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Coordination Saves Lives

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support and logistical support from several European countries, Canada and the United States. At an ECOWAS summit on 19 January, Ivorian President Ouattara called for a wider engagement, and France appealed for immediate deployment of the African-led Force (AFISMA). At least nine African countries have announced troop contributions. African units have started to arrive, but are not yet engaged in operations.

Additional people have fled the fighting zones. As of 22 January, 8,429 Malian refugees had have arrived in the following countries since 10 January: Mauritania (4,771), Burkina Faso (2,302) and Niger (1,356). According to IOM, there are 3,599 new IDPs in Bamako, Segou and Mopti. Additional reports indicate several hundred displaced people in dire condition close to the Algerian border. Other population movements are more limited in scope, distance and time, with reports of people fleeing temporarily and returning after Malian and French forces have secured the area.

Access remains difficult in several areas. This includes the northern regions, but also areas of fighting and regions previously considered safe, such as Kaye. Most regions are at UN security level 5, which prevents UN staff presence except upon special authorization, except for Bamako and Kaye (level 4) and Sirkasso (level 3). Some NGOs have reduced or suspended their activities, and Oxfam withdrew its international staff from Kayes. Several humanitarian partners are publicly demanding access to areas recently taken by French and Malian troops, especially around Konna, where the French intervention began on 10 January. Domestic UNHAS flights are suspended, with only the Bamako-Niamey flight still functional.

Humanitarian needs are increasing amid reduced access. The situation is particularly alarming in the north, where recent rapid assessments indicate that many people have only two to three weeks of food stock. Medical supply stocks are also limited to a few weeks. Protection needs are also rising, including for mine awareness, protection of women and girls and child protection. Humanitarian partners are working to find alternatives to provide assistance to the most vulnerable.

Donors are strongly urged to immediately provide the funding required to adjust to the needs created by the current situation. At the same time, resources are still needed to rebuild the livelihoods of millions of vulnerable people in Mali who are still confronting the consequences of the 2012 food and nutrition crisis.

### Funding

The 2013 Consolidated Appeal for Mali requires $370,434,258, of which only 0.75 per cent has been committed ($2,798,418). On 22 January, the EU announced it would commit €20 million ($26.5 million) for Mali. The EU said funds would be used to fight malnutrition and provide assistance to refugees.

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: tfs@un.org

### Humanitarian Response

#### Needs:

- According to IOM, the number of new IDPs in Mopti, Segou and Bamako regions is now 3,599. Other reports are have not been confirmed. NGOs working in Kidal region reported that up to 400 people tried to flee to Algeria but were stopped at the border. These people are now in the bush and urgently need assistance. Other reports highlight more limited and temporary displacements. After reporting some 5,000 people fleeing Konna towards neighbouring villages, local authorities report these people are returning since French and Malian troops have secured the town.
- Reports have emerged of reprisals against individuals or groups accused of collaborating with the armed groups in areas now under control of French and Malian troops. These reports have not been confirmed or have been denied. In 2012, human rights organizations reported numerous violations of human rights in areas controlled by armed groups.
- The main child protection issues relate to children associated with armed groups, risks of mines, psychosocial trauma and family separation. The current strategy will need to be revised based on the above.
• Given the rapidly changing situation, there is an increasing need for updated information to serve as common ground for all organizations participating in the Child Protection Sub-Cluster. IOM data on IDPs highlights that in such circumstances roughly 8 per cent of children are expected to be either separated or unaccompanied, including child-headed households. Additional alternative care and tracing and reunification programmes are urgently needed.
• Following a rapid assessment from 17-21 January between Djennè and Konna (Mopti region), Solidarités reported seven cases of unaccompanied children registered in the communes of Sio, Soye and Fakala.

Response:
• On 18 January, UNFPA, UN Women and UNICEF launched a training programme for 4,000 Malian troops to raise awareness of the protection needs of women and girls in an armed conflict.
• Handicap International, Solidarités and IRC are planning to lead child protection assessments next week in different areas of Mopti region. Through their IDP tracking programme, IOM is gathering information on separated and unaccompanied children that will inform identification, documentation, tracing and reunification (IDTR) programmes.
• Cluster partners are defining how to include an emergency component within their regular programmes. This includes enhanced training for programme staff, expanded child protection programmes in affected areas and meetings with authorities and humanitarian partners to strengthen protection activities.
• Child Protection Sub-Cluster meetings now take place more frequently. The minutes of the last meeting and details on cluster coordination are available on: www.mali.humanitarianresponse.info.

Gaps and constraints:
• Access to some areas, including Konna, remains forbidden by Malian authorities. Several humanitarian partners have publicly demanded access to Konna, which was officially freed from armed groups on 18 January.
• Coordination between the national child protection sub-cluster in Bamako and the regional ones in Mopti and Ségou is limited. Support to the regional sub-cluster in Mopti and Ségou needs to be strengthened.
• While funding is a major constraint to the scale-up the child protection response, lack of capacity among child protection actors and sensitivity around issues such as children associated with armed groups are contributing to gaps.
• Given the rapidly evolving situation, a minimum of one child protection actor in each region is required. A constant mapping of child protection actors is also required.

Food Security

Needs:
• According to WFP, 585,000 people in the north are food insecure, and more than 1.2 million are at risk of food insecurity. The total current population of the north is estimated at 1.8 million people. The Food Security cluster and its partners remain mobilized to respond to rising needs, including those resulting from new displacements. The scope of these displacements and their impact on food security needs is not yet clear.
• In Agriculture, small farmers need agricultural inputs to quickly improve production and productivity. These inputs are also needed to help restore household resilience by increasing access to food.

Response:
• WFP food distributions are on-going for 12,000 IDPs in Bamako with partner ACTED. This week, WFP and partner CARE will start the provision of much needed relief food to 22,000 IDPs in Mopti and to 32,000 IDPs in Ségou region. Programmes in Ségou region include assistance to previous and new IDPs in in Ségou district.
• Preparations are underway to deliver food to the three northern regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal as soon as possible through road and boat transportation.
• FAO is implementing a project to supply agricultural inputs for vulnerable households in Ségou area through March 2013. The project is implemented in partnership with the NGO CAES (“Convergence d’Actions pour l’Environnement et la Santé”) and will benefit 17,500 vulnerable people with seeds and tools.
Gaps & Constraints:

- The deteriorated security situation complicates programme implementation. FAO activities in Segou region have slowed due to the proximity of fighting. Roads and tracks near the FAO project are also in very poor condition.

**Health**

- Fighting has resulted in many civilian and military casualties, many of which were treated at hospitals in Mopti, Segou and Bamako. The Ministry of Health and WHO have sent medicines to hospitals in Mopti and Segou.
- UNICEF sent two Inter-Agency Emergency Health (IEH) kits to Mopti region (one to the hospital in Sévaré and one to three Community health Centres supported by MdM) to respond to the basic primary health care needs of people displaced by the recent clashes. Each kit benefits 10,000 people over a period of three months.
- An outbreak of malaria is underway in Diré district (Timbuktu region, south of Timbuktu). By mid-January, the Diré district had reported 1,519 cases with 15 deaths. Drugs and ITNs have been sent by the Ministry of Health and WHO to strengthen the response in the three northern regions. There is also a concentration of malaria cases in the districts of Niafunké and Gao.
- A localized outbreak of measles was reported during the second week of January in Ouane, in the health circle of San. Actions are underway to address the situation.
- According to a report by Médecins du Monde-Belgique, 4,830 children between six months and 15 years of age were vaccinated against measles from 11-15 December, or 98 per cent of the initial target population. This follows an outbreak of measles in the Diouhane, Essouk and Adiel Hoc health areas of Kidal region.

**Nutrition**

**Needs:**

- In 2013, 210,000 children expected to be at risk of severe acute malnutrition, and 450,000 children are expected to be at risk of moderate acute malnutrition (SMART 2012). This could increase as a result of recent developments, particularly in northern and central areas where access remains limited.

**Response:**

- The Nutrition Cluster is conducting daily telephone follow-ups with NGO partners. These follow-ups allow closer monitoring of a rapidly changing situation and facilitate coordination.
- At the beginning of 2013, two positive elements have occurred in the nutrition sector in Mali:
  - The National Nutrition Policy was adopted by the Council of Ministers on 2 January 2013, making nutrition a national priority.
  - The systematization of weekly updates of new admissions to UREN (centres for treatment of malnutrition) by health districts in all southern regions. All five health regions in the south have transmitted their data for the first two weeks of 2013. The results show 3,348 new admissions of acutely malnourished children in nutritional rehabilitation centres, including: 1,962 in URENAM (centres for treatment of moderate acute malnutrition), 1,242 in URENAS (centres for treatment of severe acute malnutrition), and 144 in URENI (centres for the intensive treatment of malnutrition). The health districts of southern regions are integrating data from NGO partners who conduct nutrition-related activities.
- For the northern regions, the only weekly data that remain up-to-date are those sent by NGOs. From 31 December
2012 to 13 January 2013, partners in the regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal have registered a total of 101 new admissions, out of which 56 were in URENAM and 45 in URENAs. No admissions in URENI were reported since the beginning of 2013.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nutrition treatment admissions in northern Mali (Data from NGOs only)</th>
<th>New URENAM admissions</th>
<th>New URENAS admissions</th>
<th>New URENI admissions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>31 December 2012 to 6 January 2013</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td>7 to 13 January 2013</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>56</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
<td><strong>0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gaps and Constraints:

- To date, most NGO partners have continued working in their geographic areas. In the north, some NGOs (ACF-E, AVSF, and ALIMA-AMCP) have been forced to temporarily suspend their mobile clinics as a result of the fighting. Staff have been re-located to urban areas where they continue to support health facilities in managing acute malnutrition.
- Decreased access to health facilities outside urban centers raises concerns that many children suffering from acute malnutrition will not be screened at the community level and therefore will not receive any care in nutritional rehabilitation units.

### Education Needs:

- According to the Education Cluster, there are an estimated 39,000 students and teachers in need of emergency assistance.
- On-going conflict and chronic insecurity continues to have a direct impact on educational access for students residing in affected regions in both the northern (Gao, Kidal, Timbuktu, Mopti), and the southern (Ségou, Koulikoro and Bamako) regions of Mali. Schools conflict zones have been forced to close in light of damage to school infrastructure, and concerns over safety, while other schools have been forced to close due to the fact that military bases have been installed on schools grounds. As a result, thousands of students have been denied access to education.
- There remains a need to:
  - Strengthen field reporting mechanisms to better quantify existing needs (both in number of students and schools affected).
  - Ensure that the education sector response plan is adapted to effectively respond the needs of out of school and displaced students within the existing Malian context.

### Response:

- Education Cluster partners have increased their contingency stock of teaching and learning materials as well as temporary learning spaces to support an estimated 39,000 students and teachers in need of emergency assistance.
- The Cellule d’Urgence (Emergency Unit) in conjunction with the Education Cluster has developed a two-tier response aimed at reinforcing field reporting mechanisms through the development of emergency evaluation tools; and, at the national level, advocating for policy measures to ensure that appropriate steps are taken to respond to the needs of out of school and displaced Malian students (both for IDP and refugees students).

### Gaps and constraints:

- Restricted communication to conflict-affected regions in the north, and the reduced presence of partners in the regions of Ségou and Mopti in light of security constraints have complicated the ability to obtain a clear image of existing education sector needs in all affected regions. An increase in funding is required to ensure an effective response within the context of Education in Emergencies in Mali for 2013. The Education sector was funded at 6 per cent of estimated needs in the 2012 CAP.
Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Needs:

- The total number of people in need of WASH Cluster support is unclear due to a lack of information coming from areas affected by the military interventions. Seven organizations are planning 23 rapid assessments that include WASH. The WASH Cluster received the results of the first rapid assessment from CARE undertaken in Bandiagara on 17 January. The remaining assessments are expected during the coming week.
- After an armed group seized the fuel used of the water distribution network in Gao, thousands of people are deprived of potable water. There is high risk that military operations result in similar events.

Response:

- There are sufficient basic WASH stocks (collapsible jerry cans, aquatabs, soap) in Mopti and Ségou to meet the basic WASH needs of 135,000 people for an initial period of one month. Additional stocks are being procured.
- UNICEF in partnership with ACF is organizing for the provision, possible from Niger, of sufficient quantities of aquatab to distribute to household in order to ensure a minimum quantity of potable water (5 litres per person per day), for 30,000 people during one month.
- The first sub-national WASH Cluster Coordination Meeting was held on 17 January 2013 in Ségou town, chaired by ACTED in response to the humanitarian crisis.

Gaps and constraints:

- WASH partners are evaluating the potential impact of fuel shortages and fuel looting on piped water systems supplying 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 Purifications units in the event that there are shortages of fuel.
- The United Nations and NGOs still have no access to areas of active combat including the towns that have come under French air strikes including Konna (Mopti), Diabaly (Niono), Douentza (Mopti), Sévaré (Mopti) and Léré (Niafunké). Access to the area surrounding these towns is also difficult.
- Only eight WASH agencies have reported that they remain operational and are able to carry out active WASH programming in collaboration with their national partners in parts of the conflict affected areas. Seven WASH agencies have put their programmes on hold. Six WASH agencies have closed down and evacuated their expatriate and national staff back to the capital.

Shelter

- After a meeting of the Shelter Cluster on 15 January, members of the cluster are assessing the current and possible sites to host IDPs in case of necessity.

Emergency Telecommunications

- ETC has temporarily suspended its operation in Mopti. The ETC was planning to assess the establishment of a common back-up base in Ségou region but has put this on hold until access is permitted. The ETC remains on standby to deploy and install equipment in back-up locations. The ETC assists humanitarian organizations in reprogramming their VHF/HF radios with the new frequencies allocated. So far, 125 VHF handheld radios, four vehicles and one base were reprogrammed with a new frequency.

Logistics

- When access restrictions are reported due to increasing movements of non-state armed groups and military forces, the Logistics Cluster seeks alternative routes and informs all partners of options available for access. Access maps are available from the cluster.
- Five Mobile Storage Units (MSUs) are expected to be delivered in Bamako by the end of January. They will be stored in Bamako and be ready for deployment within Mali depending on the needs of partners.
addition, in Mopti, two MSUs were allocated by WFP for use of the Logistics Cluster partners. Partners may send their request for temporary storage directly to the cluster coordinator (mail to: jeanfrancois.cuche@wfp.org*).

- Transporter consolidated list, freight forwarders list and Customs guidelines are available at http://www.logcluster.org/ops/sahel_crisis_2012*. Also, NGOs without a framework agreement (Accord Cadre) may contact the Logistics Cluster for facilitation of their tax exemption requests.
- The Logistics Cluster, with WFP Mali and upon request of partners, is going on mission to Niger this week to assess possibilities of activating cross-border operations with pre-positioning and short term storage options. Some partners are already using Niger as an alternative corridor for operations in the North.

General Coordination

A special meeting of the Humanitarian Country Team took place on 21 January for discussions with the Regional Humanitarian Coordinator for the Sahel, Mr. David Gressly, during his visit to Mali.

Background on the crisis

In January 2012, a rebellion erupted in northern Mali. It was led by a Tuareg separatist movement, the MLNA, or Mouvement National de Libération de l’Azawad (MNLA) the name “Tuareg give to Northern regions of Mali, which they consider the cradle of the Tuareg nation. MNLA associated with several armed groups who favor the introduction of a strict Islamic faith. The initial successes of the rebellion led to a military coup in Bamako on 22 March 2012. Under international pressure, the military junta had to withdraw quickly. although some of its members continued to interfere in the decision of the Government appointed by an interim president agreed upon in April. Taking advantage of the political chaos in Bamako, the rebellion conquered the three northern regions of Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu in a few days. They then announced the end of the fighting and proclaimed the “independence of Azawad”. The country was de facto cut in two. The situation remained calm on the “frontline” until the end of 2012, while MNLA lost ground to the other armed groups, which professed less interest in an independent North than in imposing the Islamic law to the whole country.

The International community rejected the claims for independence and ECOWAS decided to set up an African force to help Malian authorities to restore territorial integrity. On 20 December 2012, the Security Council authorized the creation of such a force (AFISMA). The mandate of the Force includes support to the Malian authorities in recovering the areas in the north of its territory and to create a secure environment for the civilian-led delivery of humanitarian assistance and the voluntary return of internally displaced persons and refugees. While AFISMA was still in the making, rebel groups launched an offensive southwards and took the town or Konna on 10 January 2013, prompting the Malian Government to request military assistance from France.

The conflict has resulted in massive population displacements, with about 147,500 registered refugees and an estimated 198,000 IDPs by the end of 2012. This conflict started in a context of an acute food security and nutrition crisis in the Sahel region following a poor harvest in 2012, which further eroded the resilience of millions of people across the region who already suffered from chronic poverty. Despite a good harvest in 2012, millions continue to suffer and the new fighting is creating additional humanitarian needs.