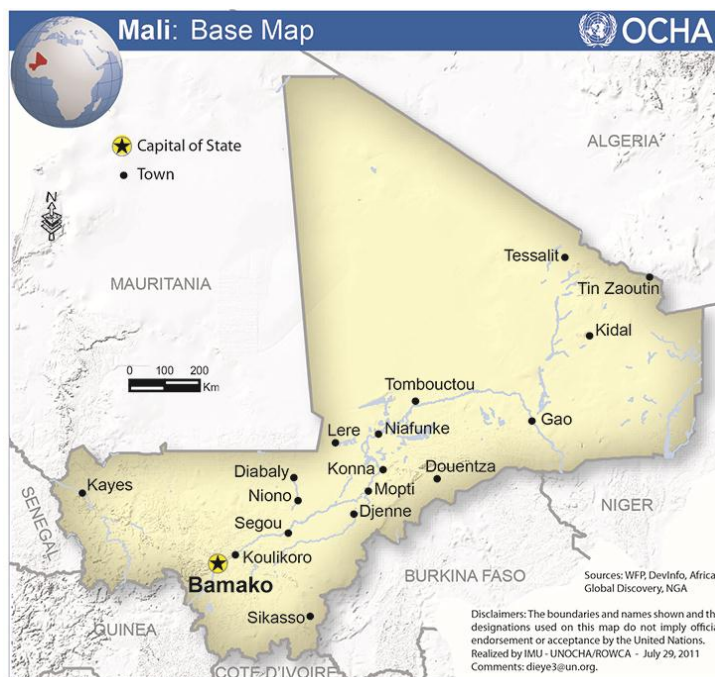




This report is produced by OCHA Mali in collaboration with humanitarian partners. It was issued by OCHA Mali. It covers the period from 15 March to 27 March 2013. The next report will be issued on or around 10 April.

Highlights

- Humanitarian operations continue in accessible areas of the north despite continuing insecurity due to fighting, mines and unexploded ordnance, and sporadic suicide attacks.
- A lack of resources is hampering efforts to prevent cholera, which could re-surface in June or July. Since 2003, cholera has affected an average of 1,100 people each year.
- As of 20 March, an estimated 282,548 people are internally displaced (IDPs) in Mali according to the Population Movement Commission (CMP) report released on 20 March. This figure does not include the 10,100 people displaced reported by NGOs in the north since the beginning of this year.
- The Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP) for Mali is now 21.5 per cent funded. About US\$88 million has been secured out of \$410 million in total requirements.



Source: OCHA

292,648

Total estimated number of IDPs in Mali (Source: CMP report 20 March 2013 and humanitarian actors in Kidal)

177,637

Malian refugees in neighbouring countries as of 25 March (Source: <http://data.unhcr.org/MaliSituation/regional.php>)

\$410 million

Financial requirements outlined in 2013 Mali CAP

21.5%

Share of CAP requirements that have been funded as of 27 March.

Situation Overview

Humanitarian space is shrinking in parts of the north due to ongoing clashes in the Ifoghas Mountains (Kidal region) and peripheral areas of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal. Occasional bomb attacks, mines and unexploded ordnance are also a factor. Besides shrinking humanitarian space, these events gravely endanger civilians. On 20 March, armed groups reportedly detonated a car bomb in Timbuktu, causing casualties among the Malian military. A military response followed, causing victims among armed groups and the Malian army. Fighting was also reported on 23 and 24 March in Gao.

On 20 March, the CMP released a reported estimating that 282,548 IDPs were living in Mali – an increase of 21,883 people since the last estimate published on 20 February. New displacements (estimated at 10,100 people) reported by humanitarian partners in Kidal region have not yet been integrated in the total. Several factors explain this increase according to the CMP: the recent registration of people actually displaced in 2012, the registration of new IDPs in the south and the center of the country, and the expansion of registration areas. Some cautious IDP returns continue to be reported in the north, but figures are not yet available. According to some partners, new displacements in the north are larger than returns.

+ For more information, see “background on the crisis” at the end of this report

www.unocha.org/mali | <http://mali.humanitarianresponse.info>

The mission of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is to mobilize and coordinate effective and principled humanitarian action in partnership with national and international actors.

Coordination Saves Lives

WFP has provided food assistance to over 195,000 people in 2013, including over 90,000 in conflict-affected areas of the north and over 100,000 IDPs and hosts in the south. While visiting Mali recently, WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin highlighted the critical importance of maintaining international attention on the Mali crisis in order to ensure urgent assistance reaches children, women and other vulnerable people, especially in the north.

Nutrition cluster members continue to support children suffering from acute malnutrition (moderate and severe). As of 17 March, 28,447 children had been newly admitted to treatment centres nationally in 2013. In the north, children are gradually returning to school despite the lack of resources. The education cluster has identified 217 functional schools in Timbuktu and Gao regions hosting 49,896 students. Ongoing WASH assessments in the north reveal huge water and sanitation needs. These needs are a serious concern given that a lack of funding is undermining efforts to prevent cholera and other water-borne diseases before the rainy season begins in June/July.

Humanitarian activities in southern and central Mali continue normally.

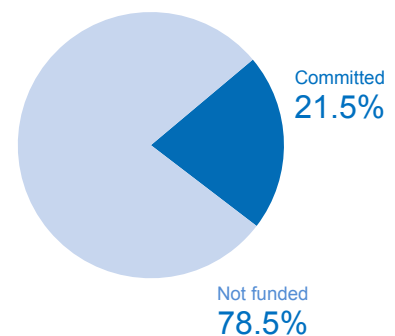
Funding

As of 25 March, the CAP for Mali had received approximately \$88 million, or about 21.5 per cent of the \$410 million requested. While some sectors are relatively well-funded, others are still facing very low funding levels despite urgent needs that require an immediate response. The percentage of funding by sector is the following: emergency shelter and non-food items 31.5%; water, sanitation and hygiene 4.1%; education 13%; logistics 63.9%; nutrition 13.8 %; protection 14.4%; food security 28.2%; health 15.8%; and emergency telecommunications 109.6%.

*Committed funds in the chart refer to \$26.6 million not yet allocated to CAP projects. All humanitarian partners, including donors and recipient agencies, are encouraged to inform OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS - <http://fts.unocha.org>) of cash and in-kind contributions by e-mailing: fts@un.org

Consolidated Appeal – Mali – 2013

\$410 million required



Humanitarian Response



Protection

Needs:

- According to a Save the Children study on children associated with armed forces and groups in Mopti, people have very little knowledge of legal instruments related to the issue and do not understand that children are victims deserving protection. The inter-ministerial circular on protection of and prevention of retaliation against children out of armed forces and armed groups needs wider distribution.

Response:

- On 17 March, the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs met with humanitarian actors to discuss a strategy for IDP returns, among other issues. Ongoing insecurity and the lack of protection in IDPs' places of origin were highlighted as priority issues.
- According to a CMP report released on 20 March, an estimated 282,548 IDPs (40,530 households) are living in Mali. About 76,006 IDPs (27 per cent) have been displaced in the northern regions of Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu by end of 2012.
- The CMP report indicates a rise in total IDPs over the previous estimate of 260,665 people. This is partially due to the identification of IDPs who actually arrived in 2012, the registration of new IDPs in the north and the center of the country, and IOM's extension of IDP registration points. Insecurity continues to complicate IDP registration in the regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal.
- Gender-based violence assessments to date do not cover Timbuktu and Kidal regions. Gao has been partially covered.
- UNFPA distributed 3,750 dignity kits to IDPs in the north in order to improve their living conditions. UNFPA also provided reproductive health kits for obstetric complications, including cases of rape. Each kit is sufficient to cover the needs of 30,000 people for three months.

- Child Protection Cluster partners reached 64,689 beneficiaries in January and February. About 81 per cent of the total beneficiaries benefited from awareness-raising sessions. The remainder benefited from psychosocial, medical or legal support, as well as referral or identification, documentation, tracing and reunification (IDTR). Of these beneficiaries, 38 per cent were children.
- UNICEF received seven children in Bamako who had been separated from armed groups and were placed in temporary care for support and documentation. Two of these children were injured. Reunification with family will take place when conditions allow.
- World Vision trained 13 assessors and adapted the inter-agency Child Protection Rapid Assessment tool in a 18-20 March session supported by the global Child Protection Working Group. This tool will be used in child protection assessments to be carried-out in all communes of Bamako at the end of March.
- UNICEF organized an information session on the inter-ministerial circular on protection and prevention of retaliation against children out of armed forces and armed groups during the regional workshop of the Crisis Committee in Mopti.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Basic social services are lacking in the north to support identified cases of rape, abuse, forced marriage, sexual and psychological abuse.
- The lack of human and financial resources impedes the provision of medical, psychosocial and legal assistance to victims of gender-based violence.
- While the Danish Refugee Council, Plan-Mali, Save the Children, Terre des Hommes and World Vision are planning to carry out rapid assessments on child protection in the regions of Bamako, Gao, Mopti, Segou and Sikasso, assessments are not planned to cover the regions of Timbuktu and Kidal. The activities reported by cluster partners highlight gaps in child protection services especially in Timbuktu and Kidal.



Food Security

Needs:

- Lingering insecurity continues to disrupt economic systems and humanitarian assistance in the north, with negative impacts on food security. The effects are particularly pronounced on food insecure households in Kidal and Gao. As households deplete food stocks, food insecurity is expected to become more critical for poor households in pastoral areas within a few weeks, as the April-June lean season gets underway.
- WFP is targeting 564,000 beneficiaries. Targeted distributions for food insecure beneficiaries in northern Mali are ongoing in coordination with ICRC. Access to Kidal remains difficult due to insecurity.

Response:

- WFP has provided food assistance to more than 195,000 people in 2013, including over 90,000 in conflict-affected northern areas and over 100,000 displaced and host community members in the south.
- Emergency school meals are currently being provided by WFP for more than 10,000 children in Gao in 22 schools.
- Food and cash distributions are also ongoing for IDPs and hosts in the south. In parallel, WFP is scaling-up rural development and resilience projects.
- FAO, together with Catholic Relief Services and ICCO, is implementing a resilience capacities project for 5,000 vulnerable households (60 per cent women) in Koulikoro and Segou regions. The project aims to gradually strengthen production and livelihoods. Beneficiaries will receive basic agricultural inputs, technical support for kitchen gardens, cereal and gardening activities (cassava, maize, groundnuts), as well as nutritional activities in order to promote diversified food consumption.
- As part of its continuing cash-transfer and cash-for-work programme, Care International supports 2,000 vulnerable households in Mopti and Segou regions. Cash distributions are in their final phase in Segou, where 710 households are awaiting payment.
- Following a rapid assessment of the food situation, Welthungerhilfe plans to distribute 650 tons of food to 6,500 households in urban communities of Timbuktu, Goundam and Niono. Stocks are already routed through pinasse to Timbuktu and available in stores. Distributions will begin in the last week of March.
- The main activities carried out by CRS in the districts of Dogofry, Koronga (region of Koulikoro) include the rehabilitation of 30 public works through the cash-for-work programme. About 405 vulnerable households had been identified to participate in this project, as well as 49 early warning committees.

10,000

students from 22 schools in Gao receive food assistance from WFP.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Persistent insecurity continues to disrupt economic systems and humanitarian aid, with negative impacts on food security of people living in the north.



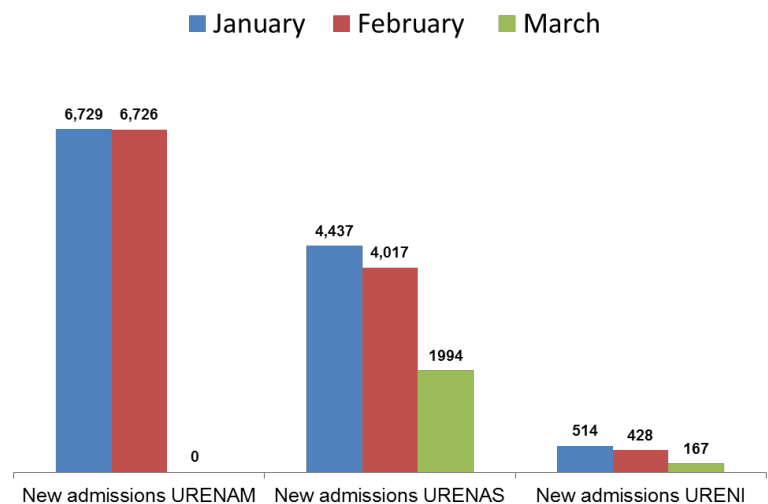
Nutrition

Needs:

- According to the 2012 SMART survey, 210,000 children are at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2013, and 450,000 are at risk of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM).

Response:

- As of 17 March, 28,477 children under 5 had been newly admitted for acute malnutrition in nutritional rehabilitation units at the national level in 2013:
 - 16,920 in URENAM (5 per cent of total)
 - 10,448 in URENAS (37 per cent of total)
 - 1,109 in URENDI (4 per cent of total)
- Nutritional data for Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu regions are provided by NGOs (ACF-E, MDM-B, and ALIMA GCAP). To date, the new admissions in this part of the country represent 13 per cent of all new admissions recorded at the national level.



New admissions to nutrition treatment centres (week 1 to week 11 of 2013)

Type of new admission	South*	North*	Total
URENAM (for treatment of MAM)	14,347	2,573	16,920
URENAS (for treatment of SAM)	9,035	1,413	10,448
URENI (for intensive care)	1,009	100	1,109
Total	24,391	4,086	28,477

*Sources: Data for the south come from the National Health Directorate and the Nutrition Division. Data from the north come only from NGOs working in the north : ALIMA-AMCP (Timbuktu), ACF-E (Gao) and MDM-B (Gao et Kidal). To date, no figure for the northern regions has been received by the cluster Nutrition

- The Nutrition Division of the National Health Department, with the support of UNICEF, presented Nutrition cluster partners with a revised format for compiling nutrition data. This new format is intended to harmonize data compilation at the regional and health district levels. It will also monitor the quality of nutritional care programmes. The tool was shared with 60 health districts and with NGOs working on nutrition.
- The fourth nutrition sub-cluster was launched in Mopti on 14 March.

Gaps & Constraints:

- In the 2013 CAP, 21 projects require \$73.7 million. As of 25 March, \$10.2 million had been received (13.8 per cent).



Shelter and Non-Food Items

Needs:

- In the south, several cases of IDP families unable to pay their rent being evicted (Bamako, Mopti, Segou), have been reported. The number of affected individuals is currently unknown.

- Many families hosting IDPs live in overcrowded homes. NRC is conducting a study on living conditions of IDPs in host families or rented houses in Bamako and Segou regions. Results should be finalized in April.
- According available information, mud houses of displaced families in the north have deteriorated following their displacements. These houses lack maintenance – especially required with the approaching rainy season – and some were looted. In addition, nomads reportedly had to abandon their traditional tents because of fighting. Precise figures are difficult to obtain given access constraints.

Response:

- The following NGOs are transferring cash in Mopti, Bamako, Koulikoro, Kayes and Gao: CARE, Acted, Oxfam, CRS, CWS, WV, Mercy Corps.
- NRC has submitted a project to UNHCR to prevent 1,000 displaced families from losing their homes. This project aims to rehabilitate emergency housing for 500 IDP families living with host families, as well as initiate income-generating activities for 500 IDP families. These activities will help families meet their basic needs (rent, charges, etc.). The project will start in April 2013 in Bamako, Segou and Mopti.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The lack of information and a census of habitats (huts, tents) in the north due to insecurity remains a challenge.
- Funding is sought by humanitarian actors (IOM, UNHCR and ACTED) for cash transfers and income-generating activities to assist IDPs facing eviction. Funds are also needed to provide tools and materials to reconstruct and rehabilitate mud huts in return villages, as well as deliver traditional nomadic tents.

Education

Needs:

- Stronger technical capacity is required among national education authorities and affected communities. These capacities are needed to respond appropriately to students' and teachers' education needs, which remains a priority for the education cluster. These capacities are also needed in order to ensure that short-term response programmes complement resilience-building efforts within the education sector.
- It is important to ensure that the needs of all school-aged children are taken into consideration, including aspects related to early childhood development and secondary education. A large part of the education sector response to date has focused on children of primary school age and teachers.
- The Education Cluster has identified 217 functional schools in Timbuktu and Gao regions, hosting an estimated 49,896 students. Providing teaching and learning materials and relevant training on education in emergencies remains critical to promoting high-quality education in conflict-affected schools in the north.

49,896

out of 200,000 students have access to education in the regions of Timbuktu and Gao

Response:

- UNICEF has trained 28 trainers and 25 national and regional directors in the planning and coordination of education in emergencies.
- The Ministry of Education, in collaboration with the Department of the Young Child (pre-school), is developing an education programme for children aged 0 to 8. The programme is based on an integrated approach to Government services in nutrition and protection of young children. UNICEF and NGO partners (Bornfonden and Save the Children) provided technical and financial support.
- UNICEF has distributed learning materials to 4,923 students (including 2,579 boys and 2,344 girls) in the region of Timbuktu. This is part of ongoing efforts to support schools in the north re-opening.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The Education cluster has identified 140 functional schools in Gao region. There remains a need to support both teachers and students in Gao by providing teaching and learning materials, as well as rehabilitating damaged school infrastructure.
- Funding shortfalls severely undermine the cluster's ability to ensure an effective response. To date, the education cluster has received 13 per cent of requested funds through the 2013 CAP.



Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- Assessments following the recent military campaign continue to show enormous chronic WASH needs. Islamic Relief's evaluation of 58 communities in Douentza (one third of total) and Gourma Rharous (Timbuktu region) shows that a quarter of the piped water networks require technical assistance. In addition, 86 per cent of schools and 38 per cent of community health centres (CSCOMs) have no source of water. Almost one third of surveyed schools have no functional latrines, and open defecation was found in 71 per cent of school grounds. In Boni, the water system supplies 6,123 people (15 tap stands), but has not worked since the arrival of the Islamists. In Hombori (14 tap stands), the water system is working, but there are major leaks in the water reservoir and network and the water is not chlorinated. In Débééré, the water system supplies 1,908 people (2 tap stands), but is not operational due to looting of the water system's solar panel.
- Mapping shows that over three-quarters of health care facilities need assistance in terms of actors providing support for the minimum WASH package (water, sanitation, hand washing facilities, cleaning materials).
- The members of the WASH cluster need immediate funding for cholera prevention activities (sensitization campaigns, training of community workers, chlorination mechanisms, prepositioning of hygiene kits). Usually, the cholera epidemic season starts in July with an average of 1,100 cases registered each year. With the suspension of the direct aid to the WASH sector and the damage of infrastructures caused by the conflict (looting, lack of personnel, lack of fuel etc) there is a risk that the cholera season jeopardizes humanitarian efforts.

Response:

- Over the last six months, ACF has distributed soap and aquatabs to 465 households in vulnerable villages of Gao region without access to improved water sources.
- In Mopti region, UNICEF is assisting the Regional Hydraulics Directorate (DRH) to provide chlorine and financial means to ensure safe water distribution to 100,000 people in conflict-affected towns (e.g., Konna, Douentza, etc.). The assistance is also meant to reinforce the DRH's role as a technical expert in re-organizing the water network management system.
- ICRC continues to deliver fuel to Gao power stations (20,000 litres per month), Kidal (30,000 litres per month) and Timbuktu (33,000 litres per month). These deliveries ensure access to water and power. ICRC is carrying out water and infrastructure needs assessment between Mopti and Douentza, and in Timbuktu.
- Solidarités International has distributed 233 hygiene kits and provided financial assistance for water trucking for IDPs and host communities in Talhandak, Kidal region. UNICEF has provided Solidarités with water pumps, bladders for water storage, and a water distribution unit.

Gaps & Constraints:

- The WASH cluster has received only \$2.2 through the CAP (4.1 per cent of \$54 million in requirements).

**Health****Needs:**

Access to health care remains limited in the north, and health facilities need more personnel, equipment and drugs. Some rehabilitation work is required for looted health facilities.

A measles outbreak continues in Gao and Kidal regions. The outbreak started four weeks ago.

Response:

- MDM-B with the support of UNICEF has vaccinated 16,111 children under 15 against measles (98 per cent of the target) in four health areas of Gao. An immunization campaign recently concluded in Kidal region.
- Humanitarian support missions continue in health districts and hospitals in Mopti, Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal regions thanks to support from WHO and partners.
- UNICEF is supporting NGOs in health centres in crisis-affected areas. In March, 10 emergency health kits were provided to ALIMA in Dire (Mopti region) and 10 kits to MDM-F in Ténenkou (Timbuktu).
- WHO and partners plan to support a needs assessment mission to Gao and Timbuktu regions. A rapid assessment of health facilities in Mali is ongoing.
- UNICEF has procured a first lot of vaccines and injection devices worth \$1.4 million to prevent stock outs across the country, with a funding grant from the government of Canada. The vaccines have now been delivered to all the regions of Mali.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Stronger epidemiological surveillance is needed in the north.

- The lack of funding is hindering cholera prevention activities.



Logistics

- On 21 March, UNHAS Mali completed its first flight to Gao to facilitate a joint security evaluation mission.
- The possibility of launching flights to secondary destinations in northern Mali was discussed at an UNHAS user group meeting. This has been jointly requested by various NGOs. The expansion would require adding another aircraft and a higher budget. More information is available on the cluster webpage www.logcluster.org.



Emergency Telecommunications (ETC)

- While additional telecommunications equipment is being purchased, the ETC continues to assist and provide the humanitarian community in Bamako and Mopti with data/voice network and technical support, as well as installing and programming handheld and vehicle radios.
- The National UNDSS radio trainer is supporting the radio room and humanitarian community in Mopti.

General Coordination

- Information on all regular coordination meetings and contacts of all clusters are available on the website mali.humanitarianresponse.info.
- OCHA organizes a meeting every Friday to share information with the humanitarian community. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, 29 March.

Background on the crisis

In January 2012, a rebellion erupted in northern Mali led by a Tuareg separatist movement, the Mouvement national de libération de l'Azawad (MNLA). The secular MNLA allied with several armed Islamist groups, and their early territorial gains led to a military coup in Bamako on 22 March. Under international pressure, the coup leaders quickly ceded power, but some continued to interfere with decisions of the new civilian Government. Amid political uncertainty in the capital, the rebellion captured the three northern regions of Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu – a mostly desert area slightly larger than France – within several days. They then announced the end of hostilities and proclaimed the independent state of “Azawad”, which was rejected by the international community. The situation along the de facto north-south dividing line remained calm until the end of 2012, when Islamist groups seized power from the MNLA. These groups professed less interest in an independent north than in imposing strict Islamic law on the country.

ECOWAS moved to create an African force (AFISMA) to help Malian authorities restore the country's territorial integrity. The UN Security Council authorized this force on 20 December 2012, with an additional mandate to ensure security for humanitarian assistance and the voluntary return of displaced people. Shortly afterwards, rebel groups launched an offensive moving south, capturing the town of Konna on 10 January 2013. The Government of Mali subsequently requested immediate military assistance from France, which began rapidly. The current conflict started in the midst of a Sahel-wide food and nutrition crisis that further eroded the resilience of millions of people already suffering from chronic poverty. Despite a good harvest in 2012, millions continue to suffer, and the new fighting is creating additional humanitarian needs.

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