

HIGHLIGHTS

- People who were displaced in May-June are gradually returning home
- Increased non-attendance rate during yearend examinations in the north
- More than 54,000 people affected by water scarcity in the north



In this issue

- Return of IDPs p.1
- Water scarcity in the North p.2
- Food security aid p.3
- 2015 SMART survey p.4
- Funding of the 2015 Strategic Response Plan p.8

KEY FIGURES

# IDPs (DTM 17 June, 2015)	90,218
# Malian Refugees In neighboring countries (UNHCR, 31 July 2015)	136, 821
People affected by food insecurity (Harmonized Framework)	3.1 millions
Acutely malnourished children (6- 59 months) (SMART survey)	715, 300

Gradual return of IDPs to the northern regions

With the relative improvement of the security situation, internally displaced persons (IDPs) have continued to return home in the north and center of the country, particularly Mopti and Timbuktu. Partners in the field report that a majority of people who recently fled during the surge of violence registered in May-June in the Timbuktu region have returned to their homes. Partners' efforts in the region mainly focus on the provision of aid in return areas. The district of Goundam (towns of Goundam and Tonka) is the only one where many displaced persons have not yet returned to their homes.

WFP and its partners recently provided 40 tonnes of food to IDPs. Nearly 7,000 displaced persons who returned to the town of Bintagoungou in Timbuktu region will receive aid in the form of cash transfers.

Besides, nearly 2,500 displaced persons in Dialloubé, Mopti region, received food aid (45 tonnes) and nutrition support, Non-food items and mosquito nets



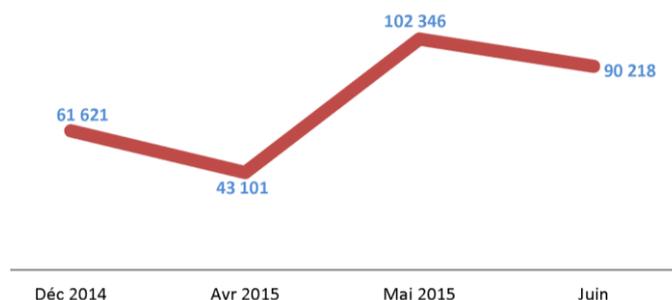
Credit: OCHA/A. Desgroseilliers
Timbuktu, Mali (June 2015) – Cattle breeder displaced in Timbuktu city with his family.

FUNDING

\$377 millions
Requested (SRP 2015)

33%
Funded

Number of IDPs and returnees

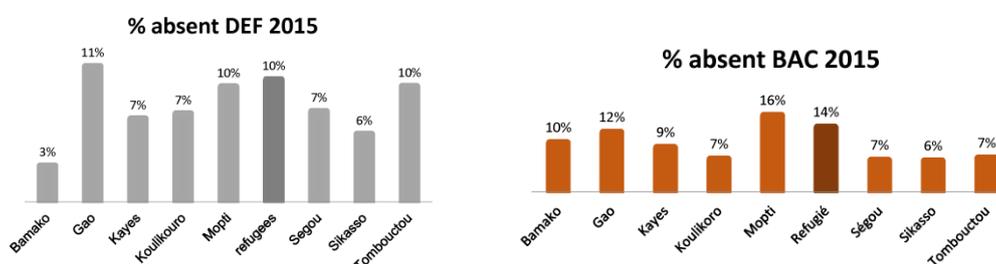


Increased non-attendance rates during yearend examinations in the north

The deteriorating security situation in the north and centre of the country during the first quarter of 2015 resulted in the closing of more than 100 schools since January, which brings the total number of schools closed in conflict-affected regions to 450. More than 20,500 children have been affected.

The organisation of yearend examinations was disrupted in Gao, Timbuktu and Mopti regions. In the absence of school authorities since May 2014, not yearend examinations were organized in the Kidal region.

In Douentza (Mopti region) student non-attendance rate for the Diploma of Fundamental Studies (DEF) examination increased from 8 per cent in 2013 to 19 per cent in 2015. In Timbuktu region non-attendance rate declined from 13 per cent in 2013 to 10 per cent in 2015.



Unschooling children are potentially at risk of abuse, exploitation and enrolment in armed groups. The Education Cluster members are exploring ways to provide an alternative education to over 13,000 children and support to at least 210 teachers. Remedial courses are being offered, especially during holidays, to facilitate the reintegration of unschooled children for the next school year starting from October 2015.

Water scarcity affects several localities in the north

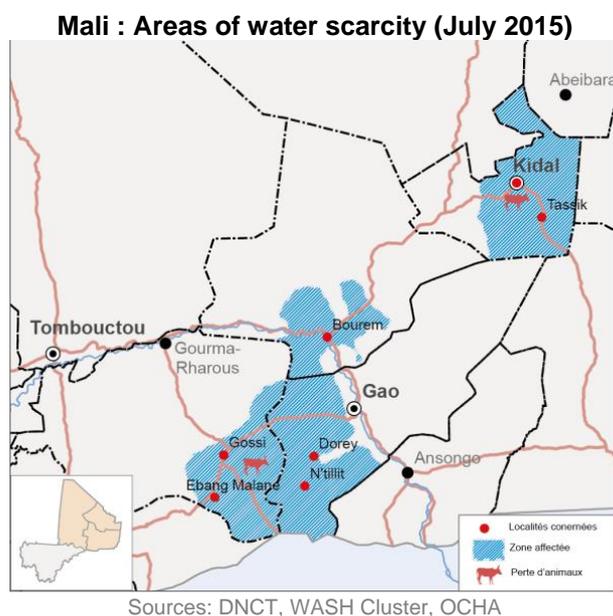
The lack of sufficient water is posing a real threat to people's lives in many communities in the north, especially in the Gao, Timbuktu and Kidal regions. According to the WASH Cluster, this situation is due to the low rate of access to drinking water, a high number of non-functional water points and the drying up of several ponds which has resulted in the gathering of nomadic populations around the remaining few water points. This has increased the pressure on water points (boreholes, wells and small water supply networks) and reduced their capacity, making them inadequate to meet people's and their livestock's needs.

In Gao and Timbuktu regions, **nearly 54,600 people (7,660 households)** are affected by water scarcity. Many herds are also affected and many animals have died.

Given this alarming situation, humanitarian actors¹ working in the three affected regions have mobilized to provide water through water tankers. They have also initiated efforts to repair some water supply facilities such as the drinking water supply system of Bourem in

¹ Non-state actors (ACF, IRCC, LVIA, OXFAM and UNICEF) and State actors (Regional Directorate of Hydraulics, Regional Civil Protection Directorate)

the Gao region. The repair of water supply points and the construction of new ones are also planned. However, additional interventions are still required from State actors and their partners on the medium and long term to find more sustainable solutions to the lack of access to water.



Nearly 740,000 people reached with food security interventions

In June, Food Security Cluster members reached nearly 740,000 people with several types of food interventions (food distribution, agricultural inputs, livestock support, cash transfers and income-generating activities). This represents an increase of 85 per cent compared to April.

Additionally, the Food Security Commission (CSA) and its partners are planning to distribute 40,400 tons of food to 700,000 people in August within the framework of the Government's National Response Plan for this sector.

However, the lack of support to livestock breeders for the 2015 pastoral season remains a challenge, despite the warnings issued in August/September 2014. The cluster has decided to reactivate the livestock breeding technical group to look into this situation and to identify means that would make it possible to prevent a future pastoral crisis.

Because of supply difficulties, only 8,000 tonnes of cattle feed were provided to livestock breeders through subsidized sales and free distribution, against an initial target of 10,000 tonnes.

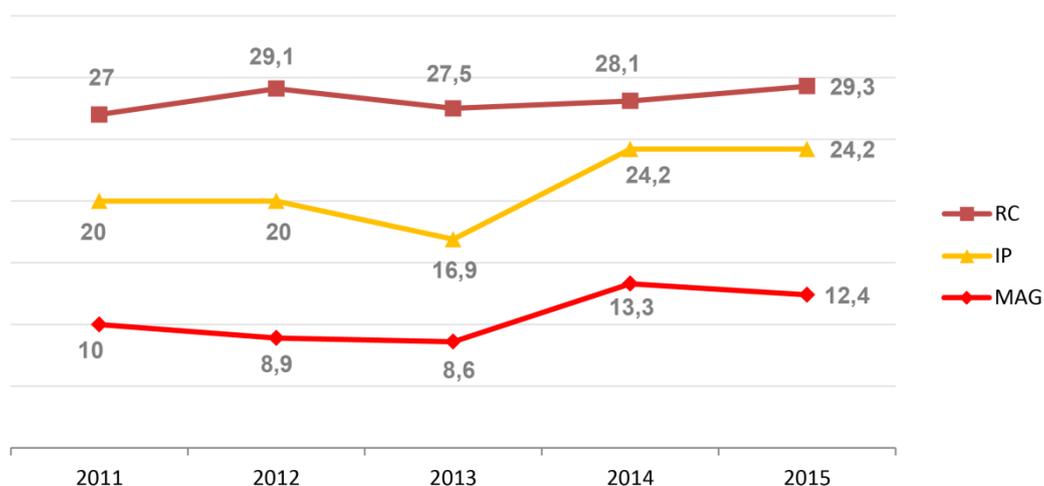
Alarming acute malnutrition rate in the Timbuktu region

Malnutrition still a source of concern in Mali

The preliminary results of a national SMART survey (May 2015) reveals a Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rate of 12.4% and a Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) rate of 2.8%. The situation is particularly alarming in Timbuktu region, where GAM rate is 17.5% and SAM rate is 3.5%. These are above WHO's emergency thresholds.

All regions of the country are in a serious situation, with GAM rates ranging between 10 and 15 per cent which reaches the serious threshold WHO.

Malnutrition trends in Mali : 2011-2015



The survey also reveals that **malnutrition indicators are worse for boys than girls.**

Category		Underweight	Acute Malnutrition	Chronic Malnutrition
Age	6 - 23 months	25,3	19,0	23,0
	24 - 59 months	23,5	8,4	34,2
Sex	Male	27,0	13,1	31,1
	Female	21,4	11,7	27,5
Malnutrition rates	Global	24,2 [21,0 - 27,5]	12,4 [10,6 - 14,3]	29,3 [25,6 - 33,1]
	Acute	7,0 [5,3 - 8,8]	2,8 [2,0 - 3,7]	9,2 [7,1 - 11,3]

Source: SMART Survey 2015

Based on the alarming GAM results, it was recommended to refocus efforts on the prevention of malnutrition at national level and to improve access to curative and preventive care. In the region of Timbuktu, another SMART survey focusing on specific population zones should identify the most vulnerable groups. The immediate strengthening of acute malnutrition prevention is also recommended - in particular for children 6-23 months – through nutrition support interventions (i.e. blanket feeding, infant and young child feeding, etc.)

A better integration of child protection issues into food security and nutrition interventions needed

Food security and nutrition cluster members, with the protection sub-cluster's support, have recently undertaken to strengthen the integration of child protection into their interventions. To this end, an action plan was notably developed and proposed by the three clusters for their members' approval. The objective is to improve need assessment tools and monitoring and evaluation systems for a better understanding of the child protection risks associated with project implementation in the areas of food security and nutrition. This work may be used as an example by other countries of the Sahel region. Indeed, to date, there are no child protection standards integrating food security at the global level.

Food security and protection are closely linked - food insecurity can lead to protection risks, especially for children (begging, prostitution, enrolment in armed groups). The impact of conflicts and other shocks on populations can lead to food insecurity.

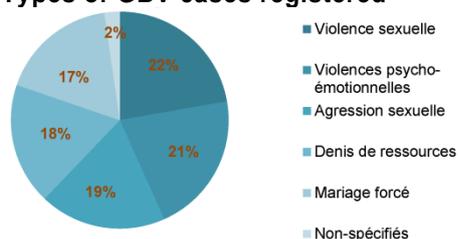
During a workshop organized in Bamako on this subject in July, it was demonstrated that the various food security interventions can indirectly reach children by integrating a nutritional purpose (food diversification, nutritional education in particular on weaning practices and adequate feeding of young children) and improve the overall protective environment for children through income generation and food production.

However, the following weaknesses were noted: food security projects often use a household approach without systematically assessing the role of each member of the household. Besides, they target adults and heads of households, but few of them include an assessment of their impact on children. The Food Security Cluster reports that agriculture support projects are likely to make mothers busier, leaving them less time to take care of their children, which may result in early farm-work for children. Projects that support livestock breeding can also result in more child labour (children are then used as shepherds, water carriers, etc.), resulting in increased protection risks (moving in areas controlled by armed groups, exposure to mines, etc.). The Action Plan to be implemented by the clusters will allow for in-depth examination of these issues and ensure that future projects integrate child protection requirements.

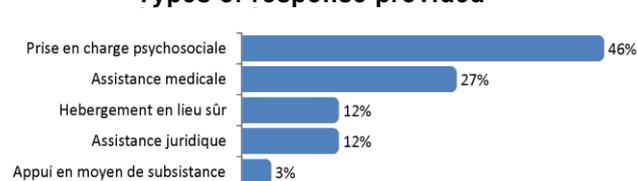
Launch of a new database on Gender-Based Violence

The gender-based violence information management system (GBVIMS) launched in Mali is a simple and efficient tool to manage GBV incidents data using a **standardized, confidential, secure and ethical data collection approach**. These standards also apply to the disclosure of GBV information. The GBVIMS is functional in Mali since March 2015, with a steering committee led by UNFPA. GBVIMS operations are based on an Information Sharing Protocol signed by 12 NGOs providing support to GBV survivors and four UN agencies (UNFPA, UNICEF, UNHCR and UN WOMEN). Since March 2015, 441 GBV cases have been registered, including 90 per cent of them involving females and 34 per cent minors.

Types of GBV cases registered



Types of response provided



Challenges highlighted by the GBVIMS

The GBVIMS revealed some gaps such as the lack of sufficient livelihoods support services and safe accommodation places for GBV victims in conflict-affected areas despite the requests made by the victims as well as the low level of referral to legal and security services. It was also highlighted that while most survivors know their aggressors, they refuse to be referred to security/protection or legal assistance services for fear of possible retaliation or stigmatization by their community.

More outreach efforts are thus needed to encourage GBV-affected communities to seek protection from legal, protection and security services. In recent months, humanitarian actors' activities slowed-down because of insecurity and the termination of funds for a number of NGOs. Therefore, the level of support services was reduced while the needs of vulnerable communities increased.

160 tonnes of obsolete and unusable ammunitions destroyed in June

In June, at the request of the Malian Ministry of Defense, UNMASs destroyed 32,500 obsolete and unusable ammunitions, including 160 tons of air missiles, rockets, mortar bombs, artillery shells and small arms and ammunition, stored in unsafe conditions. In October, UNMAS and the Mines Advisory Group (MAG) also contributed to the inauguration of a "weapons cutting" workshop, during which over 10,000 small arms were destroyed. Since it started working with the Malian Ministry of Defense, UNMAS has helped to destroy 290 tons of weapons and munitions, with plans to destroy an additional 130 tons in the coming months. UNMAS is also supporting the refurbishment of armories and ammunition depots for safe storage of active ammunition.

The lack of standards and their application for the management of weapons and ammunition stockpiles, and the uncontrolled circulation of weapons within the population, pose a serious threat for the security of civilians and the stability of a country.

Preventing incidents due to the presence of small arms amongst civilians

In Mali, the proliferation of small arms leads to many incidents, which are mainly caused by poor gun storage practices at the household level and tensions amongst communities.

In order to reduce these risks, UNMAS is supporting a new project implemented by Dan Church Aid (DCA) aiming at improving the security situation, and reducing tensions within and between communities. Risk awareness activities are provided, to educate people on safe storage of personal weapons, and serve as a catalyst for behavior change. As part of a pilot initiative, 120 gun storage boxes have been distributed to 120 people in legal possession of a firearm in 20 villages of the Mopti region.



Mopti, Mali (June 2015) – The distribution of gun storage boxes for the storage of personal weapons, followed by risk education on small arms and light weapons.

Mali ratified the Arms Trade Treaty in 2013. However, the dissemination of the treaty in national languages, the implementation of an adequate monitoring system, and the

The uncontrolled circulation of weapons within the population, poses a serious threat for the security of civilians

involvement of people at community-level watch are major challenges that need to be met. OXFAM and its partners are advocating for adequate measures through a Pan-African campaign on the theme "Beyond ratifications, let's save lives, let's control arms."

In brief:

Protection monitoring tool

Within the framework of its analytical and monitoring activities in the north of Mali, the Protection Cluster, a harmonized monitoring tool referred to as Rapid Protection Assessment (RPA) tool was reviewed and tested in the field. Based on the results of the testing, the tool was finalized and adopted in June 2015. The RPA was designed to either collect information on access to basic services by villages/communities, or to identify protection incidents and threats to populations by segregating "conflict-related" and "structural" factors. The centralization of the database by the Protection Cluster allows for a joint analysis of the protection situation in the north of the country and the prioritization of response areas and sectors. Furthermore, the fact that information can be collected either in hard copies or on portable devices like smartphones reduces data entry time, which thus allows for "real time" transfer of information. Training of the members of the Protection Cluster on the use of RPA will start in August 2015.

World Humanitarian day

On 19 August World Humanitarian Day (WHD) will pay tribute to those who brave danger and adversity in order to help others. This date was chosen by the United Nations General Assembly in reference to the bombing attack in 2003 on the United Nations headquarters in Bagdad, Iraq, that caused the death of 22 people.

This year global campaign is organized under the theme "Inspiring the World's Humanity" and aims at raising awareness of the humanitarian spirit and commitment towards each other in order to participate in creating a more humane world.

Many activities are planned in Bamako and in the field, including film screenings, debates on humanitarian action, a humanitarian fair and a media campaign.

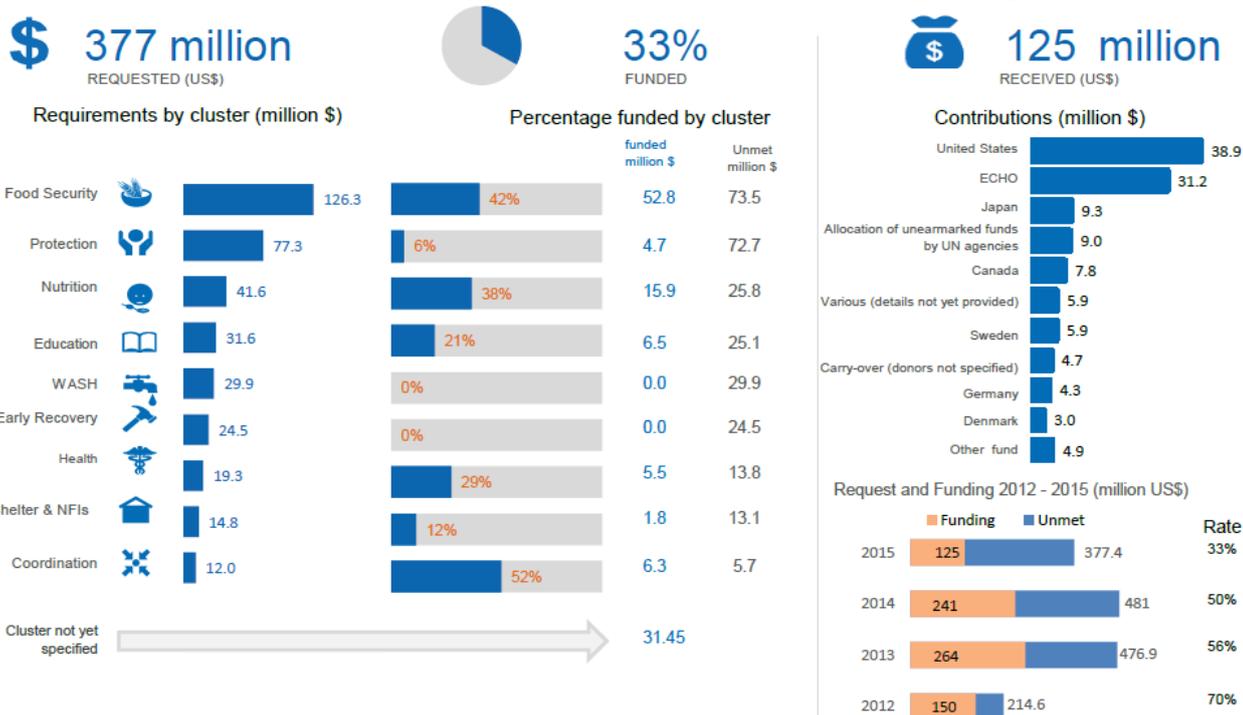
For more information on the celebrations in Mali, follow us: @OCHA_Mali or www.facebook.com/ochamali.net



33 percent of funds mobilized in 2015

As of 5 August, the humanitarian appeals mobilised US\$125 million, the equivalent of 33 per cent of funding requirements, according to OCHA Financing Tracking System (FTS). The low level of funding makes it difficult to implement the Humanitarian Response Plan for 2015.

FUNDING: STRATEGIC RESPONSE PLAN 2015 (as of 05 august 2015)



Portrait of a local NGO

Delta Survie, from development to emergency aid

Delta Survie is a development NGO set up in 1994 by the Village Association of Ilam Kontza Hore-Fulani, in the Mopti region. It aims to improve the integration and socioeconomic support of under-privileged groups and contribute to development through support to livelihoods such as agriculture, livestock breeding and fisheries. The NGO works in the fields of education, health, governance, water, environment and

With the outbreak of the conflict, the local NGO Delta Survie involved itself in intercommunity conflict resolution

For over 15 years, Delta Survival has implemented education programmes for nomadic populations (livestock breeders and fishers) as a way to fight exclusion and marginalization of these communities. In 1999, the NGO initiated the *Education Program for Nomadic Populations in the Inner Delta of the Niger River*, which is best known as the "mobile schools" programme which has been disrupted by the crisis. "Many communities moved to Burkina Faso and Mauritania", said Ibrahima Sankaré, Secretary General of Delta Survie. "We managed to have some mobile schools follow communities to their host sites" he added.

As the conflict broke out, Delta Survie became deeply involved in inter-community conflicts resolution. The NGO was awarded a local prize named "*Tamani d'Or*" (2014) for its peace efforts.

The NGO is seeking funding to initiate projects to support livestock breeding through the drilling of boreholes and water distribution. The NGO has already provided funding for 40 mobile schools in Mopti and Timbuktu regions, thus contributing to the schooling of 1,637 nomadic children.

Delta Survie can be contacted by phone to the following number: +223 2142 0021 or by e-mail to: delta_survie2014@yahoo.fr.

Delta Survie's Projects are funded by several national and international partners : Swiss Cooperation, UNFPA, OXFAM NOVIB, ONE WORLD, MINUSMA, UNHCR,, UNDP, French Cooperation, GIZ, Handicap International, European Development Fund, SERRV International (USA), Bilou Toguna (Mali - France Solidarity Association), REPTA (Network for Education for All in Africa,) Mopti Regional Health Directorate, Mopti Regional Directorate of Social Development and Solidarity Economy, Groupe Pivot Santé Populations Mali; Network of Actor assisting Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children (RIOEV), Drylands Coordination Group (GCOZA)

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