



01-30 September 2016

UNHCR's partner, Luxembourg Red Cross, restored nine classrooms in the region of Timbuktu. © UNHCR Timbuktu

## KEY FIGURES

**395**

Urban refugee children received financial assistance to access primary school education.

**481**

Returned refugees, IDPs, IDP returnees and host community members received vouchers to support their agricultural activities in Mopti region.

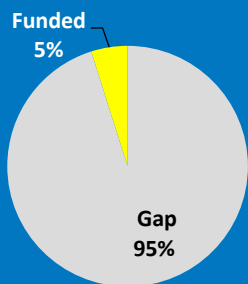
**9**

Classrooms located in zones of return were restored in the districts of Timbuktu and Goundam to help children return to school.

## FUNDING

**USD 49.2 million**

requested for the operation

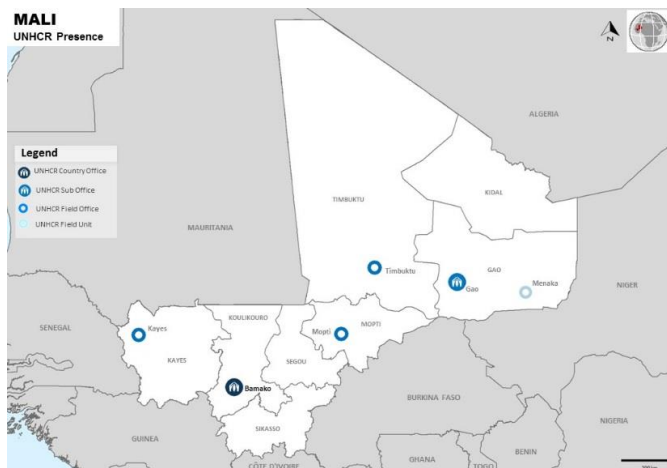


## PRIORITIES

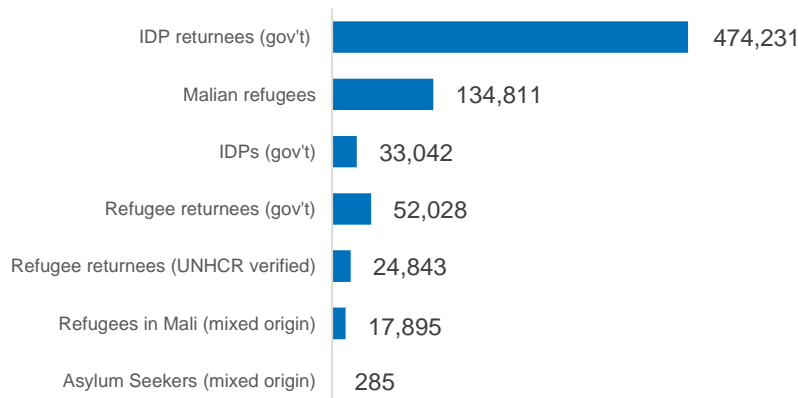
- 850 Malian IDP returnee households targeted to receive adequate and durable shelter
- 6,000 Malian refugee returnees targeted to receive a one-time cash-based assistance
- 2,500 Mauritanian refugees and local community members targeted to receive improved access to potable water
- 1,000 refugee children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

## HIGHLIGHTS

- On 30 September, UNHCR participated in the inaugural meeting of the Tripartite Commission between the Republic of Mali, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania and UNHCR on the voluntary return of Malian refugees living in Mauritania. The meeting adopted the rules of procedure and put in place a technical working group.
- UNHCR's partner, Association Malienne pour la Survie du Sahel (AMSS), identified 58 protection incidents in the regions of Gao and Timbuktu. Five survivors of sexual violence were referred to partners for psycho-social and medical support.
- 19 sensitization campaigns on social cohesion and peaceful coexistence organized by UNHCR's partner, AMSS, reached 450 returnees and host community members in the regions of Gao and Timbuktu.



## Population of concern (August 2016)



## UPDATE ON ACHIEVEMENTS

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### Operational Context

UNHCR operates in a volatile security environment with threats of renewed armed conflict, terrorism, criminality and intercommunity violence affecting humanitarian access in parts of the north and centre. 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 134,811 Malian refugees remain in neighbouring countries and 33,042 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.

Tensions persist in the region of Kidal where pro-governmental forces GATIA (Groupe d'autodéfense touareg imghad et alliés) and elements of the former rebel CMA (Coordination des mouvements de l'Azawad) continue to clash. Rifts and fissures between and within groups pose potential concerns with respect to the control of their activities and the security of populations in those zones. Ongoing insecurity has complicated efforts to assess humanitarian needs of displaced populations affected by the renewed armed clashes.

In the northern regions, the threat of abduction of Westerners and IEDs remains high, while the central regions faces threats from active extremist armed groups. In the midst of small-scale attacks on national security forces positions and convoys, on 2 September a group of armed men entered the town of Boni in Mopti region, taking temporary control of the town, causing fire destruction to two public offices, looting and the kidnapping of one individual. The government forces, assisted by MINUSMA, returned to take control of the town the following day. The attack was claimed later by the terrorist group Ansar Dine. Responding to the growing threats of criminality and terrorism remain major challenges to national defence forces. The presence of extremist and criminal groups carrying out attacks on routes and villages north of Ségou and in the region of Mopti is increasingly harming the social and economic conditions of local communities, threatening their ability to engage in socio-economic activities critical to rebuilding their lives. In addition, humanitarian actors have noted a heightened level of attacks limiting their access to persons of concern as well as providing vital assistance. 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.

In Bamako, refugees started on 7 September a peaceful sit-in at the UNHCR office. UNHCR representatives held several dialogues to find solutions with respect to the rights and duties of refugees, Malian laws and the capacities of UNHCR. On 16 September, Malian police forces, at the request of the Malian National Commission for Refugees (CNCR), evacuated the group of urban refugees who remained inside the UNHCR Office in Bamako. UNHCR is currently working towards finding solutions to address urgent needs of these refugees.

## Achievements

### Protection

#### Protection Cluster

- The national Protection Cluster participated in a special reunion hosted by the UN Humanitarian Coordinator on the insecurity affecting humanitarian actors in Menaka. According to a group of humanitarian NGOs operating in the region, 25 percent of attacks against humanitarian actors take place in Menaka region. The growing insecurity of personnel and equipment are preventing humanitarian actors from accessing persons of concern and implementing projects. Humanitarian NGOs and UN agencies are making collective efforts to carry out sensitization campaigns and advocacy activities on humanitarian principles in the region of Menaka.
- On 28 September, the Protection Cluster in Timbuktu discussed the process of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) in the region. On 30 September, a debriefing session with the inter-agency mission on the Gender-Based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS) to discuss trainings, the revitalization of the GBV sub-group and the monitoring of GBVIMS actors.
- On 29 September, the Protection Cluster in Gao analyzed the protection environment in the regions of Gao, Menaka and particularly Kidal. Cluster members noted that the security situation has degraded as a result of the uncontrolled circulation of arms and armed individuals, tensions between armed groups in Kidal and the slow implementation of the DDR process. Many community members have expressed frustration at the unidentified perpetrators of acts of banditry.

- **Tripartite Commission:** The Malian Government hosted the inaugural Tripartite Commission between Mali-Mauritania-UNHCR on the voluntary repatriation of Malian refugees living in Mauritania on Hotel Salam in Bamako on 30 September. The inaugural meeting approved rules of procedure and put in place a technical working group to strengthen the coordination and cooperation between the three partners to support the voluntary return of Malian refugees living in Mauritania. As of 26 September, 12,297 Malian refugees have returned home from Mauritania. The Tripartite Commission is expected to hold its next meeting in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

- **Voluntary Repatriation:** Over the month of September, UNHCR facilitated the voluntary return of 187 Malian refugees from Mauritania (83) and Niger (104). The returned refugees primarily reside in zones of return in Timbuktu and Ménaka. Since January 2016, UNHCR has supported nearly 6,560 Malian refugees from Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania with their voluntary return to restart their lives at home.

- **Registration:** In August 2016, the Direction Nationale du Développement Social (DNDS) registered 832 returnees from Gao (317), Menaka (391), Ségou (61), Koulikoro (34) and Timbuktu (29).

- **Protection Monitoring:** UNHCR's partner, Association Malienne pour la Survie du Sahel (AMSS), identified 58 protection incidents among displaced and host community members in the regions of Gao (49) and Timbuktu (9). The protection incidents relate to a number of key issues including extortion, property damage, death threats and sexual violence. Five survivors of sexual violence were referred to partners for psycho-social and medical support. Since the implementation of the protection monitoring program in June 2016, 358 incidents have been collected.



A Malian refugee returning from Burkina Faso receives his civil documentation on 2 September in Timbuktu.  
© UNHCR Timbuktu

Socio-cultural pressures, the lack of sensitization and information have been identified as factors preventing victims from raising complaints or reporting incidents in their zones. Two sensitization sessions on protection monitoring were organized in Gao and Timbuktu reaching 87 participants.

- **Child Protection:** UNHCR held a workshop on child protection on 10 September in Timbuktu to reinforce the capacities of 20 participating NGOs in addressing child protection and Sexual and Gender-based Violence (SGBV).
- **SGBV:** UNHCR, through its partner AMSS, carried out two sensitization campaigns to prevent SGBV and forced marriages on 25 September in the commune of Anderamboukane in Menaka region and the district of Bourem in Gao region. These sessions reached 117 people helping them better understand the causes, consequences and ways to prevent SGBV.
- **Persons with specific needs:** Fifteen urban refugees benefited from medical assistance including nine cases of chronic illnesses, three non-chronic illnesses, two protection cases and one case of urgent assistance.



UNHCR hosts a workshop for NGOs in Timbuktu on child protection and SGBV issues on 10 September. © UNHCR Timbuktu

## Education

- **Back to School Assistance:** UNHCR provided financial assistance to help 395 urban refugee children return to primary school on 2 October. This represents 100% of urban refugee children in Bamako and Faragouran. UNHCR is also supporting 178 urban refugee youths identified as vulnerable or coming from vulnerable households to attend secondary school. This support aims to give children access to education to support their development and integration in local communities.
- On 29 September, UNHCR in Gao advocated on behalf of a returned refugee student who was refused entrance into a school he had attended prior to his exile to Niger. After several interactions with government officials in the region, the returnee student was successfully re-admitted to begin his studies at the school on 3 October.

## Health

- UNHCR, through its partner ACTED, registered 26 urban refugee households (53 individuals) to health insurance plans. Since January 2016, 79 urban refugee households (236 individuals) have received health insurance assistance to help them gain access to more affordable health care services and improve their health status.
- In Kayes region, UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, identified two suspected cases of cervical cancer among Mauritanian refugees and referred their cases to a local hospital. One case was found positive, another negative. One survivor was assisted to obtain appropriate treatment and medicine.

## Water and Sanitation

- UNHCR's partner, Luxembourg Red Cross, signed an engagement agreement with Ets. Bakary Doucouré, to install six solar water pumps with storage devices in school environments in the communes of Douékirié, Haribomo, Kaneye, Timbuktu and Tonka in the region of Timbuktu. Currently, as a result of insufficient financial resources to pay water bills, many schools remain deprived of water. The installation of these water pumps aims will help schools become

autonomous in water provision to improve students’ attendance rates and reduce their need to search for water from neighboring households. Health, sanitation and environmental conditions are also expected to improve, allowing for schools to potentially build small vegetable gardens to support nutritional needs of students.

- Four information sessions on the prevention of malaria and peaceful coexistence were held around water points in the region of Mopti. The sessions reached 146 people including 90 females to help reinforce links between different communities and promote conflict prevention.

## Shelter and NFIs

### Shelter and NFI Cluster

- The Shelter Cluster participated in the Task Force Kidal meeting to follow-up on recommendations of humanitarian country team to respond and meet critical needs of displaced households in the region of Kidal following clashes on 21, 22 and 27 July.
- Shelter Assistance:** UNHCR, through its partners Luxembourg Red Cross in Timbuktu and Stop Sahel in Gao and Mopti, are advancing in their efforts to restore and build shelters to support IDPs, returned refugees, IDP returnees and vulnerable host community members. Presently 87% of mud shelters and 94% of traditional shelters have been completed. The breakdown by region is as follows:

Shelter Type	Regions		
	Timbuktu	Gao	Mopti
Mud Shelter (# completed/ % of target)	171 (78%)	126 (97%)	86 (86%)
Traditional Shelter (# completed/ % of target)	180 (100%)	118 (98%)	84 (84%)

- Restoring Classrooms:** Six classrooms of Alfa Daouana School in the district of Timbuktu have been restored by UNHCR’s partner, Luxembourg Red Cross, allowing 1,046 children (522 boys and 524 girls) to return to primary school on 3 October. In the district of Goundam, three classrooms of Alassane Alamir School were also restored allowing 166 children (77 boys and 89 girls) to return back to primary school.

There are unmet critical needs in terms of restoring more classrooms and constructing schools in Timbuktu region as classes remain overcrowded with an insufficient number of teachers, desks and benches. At Alfa Douana school, the average number of students per restored classroom is 174, while at Alassane Alamir school, the average is 166.



Students attend the first day of primary school at Alfa Daouana School in the district of Timbuktu. Credit © UNHCR Timbuktu

- **NFI Assistance:** On 7 and 8 September, UNHCR, through its partner Stop Sahel, provided NFI assistance (558 soap cartons, 300 tarpaulins, 558 clothes and 558 jerry cans) to support 3,000 persons affected by floods in the commune of Bara, district of Ansongo, in Gao region on 17 and 18 July. In addition, 4,566 individuals (982 households) including IDPs, IDP returnees, returnees and vulnerable host community members received NFI assistance in the region of Mopti, including from the Association of Displaced Women in Sévaré and the Association of Displaced Persons in Fatoma.



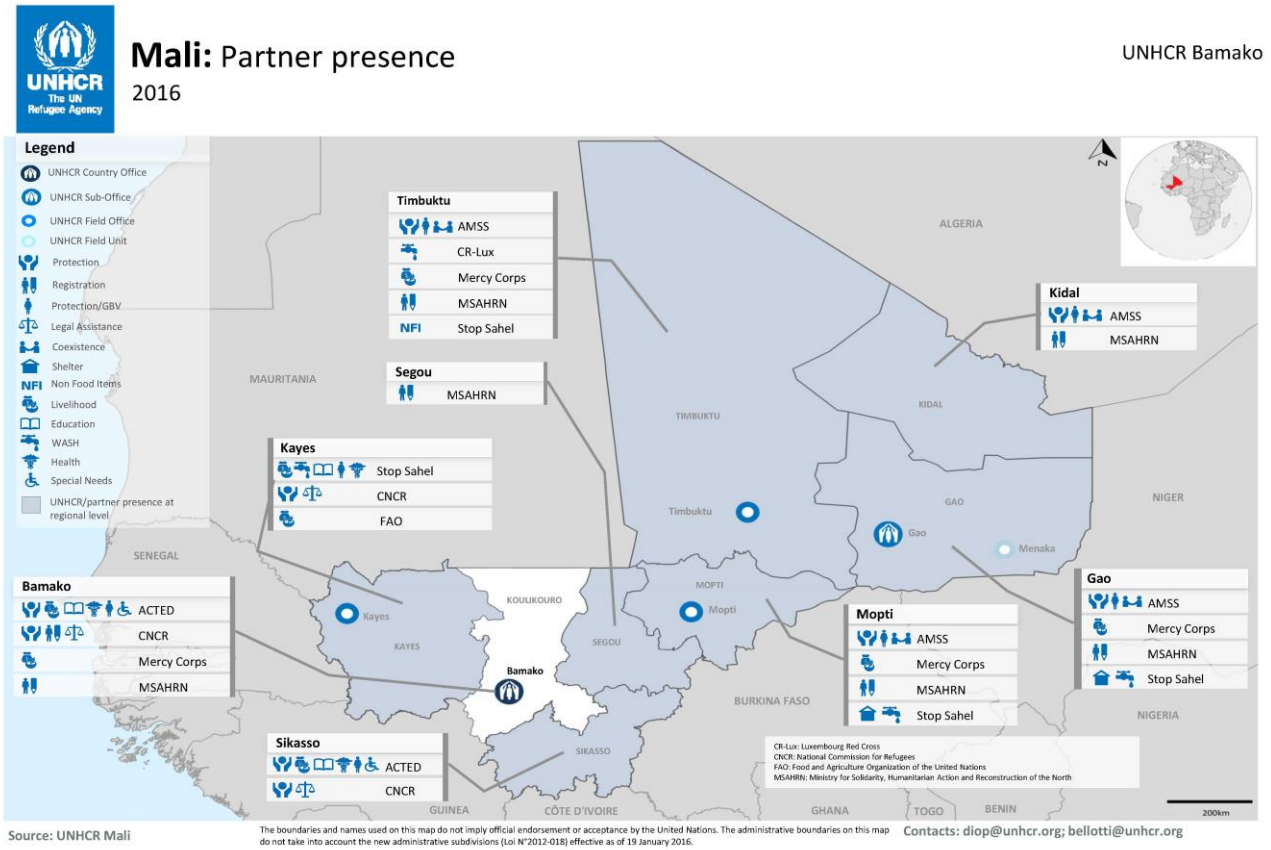
UNHCR delivers NFI items to internally displaced persons in the commune of Fatoma in Mopti region.

Credit © UNHCR Mopti

## Community Empowerment and Self-Reliance

- **Promoting Income-Generating Activities:** UNHCR, through its partner Mercy Corps, is supporting refugee returnees and host community members in the north of Mali to receive assistance for their income-generating activities in view of promoting a smooth reintegration and peaceful coexistence in their host communities.
  - In Gao region, UNHCR provided 10 wheelbarrows to the women's association of Djidara to support their vegetable gardening activities. In addition, UNHCR's partner Mercy Corps provided the first instalment of grants to 55 female beneficiaries including five SGBV survivors, to support their income-generating activities. The grants will support returnees, IDPs and vulnerable host community members pursue their small business activities.
  - In Mopti region, seed and equipment vouchers were distributed to 481 returned refugees, IDPs, IDP returnees and host community members to support their agricultural activities in the communes of Douentza, Haire and Hombori. Eight beneficiaries received goat vouchers to support their pastoral farming activities and training was also provided to 511 female beneficiaries to support their organizational capacities to run village-level savings and credit associations. Additionally, Mercy Corps provided the first instalment of grants to 55 female beneficiaries to support their income-generating activities.
- **Social Cohesion:** UNHCR's partner, AMSS, carried out 13 sensitization campaigns on social cohesion and peaceful coexistence reaching 247 individuals (137 men and 110 women) including returnees and host community members in the region of Gao. These discussions offered a space for women to discuss the difficulties they encountered in cases of conflict and exchange favourable ways to resolve conflicts and promote harmonious co-existence. In Timbuktu, six sensitization campaigns took place in the region of Timbuktu whereby 203 participants (98 men and 105 women) learnt about the importance of civil documentation and processes to mobilize children to return back to school.

# Working in partnership

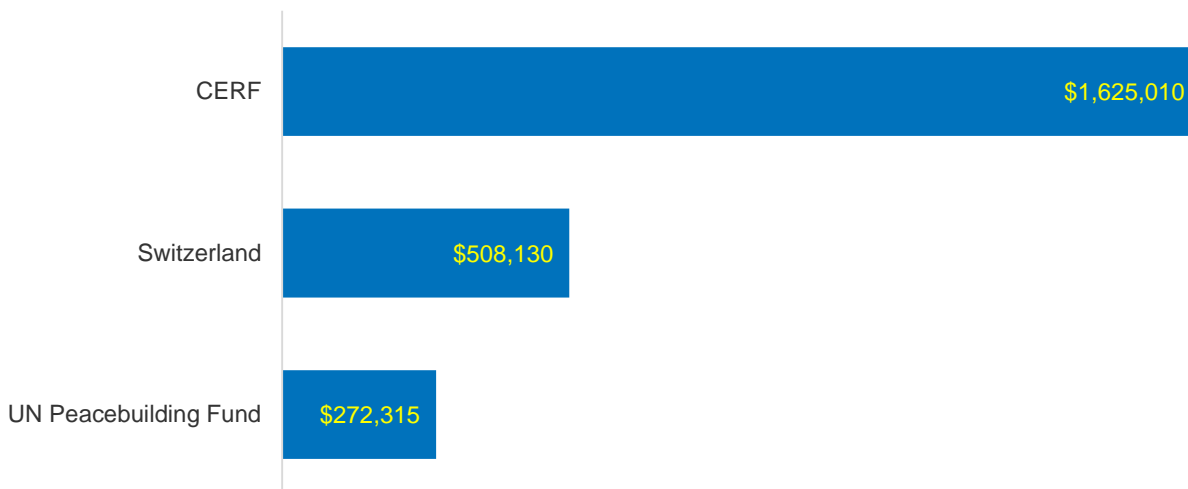


## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

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.

Thanks to other donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2016: Algeria, Argentina, Belgium, Costa Rica, Estonia, Finland, Holy See, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Monaco, Mozambique, New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay and Private Donors.



# ANNEXES

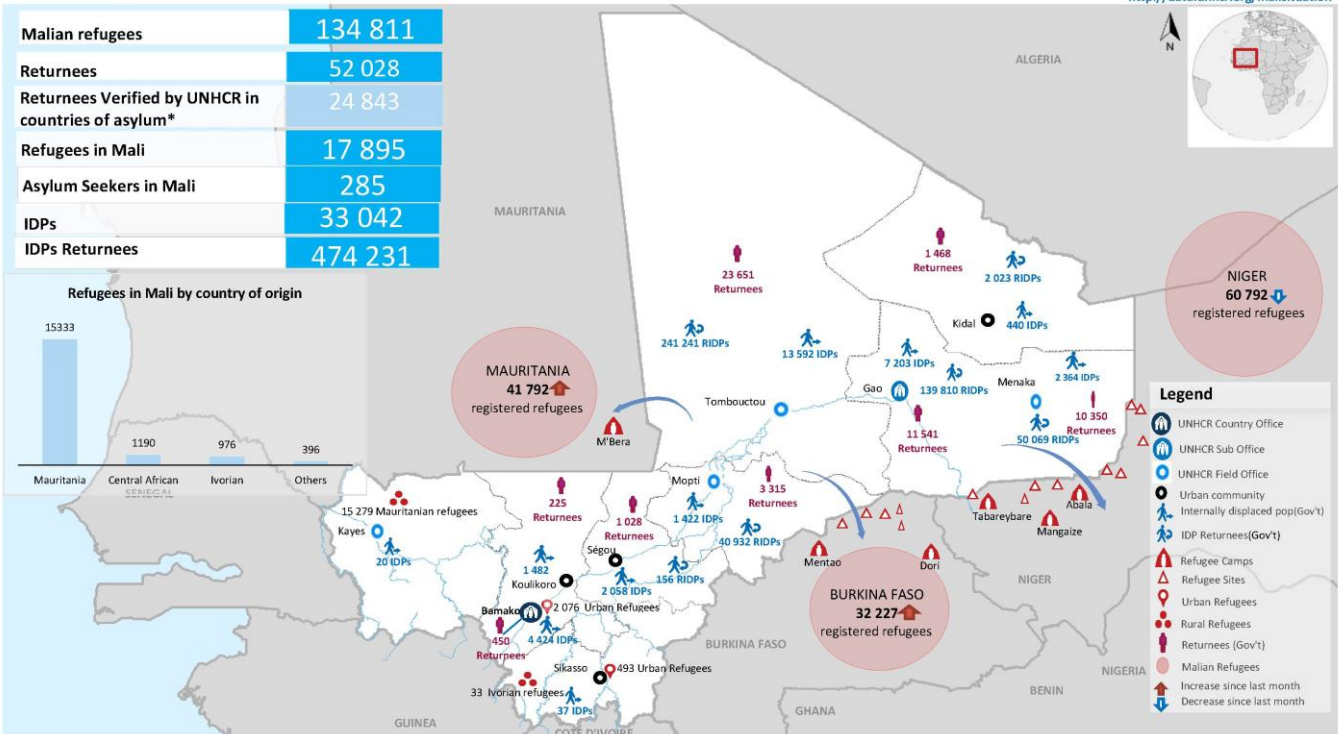
## Mali situation map



### Mali: Refugees, returnees and Internally displaced populations

31 August 2016

<http://data.unhcr.org/malisituation>



\* Figures from Burkina Faso dated as of July 2016

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Malian refugees and returnees verified ( Sources: UNHCR)

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

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

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#### Links:

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