



CRS MALI'S EMERGENCY RAPID RESPONSE MECHANISM IS ACTIVATED BY CONTINUED DISPLACEMENT IN THE NORTH

Both continued insecurity and flooding caused vulnerable people to flee their homes between November 2016 and January 2017. During this period, CRS Mali's Emergency Rapid Response Mechanism (ERRM) conducted three rapid needs assessments, implemented three responses, and led three post-distribution monitoring (PDM) missions.

CONTEXT

In July 2016, CRS Mali launched the OFDA-funded *Kisili Project* which formalized its country-wide ERRM. Designed to fill a significant gap in the humanitarian community's provision of lifesaving assistance after rapid on-set disasters, the ERRM functions to assess immediate needs, provide timely information to other actors, and respond when a crisis is unaddressed. To date, *Kisili* staff have conducted and disseminated the results of nine rapid evaluations and led six responses, each focused on one of the most critical needs of crisis-affected people.

Persistent insecurity continues to spark new population movements while challenging humanitarian actors' accessibility to serve displaced communities in need. On 18 January, 77 individuals in Gao were killed by an attack of a base used to coordinate the Malian military and signatory groups of the 2015 peace accord. This symbolic attack of the peace process deters hope of much-needed stabilization in the north, further necessitating the readiness of humanitarian actors to serve displaced communities.

RAPID NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

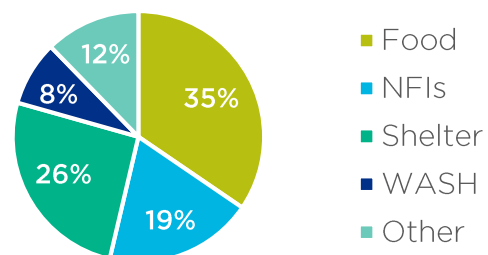
On 7 November 2016, UNHCR and OCHA alerted CRS that Malian refugees in Burkina Faso and Mauritania had returned home, to the Haire Commune in the Doentza Circle of Mopti, where severe flooding started shortly after. On 16 November, CRS and local partner Caritas Mopti conducted a needs assessment and simultaneously registered 132 affected households (HHs).



CRS Staff distribute NFI kits to IDPs in Tarkint. Source: CRS, December 2016.

After the Regional Directorate for Social Development, OCHA, and local authorities validated a crisis alert of mass population movement following violence between armed groups in the N'Tilit Commune of Gao, CRS and local partner Tassaght launched an assessment on 29 December. 196 HHs were registered across three villages, comprised of 1,449 internally displaced people (IDPs).

Prioritized Urgent Needs in the Haire and N'Tilit Communes



In late December, the Timbuktu Regional Directorate for Social Development informed CRS of the displacement of 22 repatriate families impacted by flooding in the Haribomo Commune of the Gourma Rharous Circle. CRS contacted local authorities who warned that as many as 756 HHs were displaced. To determine the magnitude of this crisis and reconcile different alerts, CRS conducted an observation mission between 26 and 30 December. In addition to discovering that over 800 HHs were displaced by flooding, staff estimated that over 70% of the displaced possessed UNHCR refugee ID cards, yet had received no assistance since their return to Mali. After validating this crisis alert, the *Kisili* team returned to the field to conduct a formal rapid needs assessment and registered 914 vulnerable households in 9 different sites. Click [here](#) to read the reports from these three rapid needs assessments.

RAPID RESPONSES

Following national elections in late November, CRS and local partner CRADE addressed the immediate NFI needs of 408 IDP HHs in the Tarkint Commune of Gao. NFI kits were directly distributed since the market assessment revealed a lack of goods in the nearest market and security threats along the path to farther markets. Kit composition addressed identified needs including plastic sheets for shelter, kitchenware, and water treatment and storage goods.

In late December, 459 HHs in Menaka received an unconditional cash transfer of 90 USD. Totalling over 41,000 USD, this transfer enabled vulnerable IDPs to access functioning local markets and address their unique immediate needs. To date, no complementary food assistance has been provided in Tarkint or Menaka.

Between January 27-28, the *Kisili* team conducted an emergency response in the N'Tilit Commune of Gao where all 196 IDP HHs received NFI assistance. Poor local market functionality and long distance combined with insecurity necessitated kit distributions including bedding, aquatabs, kitchenware, and shelter inputs. Each HH also received a cash transfer to purchase local wood to support their shelter.

INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVED LIFESAVING ASSISTANCE FROM CRS MALI'S ERRM TO DATE

15,223

WOMEN, 49%

MEN, 51%

POST-DISTRIBUTION MONITORING RESULTS

In November, *Kisili* staff conducted PDM to evaluate the direct cash assistance received by 310 IDP HHs impacted by flooding in the Dire Commune of Timbuktu. While the majority of the total cash transfer (47%) was spent in response to urgent shelter needs, 37% of cash was used by families to address their immediate food needs. This expenditure provided an average food coverage of eight days. 95% of recipients appreciated the in-person cash transfer versus mobile money transfer or other modalities.



An IDP in Tarkint reads the composition list of his NFI kit. Source: CRS, December 2016.

In November, a combined PDM mission evaluated cash distributions received by IDP communities in Gao and Menaka. Cash supported HHs to address their NFI needs including shelter and clothing; however, nearly half of the respondents revealed that over 50% of the 90 USD was devoted to addressing emergency food needs. Local price monitoring affirmed that the *Kisili* response did not adversely affect the local market.

A PDM mission in the Tarkint Commune in December assessed the *Kisili Project's* first NFI kit distribution. 93% of respondents were content with a direct distribution given security concerns, but only 60% felt the kits addressed their most urgent need. Many families detailed that the quantity of plastic sheeting was insufficient, underscoring their grave shelter needs. The selection of durable goods was affirmed by the finding of 90% of the goods still in use at the time of the survey. The PDM results also revealed that 72% of the IDP community intends to stay in Tarkint, while 18% desire to move on and only 10% plan to return to their original place of residence. This finding offers early warning of the support these IDPs and the host community may need to ensure a healthy, safe co-existence in the long-term.

NEXT STEPS

The *Kisili* team will finalize the targeting for local Early Warning Group trainings through coordination with the national Early Warning System and the World Bank's PRAPS project staff. These trainings are designed to strengthen linkages between local groups and the national system, increase the speed of early warning sharing, and draw attention to the critical needs of pastoralists. With a new *Kisili Project* sentinel based in the Menaka Region in addition to staff in Gao, Timbuktu, Mopti, and Bamako, the ERRM remains readied to monitor crisis alerts in the coming months. With no end in sight for insecurity in northern Mali, the humanitarian community requires immediate financial support to enable their emergency response capacity.

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