



CRS MALI LAUNCHES SEVEN SIMULTANEOUS RESPONSES SUPPORTING FLOODING VICTIMS & IDPs

Mali's rainy season has struck hard since early August, leaving vulnerable communities across the country with collapsed homes, damaged wells, livestock loss, and destroyed crops. At the same time, violence in the Kidal Region has triggered displacement into the neighboring regions of Gao and Ménaka. Catholic Relief Services (CRS) with its network of local partners is providing vital relief and support to help those in crisis.

CRS received multiple crisis alerts from throughout Mali following severe flooding in early August. As many of the country's poorest communities live along the Niger River, flooding not only destroyed infrastructure and livelihoods, but also left families more vulnerable to food insecurity and water-borne diseases. Heavy rains returned at the end of the month, causing immense damage in the Timbuktu Region. While the end of the rainy season is anticipated by mid-October, the Ministry of Energy has warned that the river may reach a height unseen since 1968. Thus, communities are overcoming the effects of flooding while remaining braced for its continuation.

In mid-August, CRS received a crisis alert from local partner, ASG, and UN OCHA regarding the urgent needs of over 1,500 internally displaced people (IDPs) escaping fighting between armed groups in Kidal. Leaving behind their homes and livelihoods, these families prioritized safety offered by host families in the neighboring regions of Gao and Ménaka. Throughout September, violence in Kidal has persisted, with no end in sight.

Following relative peace in northern Mali and reduced support in the Mbera refugee camp in Mauritania, Malians began returning to the Timbuktu Region in May 2016. In June, CRS launched the *Tassack* Project to support both returnees and host families in a zone already challenged with food insecurity and drought conditions. On 20 September, local partner ASG informed CRS that an additional significant influx of returnees from Mauritania had arrived in the Niafunke Circle.



A mother assesses if she can use the road destroyed by flooding in Dire. Photo by staff of ASG, CRS' partner

RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

With support from its broad network of local partners (including ASG, Caritas, and Tassaght as well as local divisions of the Social Development Directorate), CRS implemented rapid needs assessments in response to these alerts received in the last two months. Using its expertise in Information and Communication Technologies for Emergencies (ICT4E), CRS' assessment teams conducted key informant interviews with local authorities and technical services and focus groups with affected community members. Affected households were simultaneously registered and received uniquely barcoded ID cards to support immediate interventions in the following zones:

Zone/Disaster Type	# of Registered Households
▪ Bla (Ségou) - flooding	118
▪ Dire (Timbuktu) - flooding	310
▪ Gao (Gao) - displacement	383
▪ Kontza (Mopti) - flooding	296
▪ Ménaka (Ménaka) - displacement	202
▪ Niafunke (Timbuktu) - displacement	420
▪ Sikasso Ville (Sikasso) - flooding	202

[Click here](#) to access CRS' assessment reports.



CRS' RESPONSE

To respond to grave needs confirmed during needs assessments, CRS has launched seven separate emergency responses between August and September 2016. Thanks to the support of USAID/OFDA and private funding, the following activities are reaching vulnerable communities in six different regions:

Unconditional cash transfers: Following emergency market assessments, all seven responses incorporated unconditional cash transfers which enabled affected families to prioritize and address their unique needs including food, essential household items, health and shelter. Local merchants facilitated a total transfer of \$203,508 reaching 2,931 households (21,786 individuals: 11,278 women and 10,508 men) within the last month.

Cash-for-work: Quick infrastructure rehabilitation was supported by cash-for-work activities in Dire (Timbuktu) in order to mitigate the immediate impact of floods and reduce future risk. A total of \$2,000 was transferred to targeted affected households.

Livelihood and shelter fairs: 616 households received vouchers to redeem at organized fairs in Bla, Kontza, and Sikasso. The fairs provided access to cement, iron, and tools for shelter repair as well as seeds to restore agricultural activities. 25 local vendors participated, stimulating the local economy with a total transfer of \$105,311.

Shelter sensitization: To promote sustainability, shelter fairs in Bla, Kontza, and Sikasso were complemented with image-based rehabilitation posters, construction demonstrations, and mason trainings, all of which emphasized disaster risk reduction techniques.



Community members assist in water evacuation in Dire. Photo by staff of ASG, CRS' partner

21,786

INDIVIDUALS REACHED BY CRS' EMERGENCY RESPONSES IN SEPTEMBER

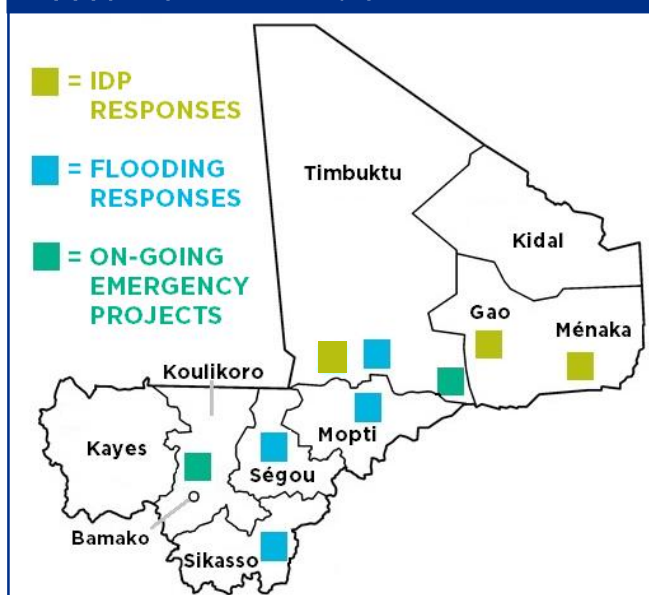
WASH support: 1,616 households in Bla, Kontza, Niafunke, and Sikasso received aquatab chlorination tablets to increase their access to safe, drinking water. This distribution was accompanied by basic hygiene and water treatment messaging to ensure appropriate use of aquatabs and promote waterborne disease prevention.

NEXT STEPS

After a new alert from ASG of the arrival of an estimated 150 IDP households in the Agarous Commune in the Bourem Circle in Gao and 295 in the periphery of Ménaka, CRS is deploying two additional assessment teams on September 26th to register these families. The CRS Security Team continues to assess insecurity in eastern Mali to ensure the safe execution of support to displaced people.

UN OCHA has warned that 60,000 individuals along the Niger River basin, particularly in Mopti, remain in danger of extreme flooding. CRS will continue to actively coordinate with other humanitarian actors, including UN OCHA and the Regional Directorate for Social Development, to ensure that lifesaving assistance is provided to vulnerable families in crisis. Coordination efforts are already underway with IRC in Ménaka, with Lutheran World Relief in Dire, and with NRC to conduct needs assessments. The agency will also work with UNHCR to monitor the flow of returnees out of Mauritania and support their safe and healthy return to Timbuktu. Post-distribution monitoring will take place the second week of October to share insight into the effectiveness of these responses and remaining needs. Additional funding is necessary to support the full recovery of these affected families and respond to future emergencies.

EMERGENCY PROGRAMMING ZONES AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 2016



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