



EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE URGENTLY NEEDED BY CONFLICT-AFFECTED INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE IN MALI'S NIONO CIRCLE

Thousands of displaced people are struggling to meet their immediate basic needs in the Niono Circle of Ségou Region. As a result of inter-communal attacks between two ethnic groups beginning in February 2017, thousands of people fled from Ségou's Macina Circle to Niono Circle. After being displaced for almost two months with limited humanitarian assistance, displaced people's living conditions are deteriorating.

CONTEXT

Following inter-community attacks on February 11-12, 2017 in the Macina Circle of Ségou, hundreds of households (HHs) fled to the adjacent Niono Circle. Families swiftly abandoned their homes to seek refuge, leaving behind their essential belongings and livelihood activities rendering mass vulnerability.

By the end of February, two observation missions took place including a [joint assessment](#) conducted by OCHA, the World Food Programme (WFP), and several NGOs. This assessment revealed life-threatening food, essential household item, shelter, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) needs for over 10,000 internally displaced people (IDPs) living in dire conditions. The rapid assessment also raised critical education and protection concerns.

Several humanitarian actors quickly committed to respond including the WFP, and other agencies in the sectors of essential household items and health. Not all affected HH were targeted for this initial assistance though, as displacement from Macina continued through March. By mid-March Catholic Relief Services (CRS) recognized there was still a gap in relief coverage in emergency WASH and Shelter. On 18 March, in coordination with UN-OCHA, CRS deployed its OFDA-funded Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), placing an advance team in the field to evaluate operational security and market functionality, and eventually conduct a needs assessment and IDP registration.

RAPID ASSESSMENT COORDINATION

On 24 March, in coordination with regional and local Social Development and Economic Solidarity Department authorities as well as Alphalog, a Niono-based local NGO charged with coordinating responses to this crisis, a collaborative effort was started for a joint registration of all IDP households between 24 March and 2 April. Particular focus was placed on defining emergency WASH and shelter needs and determining local market capacity to provide household kits content in response to these needs.



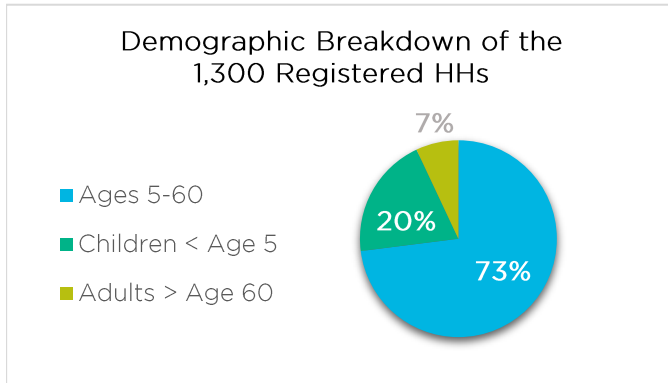
CRS staff conducting household registration of IDPs in the Niono Circle. Source: CRS, March 2017.

Despite continued insecurity, the assessment team was able to register all genuine IDP households in 10 of the 12 affected communes, including Diabaly, Sokolo, Pogo, Siribala, Mariko, Sirfila Boundy, Toridagako, Yeredon Saniona, Niono and Kala-Sigida. Heightened security risks continue to prevent the registration of vulnerable households in the Dogofry and Namapalari Communes.

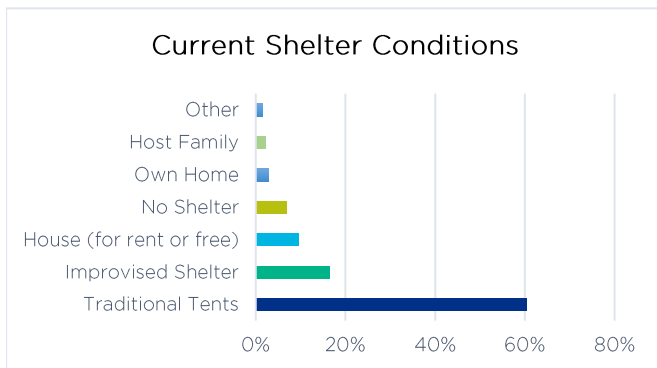
Assessment teams worked with local authorities and leaders of the displaced communities to reach and register all IDP households with each final list verified and validated by the communities and Social Development authorities. Across the 10 communes, a total of 1,300 HHs affected by conflict in Macina were registered. A summary of assessment findings is available on the [online data dashboard](#).

RAPID ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

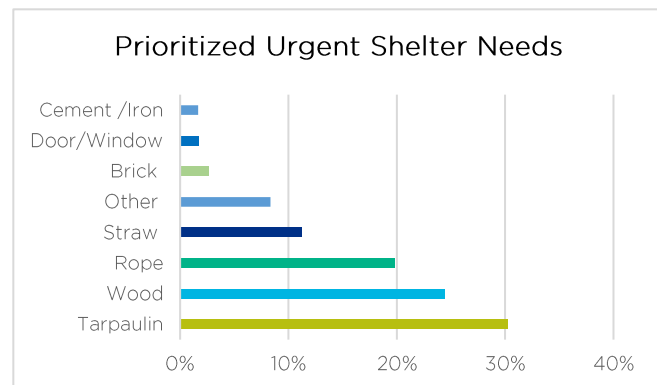
In addition to food, shelter, household items, and WASH needs, registered households underscored the need for animal fodder assistance to maintain their livestock. This unmet need has led to large numbers traveling great distances in search of water and pasture for animals, which resulted in earlier underestimates of the vast number of displaced HHs in need. Of the 1,300 HHs currently registered, one fifth include children under the age of five.



The rapid needs assessment revealed that 77% of IDP households are living in poor quality makeshift shelter including improvised tents (17%) and traditional tents (60%) with nearly one tenth having no access to shelter of any kind.



When asked to prioritize their specific shelter needs, 30% of HHs identified tarpaulins, followed by timber, ropes, and woven straw (all components of traditional shelter).



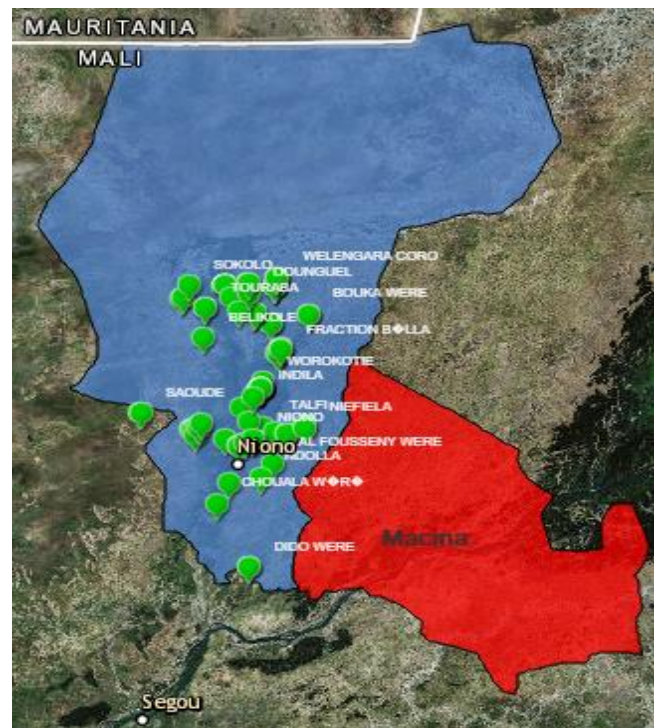
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CRS staff conducting household registration of IDPs in the Diambe Diabaly Commune. Source: CRS, April 2017.

MARKET ANALYSIS

The joint assessment team determined that all communal markets remain functional and well supplied in shelter materials and equipment as well as food and household items. Tarpaulin meeting SPHERE quality, however, is unavailable locally. Additionally, government-imposed restrictions on mopeds during daytime in the affected zone is a significant barrier to quickly transporting the substantial amount of goods needed by vulnerable HHs. The IDP sites are 5-10 km away from local markets but significantly further from the Niono Circle market where higher quality tarpaulins are available. Click here for a complete [map](#).



ADVOCACY TO HUMANITARIAN ACTORS

The large number of HH displaced as a result of conflict in Macina demands a continued response from humanitarian actors in Mali. While immediate food and some NFI needs are met, Shelter and access to water are urgent short term needs. CRS estimates 200,000 USD is needed to meet those.