

Quarterly Factsheet: « Strengthening the resilience of populations displaced by the instability in Northern Mali »

Overview:

The « Strengthening the Resilience of populations displaced by the instability in Northern Mali » project is a regional project launched by UNHCR and financed by European Union through the EU Trust Fund for Africa, in 2017. The project will last three years (July 2017 – June 2020) and will be implemented in Niger, Mali, Mauritania and Burkina Faso. The objective is to strengthen the resilience of the populations forcibly displaced by instability in Northern Mali, to support peaceful coexistence between communities and to facilitate voluntary repatriation of refugees.

The project will contribute to the reduction of instability and vulnerability, through the creation of socioeconomic opportunities for the displaced populations, as well as the host community, easing local integration of displaced populations. Efforts will also be made to facilitate the reintegration of repatriated refugees in their zone of origin.

In Niger, the project will help to facilitate the socio-economic integration of Malian refugees into Nigerien public services while ensuring support for self-reliance and maintaining social cohesion with host communities.

Overall Targets (by June 2020):

- 1) 3,000 households state that their socioeconomic situation has improved during the course of the intervention;
- 2) 8,000 households are assisted with Cash assistance;
- 3) 3,000 formal or informal activities are created or strengthened;
- 4) 58,035 refugees are completely integrate into the national basic service systems (water, education, health);
- 5) 14 infrastructures and basic social services are strengthened for refugees and host communities;
- 6) 17,048 refugees choose and benefit from assistance for their voluntary repatriation.

Key Dates :

- 4 voluntary repatriation operations were completed during the reporting period, including 498 refugees from Intikane hosting area in October, 566 refugees from Tabareybarey in November, 913 refugees from Mangaize and 780 refugees from Abala in December.

Partnerships and Coordination:

In the framework of the implementation of the project, UNHCR works with three implementation partners (APBE, ADES and ADKOUL), as well as the Ministry of Interior through the National Eligibility Commission (CNE).

National authorities, at the central and the local level, play a central role in the implementation of the various interventions, particularly those focused on the integration of the camps and hosting areas into local territories. These activities related to this have been added to the existing local and regional development plans, being implemented under the leadership of the Regional Councils, Regional Technical Directorates and the Communes. Future partnerships are being created around the project, including:

- With the World Bank, through financing of the IDA 18 (Project to Support Refugee and Host Communities – PARCA Project), whereby the first activities should be implemented during the second semester of 2019.
- With GIZ (German cooperation) with whom UNHCR signed a new contract in November 2018 with the aim of accelerating the closure of the Malian camps, based on the model of land division and the construction of social housing.

- **6,026** candidates registered by UNHCR for voluntary repatriation remaining in Niger at the end of 2018

- **4,605** refugees voluntarily repatriated to Mali since the beginning of the project

- **20,000** Malian refugees benefitted from awareness raising sessions of voluntary repatriation and zones of return in 2018

- **758** beneficiaries trained in various vocational trainings (handicrafts, dairy production, animal breeding)

- **3 Integrated health centres (Type II)** under construction in Abala, Ayorou and Intikane

Progress: (See key figures)

The local communes play an active role in the socio-economic integration of refugees into the national services, particularly through the provision of land for the construction of integrated health centres and schools, included in this project.

It is important to note that the integrated health centres (Type II) being constructed in Abala and Ayorou are being built on land parcels developed in the framework of the out-of-camp policy for Malian refugees.

Progress on the integrated health centres is visible:

- **Abala:** Construction work is 50% completed.
- **Ayorou:** The construction of the various buildings is already at the level of roofing.
- **Intikane:** The construction of the various buildings to transform the existing health centre into a Type II health centre is in the final stages.



Construction sites of integrated health centres Type II in Abala (left) & Site of transformation of existing health centre into a Type II integrated health centre at Intikane refugee hosting area (left)

Assistance for voluntary repatriation:

More than 10,000 refugees have signed up for assisted voluntary repatriation to Mali. On the 31st December, a total of 4,605 had been successfully repatriated since the beginning of the project. In the current reporting period (Oct – Dec), a total of 2,757 persons were voluntarily repatriated.



Awareness raising session on voluntary repatriation refugee in Intikane refugee hosting area, and registration of refugees receiving support for their return transport, having signed the Voluntary Repatriation Form.

Challenges:

The security situation in the region of Tillabéri continues to deteriorate, which has a strong negative effect on the socio-economic situation and the economic opportunities available in the areas hosting refugees.

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(EUTF)

