

## HIGHLIGHTS

MAY 2019

During 2019, Mali's security situation remained fragile and of concern despite the commencement of the Disarmament, Demobilizations and Reintegration (DDR) process. The complex attacks on civilians, national security as well as on international forces including

carjacking remain a challenge. On the humanitarian front, although the access is a challenge, humanitarian actors continued to work under strict security mitigation measures in order to protect and assist both Malian nationals as well as IDP returnees, returning refugees and

Refugees. The continued displacements within Mali and from the neighboring countries due to intercommunal and armed conflicts were additional problems that had adverse effects on UNHCR's operations amid budgetary constraints.

### KEY INDICATORS

- ✓ So far, **1,227 persons** have received **cash assistance** in the regions of **Gao** and **Menaka**.
- ✓ The **Protection Cluster** consolidated **35 allegations of human rights violations**, reported by its partner AMSS.
- ✓ **1,676 persons on the move** were **identified** as part of the **Mixed Movements'** monitoring activities. (source: ADES)

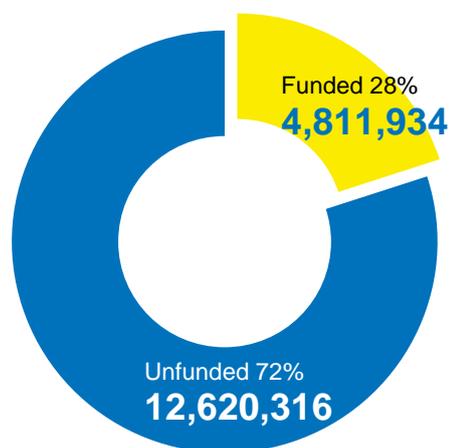
### PRIORITIES

- Support voluntary repatriation of refugees in protracted situation.
- Continue the process of naturalisation for Mauritanian refugees who have indicated their desire for local integration.
- Support and advocate for the functioning of the Appeals Board as well as expedite the granting of refugee status to eligible applicants.
- Strengthen the protection of persons of concern through socio-economic activities and access to basic rights.
- Strengthen the advocacy for the domestication of the Kampala Convention for IDPs.
- Approach other UN Agencies to encourage them to intervene through projects to strengthen basic social structures (within the "delivering as one" context).



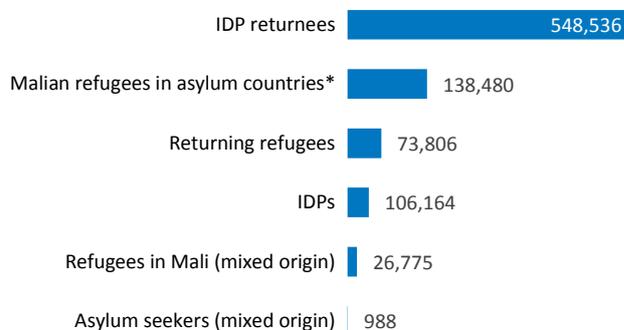
Following the return of 2,086 Malian returning refugees to their country of origin in late April, UNHCR Representative, MINUSMA, local authorities celebrated the return in Koigouma village in Timbuktu on 7 May 2019. ©C.Ouanes / UNHCRMali/2019

### FUNDING AS OF 4 JUNE 2019



**REQUESTED FOR MALI**  
**USD 17,432,250**

### POPULATION OF CONCERN



Figures as of 30 April 2019.

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

\* Niger figures from 31 March 2019.

## Update on Achievements

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### Operational Context

- On 02 May 2019 - The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) released the preliminary findings of the special fact-finding mission to investigate the serious human rights violations in Ogossagou (Bankass commune, Bankass District, Mopti Region) on 23 March 2019.  
At the end of the investigation, MINUSMA is able to conclude that on 23 March, a group of at least a hundred armed men, identified as traditional hunters (Dozos) and accompanied by a dozen men in military uniforms and others in civilian clothes, conducted a planned, organized and coordinated attack on the village of Ogossagou.
- The newly appointed Malian Prime Minister Boubou Cisse announced on 5 May that the new Government is composed of 35 Ministers including 9 women as compared to 11 in the former Government of 32 Ministers. The new Prime Minister who is the Head of the Government also holds the portfolio of Economy and Finance. The Government is composed mainly of the ruling party members but also some members of the opposition party and civil society excluding members of the armed groups.
- For UNHCR, key changes took place in the Ministries of Justice and Human Rights, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation which are UNHCR's main interlocutors. The Ministers were all replaced. Although the Minister of Solidarity remained in his post, the name of the Ministry has now changed to the Ministry of Solidarity and the Fight Against Poverty.
- The main challenges facing the new government is the issue of security throughout the territory, the implementation of the peace agreement, the management of the social climate including the school crisis, the improvement of living conditions of Malians and the conduct of institutional reforms. Administrative changes may slow down the activities of current humanitarian workers and those planned with certain ministries.
- In general the security situation throughout Mali remains volatile and unpredictable. It is characterized by criminality and intercommunal clashes mainly in the central region of the country, a situation which impacts on humanitarian activities. It is to mention that in May, security incidents led to the death of a peace keeper and at least 15 people lost their lives due to flooding in some areas of Bamako. Despite the deployment of the Malian forces and MINUSMA as part of Operation ORYX, the central region of Mali continues to be the subject of a disturbing combination of inter-communal conflict, criminality and attacks by violent armed groups. The porous borders with Burkina Faso and Niger and the difficulty for government forces to deploy in the adjacent areas to ensure security have allowed many non-state actors (armed groups, militias, drug traffickers) to establish lawless zones thereby making travel by road very risky, especially in the Cercles of Bandiagara, Bankass, Douentza, Gourma-Rharous, Tenenkou.
- UNHCR Field Offices are obliged to carry out their activities in an environment that makes it difficult to identify and map out different actors in the field. Although no significant incidents affecting UNHCR operations or its staff were identified during the reporting period, the highly volatile environment continues to be a major challenge for field missions and access to UNHCR's persons of concern. Crime remains the main threat to staff and the conduct of the organization's activities.

- Out of 2,086 refugees who expressed their voluntary return to Mali, 1,837 of them have returned in the month of Avril to the village of Koigouma in Goundam District, Timbuktu Region, from the M'bera Refugee Camp in Mauritania. The UNHCR Representative in Mali Ms. Angèle Djohossou, the MINUSMA Chief of Staff Mrs. Lizbeth Cullity, MINUSMA Bureau Chief in Timbuktu, Mr. Ricardo Maia, and the local authorities went on mission to the site of return to welcome the returnees on 6 May. Although the returnees' area of origin is very remote and the conditions are very difficult, a reintegration program is being coordinated to ensure that they have their needs covered and opportunities granted. The major challenges and expressed needs are access to basic social services. During the ceremony, food and NFIs were distributed. There has also been an official delivery of a water point financed by MINUSMA and implemented by UNHCR through the partner ADES as part of MINUSMA's QIP projects.
- UNHCR organized the voluntary repatriation of three households composed of nine Central African refugees who have been living in Mali since 2014. On 15 May, 3 households composed of three adults and six children departed from Mali after all the formalities were facilitated by UNHCR and its government partner, the National Commission for Refugees (CNCR) to ensure conditions of dignity and safety.
- On 30 May, UNHCR took part in a meeting to touch base with the new president of the governmental partner CNCR. At the meeting, the training needs of CNCR members in DSR were highlighted. In addition, the meeting was an opportunity to discuss the preparations and UNHCR's support for the African Border Day celebrated every year on 7 June.



## PROTECTION

### Achievements and Impact

#### Protection Cluster

- In May, the Protection Cluster consolidated 9 alerts extracted from protection monitoring flash reports. The 9 alerts included 35 allegations of human rights' violations and abuses, including 33 violations of the right to life, 1 attack on the liberty and security of the person, and 1 infringement of the right to property. These violations were recorded in the regions of Mopti and Segou. Analysis of these alerts highlighted the recurrence of attacks on villages by unidentified armed individuals spreading from the region of Mopti to that of Segou. Thus, on 13 May, armed groups (unknown number) reportedly attacked the village of Heremakono (a locality located 32 km southeast of Niono, chief town and commune, Segou region). The assailants allegedly murdered 11 persons (sex and age undetermined), all of them from Peulh ethnic group. The analysis of these protection alerts allowed the Cluster's coordination to refer allegations of human rights violations to relevant actors including civil-military coordination and authorities for appropriate responses.
- In addition, during the monthly Cluster meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>, an analysis of the protection situation in March and April 2019 reported 449 protection incidents that were recorded by protection monitoring in the northern and eastern regions. This represented an 83% increase over the total incidents recorded in January and February 2019.

- One of the consequences of protection incidents is population movements. For example, the Commission of Populations Movements (CMP) reported 120,067 internally displaced persons as of May 31, 2019, an increase of 13,903 individuals between 1 and 31 May 2019.
- From 8 to 10 May 2019, the Protection Cluster's coordination took part in a high-level workshop on the protection of civilians. The purpose of this workshop was to facilitate reflection on the effectiveness of civil protection actions in peacekeeping contexts, particularly those led by the United Nations. During the workshop the exchanges focused on the three pillars of the protection of civilians in peacekeeping missions that are creating a dialogue / engagement with all actors, creating an environment for the protection of civilians and the physical protection of civilians, and protection based on rights advocated for by humanitarian actors.
- On 17 May, the Protection Cluster presented the Protection situation and challenges in Mali to the Swedish Agency for Development and International Cooperation's Humanitarian Program in Stockholm, on mission in Mali. The purpose of this meeting was to advocate for funding for Protection in Mali.
- On 23 May, the Protection Cluster's coordination made a presentation to the members of the Peace Actors Forum during the meeting of this forum. During the presentation, the coordination underlined the importance of such a forum at the level of the Protection Cluster at the national level for a better analysis of the community conflicts and the problems of social cohesion, an issue that has been rising in Mali, in order to address a coordinated and adequate response.
- On 30 May, the Protection Cluster Strategic Advisory Group held a working session to analyze the results of the Cluster Performance Assessment conducted in March 2019 and the March 2017 Cluster Strategy Review Process. One of the recommendations of this working session was that the results of the evaluation are to be taken into account in the review of the Protection Cluster's strategy, particularly in the context of advocacy, analysis and mobilization of resources for protection activities.

### **Mixed Movements**

#### **Meetings & Partnership:**

As part of the advocacy for strengthening partnerships, on May 7, UNHCR met with IOM. The objective of the meeting was to relaunch the formalization of standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the identification and referral of persons under the mandate of both agencies.

In addition, UNHCR had several meetings with the Ministry of Malians Abroad (MMA) regarding the strategic partnership on sensitizing people on the move. As a result of these meetings, UNHCR and MMA agreed on an awareness action plan which will be formalized through a partnership agreement.

#### **Monitoring:**

As part of the Protection Monitoring of people on the move, carried out by UNHCR's partner AMSS, 1,676 people in total (270 in Mopti / Bamako, 344 in Gao and 1,062 in Timbuktu) from Guinea Conakry, Sierra Leone, Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, The Gambia, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Liberia, Comoros Islands, Benin, Mauritania, Guinea Bissau, DRC, Ghana, Chad and Niger were identified. Among them, 1,247 persons were identified in the outflows while 429 others in the inflows, among whom 72 were evicted from Algeria (32 to

Gao and 40 to Timbuktu) and 357 voluntarily returning refugees from Algeria. In total, 44 women of various nationalities were also identified in Timbuktu in the outflow migratory routes. A total number of 54 unaccompanied and / or separated children were identified (all of them in Timbuktu) in the migratory flows. They are of Guinean, Liberian, Gambian, Burkinabe, Malian, Ivorian and Sierra Leonean nationalities. Among them, vulnerable children were referred to IOM and to the NGO ASPOLDCE Timbuktu (l'Association pour le Soutien aux Populations Démunies et Lutte Contre l'Exclusion), for adequate support.

As part of the determination and analysis of the best interests of the child - BID / BIA, on 14 May in Bamako, the DNPEF organized a meeting to discuss the case of protection and assistance of a Central African child. As a result of this meeting, which was attended by the DNPEF, ICRC, IOM, UNICEF, Kanuya Association and UNHCR, actions were initiated for the protection of children, including for a family that will be conducted by the ICRC, while UNHCR will be responsible for determining its refugee status. It was suggested that the Determination of the Best Interests of the Child has to be quickly conducted to establish the responsibilities of each actor for a holistic care of the child.

In addition, as part of the border monitoring activities, UNHCR has issued a call for expression of interest for the recruitment of a partner responsible for border monitoring of people on the move. Thus, on May 30 in Bamako, UNHCR and CIAUD had a preparatory meeting to discuss a proposal for official and unofficial entry points in the regions of Mopti, Timbuktu, Menaka, Gao and Kidal.

On 23 May, 01 potential persecution case of an individual of Guinean nationality was identified in Timbuktu and referred to Bamako for Refugee Status Determination (RSD). The individual case also had a protection interview with UNHCR, he was referred to the National Commission for Refugees (CNCR) where he had an RSD pre-interview. His case is being followed-up.

#### **Awareness raising:**

In May, UNHCR and its partners carried-out 55 sensitizations (30 in Mopti, 14 in Timbuktu and 11 in Gao), for 569 people in transit movements (inflows and outflows), of whom 445 men and 124 women. In total, 290 people participated in Mopti (210 men and 80 women), 195 in Timbuktu (181 men and 14 women) and 84 in Gao (54 men and 30 women) on "the consequences of irregular mixed movements and statelessness", "the risks and consequences of clandestine mixed movements" "the inevitable dangers of clandestine mixed movements on the highways," "human rights violations related to mixed movements and the mandate of UNHCR".

#### **Reception and orientation**

- In May, UNHCR received and oriented refugees and asylum seekers. This brings the total number to 132 refugees and asylum seekers (61 women and 71 men) since the beginning of 2019 on an annual target of 200, representing a reception and orientation rate of 66%. The major needs expressed by these refugees are medical, documentation and livelihoods.

#### **SGBV**

- In Kayes, focus groups' sessions were carried out in 13 sites on the theme "Early marriage". These focus groups were composed of 282 people including 246 refugees (159 women and 87 men) and 36 individuals from the host population (30 women and 6 men).

- As regards the dissemination of awareness messages, 28 were broadcast in May. So far, 94 awareness messages on early marriage, FGM and other GBV were released, bringing the overall broadcasting rate to 58% on an annual target of 160 broadcasts.

### Voluntary Returns

- Out of 2,086 refugees who expressed their voluntary return to Mali, 1,837 of them have returned in the month of Avril to the village of Koigouma in Goundam District, Timbuktu Region, from the M'bera Refugee Camp in Mauritania. DRDES confirmed that 1,578 persons were registered among the 2,086 returnees including 1,159 in Gargando commune.
- UNHCR and its partner Mercy Corps provided cash assistance to a group of 141 returnees in the N'Tahaka and Ansongo localities in the Gao region. These consisted of 32 households composed of 71 adults and 70 children previously refugees in Niger. Since the beginning of 2019, UNHCR and its partner Mercy Corps provided cash to 258 households bringing the total number to 1,227 people including 509 adults and 718 children in the regions of Gao and Menaka.



## EDUCATION

### Achievements and Impact

- In May, an elaboration of lists of school-aged children in the sites that were visited by the UNHCR Education Officer in Dakar was carried-out. In total, data was collected for four sites as follows: Kaffa, Siankole, Bomborde, Sinkole with a total number of 158 children including 88 girls and 70 boys.
- A solidarity visit was made to a refugee household that includes 2 refugee children that were expelled from school for lack of a birth certificates. Advocacy efforts are ongoing to ensure that these two children resume schooling.
- Support to the UNHCR office Mauritania through the liaison with the National Center of Examinations and Education Competition (CNECE) of the Ministry of Education of Mali for the implementation of the exams BAC and DEF for the refugee children of Mbera camp in Mauritania. After meeting with the Deputy Director of the CNECE and the Head of the Studies Division of the MEN in Bamako, the information regarding the examinations at national level was shared, including for the exams that will take place in Mbera camp (regardless of the particularity of the context). The latter will be fixed after meetings and deliberations between the Ministry of National Education and the teachers' unions.
- Following the end of the teachers' strike, the scholar year resumed calmly. The follow-ups carried out in some establishments revealed that education leaders and actors reiterated their commitments to safeguard the school year.

### DAFI Program:

- An extraordinary meeting was held as part of the implementation of the activities of the DAFI club in accordance with its action plan. During this meeting, the DAFI Club received the Vice President of Training of the Junior Chamber International Kalaban (JCI) who made a presentation on the benefits of being observer members and the opportunities to benefit from its reinforcements and capabilities at JCI. During the discussions, the Vice President said that all the DAFI Program beneficiaries can consider themselves as

observers of JCI and will be able to receive all the useful information related to their training because JCI opens its doors to all those who want to evolve in its network.



## HEALTH

### Achievements and Impact

#### Bamako

- In May, the contribution to the health insurance scheme supported by UNHCR through its partner Stop Sahel continued. In total, 59 households composed of 199 beneficiaries are up to date with the payment.
- In addition, households continued to adhere to the mutual health insurance. This brings the total number to 12 households composed of 38 beneficiaries since the beginning of the year.
- 6 refugees (5 women and 1 man) received medical support and their cases were taken in charge by UNHCR. This support allowed to alleviate some of their urgent needs and improved their state of health.

#### Kayes

- In May talks in focus groups on the theme "traditional practices harmful to women's health" were conducted in 4 sites (Kayrou, Amre, Lig-Nig and Bessesse). These focus groups included 68 persons including 59 refugees (43 women and 16 men) and 9 women from the host population.



## WATER AND SANITATION

### Achievements and Impact

- In Gao region, 2 water points are being constructed in Gao and Menaka towns, on an annual objective of 2 water points.
- In Mopti, works of 5 human operated water pumps in Korientze, Tenenkou and Diankabou were finalized, bringing the implementation rate to 100%.
- In Timbuktu region, 3 water points are being rehabilitated.
- It is to note that the planned activities can be subject to change as the needs arise. More water and sanitation activities can be implemented following an event.



## SHELTER AND NFIS

### Achievements and Impact

- In Gao region, the construction of 77 mud shelters is underway in Gao and Menaka regions. Furthermore, the construction of 117 traditional shelters is underway in Gao and Menaka where Nigerian refugees dwell. It is to note that the annual objective is 194 shelters.
- In Mopti, the constructions of 100 traditional shelters were finalized bringing the implementation rate to 100%.
- In Timbuktu, 140 traditional shelters (including 60 emergency shelters) are being constructed while 50 mud shelters are being rehabilitated. While the implementation rate is still to be defined, UNHCR set an objective to construct 140 traditional shelters and to rehabilitate 50 others in mud.

- It is to note that the target can be subject to change as the needs arise. More shelter construction/rehabilitation activities can be implemented following an event.



## COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT AND SELF RELIANCE

### Achievements and Impact

- As part of supporting social integration and refugee empowerment in urban areas, 26 Income Generating Activities (IGA) requests were registered in May. For these applications, social surveys were conducted with IGA promoters.
- In May, a follow-up was made with the partner STOP-SAHEL in order to know the evolution of the process of identification of the beneficiaries of IGA / livelihood funds in the region of Segou. Following the discussions, it was indicated that DRDSES in Segou shared a list of returnees from the areas of Segou, Peligana, Nionio and Mariko with the partner for identification.
- Monitoring of cereal banks and of cash-financed IGAs (CBI) continued with technical assistance and oversight to ensure the efficiency of these projects.
- As regards the formulation of durable solutions to irregular migration, self-reliance and livelihoods activities targeting persons under UNHCR's mandate and host communities continue to be implemented and monitored.
- Thus in Timbuktu, UNHCR and its partner ADES proceeded to the delivery of 5 assistance to 4 associations and a person with specific needs (a young returnee living with a physical disability). The provided assistance consisted of 2 in breeding and 2 in small trade. Furthermore, breeders' associations each received a breeding nucleus. Support for the person with specific needs and the associations operating in the small business consists of a kit of trade (food products). It should be noted that these 5 assistances bring to the total number to 7 performances realized since the beginning of the year on an annual forecast of 15 for the region of Timbuktu, representing an achievement rate of 47%.
- In Mopti, the Stop-Sahel partner continued the monitoring the 25 individual beneficiaries of funds for income-generating activities.
- In Gao, the Sahel21-TSF partner continued the monitoring and evaluation of 37 former associative groups out of the 39 supported in 2017 and 2018 by UNHCR in the Communes of Gao, Bourem and Ansongo. Additionally, UNHCR and partner Sahel21-TSF organized a joint follow-up visit of the activities of the Young Optimist Development Associations (Kaïbéné, Balimaya Thieré-djian).
- In addition, the partner Sahel21-TSF launched the call for expression of interest for the selection of the 03 new associative groups. Its deadline for submitting applications is 8 June 2019.
- Finally, in the context of entrepreneurship opportunities for persons with specific needs (PWSN), 02 people were identified; evaluations are underway to determine the eligibility criteria for receiving assistance.

### Spotlight Initiative

- The reedited version of the final matrix of indicators was sent to all stakeholders of Spotlight Initiative in Mali. A reminder was shared to develop the monitoring and evaluation plan that should accompany this matrix for a good implementation of Spotlight Initiative activities in Mali.
- Also, the latest version of the call for proposals for the selection of NGOs (IPs) has been shared for clearance.

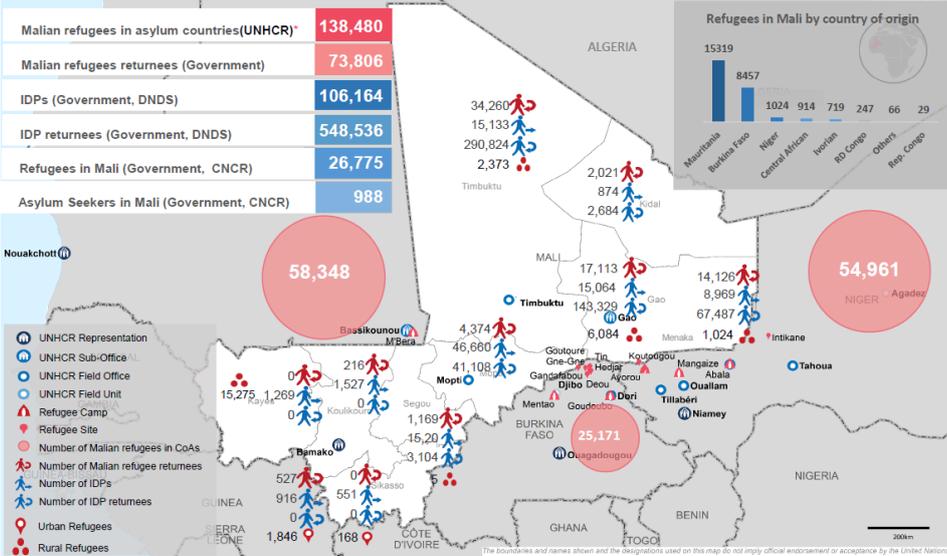
### Identified Needs and Remaining Gaps

- 75% of applications for IGA funding remains to be met for refugees.
- 12% of school-age children in urban areas are not covered.
- 25% of the refugee population did not join the health scheme
- 1,000 refugee identity cards need be produced for urban refugees while 11,500 Mauritanian refugees are waiting for theirs.
- 51% of Malian returnees do not have civil status documents, mainly children.
- 1,161 Mauritanian refugees were naturalized in 2018. The required funds represent the cost of the package accompanying the naturalization of 3,000 Mauritanian refugees).
- The Burkinabe situation in Gossi and N'tilit remains unfunded notably the lack of adequate shelters as a major challenge. Since their arrival, these refugees have been living in improvised tents made of random materials. They are therefore exposed to unfavourable weather, notably the persons with special needs, including children, women, elderly and people with serious medical conditions.
- Although registration and documentation of Burkinabe and Nigerien refugees continue, their needs in terms of shelter, water, health, food and NFIs remain a concern due to resource constraints. A targeted support is provided to the most vulnerable only, leaving others relying on their own scanty resources.

## Statistical Overview & Infographics

### MALI SITUATION

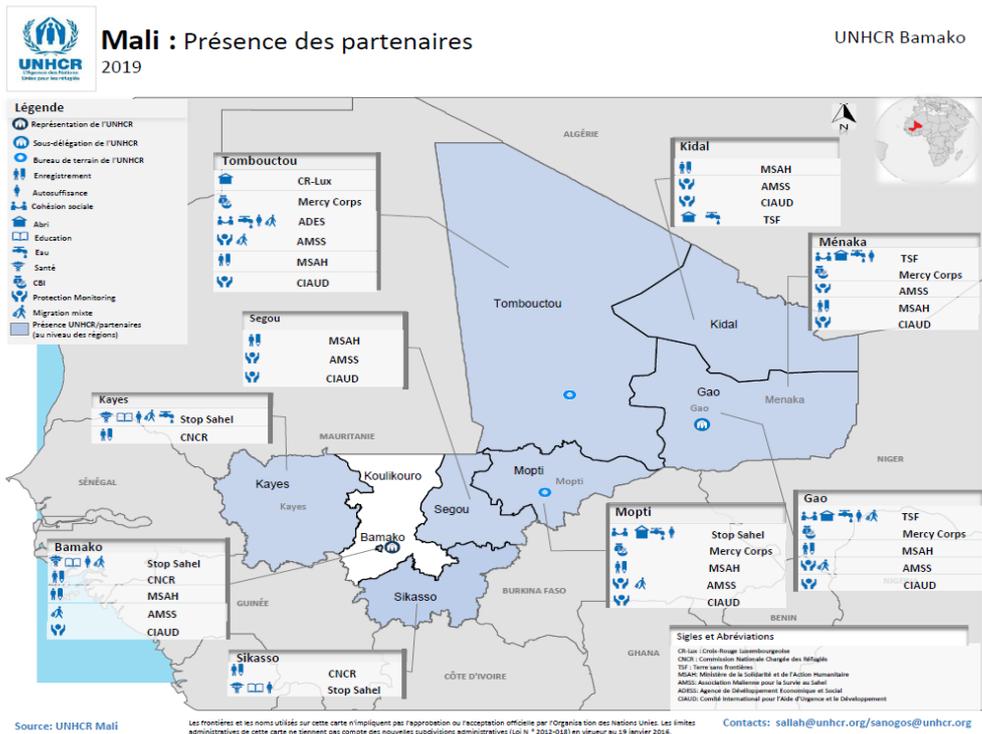
Refugees, Internally Displaced Persons and Returnees  
as of 30 April 2019



Sources: Government of Mali: Malian Refugees, Returnees and IDPs - DNDIS. Refugees in Mali - CNCR. Malian refugees - UNHCR.  
For more information: rudacogo@unhcr.org | sanogos@unhcr.org

\*Niger figures (from 31 March 2019)

## Working in partnership

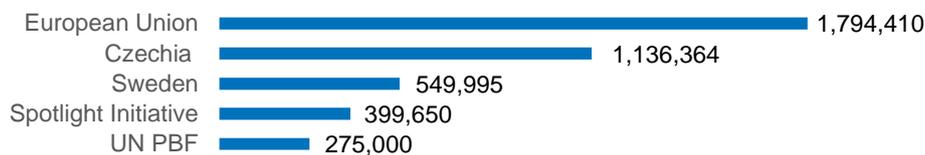


## Financial Information

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 programs with unearmarked and broadly earmarked funds.

Total recorded contributions for the operation amount to some **US\$ 4,811,934** million, including **US\$ 22,415,127** million for the Mali situation.

### EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FOR MALI | USD



### UNEARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS (FOR WEST AFRICA) | USD

Sweden 90.4 million | Denmark 54.9 million | Norway 44.5 million | Netherlands 37.5 million | United Kingdom 31.7 million | Germany 27.3 million | Switzerland 15.1 million | Austria | Belgium | Canada | Estonia | Indonesia | Monaco | Montenegro | Qatar | Republic of Korea | Russian Federation | Saudi Arabia | Serbia | Singapore | Sri Lanka | Thailand | United Arab Emirates | Uruguay | Private donors

### OTHER SOFTLY EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS (FOR WEST AFRICA) | USD

Germany 3.3 million

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