

Mali

June 2017

Mali continues to face a volatile security situation amid growing threats of terrorism, criminality and intercommunity tensions in the northern and central regions.

Populations face important protection risks amid limited access to public services, documentation, shelter, water, education and food security.

Despite significant obstacles, the implementation of the Peace and Reconciliation Accord advances slowly in order to re-establish peace and security in the region.

KEY INDICATORS

596

Protection incidents collected and documented by protection monitoring agents up until 30 June 2017

45%

of 6000 refugee returnees targeted for assistance in 2017 have received **cash grants** to support their reintegration.

697

Mauritanian refugees identified and registered as candidates for **naturalization**.

World Refugee Day 2017

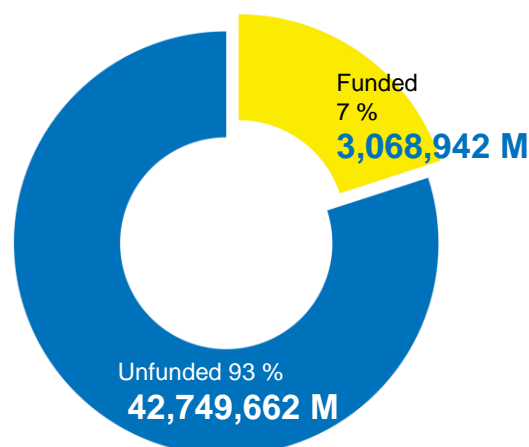


Members of the Association of Young Workers perform a play on social cohesion during the commemoration of World Refugee Day in Mopti region, UNHCR, June 2017.

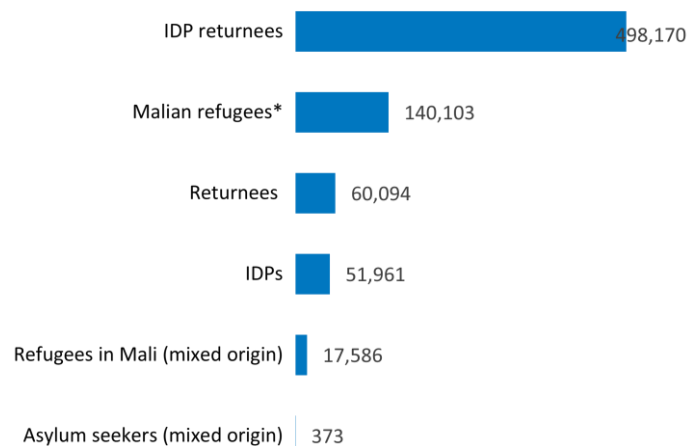
FUNDING (AS OF 30 JUNE 2017)

USD 42,749,662 M

requested for Mali



POPULATION OF CONCERN



Figures at 30 June 2017.

* Source: UNHCR. All other figures sourced from the Government of Mali.

Update on Achievements

Operational Context

The security situation in Mali remains volatile with threats of terrorism, criminality and intercommunity violence in the north and central regions impacting the protection environment for civilians. Violation of human rights continue to be recorded with local populations facing limited access to public services, documentation, potable water, education and food security.

The threat of terrorism and criminality persists with security forces facing almost daily attacks in the northern and central regions. In the northern regions, the threats of IED, banditry and abduction of Westerners remain high, while the central regions face threats from active extremist armed groups. The terrorist group known as JNIM (Group to Support Islam and Muslims) has emerged as a principal threat. The group claimed several deadly attacks this month including a mortar attack on 8 June against MINUSMA camp in Kidal region and an attack at an eco-resort located on the periphery of the capital, Bamako, on 18 June. In an effort to combat terrorism in the Sahel region, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 2359 on 21 June welcoming the implementation of the Group of Five Sahel (G5) joint force with up to 5,000 military and police personnel from the G5 Sahel countries (Mali, Chad, Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania) to restore peace and security in the region. It is expected that the force will be operational by fall 2017, supported by Operation *Barkhane* for material and equipment.

On 29 June, the UNSC also extended the mandate of MINUSMA for one year, emphasizing priority tasks of protecting civilians and supporting the country's security forces. Tensions remain perceptible between armed groups in the regions of Kidal (CMA and Plateforme) and Menaka (MAA-Plateforme and GATIA).

Intercommunity tensions remain palpable in the regions of Kidal, Menaka and Mopti. Since 16 June, an estimated 38 persons were killed during violent attacks between the Dogon and Peulh communities in Mopti region. Similarly, ongoing tensions and attacks between the Daoussahack and Imghad communities in the region of Menaka and between Idnanes and Imghad have raised concerns about protection risks to civilians.

The need to uphold humanitarian principles remains 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.



UNHCR's Protection team meet with Mauritanian refugees to discuss protection, assistance and the search for durable solutions in the region of Kayes. UNHCR, June 2017.

Achievements



PROTECTION

Protection Cluster

- The Protection Cluster led by UNHCR and co-led by the Norwegian Refugee Council presented its revised strategy to the Humanitarian Country Team highlighting several key challenges, notably the weak participation of protection actors at the national and regional level, the need to strengthen the protection environment to facilitate humanitarian access and improve protection monitoring mechanisms, the need to promote protection mainstreaming and the need to address funding gaps.
- The gender-based violence (GBV) sub-cluster of the Protection Cluster presented statistics for the 1st trimester of 2017 highlighting that 790 GBV cases were reported, an increase of 15% in comparison to the previous trimester. The analysis highlights major gaps in the provision of services and equally highlighted that a significant proportion of GBV survivors are denied legal and security assistance.
- The thematic group on Access to Justice and Rule of Law of the Protection Cluster noted several obstacles to access to justice and civil documentation in the north and central regions of the country including insecurity, non-functioning courts and insufficient coordination between actors intervening in this domain.
- The Protection Cluster advocated in favor of the protection of civilian populations in Kidal amid growing insecurity. Calls were made for authorities and MINUSMA to strengthen the protection environment for civilians and prevent renewed conflicts between armed groups.
- The Protection Cluster elaborated an emergency action plan to respond to humanitarian needs following intercommunity conflicts that started on 16 June in the district of Koro in Mopti region.

Achievements and Impact

- On 20 June, the Government of Mali in partnership with UNHCR commemorated World Refugee Day by reaffirming global solidarity with refugees and other persons of concern in the context of the *#WithRefugees* campaign. In consultation with government, persons of concern and civil society partners, a range of activities were organized in Bamako, Sikasso, Faragouran, Kayes, Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu including ceremonies, debate/discussions, cultural performances, vendor exhibits of crafts and products made by persons of concern and media campaigns.

- UNHCR's protection team carried out a mission to Kayes region in support of finding durable solutions for Mauritanian refugees. As a result of the mission, 697 candidates for naturalization were identified and registered. Consultations with refugees revealed access to potable water and education for children refugees as major protection concerns. The mission also supported capacity building of local authorities with respect to registration, particularly the usage of the *proGres* database, as well as documentation.
- **Voluntary Repatriation:** On 29 June, UNHCR in collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees (CNCR) organized the voluntary repatriation of eight Central African refugees by air to the capital of Bangui under conditions that are conducive for their safe return and durable integration.
- **Documentation:** UNHCR's partner, Stop Sahel, carried out 14 focus groups on the importance of birth certificates and declaration of births with the participation of Mauritanian refugees and host community members in Kayes region. 69 birth certificates were also distributed.
- **SGBV:**
 - With the aim of reducing the risk of SGBV and improving the quality of response two gender-based violence survivors were identified and received medical assistance in Kayes region.
 - In Gao region, 24 sensitization sessions carried out by protection monitoring agents on the risks and consequences of SGBV reached 427 men and women from refugee returnee and local communities.
 - In Mopti region, 10 sensitization sessions on the consequences of SGBV and social cohesion reached 362 men, women, girls and boys from refugee returnee and local communities.
 - In Timbuktu region, 2 sensitization sessions on themes linked to SGBV reached 47 women and men from refugee returnee and local communities.
- **Social Cohesion:**
 - In Gao region, 19 sensitization sessions on the themes of pardon, reconciliation, peace, inclusive participation, tolerance and respect were carried out by protection monitoring agents of UNHCR's partner, AMSS, reaching 312 men and women from refugee returnee and local communities. As a result of these sessions, participants gained a greater understanding of the importance of living together, acceptance and the benefits of sharing public goods.
 - In Mopti region, 7 sensitization sessions on social cohesion reached 386 men and women from refugee returnee and local communities. In addition, UNHCR's partner, Stop Sahel, held 76 individual counselling sessions with persons of concern selected for shelter and livelihood activities to discuss the implications related to social cohesion.

- In Timbuktu region, one sensitization session on social cohesion reaching 19 men and women from refugee returnee and local communities was held.
- **Protection Monitoring:** 59 protection incidents were collected and documented through UNHCR's partner, AMSS, during this month. The regions of Gao and Mopti recorded the majority of incidents that primarily relate to extortion, injuries and deaths. Since the beginning of the year, 596 protection incidents have been collected and documented with 138 survivors receiving referrals to various protection partners for psychosocial, medical and economic assistance.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Amid a deteriorating security conditions in the north and center, there is a risk that protection incidents will remain unidentified and undocumented as a result of insufficient resources to carry out protection monitoring activities in 152 communes at risk.



EDUCATION

Achievements and Impact

- An urban refugee youth in Bamako benefited from financial assistance to pursue an academic training in the area of administration. This is the 11th urban refugee student out of 10 targeted for 2017, to benefit from academic training assistance in support of self-reliance needs.
- Three urban refugee recipients of UNHCR's higher education scholarship programme, DAFI, provided through the Albert Einstein German Academic Refugee Initiative, received their second payment in order to allow them to pursue their studies in better conditions.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- Transportation assistance is needed to help an estimated 2,471 Mauritanian refugee school-aged children gain access to schools. The toll of enrollment for the 2016-2017 school year among Mauritanian refugee children stands at 38.5%. They continue to face challenges to access education as a result of distance between schools and residential areas, limited transport and insufficient school canteens.
- Construction of literacy centers in 20 villages in Kayes region where Mauritanian refugees reside is needed to help youth and adults including refugees and host community members gain access to a public space for education and training.

**HEALTH****Achievements and Impact**

- 20 urban refugees benefited from medical assistance through UNHCR's partner, Stop Sahel. Since the beginning of 2017, 76 urban refugees with serious medical conditions have benefited from medical assistance.

Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 70 urban refugees identified as persons with specific needs continue to await medical assistance.

**WATER AND SANITATION****Achievements and Impact**

- In Mopti region, four sensitization sessions on hand washing techniques were carried out with 181 refugee returnee and local community members in four sites. Three water management committees have been put in place to support the rehabilitation and construction projects of water points in the region. In addition, a counselling session with 31 persons was held with community members in the site of Tamiziguida on the construction of latrines to fight against diarrheal diseases.
- Work is underway for the construction of 7 water points in the regions of Gao, Menaka, Timbuktu and Mopti to facilitate greater access to water for communities within priority zones of return in the north and center of Mali.

**SHELTER AND NFIS****Shelter and NFIs Cluster**

- The Shelter and NFIs Cluster led by UNHCR carried out an evaluation in June 2017 to determine unmet needs with respect to shelter needs in the regions of Gao, Menaka, Mopti and Timbuktu. According to the evaluation, there is a gap of 1,611 traditional houses, 808 shelters in need of restoration and 275 mud shelters in need of construction.
- In Timbuktu, the Shelter and NFIs Cluster met with relevant actors in 30 June to discuss the flooding situation in the region. Various evaluation reports from the

communes of Tonka, Gossi, Ouinerden and Niafouké indicated that at least 470 mud shelters have fallen and 173 traditional shelters have been lost. NFI kits have been distributed by government authorities with support from UNICEF and the Norwegian Refugee Council. With respect to shelter needs, cluster members are advocating for funding to cover unmet needs. It is important to note that in the regions of Timbuktu and Taoudénni, only UNHCR and its partner, Luxembourg Red Cross/Mali Red Cross are carrying out shelter activities, covering only 20% of needs in those regions.

Achievements and Impact

- Since the beginning of the year, 186 refugee returnee households have received shelter assistance for both traditional shelters and mud shelters in the regions of Gao, Menaka, Mopti and Timbuktu. The distribution of shelter construction kits to 274 persons from refugee returnee, IDP and local communities is ongoing. Shelter assistance is vital to restore personal security, self-sufficiency and dignity of families, alongside supporting peaceful coexistence and improved reintegration within their communities.



COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

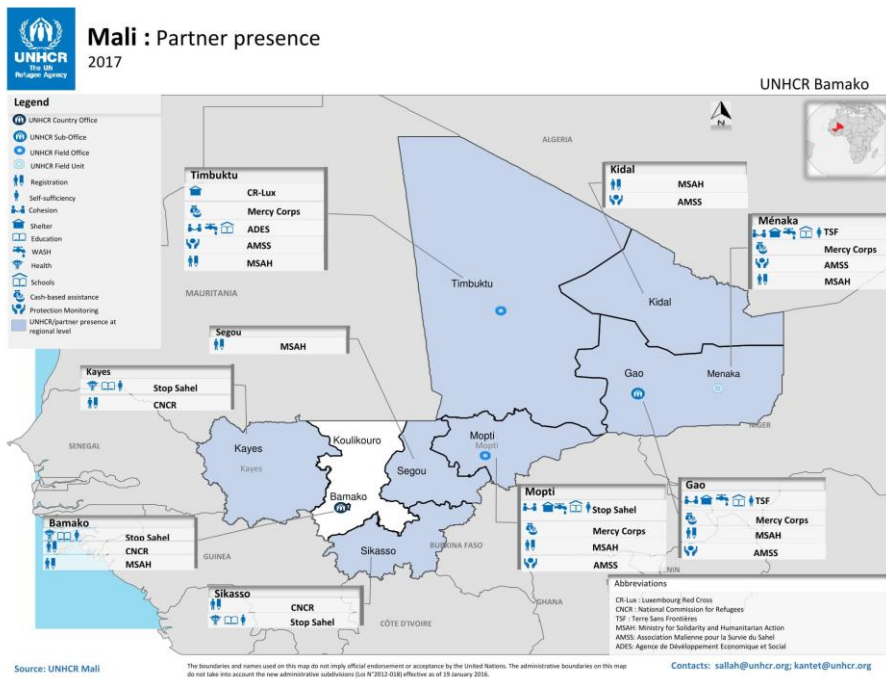
Achievements and Impact

- **Cash grants:** UNHCR, through its partner Mercy Corps, identified 3,369 refugee returnees eligible for cash grants of whom 2,682 received their cash grants to meet their basic needs and support their reintegration. This represents 44.7% of the 6,000 refugee returnees targeted to receive assistance this year.
- **Income-Generation Activities:**
 - UNHCR, through its partner Terres Sans Frontières, proceeded with the selection of associations in Gao region composed of refugee returnees, IDPs and local community members who will benefit from income-generating assistance in the areas of vegetable gardening (3), livestock (12) and animal fattening (4) activities. Furthermore, 12 persons were selected for individual assistance to support their livelihood activities. In addition, a motor tricycle and a motor pump for irrigation was provided to the vegetable garden association of Djidara in order to improve their access to water and transportation of goods to the market.
 - In Mopti region, 33 households including refugee returnees and host community members received income-generating assistance in the form of livestock to support their livelihood activities. Furthermore, 19 persons received financial assistance to start and sustain their micro- and small

business activities. On another front, monitoring of 14 recipients of livestock assistance from 2016 who received goats to support their livelihood activities indicated that 12 have successfully continued to their livelihood activities with new offspring, while 1 had livestock stolen and another lost livestock due to illness.

- In Kayes region, UNHCR's partner Stop Sahel, selected 50 households among Mauritanian refugees and host community members to receive assistance through seeds and ploughing equipment to support an increase in agricultural activity.

Working in partnership

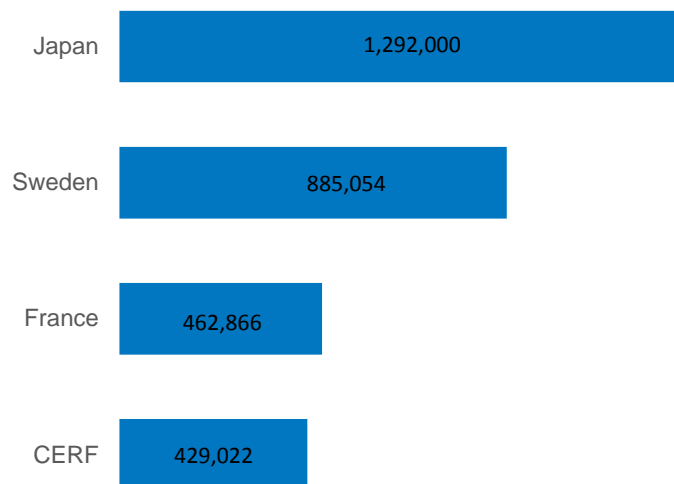


Financial Information

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 3,068,942 million**, including **US\$ 1,785,622 million** for the Mali situation.

UNHCR is grateful for the critical support provided by donors who have contributed to this operation as well as those who have contributed to UNHCR programmes with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Funding received (in million USD)



External / Donors Relations

Special thanks to the major donors of unrestricted and regional funds in 2017

United States of America (95 M) | Sweden (76 M) | Netherlands (52 M) | Norway (41 M) | Priv Donors Spain (29 M) | Japan (25 M) | Denmark (23 M) | Australia (19 M) | Canada (16 M) | Switzerland (15 M) | France (14 M) | Germany (12 M) | Priv Donors Republic of Korea (12 M) | Italy (10 M) |

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