

UNICEF Mali

Unrest in Kidal

Situation Report # 1

22 May 2014

Key Points

- **Fighting in Kidal broke out on 17 May and has resulted in the takeover of the town of Kidal by armed groups on 21 May.**
- **Most humanitarian actors have left Kidal as of 21 May.**
- **Population displacement has been reported, with some 3,000 people reportedly displaced within Kidal region and 450 displaced people from Kidal have been registered in Gao.**
- **UNICEF has prepositioned WASH and shelter supplies in Gao, in addition to WASH supplies already pre-positioned in Kidal.**
- **UNICEF continues to monitor the humanitarian and security situation and is ready to respond to any increase in humanitarian need of women and children in Kidal region as soon as humanitarian access is ensured, as well as to displaced population around the affected area.**

Situation Overview

On 17 May anti-government protests in Kidal dissolved into violence and a hostage situation including civilians and government workers. Clashes resulted in at least 36 people dead and 87 injured during fighting, according to the Malian Ministry of Defence. Kidal is presently under the control of the MNLA. Some 44 UN staff members, working with the UN Peacekeeping mission in Mali (MINUSMA) remain in Kidal and have been instructed to stay within the premises of MINUSMA camp until further notice. The town of Ménaka is also under MNLA control (MINUSMA). The security situation in and around Kidal remains tense and is evolving.

Access to Kidal, which has been limited since the start of the crisis in 2012, remains restricted. Information about humanitarian need in and around Kidal is also inadequate, however the humanitarian community has currently estimated that 1,000 people so far are in need of humanitarian aid. Because most humanitarian actors in Kidal have left, humanitarian response capacity is also severely limited. Reports indicate that the presence of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in Kidal town and its surroundings poses an additional threat to the safe delivery of humanitarian aid and may hinder access to population in need. In addition, access to basic social services in Kidal is also reportedly worsening as a result of government administration having left the region due to insecurity.

UNICEF partner Médecins du Monde reported that about 50 injured casualties (mostly civilians) have been brought to the health centre in Kidal since 17 May. Reports indicate that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is providing medical aid to 22 people injured in clashes in Kidal and 2 injured in protests in Gao at the Gao Regional Hospital. UNHCR have reported population displacement from Kidal to Gao in the past days, with 450 people reportedly having arrived in Gao on 21 May and IDEA Relief estimated that some 3,000 people are displaced within Kidal region.

The President of Mali has called for a ceasefire and requested three days of national mourning for the victims of these clashes. United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has also called for “the immediate cessation of fighting and the establishment of a ceasefire” in Kidal.

UNICEF Response

On 22 May, five Basic Family WASH kits (including buckets, jerry cans, soap and aquatabs supplies for 50 families) , five 72 m² tents and three water bladders (one which can hold 10,000 litres of water and two that can hold 5,000 litres) were transferred to and prepositioned in Gao through logistical support of MINUSMA.

UNICEF, though partners, had already prepositioned basic family WASH kits to cover 1,300 families: they will be delivered as soon as the security situation improves.

UNICEF Supplies in Gao

Quantity	Items
2	Bladder de 5000 l
1	Bladder de 10000 l
5	Water basic family kit
5	Tentes de 72 m2

UNICEF currently has supplies pre-positioned in Bamako (shelter and cooking kits for 2,000 households, basic family water kits for 6,000 and basic health kits each for 10,000 people) and ready to be sent should further humanitarian needs arise in Kidal and surrounding areas. As soon as a window of opportunity arises and the security situation improves, UNICEF can conduct a humanitarian assessment together with other actors and OCHA to respond to humanitarian needs of populations affected.



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