

Update Report – Estimated IDP population in Mali November 2012

Overview

The Commission on Population Movement continues to collect, analyze and present the most up to date information available regarding the IDP population in Mali. Information is currently collected via various sources, including direct IDP assessments, a variety of surveys and general estimations. An effort to standardize the approach to collect data is ongoing, and the Commission is working in collaboration with various partners on the ground so as to maximize resources and avoid duplication of efforts. Access to the northern regions of Tombouctou, Kidal and Gao, as well as a portion of Mopti region, continues to hamper efforts to get regular updates from these regions. The current estimate of the overall IDP population in Mali stands at 198,558 persons in an estimated 31,063 households. The estimate is a slight decrease from the previous estimate of 203,843 persons from October 2012, which is a reflection of results from recent exercises conducted by various partners.

The displacement context in Mali remains complex and fluid. Movement of IDPs currently residing in the southern regions towards the northern regions continues to be reported. While some have indicated permanent returns, others have indicated that they are moving between the location of displacement and the place of origin. Reasons for this type of movement are reported as: to check on property, visit/take care of family members who remained behind, as well as for economic purposes, i.e. agriculture, commerce, etc. New movements from north to south also continue to be reported, with insecurity and the potential military intervention being amongst the stated reasons for new displacement.

Reports of intra-regional displacement differ considerably from region to region, and circle to circle. In some areas indications of movement from village to town are reported, whereas in others movement from town to village is reported, depending on the situation and the perception of safety. Information from key informants and agencies with presence in the northern regions state that the populations who remain behind are extremely vulnerable due to a general lack of basic services, including water, electricity, as well as health services and education. Information points to the fact that some of the population who remain behind would like to leave due to fear of potential conflict following planned military intervention but lack the means to do so, whereas others have no intention of moving largely as a result of economic reasons and/or due to their attachment to their place of origin.

The definition of a displaced person continues to present challenges in the Malian context. Traditional movements, such as the nomadic populations in the northern regions, are acknowledged yet are still noted to have been affected by the crisis. The degree of this has been challenging to ascertain because of a lack of access to the region. Moreover, movement to the southern regions for education and economic opportunities are common in Mali, however such movements are now complicated by the situation in the north. In addition, the displacement of civil servants and the military from posts in the northern regions, often along with family members who are of northern origin, are furthermore recognized.

The Commission on Population Movement, a sub-group of the Protection Cluster, is a working group led by IOM and established to collect and analyze available information regarding the IDP population and the population movement in Mali as a result of the crisis in the north that began in 2012. Members of the Commission include: IOM, UNHCR, OCHA, WFP, UNICEF, ACTED, Handicap International, CRS, NRC, the Director General for Civil Protection, and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Solidarity and the Elderly. In drafting this report, additional partners collecting data at regional level were engaged in the analysis, they include: ADR, NCA, World Vision International, Care International, Islamic Relief, and Africare.

Support to the coordination of the Commission is provided by ECHO and OFDA.

Regional Updates

The figures for the **Bamako** area were collected by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in collaboration with the Director General for Civil Protection (DGPC in French) and the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Solidarity and the Elderly (MAHSPA), between the end of September and the beginning of October 2012. The results differ slightly from those presented in October 2012, as they were preliminary results and the current figures have now been fully processed. The report was released on the 1st of November 2012. IOM continues to work with its partners, as well as local authorities, to follow the population movement in the Bamako area and update the figures regularly.

The IDP population in **Mopti** has decreased from 41,239 in October 2012 to 39,830 in November 2012 as per the figures presented by the MAHSPA. The decrease is a result of recent efforts by the Comité de Crise to clean the data, specifically in regards to double counting. It should however continue to be noted that the current figures are cumulative and do not take into account potential returns. In support of the efforts of the Comité de Crise in Mopti, the IDP Profiling exercise by Intersos and UNHCR began in November 2012. In addition, at the request of the Comité de Crise and in agreement with Commission members, IOM will work in collaboration with the Comité de Crise and other partners to collect figures on the population movement in Mopti. Initial efforts are already underway and coordination amongst both exercises is ongoing.

The figures presented by the MAHSPA for **Segou** have not changed between October and November 2012. IOM is presently working with the MAHSPA and the DGPC, as well as a local NGO, to conduct assessments of the IDP population in Segou. Initial assessments to determine the locations of the IDP population have taken place in November 2012, with assessments utilizing the form approved by the Commission planned for December 2012. Similar efforts are ongoing in **Koulikoro** and **Sikasso** regions as well. Figures for **Kayes** region have also been provided by the MAHSPA. Current figures from all above mentioned regions are cumulative.

An assessment conducted in August 2012 and verified in October 2012 by NCA, a partner of WFP in **Kidal** region, indicates a decrease in the displaced population. The recent data is in line with reports that a number of IDPs had returned to their place of origin after the displacement following the initial crisis. At the same time, the collection of IDP figures in Kidal region remains challenging due to the fluid movements of the population, which includes a large nomadic population as well as reported regular cross border movements to Algeria.

The IDP population estimated for **Gao** and **Tombouctou** regions remain unchanged due to a lack of updated figures. Efforts are ongoing between the Commission and partners working in these regions to establish a system in which regular information on population movement can be reported. The information collection in these regions nevertheless remains challenging due to their insecurity and fluid movements of the population.

Average Household Size

Currently, the average household size is available for the Bamako area and Kidal only, as the methodologies utilized allow for such calculation. The average household size in Bamako has been reported at 7.3, which is generally made up of 5 members of the immediate family as well as 2 other members who have been reported as either another relation or a non-relation. In Kidal, the average household size was found to be 5. The data is in line with the results of the National Statistical Institute of Mali's 2009 Census, which indicates that households in the northern regions range between 5 and 5.5 members per household.

On average however, the 2009 Census results indicate a household size of approximately 6.5 members in Mali. As a result of this, the Commission has agreed to utilize this number until a larger sample size is

available, at which time the household size can be determined according to the displacement situation in Mali in 2012 and used to calculate the IDP population estimate.

Methodology

The current IDP estimate has been calculated using sources that have employed diverse methodologies. The Commission on Population Movement continues to promote the usage of the agreed methodology and is currently supporting its roll-out in the southern regions of Mali and coordination with partners in the northern region. For now, the Commission has attempted to liaise with various partners who are operational at regional level to provide available information and participate in the analysis of the data so as to provide the country-wide IDP population estimate. The Commission acknowledges the support of ADR, World Vision International, Islamic Relief, Handicap International, and Africare who provided data and participated in the analysis, as well as Care International and NCA who also provide data.

Way Forward

The Commission continues to support the roll-out of the agreed methodology and the form. A number of adjustments to the methodology have been made to date as a result of lessons learned and ongoing collaborative efforts.

As previously mentioned, the Intersos and UNHCR IDP Profiling exercise is underway in Mopti regions. Additionally, IOM is working with the MAHSPA and the DGPC, as well as local NGOs at regional level, to roll-out the system in Segou, Sikasso and Koulikoro, as well as the tracking in Mopti in collaboration with UNHCR and Intersos. Furthermore, efforts are being undertaken to work with agencies present in the northern regions to collect regular information on the population movement in these regions.

The Commission attempts to make all efforts to avoid duplication, as well as to minimize the burden on the IDP population. Hence, collaboration and coordination remain key priorities.

COMMISSION ON POPULATION MOVEMENT									
Estimate: IDP Population in Mali									
November 2012									
Update	Region	Total # household	Total # individuals	# Male	# Female	Average household size ¹	%	Source	Date
Updated	Bamako	6,469	47,292	23,349	23,943	7.3	24%	OIM ²	1/11/2012
Not Updated	Gao ³	3,996	25,977	N/A	N/A	6.5	13%	ACTED & OIM ⁴	06 & 07-08/2012
Updated	Kayes	284	1,843	998	845	6.5	1%	MAHSPA ⁵	31/10/2012
Updated	Kidal	5,729	28,645	N/A	N/A	5	14%	NCA ⁶	10/2012
Updated	Koulikoro	521	3,386	1,555	1,831	6.5	2%	MAHSPA ⁷	31/10/2012
Updated	Mopti	6,128	39,830	19,844	19,986	6.5	20%	MAHSPA ⁸	31/10/2012
Not Updated	Ségou	2,967	19,285	9,330	9,955	6.5	10%	MAHSPA ⁹	31/10/2012
Updated	Sikasso	1,621	10,536	5,199	5,337	6.5	5%	MAHSPA ¹⁰	31/10/2012
Not Updated	Tombouctou	3,348	21,764	N/A	N/A	6.5	11%	Islamic Relief, ¹¹ Handicap Int'l: Africare	10/2012 07/2012 08-09/2012
TOTAL		31,063	198,558				100%		

¹ The average household size of 6.5 was used for regions where specific data on household size was not available. The determination of 6.5 as the average household size was agreed by the Commission on Population Movement in accordance with the results of the Institut National de la Statistique 2009 Mali Census.

² IOM conducted the second round of data collection in Bamako as part of its Displacement Tracking Matrix project during the 21st September - 03 October, 2012. The data collection comprises a number of IDPs from bordering quartiers, including Koloban Coro and Niamana. The report was published November 1st, 2012. An analysis of the household size of 7.3 shows that household members include on average 5 immediate family members plus 2 additional members, either another relative or a non-relative.

³ Following the recent attacks in Menaka between the MNLA and the MUJAO, there have been reports of displacement however an estimate of the number has not yet been able to be determined. Reports indicate that the primary destination of the displaced populations from Menaka is Niger.

⁴ New figures for Gao are not available at this time. The figures have been calculated using ACTED figures for Menaka, Anderamboukane, Inekar, Alata and Tidemene from June 2012 and IOM figures for Gao town, Bamba and Labézanga from July-August 2012.

⁵ Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Solidarity and the Elderly.

⁶ An exercise conducted by NCA in August 2012 and verified in October 2012 indicated a decrease in the overall number of reported IDPs in Kidal region. The average household size is 5 persons per household.

⁷ The figures presented by the MAHSPA are cumulative and have not taken into account potential movements out of the region.

⁸ The decrease in the number of IDPs in Mopti (41,239 reported in October 2012) is reported to be as a result of a recent effort to clean the data, particularly by removing double registrations, by the Comité de Crise in Mopti. The overall figure nevertheless still remains a cumulative count. Efforts to update the figures are currently underway. The Intersos and UNHCR IDP Profiling has already begun in November 2012, while IOM is supporting the Comité de Crise to establish a method of tracking the population movement. Both efforts are coordinated and partners are collaborating closely.

⁹ New figures for Segou are not yet available. IOM has undertaken location assessments in Segou during November 2012 in collaboration with the Direction Generale de Protection Civile (DGPC), and will continue to work alongside the DGPC, MAHSPA, displaced persons and local NGO to conduct the household level assessments according to the Commission methodology in Segou in December 2012.

¹⁰ Updated figures from Sikasso indicate a slight increase in the IDP population (8,250 reported in October 2012). The increase is reported to be as a result of increased efforts to register the displaced population in Sikasso by the MAHSPA during the recent month. IOM is working alongside the DGPC and the MAHSPA to begin implementation of the Commission methodology in Sikasso in December 2012.

¹¹ New figures for Tombouctou are not available. In July 2012, Handicap International conducted an assessment in the Communes of Tombouctou, Lafia, Bourem Inaly, Hamzakoma, Séréré, Rharous, and Banikane. Africare, during August and September 2012, conducted an IDP assessment in Goundam in the communes of Goundam, Douékirié, Doukouria, Tele and Kaneye, Tombouctou's rural commune of Alafia, and Nianfunke's rural commune of Soboundou. Islamic Relief's assessment covers the communes of Bambara Maoudé, Inadiatafane, Haribomo, Ouinerdène et Gossi (Cercle de Gourma Rharous, Région de Tombouctou).

