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HIGHLIGHTS

- One in five Malians will be food insecure during the lean season
- Central Mali : more schools are closing due to security threats
- Motorcycle bans affect people's access to basic social services
- 'Alarming' lack of access to water in Menaka rural areas



Crédit : OCHA/ Kamanzi

KEY FIGURES

No. of IDPs (CMP report, March 2017)	45,750
No. of refugees in neighbouring countries (CMP report, March 2017)	141,450
No. of returnees (CMP report, March 2017)	487,000
No. of repatriated refugees (CMP report, March 2017)	57,400
No. of food insecure people (Cadre harmonisé March 2017)	3.8 million
No. of acutely malnourished children (SMART 2016)	622,350

FUNDING

\$293 million
Requested (HRP 2016)

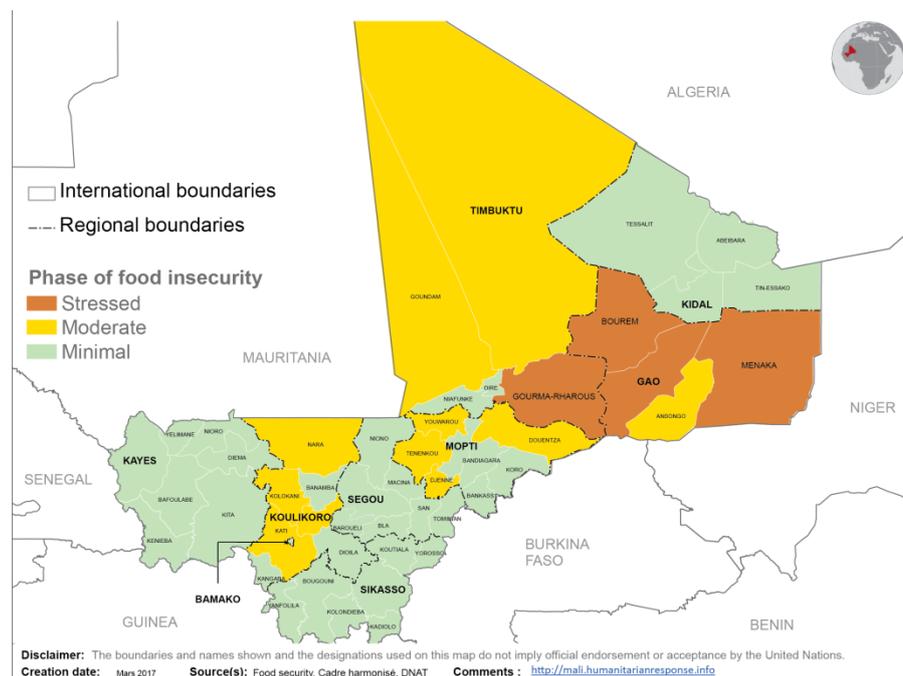
8%
Funded

3.8 million people affected by food insecurity

According to the latest estimates from the *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis of March 2017¹, more than 3.8 million people will be in need in terms of food security during the lean period from June to August 2017. Among them, More than 600,000 people will be in a "crisis" or "emergency" situation (phases 3 and 4 according to the IPC nomenclature for CILSS countries) and 3.2 million people will be "under stress" (phase 2). These data indicate a deterioration of the situation compared to last year, with nearly one million additional people in need this year.

Figure 1: Phases of food insecurity by district (lean season June - August 2017)

(Source: *Cadre Harmonisé* – March 2017)



The displacement of populations and insecurity worsens food insecurity. Nearly two thirds of people in food crisis and emergency are in volatile and conflict-affected areas: Gao, Menaka, Timbuktu, Taoudenit, Kidal, Mopti and northern Ségou. Significant floods last year and early lean season in pastoral areas have also affected crops and livestock (cattle, sheep and goats) and exacerbate the phenomenon of population displacements and the risks of inter-community conflicts.

¹ Details of the March 2017 *Cadre Harmonisé* (IPC 1.0) analysis for Mali are available at : <http://fscluster.org/mali/document/sapfiche-de-communication-cadre>

Resources are insufficient to meet the scope of needs

The Government, with the support of the various humanitarian partners, coordinates the response to help the most vulnerable people. Through their joint efforts, humanitarian organizations intend to provide free food assistance in the forms of food supplies or money ("cash") to 440,000 people in "crisis" and "emergency" during the lean months.

Current funding will not allow humanitarian organizations to cover the full range of needs.

Other activities are also planned to help households and communities in these "crisis" and "emergency" phases as well as some of the 3.2 million "under stress": "resilience" monetary transfers, support for agricultural and livestock production, support for fishing, support for the recovery of economic activities, etc.

However, current funding will not allow humanitarian organizations to cover the full range of needs.

It is therefore urgent to mobilize additional funds, especially to support households in need of immediate assistance in conflict-affected areas. The humanitarian aid appeal for Mali in 2017 includes a request for \$93 million for food security interventions. To date, only 10 percent of these resources are mobilized, according to data reported to OCHA's Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

Key factors of food insecurity

The latest edition of the National Food and Nutrition Security Survey (ENSAN)², carried out in February 2017, highlights that the food insecurity currently registered in the country is largely related to household poverty

According to the survey, more than one in four households reported experiencing one or more types of shocks in the past six months that impeded their ability to obtain food and other essential products.

Figure 1 : Number of people affected by food insecurity

(Source : Cadre Harmonisé)

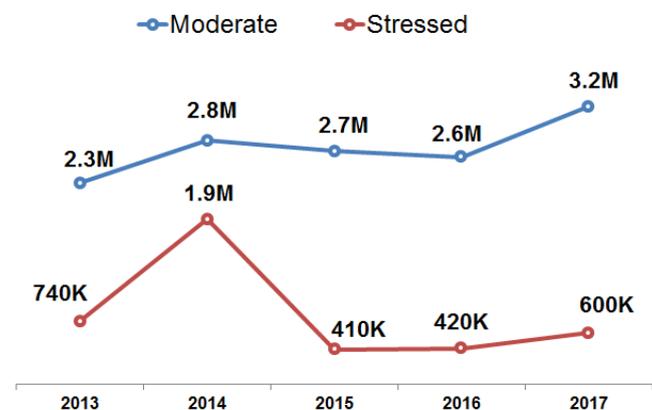


Figure 2 : Proportion of types of shocks experienced by households

(Source: ENSAN February, 2017)



In general, female-headed households are more food-insecure than men-headed households (37.4 per cent versus 24.7 per cent). It should also be noted that the prevalence of food insecurity is higher in rural areas than in urban areas (31% versus 7.5%).

²The National Food and Nutrition Security Survey (ENSAN) is conducted twice a year by the Government's Early Warning System (SAP) with the support of humanitarian partners among households in all districts in Mali's regions. The February 2017 report is available at: <http://fscluster.org/mali/document/sappresentation-ensan-fevrier-2017>

More schools are closing in the centre

The number of schools that close due to threats or insecurity continues to increase in the centre of the country. Over the past few months, education actors in the Mopti and Ségou regions have reported an increasing number of cases of armed individuals who have made threats and called for the closure of schools and of banditry acts against teachers or schools.

According to data from the Education Cluster, the Mopti region alone has 270 currently closed schools and new districts (Mopti, Djenne and Douentza) are now affected by the phenomenon. In the northern regions of Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu, however, the number of closed schools has stabilized.

Across the country, in March 2017, more than 500 schools are closed in areas affected by insecurity. According to the Education Cluster, about 150,000 children are out of school/have no schooling as a result of these closures. In addition, about 1,630 teachers are absent in areas affected by insecurity.

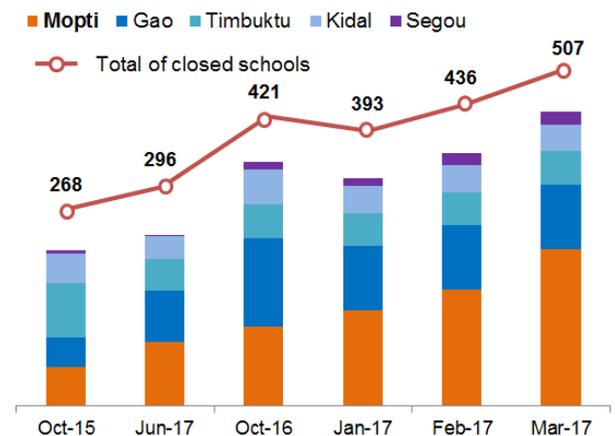
Despite the scale of the needs, the response capacity of humanitarian partners is greatly limited due to a lack of resources.

The US\$35 million appeal to support humanitarian response in the education sector in 2017 has not received any confirmed funding to date, according to data reported to the OCHA Financial Tracking Service (FTS).

About 150,000 children are out of school as a result of the school closures.

Figure 3 : Number of closed schools

(Source : Education Cluster)

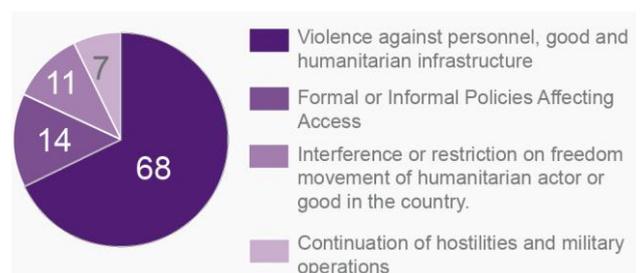


The climate of insecurity continues to hinder the delivery of aid

Between January and March 2017, 28 incidents hindered humanitarian access to those in need, according to data reported to the AMRF³. Two-thirds of the incidents recorded were direct violence against humanitarian personnel, goods and infrastructure, including the attack on a vehicle of a humanitarian organization in which a staff was killed.

Figure 6: % of types of access constraints recorded

(Source: AMRF)

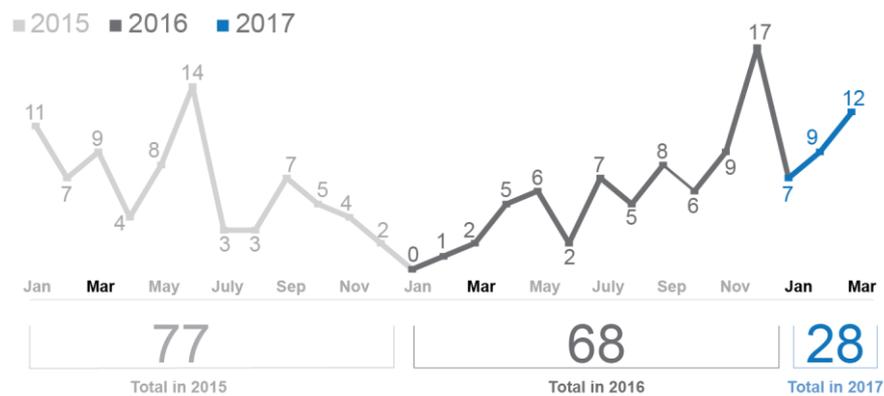


The increase in the number of incidents recorded in recent months is mainly related to the growing crime and banditry in the north and center of the country and to the presence and activities of non-state armed groups. The regions of Gao - Menaka and Timbuktu-Taoudénit are the most affected.

³ Access Monitoring and Reporting Framework, coordinated by OCHA Mali.

Figure 5: Access constraints recorded from 2015 to 2017

(Source: AMRF)



Despite these challenges, humanitarian organizations are working to assist people in need by adapting their operations to the obstacles encountered. In the most volatile areas, raising awareness among communities is one of the key factors in facilitating humanitarian operations in order for aid to reach the most vulnerable people for whom it is intended.

Central Mali: motorcycle bans affect access to basic services

Humanitarian organizations working in the centre of the country are concerned about the effects of the restrictions on movement of motorcycles on the population's access to basic social services.

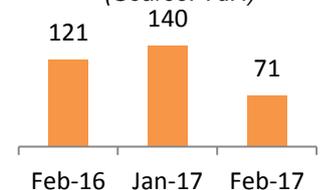
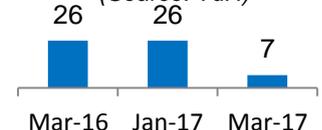
In the region of Ségou, the districts of Macina, Niono and certain communes of the north of the Ségou district have been targeted since February by complete driving bans at all times of the two-wheelers. The Tenenkou district in the Mopti region is also subject to a similar ban.

In the areas concerned, humanitarian partners in the field reported a drop in the number of people using health centres and going to secondary schools. They also find that advanced health strategies, which are essentially conducted by use of motorcycles, are interrupted. These strategies, as foreseen by the national policy, make it possible to deliver essential care to children and pregnant or nursing women in villages located more than 5 km from health centres.

For example, between January and February 2017, the 20 community health centres in Macina experienced a 50 per cent decline in admissions of severely acute malnourished children (SAM). Admissions to Macina's intensive nutritional rehabilitation unit (URENI) also recorded a significant drop.⁴

The districts and communes affected have a population of about one million⁵ people, nearly half⁶ of whom live more than 5 km from a health centre. In these predominantly rural areas, livelihoods are mostly related to agro-pastoral activities and motorcycles are one of the main means of transport for households. In this context, some

Humanitarian partners reported a drop in the number of people using health centres.

No. of SAM admissions
(Source: TdH)**No. of admissions at the URENI**
(Source: TdH)

⁴ Data registered by the NGO *Terre des hommes* (TdH)

⁵ 2017 figures from the Population National Directorate (Direction Nationale de la Population) for the districts of Tenenkou, Macina and Niono, and the communes of Bellen and N'Komandougou (Segou District).

⁶ Estimation based on the proportion of people living more than 5 km from a health centre according to the statistical registries from Segou region (62%, 69% and 45% respectively for Ségou, Niono and Macina districts) and Mopti region (52% for Tenénkou District).

partners also report a slowdown in economic activity,⁷ including declines in weekly trade fairs and a decrease in the availability of certain foods⁷.

The impact on the operations of humanitarian organizations is also important as dozens of local and international NGOs can no longer carry out the regular and essential activities of community support, whether in the field of nutrition, health, agricultural development, or to identify and provide emergency assistance to displaced people

Partial night bans have a more limited impact on people

In addition to these total bans on the movement of two-wheelers, other measures are in place to prohibit in part the movement of different types of two- or three-wheel motor vehicles. Thus, in the majority of Mopti districts, the restriction applies only in the evening and at night, allowing the population to go about their regular activities during the day. The application of this partial ban to all the territories concerned could thus contribute to limiting the effects on people's access to basic social services and household livelihoods. A dialogue is also under way between the humanitarian community and the competent authorities to explore the possibilities of such harmonization.

Bans on the movement of different types of vehicles have been instituted by various authorities in the framework of the State's operations to secure areas and face the outbreak of attacks in the centre of the country conducted by unidentified armed men who mainly move on motorcycles.

Assistance to the 10,000 newly displaced persons in the centre

The aid of the Government and humanitarian organizations to the 10,000 people who fled the inter-communal violence that occurred on 11 February 2017 in the Macina area in the centre of the country is under way. Displaced people were identified and rapid assessments helped identify their most urgent needs, in terms of food, basic non-food items, shelter, water and hygiene.

Humanitarian organizations have begun to distribute basic non-food items (mats, cooking utensils, etc.). They also plan to distribute water purifying products and feminine hygiene products as well as food rations covering the needs of the 10,000 newly displaced persons for 3 months. Mobile clinics have also reached the displaced in the Tenenkou and Niono area. In addition, the identification of school-age children is under way in order to provide them with the necessary education support.

Urgent needs remain to be met

The delivery of aid to displaced persons is however slowed down by the prevailing insecurity and the logistical difficulties related to the prohibition of motorcycle traffic in areas that are not accessible by vehicle. Moreover, the number of people in need of assistance has increased since the first evaluations were conducted as population movements continued during the month of March, according to the observations of the partners on the field⁸.

Hence, despite the start of distributions, urgent needs remain to be met for thousands of people, in particular in terms of shelter, and access to water and hygiene (jerry cans, soaps, etc.) Additional resources must urgently be mobilized to strengthen the response. Without a rapid support, the conditions of these thousands of displaced people risk deteriorating and their pressure on host communities will increase.



Segou region, Niono District (March 2017): a staff from the NGO Catholic Relief Services (CRS) assesses the urgent shelter needs of the displaced people. Credit: CRS

Thousands of people still need aid in terms of shelter, water and hygiene.

⁷ Data registered by the NGO IRC

⁸ Observations of the NGO Catholic Relief Services (CRS).

Alarming situation concerning access to water in Menaka region rural areas

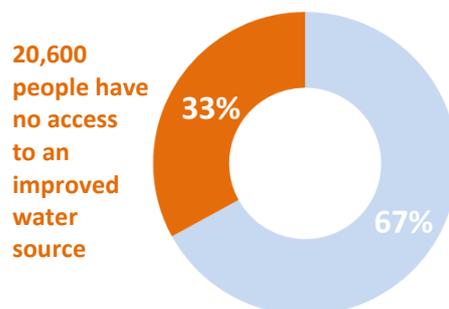
People have no other option but to consume unsafe water.

A study⁹ by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) NGO is sounding the alarm about the lack of access to quality water and in sufficient quantity for the rural population of the region of Menaka. The survey was conducted in October and December 2016 in 34 sites and villages of the four districts of the region. According to the results, in 71 per cent of the localities surveyed, due to lack of other options, people are forced to consume unsafe water, which places them at risk of water-borne diseases.

Indeed, in 24 of the 34 surveyed sites and villages (20,600 inhabitants), the only sources of water are ponds and "sumps"¹⁰. These open-pit sources, mostly stagnant, are fed by rainwater. The presence of parasites and bacteria that pose risks to human health is enhanced by their concomitant use by livestock, infiltration of runoff water, residues and human or animal excreta. In the other 10 communities surveyed (41,400 inhabitants), people have access to boreholes and wells.



Anouzeigren, Menaka (October 2016) - Women collect water from a well flooded and contaminated with water from a pond. Credit: IRC



However, according to the study, the number of users of installations can reach up to double the standard recommended by the Sphere standards¹¹. The majority of these infrastructures also need to be rehabilitated. The deterioration of facilities also increases the risk of water contamination. The laboratory analysis of samples taken from seven of the water points examined by IRC confirmed the presence of coliforms in a proportion higher than the standards required by the World Health Organization for all samples.

Water: a key protection issue

IRC notes that women and children are generally responsible for fetching water from neighbouring communities when ponds and sumps dry up during the drought months. They can travel up to 30 km in areas of insecurity. Moreover, girls are also more likely to drop out of school because of the time allotted for this water quest.

Access to water is also a source of intercommunity tensions and conflicts between populations that benefit from a sustainable source and those that do not.

In this context, IRC notes the urgent need to carry out new drilling in the region, with planning strategies for at least three years, while ensuring their sustainability in consultation with the members of the communities concerned.

The NGO highlights the importance for donors to support more access to water in the northern regions, including Menaka. Especially since access to regular and safe water as regards hygiene also contributes to the positive impact of interventions in other key sectors such as health, education and food security.

The full report of the IRC study *Évaluation de l'accès à l'eau potable - Région de Ménaka* is available at: <http://bit.ly/IRCMenakaWASH>

⁹ *Évaluation de l'accès à l'eau potable - Région de Ménaka*, IRC, décembre 2016

¹⁰ Simple holes dug in a traditional way, just to reach the water and which are most often dug in the bed of ponds after the drying up of the latter.

¹¹ For more information on the Sphere Handbook, the Humanitarian Charter and the Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, please visit: <http://www.sphereproject.org/sphere/fr/>

In brief

Allocation of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)

The Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) has confirmed its allocation of US\$7 million for a dozen humanitarian projects in Mali. Approximately 90,000 people affected by crises and natural disasters will benefit from interventions, mostly in the northern and central regions of the country. Assistance will be provided for food insecure people, women and children affected by acute malnutrition, flood and drought victims, displaced persons, returnees and returning refugees. Actions are also planned to fight against epidemics, support access to health care and strengthen the livelihoods of the most vulnerable persons.

National Contingency Plan

Humanitarian organizations are supporting the Department of Civil Protection to finalize the national contingency plan. The objective of the document is to define scenarios and actions to take in order to better respond to floods, epidemics and displacement of populations. Humanitarian organizations will also support civil protection efforts in the coming months to update the contingency plans of the most disaster-prone regions; namely Segou, Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal.

Taoudénit region: First meeting for the coordination of humanitarian activities

Around fifteen humanitarian organizations and four regional directors of technical services - health, agriculture, water and sanitation - participated on 30 March in the first meeting of consultation and coordination of humanitarian activities for the region of Taoudénit under the aegis of the new Governor. The extent of staffing and infrastructure needs to provide basic administrative and social services in this new region in the north of the country was highlighted. The urgent humanitarian needs of assistance to the displaced people and refugees who return to the area have also been highlighted, as well as challenges related to humanitarian access and security of people and property. Such meetings will henceforth be held on a monthly basis. A dozen humanitarian organizations currently operate in the Taoudénit region.

Funding of the Humanitarian Response Plan

Only 8 percent of the US\$293 million request for the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) in Mali is funded so far. Without additional resources, many aid programs can not start, depriving thousands of Malians of essential aid.

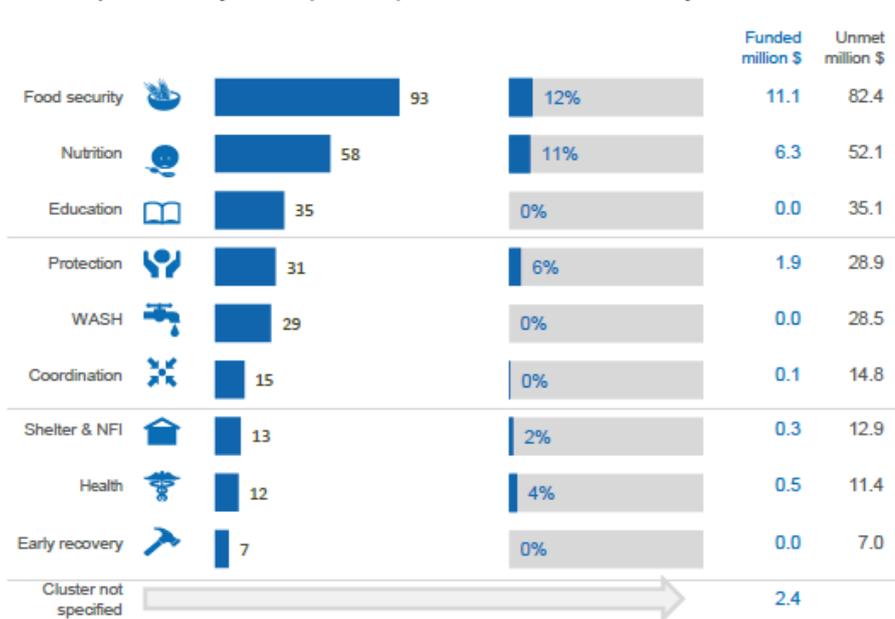
\$ 293
REQUESTED (US\$)

8%
FUNDED

\$ 22.5
RECEIVED (US\$)

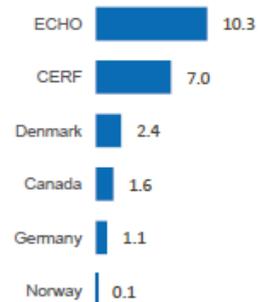
Requirements by cluster (million \$)

Percent funded by cluster

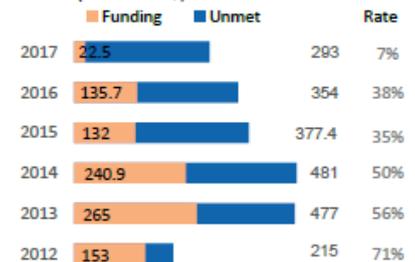


Contributions (million \$)

CERF: US\$ 7.0 million 31% of contributions



Trends in response plan/appeal requirements 2012 - 2017 (million US \$)



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