 24 urban refugees in Bamako in need of health and protection assistance.



Health

- **Health Insurance:** UNHCR, through its partner ACTED, helped 5 urban refugee households (10 individuals) gain access to more affordable health care services with an aim to improve their health status. In the region of Kayes, UNHCR's partner, Stop Sahel, organized seven sensitization sessions to Mauritanian refugees to raise their awareness on registration procedures to access health care insurance.

- **Ebola Kits:** UNHCR distributed Ebola kits composed of 4,030 cartons of soap, 160 bottles of bleach, 4,327 buckets with covers and 54 hand washing kits to refugees and host community members located in nine communes in Kayes region. The kits aim to help refugees take preventative measures in order to fight against Ebola disease.



Distribution of ebola kits on 27 November in the Kayes region © UNHCR Mali

- **Pre-Natal Health:** In Kayes region, UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, held eight sensitization sessions on the advantages of prenatal consultations and contraception in eight sites reaching 159 participants from the Mauritanian refugee and host communities. In addition, two sessions on the importance of family planning reached 51 female refugees at two refugee sites in Kayes region.



Water and Sanitation

■ Construction and Restoration of Water Points

- UNHCR, through its partners Luxembourg Red Cross in Timbuktu and Stop Sahel in Gao and Mopti, constructed and restored 14 water points with 12 in Timbuktu and 2 in Mopti this month. Each completed water point was accompanied by social cohesion and hygiene sensitization sessions around water points for local populations including returned refugees, IDPs and host community members, as well as the implementation and training of a water management committee. Currently, there are 6 water points being

restored in Gao. The project, which currently stands at a 79% execution rate, aims to serve 24,961 persons of concern in priority communes in the north and centre to improve their access to water and reduce diseases related to water and hygiene.

■ **Water Management and Hygiene Sensitization Sessions**

- Two sensitization sessions on the importance of the management of water points were held in Kayes region at the refugee sites of Hassidougou (35 Mauritanian refugees) and Khairou (35 Mauritanian refugees).
- In support of Sanitation Day organized by *Jeune Chambre Internationale de Tombouctou* (JCI), UNHCR donated 16 wheelbarrows, 64 shovels, 320 bags and 20 cartons of soap to reinforce hygiene and sanitation efforts in the local community.

Shelter and NFIs

Shelter and NFI Cluster

- On 16 November, the shelter/NFI cluster in Timbuktu held a regional meeting with humanitarian actors in the region. The cluster presented results realized by humanitarian actors in Timbuktu noting that 18,472 vulnerable persons had been assisted over the course of the year. This achievement, which represents 40.5% of the actual needs in Timbuktu, was noted as unsatisfactory given the large unmet needs that remain in the region. Limited funding and the insufficient number of actors to implement shelter and NFI activities in the region were cited as some key obstacles.

- **School Assistance:** UNHCR delivered NFI kits composed of soap, a mosquito net and a jerry can to students attending four schools in the neighborhood of Hamagangou in the commune of Timbuktu.

- **Shelter Assistance:** UNHCR, through its partners Luxembourg Red Cross in Timbuktu and Stop Sahel in Gao and Mopti, have completed 100% of traditional shelters and 97% of mud shelters to support IDPs, returned refugees, IDP returnees and vulnerable host community members in northern Mali. Shelter assistance is vital to restoring personal security, self-sufficiency and dignity of persons forced to flee or left vulnerable due to the conflict.

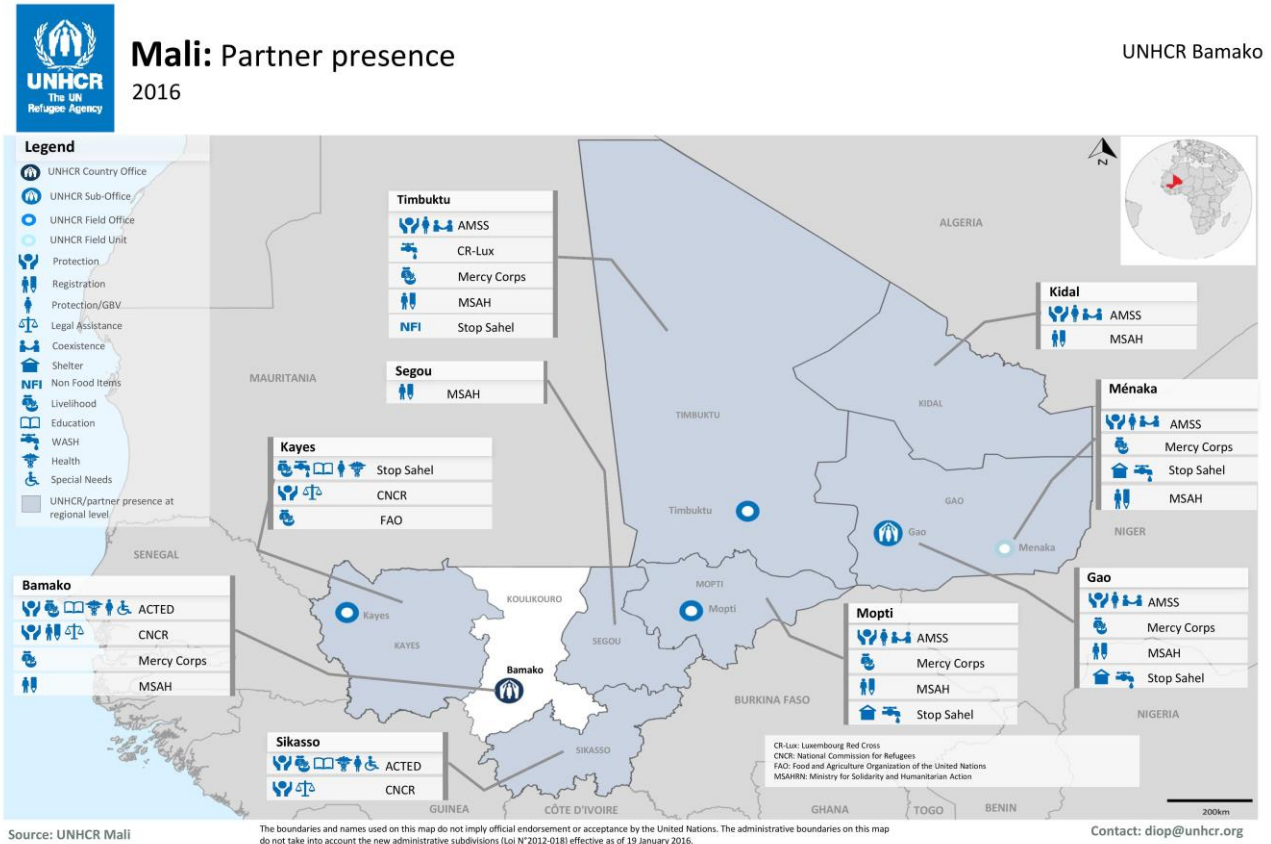


A rehabilitated shelter in Douentza, in the Mopti region © UNHCR Mali

Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- **Promoting Income-Generating Activities:** UNHCR, through its partner Mercy Corps, is supporting refugee returnees and host community members in northern Mali to receive assistance for their income-generating activities in view of promoting a smooth reintegration and peaceful coexistence in their host communities.
 - In Mopti region, 95 women who received goats to support their income-generating activities, benefitted from a training session on goat fattening techniques and vaccination preparation.
- **Strengthening Self-Sufficiency:** Eight urban refugees benefitted from a professional training to support their vocational aspirations and livelihood activities. Overall, 16 out of 21 urban refugees targeted for the year have benefited from income-generating kits.

Working in partnership

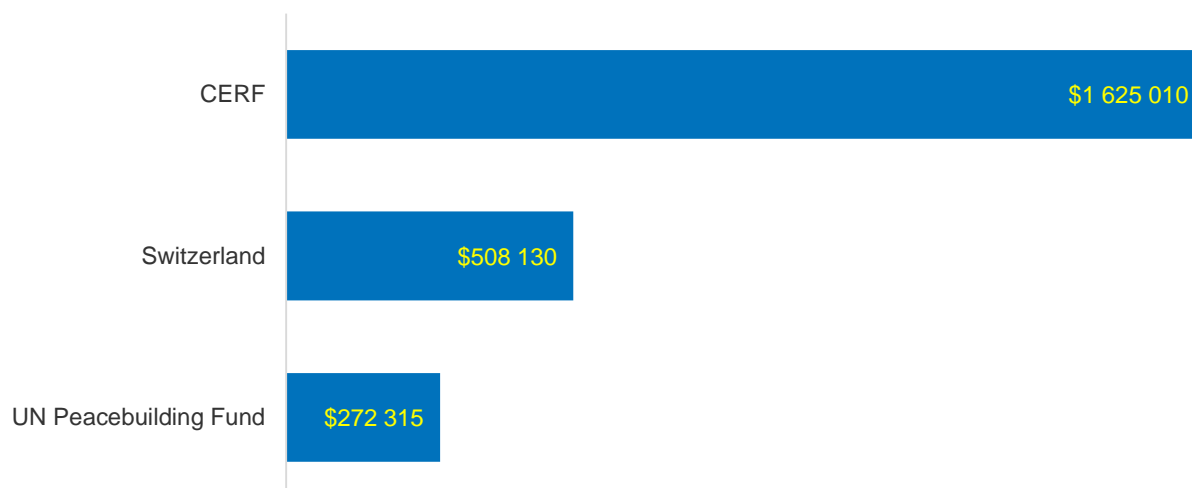


FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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



We would like to extend a special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2016 including: Australia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America and Private Donors Spain.

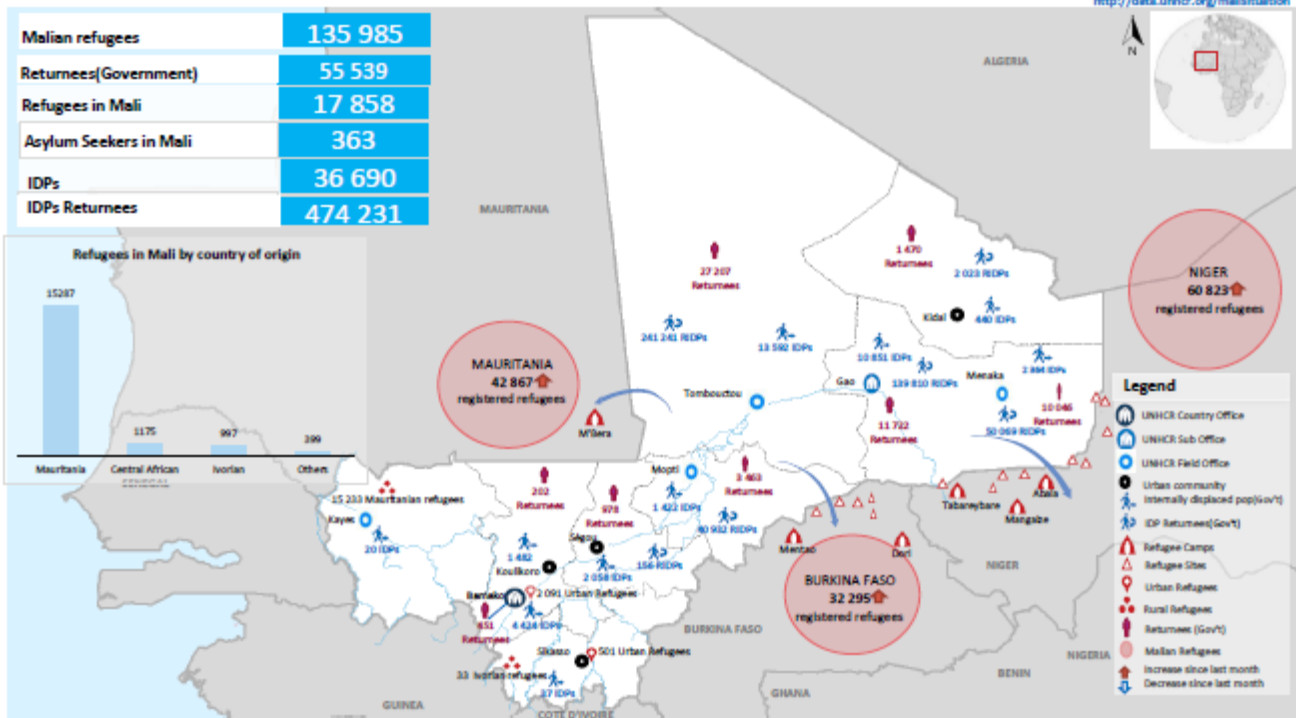
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ANNEXES

Mali situation map



Mali: Refugees, returnees and Internally displaced populations
31 October 2016



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Malian refugees (Sources: UNHCR)

Refugees in Mali (Sources: Government of Mali, CNCR)

Malian Returnees and IDPs (Sources: Government of Mali, DNDS)

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