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
As of 27 January, 15,208 new Malian refugees had arrived in Burkina Faso (5,002), Mauritania (8,468) and Niger (1,738). Based on monitoring of bus stations and certain public routes (pigasses), IOM estimates that the number of IDPs in Ségou, Mopti and Bamako regions has increased from 3,599 to 9,946. Verifying IDP movements in other regions remains extremely difficult.

Military operations have gathered pace in recent days. French and Malian troops took control of Gao on 26 January and Timbuktu on 28 January, meeting little resistance. As soon as the airports had been secured, planes arrived with additional soldiers, including Chadian and other AFISMA contingents that secured the towns. Over 2,900 French soldiers are currently in Mali, with an additional 1,200 supporting the operation from abroad. The African Union hopes to see full AFISMA strength reach 6,000 soldiers and has requested temporary logistics assistance from the UN to expedite their deployment. The AU estimates the total cost of the force to be $460 million, of which they have announced they will contribute $50 million. A pledging conference opened in Addis Ababa on 29 January, attended by the UN, EU, UK, France and Japan, among others.

The 2013 consolidated appeal (CAP) for Mali was officially launched in Bamako on 29 January. Humanitarian partners and the Government of Mali are seeking $370,434,258 to assist 4.3 million vulnerable Malians across the country. The appeal was developed in autumn 2012 based on scenarios that assumed a risk of conflict. Although no revisions have been made, it is likely that new priority needs as a result of military operations will cause overall requirements to increase.

### Funding

The 2013 Mali CAP requires $370,434,258, of which only 0.75 per cent ($2.8 million) had been committed by 29 January. On 22 January, the EU announced it would commit €20 million ($26.5 million) for Mali for malnutrition and assistance for refugees, but these funds have not yet been officially recorded. 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

### Humanitarian Response

#### Food Security

**Needs:**

- The risk of food insecurity is increasing in the north, where WFP had previously estimated that 585,000 people were food insecure and 1.2 million were at risk of food insecurity. Two recent rapid evaluations highlight the risk of a severe shortfall in staple goods in the coming days if access remains disrupted. Such a shortage would likely increase food insecurity for extremely vulnerable populations and increase displacement among those who can afford to leave.

- The first evaluation, shared by WFP on 18 January, indicates disruptions along the commercial cereal supply route from Mopti to the north. Other supplies coming from Algeria to Kidal and Gao (via Kidal) have fallen by 50 per cent. In Kidal, residents depend on markets for up to 94 per cent of their food. The full report is available (French only) on the [Mali Humanitarian Response](http://www.mali-humanitarianresponse.info) website.

- The second evaluation, shared by an international NGO on 17 January, surveyed households in Kidal reporting that they have about 10 days of food stocks. Respondents do not have enough cash to purchase additional food, and most households are reducing their daily food consumption. Most salesmen have reportedly left the area, and according to those still present, they could supply markets for only another two to three weeks. The full report is available (French only) on the [Mali Humanitarian Response](http://www.mali-humanitarianresponse.info) website.

- A separate ACF evaluation found that the food security situation in Gao has deteriorated significantly since the recent bombing campaign. This is primarily a result of increasingly restricted market supplies, diminishing food stocks, substantial price increases and dwindling cash resources. The full report is available (French only) on the [Mali Humanitarian Response](http://www.mali-humanitarianresponse.info) website.

- According to a WFP analysis, a lack of income has left over 70 per cent of households in Mopti region with only partial access to staple goods. The availability of millet, rice and fish has fallen mainly due to over-population (the areas hosts IDPs from the north, straining resources) and increased costs. Road and river transport has slowed, and supply routes remain disrupted, especially in Douentza.

- Despite good rains in 2012, grass cover has not fully recovered in pasture areas affected by the 2011 drought. This has led to a steep drop in pastoral production. Last year’s conflict also caused massive

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displacement among herders. Host families have accommodated these IDPs, further straining limited resources.

Response:

- WFP and ACTED are completing food distributions for 12,000 IDPs in Bamako.
- WFP and CARE began distributing urgently needed food this week to 22,000 IDPs in Mopti and 32,000 IDPs in Ségou. Monthly rations provide the standard 2,100 kcal per day. Deliveries to the north are being prepared and will likely begin in the coming days.
- Partners stand ready to respond to needs in the north wherever access permits. With military efforts advancing, access could recover shortly, although it may take a while for the situation to stabilize sufficiently to allow people to access markets and humanitarian partners to deliver aid.
- FAO and Vétérinaires sans frontières-Belgique (VSF-B) have completed the following activities in 10 critical communes of Ségou region:
  - Distribution of veterinary kits and 230 tons of cattle feed to 1,000 IDPs and host family members
  - Distribution of 1,992 heads of cattle to whom.
  - Training sessions on raising goats and a monitoring system intended to follow the most frequent goat diseases
  - Vaccination of 2,000 goats, with another 3,000 currently being vaccinated.

Gaps & Constraints:

- Partners are concerned by disrupted market supplies in the north. The humanitarian community should urge Malian authorities, regional governments and intervention forces not to hamper – and if possible, to facilitate – the flow of staple commercial and humanitarian goods into the north.
- On-going insecurity in Ségou region complicates FAO project monitoring and risks interrupting regularly scheduled outreach programmes intended to reinforce beneficiaries’ agricultural skills.

Protection

Needs:

- The number of new IDPs in Mopti, Ségou and Bamako is now 9,946. IOM provided this figure after tracking passengers at bus stations and certain public routes (pigasses) along the Niger River from 12 to 24 January. The Commission on Population Movements (CMP) had registered 227,206 total IDPs as of 31 December 2012 and has not confirmed a new total IDP figure since.
- UNHCR has echoed earlier NGO reports of several hundred people who tried to flee from Kidal to Algeria but were stopped at the border. These people are believed to be living completely destitute in the bush.
- Reports have emerged of reprisals against individuals and groups accused of collaborating with armed groups in areas currently under the control of French and Malian forces. Better access to these areas is essential in order to investigate these allegations. In 2012, human rights organizations documented numerous rights violations in areas controlled by armed groups.
- Fighting in conflict-affected areas has put children at greater risk of physical danger (death or injury) and association with armed groups. Stronger mine risk education is required, and partners should promote the effective operation of a referral system for children formerly associated with armed groups.
- IOM has identified 788 separated children since September 2012, with an average age of 10. Of these, 242 children (average age 13) were identified as heading 97 households. Identification, Documentation, Tracing and Reunification (IDTR) programmes are required.

Response:

- IOM presented an IDP household registration system on 22 January that will collect information on separated children and their vulnerabilities. Information is currently available for Bamako and Koulikouro and should be available soon for Ségou, Sikasso and Mopti. Information will be updated monthly. Requests to access the system should be directed to IOM, which will dispatch information to various city halls.
• Partners are currently completing a multi-sectorial assessment that includes five questions on protection, three of which focus on child protection. Partners will rely on the findings to develop and refine child protection programmes in Kayes, Bamako, Gao, Koulikouro, Kidal, Mopti, Ségou, Sikasso and Timbuktu.

• Five key child protection issues were identified in a recent multi-sectorial assessment, including psychosocial impacts, mine risk education, separated children and children associated with armed groups. Partners have developed mapping and standard operating procedures for unaccompanied and separated children. Partners have also proposed programmes to respond to the needs of children formerly associated with armed groups/forces, such as transit care centres that would provide psychosocial support.

• UNICEF is sponsoring a radio campaign to raise awareness of mine risk education (MRE) and gender-based violence (GBV). The campaign is being aired nationally on ORTM radio and regionally on local radio stations. Three messages on MRE in nine languages and seven messages on GBV in five languages are ready for broadcast. Broadcasts have already taken place in Bamako, Mopti and Ségou regions.

Gaps and constraints:

• All available child protection services need to be published in a list, and a referral system for the most vulnerable separated children and children formerly associated with armed groups needs to be developed.

• Response capacities urgently need to be strengthened, mostly for mine risk education, IDTR programmes, psychosocial support and GBV. Current resources are not sufficient to cover minimum needs in prevention and response, particularly in terms of separated children and children associated with armed groups.

• To meet needs outlined in the 2013 Mali CAP, cluster partners need $37 million. A dozen projects are on child protection. At present, 0 per cent of the Child Protection projects are funded.

Nutrition

Needs:

• In 2013, 210,000 children in Mali will be at risk of severe acute malnutrition, and 450,000 children will be at risk of moderate acute malnutrition. These projections are according to the 2012 national SMART survey.

Response:

• As of 20 January, 5,698 children had been admitted to national nutrition treatment centres in Mali in 2013. According to Government statistics, 5,261 of these children were in the south. Most children in the south (57.5 per cent) were admitted for moderate acute malnutrition. Information on weekly admissions in the north is only available from NGOs, who had recorded 437 admissions as of 20 January. The vast majority of these admissions (82.6 per cent) were for severe acute malnutrition.

| New admissions to nutrition treatment centres (Weeks 1 to 3 of 2013) |
|---|---|---|
| Type of new admission | South* | North* | Total |
| URENAM (for treatment of MAM) | 3,026 | 63 | 3,089 |
| URENAS (for treatment of SAM) | 1,965 | 361 | 2,326 |
| URENI (for intensive care) | 270 | 13 | 283 |
| **Total** | **5,261** | **437** | **5,698** |

*Sources: Data for the south come from the Malian Health National Directorate and Nutrition Division. Data for the north come from NGOs ALIMA-AMCP (Timbuktu) and MDM-B (Gao and Kidal).}

• The second phase of the National Nutrition Weeks is underway in Mali’s five southern regions. All children between 6 and 59 months will benefit from vitamin A supplementation, and all children between 12 and 59 months will be de-wormed.

• Partners are working with the Health National Directorate and the Nutrition Division to improve the national nutrition surveillance system at the district level. In weekly meetings, the Cluster Information Manager and the Nutrition Division process new admissions data and identify priorities going forward.

• The Nutrition cluster continues to operate a daily telephone monitoring system that closely monitors potential changes in the nutrition situation wherever partners are working. This system also facilitates coordination with other sectors.
• The Nutrition Cluster conducted a third training session on the online monitoring database ActivityInfo. 21 participants from NGOs and the Government attended.

Gaps and Constraints:
• Four NGOs in the north (MdM-B, ACF-E, AVSF and ALIMA-AMCP) have been forced to temporarily suspend their mobile clinic programmes due to the conflict. Staff has been re-located to urban centres where they continue to support health structures in their acute malnutrition screening and treatment.
• Partners are concerned that reduced access to health structures in rural areas could result in a large number of children suffering from acute malnutrition not being tracked at the community level. As a result, these children risk not receiving adequate treatment.
• To meet identified nutrition needs, cluster partners require $73.8 million as outlined in the 2013 CAP.

Education

Needs:
• Thousands of school-aged children are facing limited or no access to education due to security concerns or damage to school infrastructure in Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu. Some cercles of Mopti (Douentza, Sévaré) and Ségou (Niono) regions are also affected.

Response:
• Education cluster partners are investigating alternative education strategies for children who cannot attend school due to insecurity. These strategies include accelerated learning programmes, radio programming, mobile schools and home-based schooling.
• Through the "Task Force du Nord" (a working group of 25 national and international partners present and active in the north), the Education Cluster is putting in place a work plan that will allow for an informed, coordinated response to education needs in the north.
• The Education Cluster has put in place an action plan for 2013 and has received financing to implement a training schedule for Cluster partners. Training modules and thematic working groups have been contextualized to respond to education needs.

Gaps and constraints:
• National actors’ capacity to implement alternative education programmes in conflict-affected areas needs strengthening. Addressing this issue is a cluster priority.
• Restricted communications and a decreased cluster presence have created information gaps in understanding education sector needs in conflict-affected areas. These gaps are strongest in the north and Mopti and Ségou regions. The Ministry of Education has endorsed a field monitoring system intended to address these gaps.
• Funding shortfalls severely undermine the cluster’s ability to ensure an effective response. Only 6 per cent of education requirements were funded through the 2012 CAP.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:
• Rapid assessments have highlighted the need to distribute WASH-related NFIs (e.g., jerry cans, soap, Aquatabs, PUR) to displaced people and their hosts. Continuing WASH support for health and nutrition facilities is also required.
• Water networks in conflict-affected areas need maintenance and repair. Major identified problems include conflict-related damage, fuel shortages, electricity shortages, absence of qualified staff, and looting of water systems equipment.

Response:
• Partners are conducting evaluations in anticipation of scaling up response activities as access improves. To date, the WASH cluster has received eight rapid evaluations from three partners in Mopti. Initial findings will be presented on 31 January. Security restrictions to conflict-affected areas of Ségou have been lifted,
and rapid evaluations will start on 31 January. In addition, partners are conducting a telephone evaluation with the largest urban private water system in conflict-affected areas to assess damage and other needs.

- WASH partners are evaluating the potential impact of fuel shortages and fuel looting on piped water systems that supply the principal conflict-affected towns. A list of at-risk piped water systems has been produced, and efforts are underway to procure and distribute Aquatabs and PUR in case of fuel shortages.

**Gaps and constraints:**
- Humanitarian partners have limited access to areas that have seen recent air strikes, including Konna (Mopti), Diabaly (Niono), Douentza (Mopti), Sévaré (Mopti) and Léré (Niafunké). Access to surrounding areas remains difficult.

**Health**
- On 28 January, UNICEF sent 876 boxes (each with 5,000 doses) of preventive malaria medicines to the National Malaria Programme. These boxes will be distributed to health centres across the country and are meant to treat pregnant women and address high rates of malaria transmission.

**Emergency Telecommunications**
- The Emergency Telecommunications (ETC) cluster plans to rapidly re-establish its presence in Mopti, following approval by the Security Management Team on 28 January. A mission is expected to depart this week.
- ETC has scheduled an assessment in Ségou, where the UN plans to establish a common back-up base for Mopti region. Completion of the base will depend on commitments from the UN Country Team.
- ETC is on standby to deploy telecommunications services in the north should the humanitarian community increase its presence there. Funding is critical to ensure the necessary teams and equipment.
- ETC is assisting humanitarian organizations in re-programming their VHF/HF radios with the new frequencies allocated. To date, 140 VHF hand-held radios, four vehicles and one base have been re-programmed with a new frequency.

**Logistics**
- UNHAS flights to Kayes and Mopti resumed on 29 January following approval by the Security Management Team (SMT) the previous day. Weekly schedules have been adjusted to allow all previous destinations to be served. Domestic flights were suspended on 11 January due to insecurity, while weekly flights to Niamey (Niger) continued. UNHAS shares information with the civil-military coordination cell in order to ensure de-confliction of the airport and air space. UNHAS also stands ready to organize flights to Gao. Airstrip assessments continue across Mali, with the Logistics Cluster compiling results.
- A Logistics Cluster mission travelled to Niger from 23 to 25 January to discuss possible cross-border operations with Nigerien counterparts. These operations would function along the Niamey-Gao axis. OCHA Niger has confirmed that humanitarian organizations in Mali may import humanitarian goods to northern Mali from Niger. A one-time authorization is required from the Malian Consulate in Niamey and can be obtained within 48 hours.
- The cluster is updating the fuel contingency plan and consolidating partners’ storage needs across the country. To date, the cluster has received four mobile storage units through WFP.
- The Logistics Cluster is activating a cell dedicated to access and security. Meanwhile, the cluster continuously informs all humanitarian partners of available delivery and transport options in coordination with civil-military focal points.
- The UNHAS user group met on 29 January to review partners’ air transport needs in light of current conditions. Minutes will be posted on the logistics and Humanitarian Response websites (mali.humanitarianresponse.info).
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.

General Coordination

OCHA is organizing a new weekly information sharing meeting for the humanitarian community. The first meeting will take place this Friday, 1 February, from 11:30 to 12:30 at UNDP. The standing agenda will include updates on security, civil-military coordination and the humanitarian situation. For more information or to propose additional agenda items, please contact Ms. Delphine Pastorel at pastorel@un.org.

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