

MALI

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

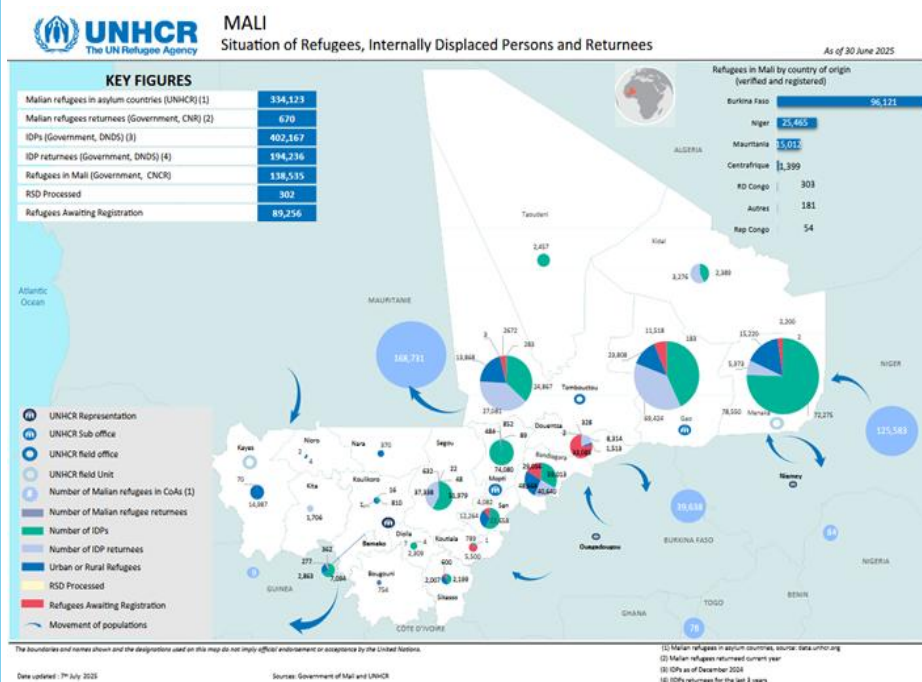
Quarterly | April-June 2025









STATISTICS / MAP

Key figures on population displacement

	334,123 Malian refugees in asylum countries (UNHCR)
	670 Malian refugees returnees (Government, DNDS)
	402,167 IDPs (Government, DNDS)
	194,236 IDP returnees (Government, CNCR)
	138,535 Registered refugees in Mali (Government, CNCR)
	89,256 Refugees awaiting Registration



Key achievements

	3,760 Refugees and 750 host community members community received blankets donated by the NGO CORUS International		2,909 Refugees have been registered by the National Commission for Refugees (CNCR) and the UNHCR		1,115 People identified in mixed movements in Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal and Ménaka
	1,110 Refugees received mosquito nets to protect themselves against malaria		400 Pupils received school kits in Timbuktu region		110 survivors of violence against women and girls received psychosocial and medical support



UNHCR and its partner ACEF conduct household interviews with newly arrived refugees in Koro, Bandiagara region, to inform planning for assistance, protection services and solutions for the new arrivals. Photo CIAUD-Canada

Operational Context

During the second quarter of 2025, despite persistent security and humanitarian challenges, Mali continued to welcome large influxes of refugees, mainly from Burkina Faso, followed by those from Niger. The latest waves of arrivals have revealed significant secondary movements, both circular and pendular. New arrivals initially seek refuge mainly in the central regions (Mopti, San, Douentza, Bandiagara), before progressing towards the south of the country. Many refugees who arrived in Mopti for example, have moved on to Bamako, Ségou or Sikasso. An in-depth analysis of these migration dynamics is currently underway.

Between June 2024 and June 2025, the total number of refugees in Mali more than doubled, rising from 96,000 to over 220,000, including 138,535 registered individuals and over 89,000 people awaiting registration, a significant increase from the 64,315 as of March 2025.

In response to continuing mass arrivals, UNHCR has strengthened the coordination mechanism for the refugee response, particularly in the central regions by harmonizing the multi-sector response with partners and other humanitarian actors and by reducing duplication of effort. At the same time, mobilization and coordination between the various humanitarian partners have intensified to respond more effectively to this situation. Internal displacement is also increasing in Mali with a deterioration of the security situation, exacerbated by extreme weather events such as floods.

Main achievements in sectors

Registration and documentation:

Between January and June, 2,909 refugees were registered, bringing the total number of registered refugees in Mali to 138,535. Of the refugees already registered, over 96,000 are from Burkina Faso, while more than 25,000 are from Niger, confirming the growing trend of arrivals in a regional context still marked by instability. Yet the number of refugees continues to rise, due to continuing mass arrivals.

Legal Protection

The Eligibility Committee of the Refugee Status Determination Commission examined 89 asylum-seeker files. Of these, 86 were approved. In addition, three files were re-examined at second instance by the Appeal Committee. Two travel documents (TVC) were also issued to refugees needing to travel outside Mali for commercial reasons.

Mixed Movements

In the second quarter of 2025, border monitoring in Mali covered 56 entry points and recorded 7,729 individuals in mixed movements, a 61 per cent increase compared to the previous quarter, mainly due to expulsions from neighboring countries, particularly Mauritania and Algeria. 60 per cent of people involved in these movements originated from Burkina Faso, with 5,996 asylum-seekers identified and referred to the National Commission for Refugees (CNCR), along with 112 refugees in secondary movements. Most of those leaving Mali were nationals fleeing insecurity, economic hardship, and rising criminality. Monitoring reports also highlighted that 71 per cent of those recorded lacked identity documents, 54 per cent of whom were at risk of statelessness, marking a notable increase. Meanwhile, 1,621 persons with specific needs were referred to specialized services, and 453 awareness-raising sessions were conducted on irregular migration, civil registration, and international protection.

Violence against women and girls:

From April to June 2025, UNHCR and its partners (AMSS, ACEF, One Stop Center) identified and treated several cases of violence against women and girls in the regions of Mopti, Gao, Ménaka, Ansongo and Koro. Documented cases include

sexual assault, physical and emotional violence, child marriage and denial of service. Over 110 survivors, including children, have been provided with a range of services, including psychosocial and medical support. This support is part of ongoing efforts to protect displaced people and host communities, build resilience and prevent impunity.

Solutions/Returns:

Between April and June, 267 Malians spontaneously returned home, comprising 156 people from Mauritania, 77 from Burkina Faso and 34 from Niger. These returnees resettled in different regions of Mali. The majority - 160 people - moved to the Timbuktu region, while 63 settled in Gao, 24 in Ménaka and 20 in Ségou. About 508 Malians have returned home since January 2025. This flow testifies to the continuation of voluntary returns, despite persistent challenges in areas of origin and return. UNHCR is assisting these returnees by facilitating the issuance of civil documentation and providing access to education.

Local Integration:

To facilitate free movement of refugees, **access to legal documentation**, and their integration, UNHCR continued to push for the issuance **of thirty-seven certificates of nationality to refugees born in Mali**. This request concerns 20 adults, including nine women 11 men, and 17 minors, comprising six girls and 11 boys.

Statelessness:

In May, the Government of Mali through the National Transition Committee adopted a law on statelessness. This major step forward was taken by the Keeper of the Seals, Minister of Justice and Human Rights, and by the Technical Advisor in the same Ministry, who is also the National Focal Point for statelessness.

The adoption of the new law is the culmination of a long process undertaken with the support of UNHCR to the State of Malian in the fight against statelessness and other issues linked to the protection of fundamental rights. In recent years, UNHCR has provided technical and financial support in the form of training, awareness-raising, expertise and advocacy at various levels of Government.

Education:

In April, UNHCR supported the education sector in the northern regions of Mali through the donation

of 150 benches, six desks and chairs for teachers in seven schools in the Gao and Haoussa-Foulane CAPs. In the Timbuktu region, 400 pupils from the Gossi primary school received school kits supplied by UNHCR partner CORUS, helping to improve learning conditions for children in a context of fragility and displacement.

Health:

In June, the NGO Appui Conseil aux Enfants et Femmes du Mali (ACEF) provided medical care for three sick refugees in Koro, including a case of violence against women and girls. Two other medical cases were treated, while five refugees requiring specialized care were referred to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF). In May 10 refugee households received baby kits, and 10 survivors of sexual and related violence received dignity kits, in Douentza/Mopti, thanks to ACEF's support.

Shelter/ WASH:

In June, the Cité Naata in Gao, an initiative undertaken by UNHCR and its partners, saw the official handover of 100 houses built by UNHCR and its partners, with Hydraform bricks, providing many families adequate and secure shelters. 10 additional public latrine blocks were built, totalling 20 latrines, thus improving hygiene and sanitation conditions in the community. Between April and June, 221 new semi-durable shelters were constructed for 1,105 flood-affected individuals (221 households) in the heart of the host community of Gao, offering safe and more dignified housing conditions for refugees. In June, as part of a project financed by the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), 113 shelters were built to help 565 flood-affected people, including 225 refugees (45 households), 215 IDPs (43 households) and 125 host community members (25 households).

In June, UNHCR and its partners supported communities with transitional and disaster resilient shelters, offering improved living conditions to 2,576 host community members (416 households) in the commune of Bla, in the Ségou region. In Timbuktu, 1,793 IDPs (223 households) were provided with emergency shelters, offering them a safe and functional space after months of uncertainty.

Non-Food Items (NFIs)

Between April and May, UNHCR facilitated two distributions of blankets by the NGO CORUS International. Beneficiaries comprised 3,760

refugees in Gao, 1905 IDPs and 750 members of the host community, bringing warmth and comfort to the most vulnerable families. In addition, 680 newly registered refugees in Gao (136 households), were assisted with NFI kits. In Ménaka, 1,110 refugees (200 households) received mosquito nets to protect themselves against malaria. In May, in Bandiagara region, in the Koro cercle, 1,186 refugees (230 households) benefited from NFI kits such, providing them with essential day-to-day items such as kitchen utensils, sleeping mat, blankets and mosquito nets. In June, in Timbuktu, 1,476 IDPs (670 households) received NFI kits in Goundam, meeting their basic needs.

Cash Assistance:

In April, in Timbuktu, 133 households from the host community received cash assistance to meet their urgent needs. In Mopti, 44 particularly vulnerable refugee households also benefited from unconditional cash assistance, offering them the flexibility and dignity to address their most pressing priorities.

Partnerships:

Following a plea made by UNHCR in April in response to the continuing influx of new refugees into the central regions of Mali, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), in collaboration with UNHCR in Mopti, provided cash assistance to buy food for 3,079 refugees (490 households), including 1,577 women and 1,502 men) in the locality of Koro.

The amount of assistance was adjusted according to families and covered food needs for a month, helping to improve access to sufficient quantities of nutritious foods, necessary for the health and well-being of newly-arrived refugee families.

In addition, 40 staff from the Institut National des Statistiques (INSTAT) benefited from capacity-building training on International Protection as part of the new partnership with UNHCR in Mali.

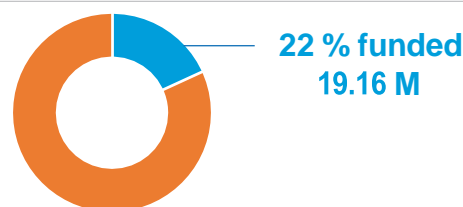
Impact of Budgetary Cuts and Efficiency Measures:

While budget cuts have inevitably limited the availability of resources, the introduction of robust efficiency measures by UNHCR is helping to mitigate the negative effects. Improved monitoring

mechanisms introduced will strengthen financial discipline and enable corrective action to be taken quickly, while cost-sharing agreements with other partners will spread the financial burden more equitably. Similarly, streamlining operations through technology and optimized procedures will deliver savings that preserve programme quality, while flexible reallocation mechanisms ensure rapid adaptation to changing priorities and emergencies. Collectively, these measures will transform the impact of budget cuts and potential service reductions into an opportunity for more strategic use of resources, stronger partnerships and sustainable delivery of essential assistance.

FUNDING AS OF 30 JUNE 2025

USD 85 million Required by Mali in 2025



UNHCR is grateful for the generous contributions of its donors who have provided earmarked and flexible funding to support operations in Mali in 2025.



UNHCR thanks donors of flexible funds

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