

HIGHLIGHTS

- Humanitarian partners target 36 percent of the population in need in 2018.
- 800,000 persons will be affected by food insecurity during the lean season.
- More than 670 schools were closed, of which 60 percent are in Mopti.
- The number of civilian victims of improvised explosive devices is rising.
- Security incidents affecting aid workers nearly doubled between 2016 and 2017.

KEY FIGURES

of people targeted by the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP 2018) 1,500,000

% of severe acute malnutrition (2%= emergency threshold) (SMART 2017) 2.6%

of returnees (CMP 31 January 2018) 526,000

of Malian refugees (HCR 28 February) 402K



Summary

Humanitarian Response Plan P.1

Food insecurity P.2

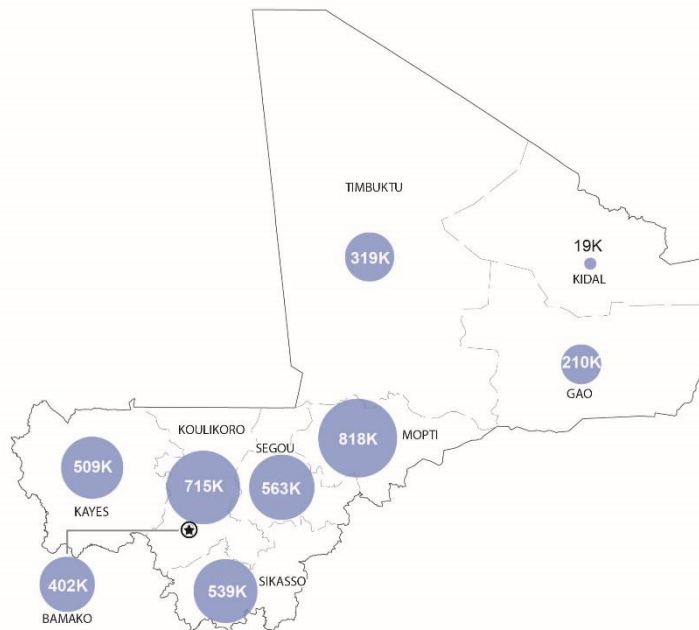
Education P.3

Anti-mine fight P.4

\$263 million sought in 2018

4.1 million people in need

According to the Humanitarian Needs Overview (HNO), the population in need of humanitarian assistance is estimated at 4.1 million people in 2018, which is 400,000 people more than 2017. This increase is linked to the consequences of the rainfall deficit, the erosion of the Niger river, the insufficiency of funding received in 2017, as well as the expansion of insecurity from the north to certain parts of central Mali.



A map indicating the number of people (in thousands) in need by region.

FUNDING

263 million

Funds requested (USD) 2018

4%

Funding rate

1.5 million people targeted by humanitarian partners

This year, the humanitarian workers target 1.5 million people¹, representing 36 percent of the country's population in need, according to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), launched on 14 February in Bamako. The plan consists of the complementary humanitarian plans and programmes of the State to respond to the most urgent needs of the affected communities and to strengthen their resilience.

¹ Last year, 1.3 million people were targeted of a total of 3.7 million people in need.

Overall, \$263 million are necessary to cover the urgent needs of the target population in the HRP framework. Within this amount, 40 percent is meant for the food security sector.

Clusters	People in need	People targeted	Funds required (US\$ M)
Food security	4,100,000	1,000,000	103
Education	306,000	211,000	22
Health	1,700,000	1,560,000	20
Protection	950,000	950,000	29
Shelter and non-food items	304,000	111,000	4
Nutrition	868,000	662,000	47
Water, hygiene, and sanitation	908,000	908,000	25

The world must stop perceiving the crisis in Mali solely through the lens of security. The ongoing crisis continues to generate urgent humanitarian needs, aggravating the chronic vulnerabilities inherent in the Sahel countries, including Mali. The humanitarian response to Mali deserves the support of the entire international community.

As of 2 March, the HRP of Mali was being financed at only 4 percent, with estimated contributions at a little more than \$9 million. At the same time, approximately \$37 million worth of funds had been allocated to projects outside of the HRP.

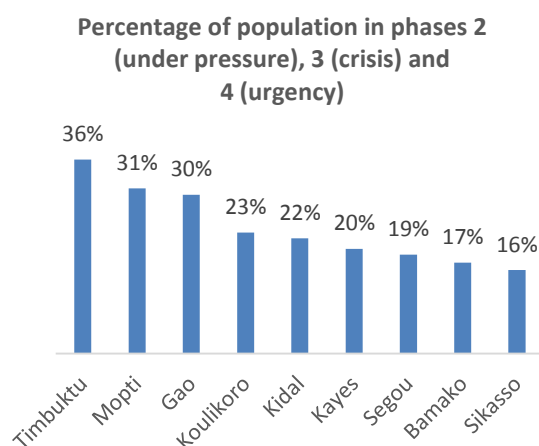
As a reminder, humanitarian organisations were seeking, through their initial appeal in January 2017, approximately \$293 million. At mid-year review, this appeal was revised upward to \$305 million. As of 31 December 2017, a total of \$135 million, approximately 44 percent of the requested funds, had been mobilised.

Despite the limited level of funding, important achievements have been made by the humanitarian actors in support of the Government's efforts. In a non-exhaustive way, the following results have been obtained with the support of humanitarian actors. A total of one million people was assisted through health care activities, 424,000 children had access to education, 519,000 people supported in the agricultural sector, 194,000 children affected by severe acute malnutrition were treated, 456,000 people had access to safe water and 2,900 victims of gender-based violence supported. More could have been done with more funding.

Since 2015, Mali's humanitarian appeals in the framework of the HRP, have struggled to reach 50 percent of the requested amount.

Food insecurity risks being worse than anticipated

According to the results of the Harmonised Framework (in French Cadre Harmonisé), the population affected by food insecurity will evolve from 291,000 people in phase 3 "crisis" and 4 "emergency" in November 2017 to 800,000 during the lean season (June to September). As a reminder, 424,000 people were food insecure during the 2017 lean season. This year, the Harmonised Framework estimates that 4.1 million people - or 22 percent of the total population - will be food insecure at various stages². The figures listed above from the harmonised framework are based on preliminary data from the crop year,



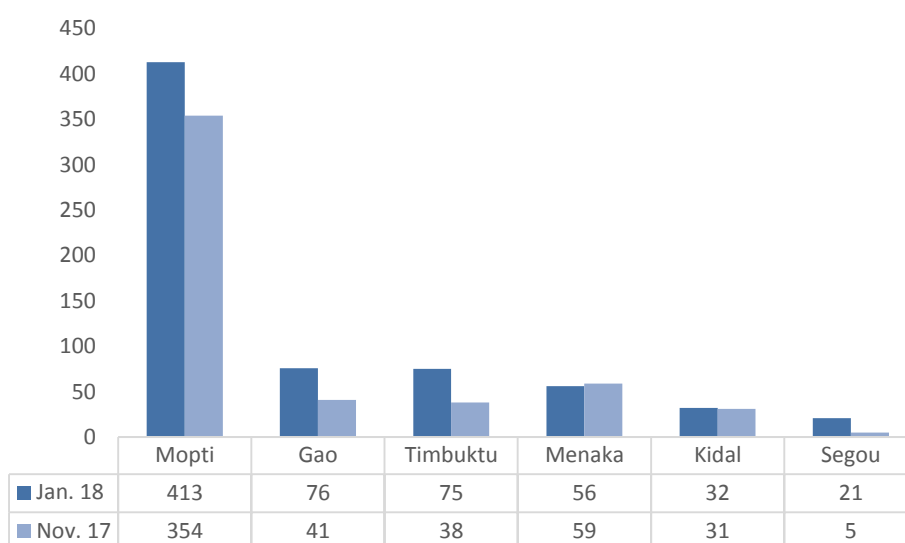
² Findings of the Cadre Harmonisé of November 2017: 3.2 million under pressure, 775,171 in crisis and 19,572 in emergency.

which will be updated in mid-March 2018. However, recent analyses show harvest levels are more degraded than estimated, with the possibility of leading, if no mitigating action is taken, to an increase of the caseload of people suffering from food insecurity. Furthermore, weak rainfall had a negative impact on the production of biomass, leading to an early transhumance of livestock, increased pressure on natural resources and an increase in the risk of tensions between farmers and herders.

The closing of schools affects hundreds of thousands of children

In Mali, access to education in the zones affected by the conflict remains a challenge. In January 2018, the Education cluster registered 673 closed schools for reasons mainly linked to the insecurity in the north and centre of the country. More than 60 percent of the closed schools are in the Mopti region.

Change in the number of closed schools between November 2017 and January 2018 (Source: Education cluster)



The number of closed schools in Timbuktu has nearly doubled between November 2017 and January 2018, increasing from 38 to 75. This situation affects the fundamental education right of about 11,000 children.

The population of school-age children is estimated at 300,000 in the affected regions. Overall, the six regions of the north and the centre affected by the school closures normally account for 4,580 primary and secondary establishments. To minimise the impact of school closures on children, humanitarian partners support the education authorities through the establishment of school canteens; the construction and rehabilitation of classrooms, latrines, and boreholes; community mobilisation; the training of teachers; and the distribution of school and educational toolkits.

In 2017, more than 250,000 children living in the affected zones benefited from the distribution of school kits.



Mopti, Mali 2017 : Non-scholarisation constitutes an enormous risk for the future of the children and of the country. Education is a fundamental right for all children, including those of central and northern Mali. Credit: Helene Sandbu Ryeng/UNICEF

Improvised explosive devices, a fatal threat to the civilians

Since the beginning of the crisis in 2012, the presence of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW), Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) as well as the proliferation of light arms and small weapons represent a constant threat to the communities living in the central and northern regions of the country. This problem has a strong negative impact on the life of the people, their protection, and their freedom of movement, notably in the regions of Kidal, Gao, Timbuktu, and Mopti.

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and other actors in the fight against mines are working with the civilian population by educating them about the risks linked to the explosive devices, helping victims, making efforts to reduce armed violence, and the marking and remediating danger zones.

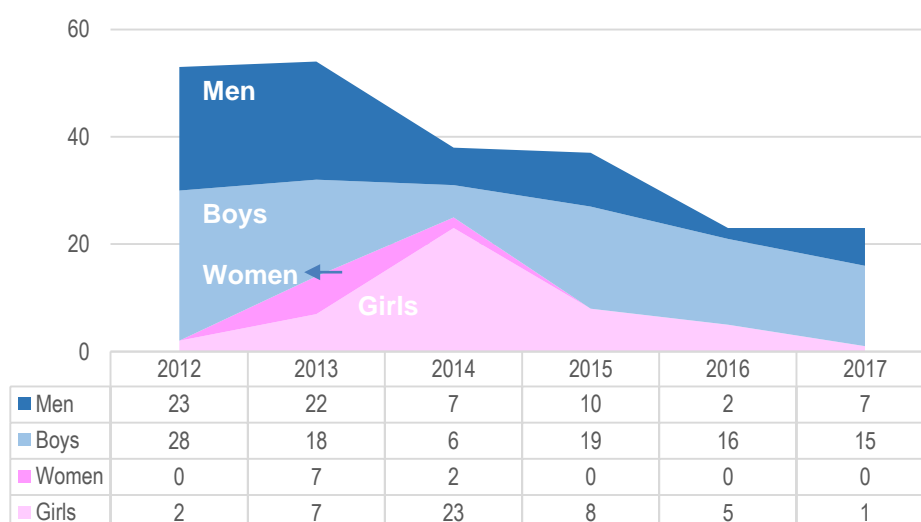
Thanks to the funding of the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), 44 community members were trained to lead the emergency response action against mines in the Kidal region in 2017. Furthermore, 5,500 people benefitted from risk education sessions against explosive devices, light arms, and small weapons.



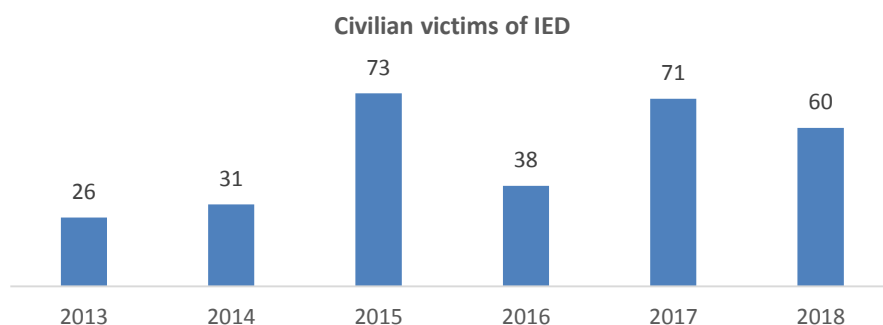
Mali: 60 percent of victims of ERW and IED are children. Informing children about the risks of mines contributes to strengthening their protection. Credit: UNMAS

These efforts in favour of the protection of the population have allowed a 50 percent reduction in the number of victims of ERW, passing notably from 53 victims in 2012 to 23 in 2017.

Civilian victims of ERW



However, this reduction contrasts with the increase in the number of people killed or injured by IEDs. As such, 130 incidents linked to IEDs were registered in 2017, leading to 450 victims, of which 20 percent were civilians. Since the beginning of this year, 40 civilians have lost their lives in accidents caused by IEDs, representing an increase of 90 percent compared to the total number of victims in 2017 (21 civilians killed).



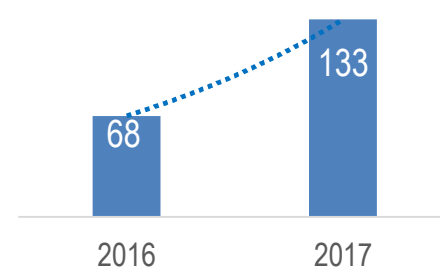
Date of publication: 7 March (Source: UNMAS)

The fight against mines remains a central element of the emergency response to ensure the protection of civilians and access to humanitarian aid. According to experts of UNMAS, it is crucial to implement a progressive transfer of responsibilities of this fight to local actors through capacity reinforcement measures, such as the training of local organisations and community members fighting against mines and of victims of explosive devices.

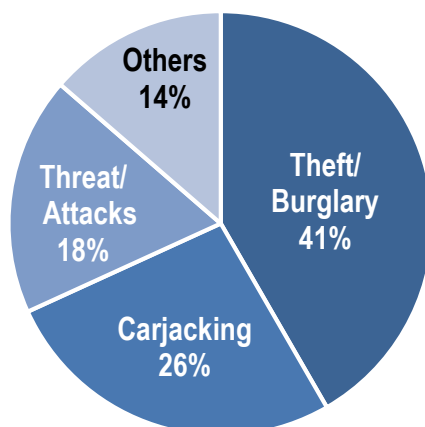
This year, UNMAS and its partners launched awareness raising sessions focusing on the risks linked to IEDs. These sessions are for the benefit of humanitarian actors, notably targeting drivers in the regions of Kidal, Gao, Menaka, Timbuktu and Mopti. This initiative serves to reinforce the integration of protection in humanitarian response programmes, while permitting beneficiary organisations to be informed of the danger to which they are exposed, helping them best avoid the risks, and providing an emergency response to populations in the zones that are contaminated by explosive devices.

Increase of security incidents affecting humanitarian workers in 2017

In 2017, security incidents affecting humanitarian workers increased in the centre and the north of Mali. Humanitarian partners have registered 133 security incidents against 68 in 2016. The humanitarian organisations noted 133 incidents in 2017, against 68 in 2016. Overall, 86 percent of incidents were provoked by banditry and 5 percent by armed groups.



Despite the security challenges, humanitarian workers continue their operations to support to people in need in the country, by negotiating access with the different parties of the conflict and community leaders in line with the humanitarian principles.



About, 41 percent of the incidents were linked to theft and 27 percent to carjacking.

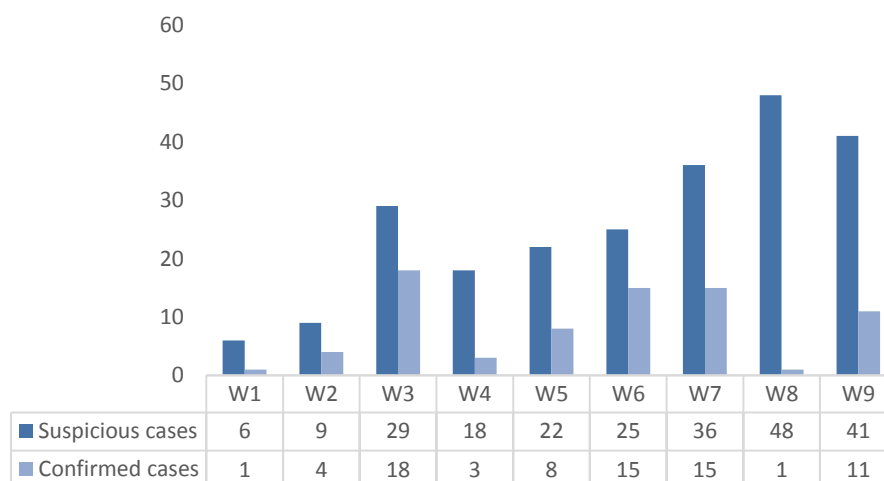
The largest number of incidents were registered in the region of Gao (27 percent), followed by the regions of Kidal (23 percent), Timbuktu (21 percent) and Menaka (17 percent). In central Mali, the region of Mopti is the most affected, accounting for 14 percent of the incidents.

In brief...

Upsurge of measles cases

The months of January and February 2018 were marked by a measles epidemic in seven health districts of the regions of Gao (Ansongo), Kayes (Kita), Koulikoro (Kangaba), Mopti (Bandiagara and Douentza), Sikasso (Kadiolo et Yanfolila) and two districts of Bamako. During this period, Mali registered 234 suspect cases, of which 76 confirmed cases were confirmed without any death reported.

Development of cases of measles
From week 1 to week 9 of 2018



Vaccination campaigns have been organised in response in, all affected districts. An analysis is ongoing to determine the risk of the epidemic spreading and to take appropriate response actions to limit the spread of the disease.

More than 2,000 people trained in civil-military coordination in 2017

From 6 to 8 February, OCHA trained near 150 G5 Sahel and MINUSMA military personnel on humanitarian principles, the mechanism of humanitarian coordination and civil-military coordination in Mali. In 2017, OCHA Mali trained 2,023 people (civilians, military personnel, and police workers) on similar themes. Civil-military coordination is one of the main functions of OCHA. Among the humanitarian operations concerning military presence, OCHA plays a leadership role in establishing and managing interaction with military personnel. OCHA supports humanitarian and military workers through training and awareness raising activities about the guidelines that govern the use of military resources and protecting foreign civilians, as well as the relations between civilians and military personnel in humanitarian operations.



Mopti, Mali, February 2018: the OCHA Mali team trains a newly arrived contingent of G5 Sahel in Mali on the principles that govern the protection of civilians, humanitarian work and the humanitarian space. Credit: OCHA/A. Jayaswal

Humanitarian/Development nexus mission to Timbuktu

A joint, twoday mission (OCHA, NRC, CRS, Spanish Cooperation, counsellor of the Humanitarian Country Team, Commission for the rehabilitation of post-conflict zones/Stabilisation Section of MINUSMA) was undertaken by the Head of OCHA Mali carried out a visit to Timbuktu to examine the humanitarian and development nexus.

The main objective of the mission was to ensure that partners in Timbuktu (regional authorities, humanitarians and development actors) have a good understanding of the nexus approach. Several presentations were made on the subject during the mission. The recommendations of the mission include, amongst others, a better coordination of humanitarian and development actions and the identification of priority areas of implementation based on criteria linked to the security context, the humanitarian needs, the development indicators, and the access to people in need.

Some 76 humanitarian organisations have been registered in Timbuktu. Among these organisations, some are also implementing development projects alongside with the Government and partners such as the GIZ, the Switzerland Cooperation and Lux-Development S.A.



Timbuktu, Mali, February 2018: Consultations between the representatives of the humanitarian organisations and those responsible for state technical services on the implementation of the humanitarian and development nexus. Credit: OCHA

First visit of the inter-cluster working group in Gao

The inter-cluster coordination group (ICC) carried out its first support mission to humanitarian partners in Gao from 26 February to 1 March. The objective of the mission was to strengthen the links between regional and national coordination bodies for a more efficient humanitarian response. The mission was conducted by the representatives from six clusters (Food security, health, nutrition, education, water, hygiene, and sanitation) and OCHA. The participants of this mission have noted that despite the volatile security context, the humanitarian coordination mechanisms in Gao are functioning well. The ICC has recommended, strengthening the capacities of partners in information and project management. They also highlight the need to implement the humanitarian and development nexus in coordinated manner.

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