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HIGHLIGHTS

- New displacements registered in the north of the country
- Humanitarian access: 68 incidents recorded in 2016
- Children are the most affected by mines and explosive remnants of war
- Increase in the number of reported cases of gender-based violence



Credit: OCHA

KEY FIGURES

No. of IDPs (CMP report, 31 Dec. 2016)	36,690
No. of refugees in neighbouring countries (CMP report, 31 Dec. 2016)	138,811
No. of returnees (CMP report, 31 Dec. 2016)	474,231
No. of repatriated (CMP report, 31 Dec. 2016)	56,594
No. of people affected by food insecurity (Harmonized Framework Nov. 2016)	2.5 million
No. of acutely malnourished children (SMART 2016)	622,368

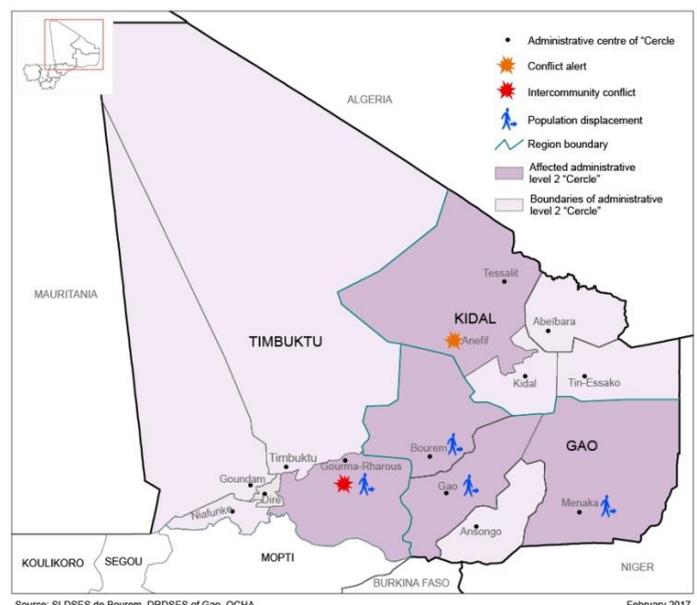
FUNDING

\$293 million
Requested (HRP 2016)

0.3%
Funded

Nearly 2000 new displacements due to conflicts in the north

About 2,000 people have been displaced due to insecurity in the north of the country during the months of December 2016 and January 2017. Particularly, nearly a thousand people have moved from Anefif in the region of Kidal, to Bourem in the region of Gao, following the alert about fighting between armed groups in the area. In the region of Timbuktu, a conflict between Tuareg communities has caused more than a thousand other people to move within the “Cercle” (administrative level 2) of Gourma Rharous. In addition, in the region of Menaka, intercommunity conflicts have also caused the displacement of several households, while the arrival of 400 people coming from Niger were also recorded.



Source: SLDSSES de Bourem, DRDSSES of Gao, OCHA February 2017

Ongoing assistance

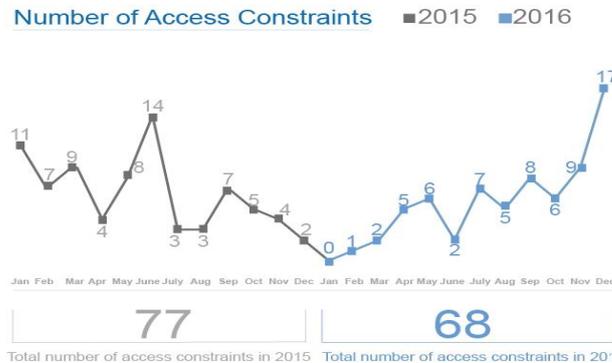
Humanitarian organizations have provided the necessary assistance to the displaced persons, especially those who have recently left their community due to the conflict. Evaluations have been conducted on the field to identify the needs and to provide response. Approximately 800 vulnerable households (4,000 people) in Ntillit and Tilemsi (region of Gao) have notably been targeted through one or several forms of assistance (food, cash, non-food items, hygiene and sanitation product, shelters). Nearly 750 other households (3,750 people) - including a hundred refugee families from Niger - have also been targeted for assistance in Anderamboukane, Tagalatet and Alata (region of Menaka).

The Local Social Development and Solidarity Economy Service (SLDSSES) of Menaka with the support of the NGO Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) initiated the identification of 160 refugee households from Niger in the “Cercle” of Anderamboukane at the end of January. These people are reported to have crossed the border as a result of the operations carried out since November 2016 by the Nigerien army following the attack against the Banibangou camp in Niger.

Resurgence of constraints to humanitarian access

The year 2016 ended with an alarming resurgence of constraints to humanitarian access in Mali. In total, 68 access incidents were recorded in the northern regions of the country in 2016, including three-quarters during the last half of the year. However, the total number of constraints recorded has decreased between 2015 and 2016.

Access to vulnerable people remains difficult due to insecurity.



Violence against humanitarian staff, goods and facilities represent the vast majority (88 per cent) of incidents reported in 2016. The region of Gao was the most affected.

Despite these challenges, humanitarian actors continue to assist the populations in need by adapting their operations to the constraints observed on the ground.

(source : AMRF)

However, the number and the nature of the constraints demonstrate that the operational context is still extremely volatile in the central and northern regions. Crime, terrorist acts and the presence of armed groups remain major obstacles to humanitarian access in Northern Mali.

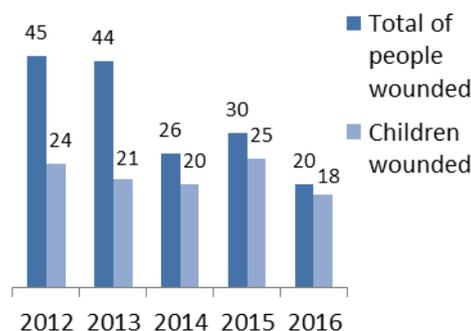
% of access constraints per region



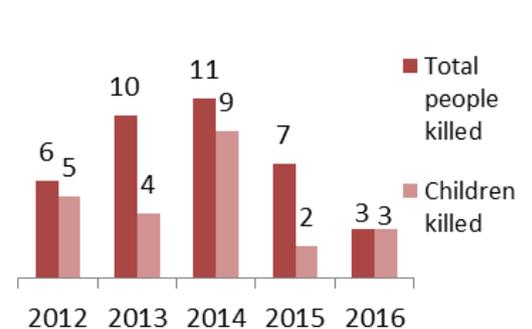
Explosive remnants of war mostly affect children

In 2016, 23 people were killed or wounded by explosive remnants of war in the country, according to data recorded by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Mali. 90 per cent of these victims were children. This represents an increase compared to an average of about 60 per cent of children among the victims of explosive remnants of war (ERW) recorded in Mali since the outbreak of the conflict in 2012.

Number of people wounded by ERW (2012 - 2016) (Source : UNMAS)



Number of people killed by ERW (2012 - 2016) (Source : UNMAS)



Most victims of explosive remnants of war are children.

This trend demonstrates the need to strengthen the prevention and response to risks of mines and other explosives in the regions affected, particularly among children. In fact, children are mostly exposed because of their curiosity and their lack of awareness of the danger. To this effect, in 2017 UNMAS and its partners plan to develop education activities adapted to small children, to better engage them and to stimulate their interest and to ensure the retention of key messages.

Total number of incidents in decline

Despite the continuing risks, the actions of UNMAS and its partners in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal, Mopti and Segou have contributed to reducing the total number of victims of incidents. In 2016, explosive remnants of war killed or wounded two people on average per month, compared to more than four during the first years of the crisis.

However, the resumption of clashes between armed groups during the second half of 2016, the presence of non-signatory armed groups to the peace agreement in certain areas, and the difficult humanitarian access due to insecurity in some regions threaten to undermine the progress achieved.

These factors may aggravate the risks posed by the presence of explosive remnants of war to the safety of people and goods in the north and the center of the country.

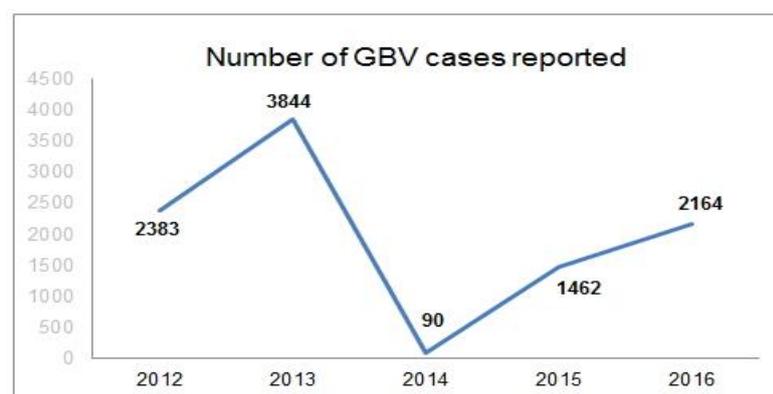


Gao, Mali (August 2016): Awareness session on the risks of mines and ERW. Credit: OCHA/D.Dembele

Increase in reported cases of gender-based violence

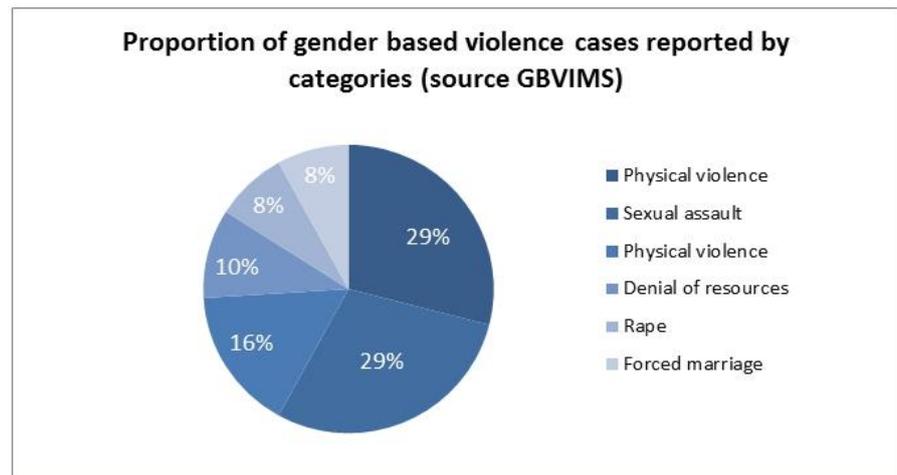
Fear of reprisals and social stigmatization results in a low number of gender based violence cases being reported.

Since January 2015, the gender-based violence information management system (GBVIMS) collects data on the number of reported cases, in an ethical and secure manner. Nearly twenty NGOs provide data to the database. However, they cover only 30 per cent of localities in the regions affected by the crisis.



(Source : GBVIMS)

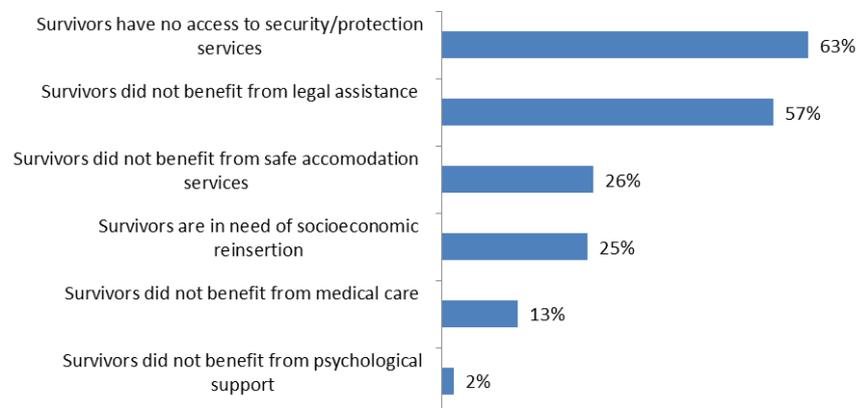
In 2015, the GBVIMS recorded 1,462 GBV cases, of which 95 per cent of survivors were women and girls. In 2016, 2,164 cases were recorded, i.e. an increase of 68 per cent compared to the previous year. In 2016, 99 per cent of survivors were women and girls.



Inadequate care and treatment

The data collected through the GBVIMS is reliable and consistent with the guiding principles of security and confidentiality, which helps to improve programming and advocacy. However, the GBV sub-cluster notes that the response remains very low, while about 70 per cent of the localities in the Northern and Central regions affected by the crisis have no GBV care and treatment services. Even in localities where such services are available, response to survivors' needs is limited.

Lack of response to the needs of GBV survivors



The security situation due to banditry, intercommunity conflicts and the presence of armed groups still remains volatile in the regions of Gao, Kidal, Timbuktu, Mopti and part of the region of Segou. Human rights violations are frequently observed there. According to the GBV sub-cluster, fear of reprisals and social stigmatization results in a low number of GBV cases being reported.

Humanitarian partners believe that in 2017, 18,500 women and girls are at risk of sexual violence (source: [HNO November 2016](#)). While in 2016 the protection sector has been funded by only 6 per cent, it is crucial and urgent to mobilize more resources to strengthen and to expand GBV interventions, both in terms of prevention and holistic care and treatment for survivors in all localities of the regions affected by the armed conflict and violence.

Involving decision makers and communities in the fight against malnutrition in Niafunke

The authorities of the “Cercle” of Niafunke in Timbuktu have committed to reducing the costs and facilitate the establishment of duplicates of birth certificates (“jugements suppletifs”¹) for children affected by malnutrition as a way to encourage the parents to have their children treated by the competent services.

The birth certificate is required before a child is admitted into health services. When a child has no birth certificate or when the certificate is lost, the parents must apply for a duplicate birth certificate from the authorities. However, the humanitarian actors on the ground² have found that the deadlines and the costs of this procedure discourage some families who give up the process.

Following the sensitization of local and administrative authorities in the Circle of Niafunke by humanitarian actors involved in nutrition programs, the costs of the establishment of duplicate birth certificates for malnourished children have been reduced from CFA 6000 to CFA 4000 (US\$10 to US\$7). The Court of First Instance of Niafunke has informed the town council, the prefecture and Save the Children of this reduction. The identification process of children has started and nearly 300 children without a birth certificate, who had previously been found to be malnourished, have been identified to benefit from the measure.

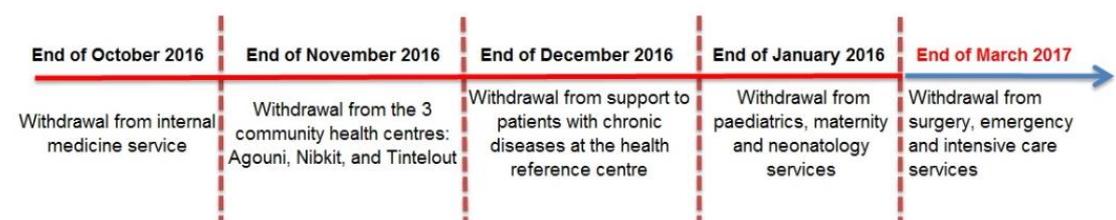
The national rate of global acute malnutrition among children under five years of age is 10.7 per cent. In the region of Timbuktu this rate is at 14.3 per cent.

MSF indicates that it will refocus its interventions to areas where State services are not yet functional.

Improvement of the health system in Timbuktu: withdrawal of the NGO MSF

At the end of a several months’ process, the international NGO Doctors Without Borders (MSF) will complete, in April 2017, the withdrawal of its project to support the recovery of the maternal and child health and medico-surgical emergency system in Timbuktu. The NGO, which is present in the region since the outbreak of the crisis in 2012, indicates that the situation in Timbuktu today reflects a normalization of the health system, particularly due to the return of the personnel of the administration, including two gynaecologists, three general practitioners and seven medical specialists. The NGO, which specializes in emergency situations, also notes that about 30 humanitarian organizations are now present in the region and complement the health service offer.

Withdrawal timeline



MSF indicates that it will refocus its interventions in Mali to areas where State services are not yet functional and where humanitarian actors have little presence, such as in the district of Tenenkou (region of Mopti). MSF had announced its disengagement from Timbuktu in December 2015 to gradually hand over to health authorities.

¹ A "jugement suppletif" is a decision taken by a court to replace an original deed, whether the required deed has not been established initially, or whether it has been destroyed. This is the case for the document that replaces a birth certificate when the latter has not been received within the regulatory deadline.

² The NGO Save the Children, which is present in Niafunke, notes through its direct interactions with the communities that the lack of birth certificates is a crucial issue affecting most of the children admitted to the recovery and intensive nutritional education unit (URENI).

In brief

A practical guide for integrating protection into the humanitarian response

A new tool is now available to facilitate the integration of the crosscutting issue of protection by the various humanitarian actors! It is a practical guide developed by the Protection cluster. This manual is being distributed to the clusters and their partners. It guides humanitarian actors to take into account the protection of beneficiaries throughout the response process, particularly the identification of humanitarian needs and the prioritization of responses, and the development, implementation and evaluation of projects.

In addition, the protection cluster closed the year 2016 with a series of missions in the regions of Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu to review major protection issues. This work will help to define the priority areas that should guide the new national strategy of the cluster to be launched in February 2017.

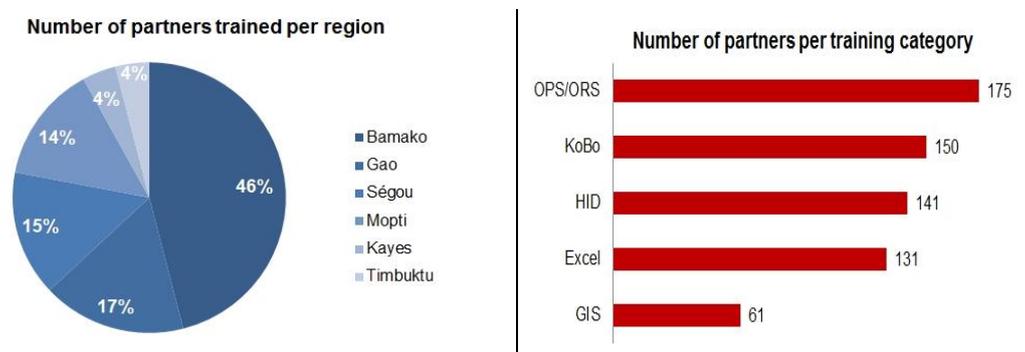
Use of mobile telephony to analyse vulnerabilities

Since mid-2016, WFP is testing the use of mobile telephony for analysing and mapping food security vulnerabilities in Mali. Through the project "mVAM", data is collected during brief surveys conducted through mobile phones, via SMS, telephone calls or interactive voice servers. Given the challenges linked to delays and the costs of collecting primary data on households' food security, particularly in areas where humanitarian access is limited, mobile telephony represents a flexible and effective solution to collect the information needed. It also helps to ensure periodic monitoring of food security in regions where security remains volatile, while reducing risks.

According to WFP, the mVAM test has shown that this data collection tool is achieving results comparable to those obtained through more traditional face-to-face surveys on key food security indicators with a reduced sample. For more information about the project: http://vam.wfp.org/sites/mvam_monitoring/mali.html

More than 600 humanitarian partners trained by OCHA Mali in 2016

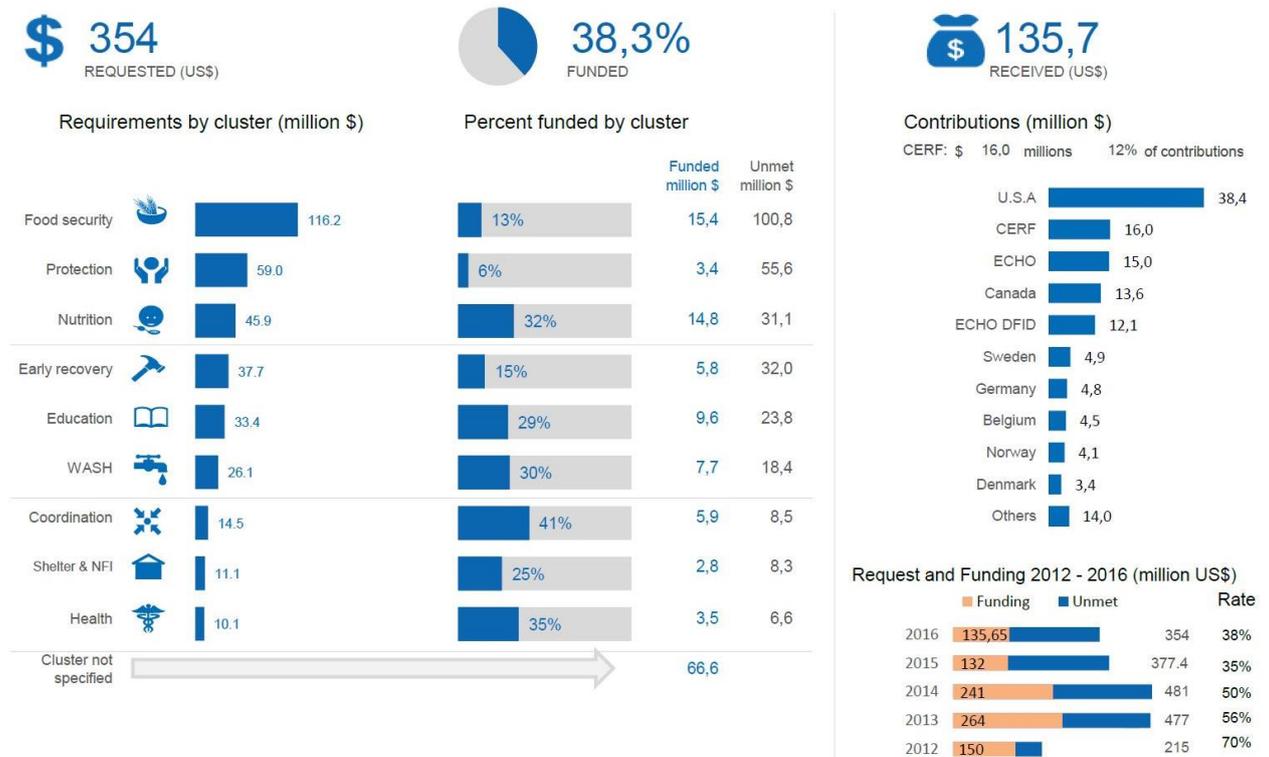
The OCHA Office in Mali has trained 643 humanitarian partners in Bamako and in the regions during the year 2016 on information management and advocacy skills. The partners trained are from national and international NGOs and from the State technical services. They have attended various sessions on online project management (OPS), the online monitoring system (ORS), geographic information systems (GIS), the mobile data collection tool (KoBo), humanitarian advocacy, etc.



In addition, OCHA Mali has developed, printed and distributed more than 530 reference and thematic maps for the humanitarian community in Mali.

Funding of the Humanitarian Response Plan for Mali

The US\$354 million requirement for the 2016 humanitarian response plan (HRP) in Mali has been 38 per cent funded (as of 31 Dec. 2016). This represents a slight increase compared to the funding percentage of the 2015 HRP in Mali. Despite this encouraging trend, many humanitarian programs planned in 2016 in all key sectors could not be fully implemented due to a lack of resources. Additional contributions of nearly US\$ 70 million were also allocated to the 2016 humanitarian response in Mali outside the HRP.



Request and Funding 2012 - 2016 (million US\$)

Year	Funding	Unmet	Rate
2016	135,65	354	38%
2015	132	377,4	35%
2014	241	481	50%
2013	264	477	56%
2012	150	215	70%

US\$ 293 million appeal for the 2017 humanitarian response

Humanitarian organizations in Mali have launched a funding appeal for US\$ 293 million (172 billion FCFA) to assist nearly a million and a half people affected by the crisis. These resources will serve for the implementation of the 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan developed by the main humanitarian actors in Mali. In total, about 140 projects are planned, mainly in the northern and central regions of the country, which are affected by the conflict and violence.

The 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Mali is available at the following link: <http://www.unocha.org/mali/>

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