



IOM MALI COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan

February-December 2020

Updated: 15/05/2020

SITUATION OVERVIEW

COVID-19 SITUATION IN MALI AS OF 15 May 2020

Cases confirmed: 806

Recovered Cases: 455

Confirmed Deaths: 46

MIGRANTS IN VULNERABLE SITUATION

Migrant trends observed through IOM Flow Monitoring Points (FMP): 347 individuals were observed daily at the FMPs in April 2020, marking a decrease by seven per cent from March 2020

Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs): 239 484

Migrants in Migrants Resources and Response Centers (MRRC): 203 (among which 41 women and 23 children)

On 31 December 2019, a cluster of pneumonia of unknown aetiology was reported in Wuhan City, Hubei Province of the People's Republic of China. This virus spread rapidly across all continents which led the World Health Organization's (WHO) to announce that the pathogen known as the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) constituted a pandemic with global effects on 11 March 2020.

To mitigate risk of COVID-19 propagation in Mali, the Government of Mali adopted early preventive measures, including the suspension of commercial flights, the closure of schools, public gatherings, the closure of land borders and the implementation of a nation-wide curfew. Despite these measures, Mali registered its first two confirmed cases of COVID-19 on 25 March 2020 and has since seen a rapid increase.

This pandemic is coming at a time when Mali continues to cope with the effects of the 2012 security, political and socio-economic crisis. This crisis which led to massive displacement in Mali and across its borders, had major repercussions both within Mali and on its neighbouring countries, particularly Burkina Faso, Niger and Mauritania. Since 2013, significant political advances have enabled political stability and favoured many to return to their places of origin. However, a new cycle of protracted violence began in 2018, notably in the Centre and North of the country, exacerbating existing tensions and resulting in new waves of displacement. According to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)'s Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) report¹ in March 2020, 239 484 persons are currently displaced throughout the country. While 49 per cent survive on humanitarian assistance, access to food, health services and livelihoods opportunities remains a great challenge. COVID-19 is affecting the socio-economic fabric in Mali which exacerbates the vulnerability of the population, and especially IDPs whose humanitarian needs persist, and exposes them further to significant protection risks. Disruptions of public services and access

¹ Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Report, March 2020, Commission Mouvement des populations.

to humanitarian assistance, increased stigma and community tensions, increased gender-based violence, abuse, and exploitation now exacerbate preexisting vulnerabilities in displacement setting.

Moreover, the pandemic in Mali comes in addition to pre-existing nationwide structural vulnerability to floods. As the rainy season approaches, concerns regarding the capacity of authorities to respond to the simultaneous protection needs driven by climate, security, and health emergencies, increase.

In parallel, given its central and strategic position in West Africa, Mali is an important country of origin, transit and destination in terms of migration. Since June 2016 until the closure of the Malian's land borders, nearly 262,103 migrants (92,833 incoming and 169,270 outgoing) were observed at IOM migration Flow Monitoring Points (FMPs), representing an average of 344 migrants per day². The COVID-19 related movement restrictions will have an important impact on the migration flows and impact on the migratory journey of these migrants. In fact, within the first week of the closure of the borders, 180 stranded migrants were accounted for at the FMPs.

Between 30 March and 1 April 2020, IOM conducted a rapid assessment to evaluate the needs and response capacities to COVID-19 at 13 border crossing points, 6 internal transit points, 16 "sanitary cordons" throughout Mali.

The preliminary results of this evaluation highlight the following key information:

- 40% of the border and transit points evaluated do not have a sanitary surveillance system on site.
- 69% of the border and transit points assessed do not have an awareness system in place for travellers (posters, flyers, awareness volunteer).
- 57% of the communal points assessed do not have community awareness mechanisms (posters, flyers, community awareness agents).
- 52% of the points evaluated do not have a dedicated space to isolate suspect cases.

Considering the outbreak of the COVID-19 in Mali and the gaps in materials and capacities highlighted by this rapid assessment, IOM will support the Government of Mali in its efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and mitigate its impacts within the framework of global, regional and national strategies for preparedness, response and recovery.

IOM MALI'S CAPACITY TO RESPOND TO COVID-19

Established in Mali since 1998, IOM works alongside the Malian government to meet the humanitarian needs of the most vulnerable migrants (including forcibly displaced populations) as well as to address the challenges of migration management and governance. Through various programmes, IOM offers humanitarian aid to both Malian IDPs, returnees, international migrants and in the country. IOM in Mali significantly increased its operations in the country after the crisis in 2012 and its current activities cover the national territory with a main office based in Bamako and four sub-offices in Kayes, Mopti, Gao and Tombouctou.

² International Organization for Migration, February 2020, Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) Report; available at <https://mali.iom.int/dtm-flow-monitoring-points-fmps-reports>.

Through its Immigration and Border Management (IBM) programme, IOM has supported the Government of Mali in the capacity building of immigration and border staff and the reinforcement of border infrastructures. Since 2014, IOM Mali has rehabilitated and constructed five (5) border posts in Sona, Gogui, Zegoua, Diboli and Kouremale.

Moreover in 2014, IOM supported the Government of Mali in its Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) response by establishing FMPs at main border points and sanitary cordons to track mobility impacts, strengthening the EVD response by reinforcing the capacities of health agents on disease surveillance at the borders and “sanitary cordons,” thereby enabling adapted community awareness.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, IOM Mali has been working closely with the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs of Mali (MHSA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) to strengthen prevention and intervention against COVID-19 in Mali. Based on IOM’s similar experience during the EVD crisis, the same model at the border points and “sanitary cordons” is being evaluated to assist the Malian Government in this current pandemic.

IOM is also coordinating its COVID-19 response with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and the United Nations Country Team for Security and Health.

Through a reallocation of existing funds and reprogramming of ongoing activities, IOM Mali has ensured rapid contribution to national COVID-19 responses. As such, a rapid assessment to evaluate the needs and response capacities to COVID-19 at 13 border crossing points, six internal transit points, 16 sanitary cordons throughout Mali has been put in place and continues to be evaluated weekly. IOM is also conducting training of border agents in the Southern part of Mali on COVID-19 prevention and protection measures. Moreover, IOM continues to carry out awareness raising activities towards IDPs and migrants in Mali regarding COVID-19 preventive measures as well as to provide sanitary and hygiene kits. IOM Mali has additionally enhanced its assisted voluntary programme to respond to the needs of stranded migrants who are unable to return to their country of origins.

To effectively support the Government of Mali in its response to and recovery from this pandemic, it is crucial that dedicated COVID-19 response and recovery programmes are put in place to capitalize on efforts to fight this pandemic.

IOM MALI'S STRATEGIC AND OPERATIONAL APPROACH

IOM believes that preparedness and response plans need to be responsive to population mobility and cross-border dynamics, and that inclusive approaches which take into account the IDPs, migrants and travellers, and counter misinformation that can lead to anti-migrant sentiment and xenophobia are essential during an outbreak.

IOM Mali’s approach to prepare, respond and recover from disease outbreaks and future health threats is anchored in IOM’s wider Health, Border and Mobility Management (HBMM) Framework. The framework links an understanding of population mobility with disease surveillance and provides a platform to develop country-specific interventions emphasizing health system strengthening along mobility corridors in line with the 2005 International Health Regulations (IHR).

The IOM Mali Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan aims to support the Government of Mali through the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs in its national preparedness and response efforts to prevent and mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak while ensuring a greater response to the humanitarian needs of migrants and displaced populations.

This plan aligns with IOM's Global Preparedness and Response Plan for COVID-19, the Global Humanitarian Strategic Response Plan (GHRP), the UNCT's and the HCT in Mali response strategies and the Government of Mali's national preparedness and response priorities.



IOM MALI AREAS OF INTERVENTION

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: ENSURE A WELL-COORDINATED, INFORMED AND TIMELY RESPONSE THROUGH MOBILITY TRACKING SYSTEMS AND STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP AND COORDINATION STRUCTURES ESTABLISHED AT THE COMMUNITY, NATIONAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS

COORDINATION AND PARTNERSHIPS

IOM Mali will continue actively participating in coordination mechanisms at national and regional levels by:

- Enhancing the national and regional inter-sectorial coordination mechanisms of the disease surveillance, information sharing and reporting through support to the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and its representations in the regions with the holding of regular meetings, monitoring visits and wider support to the central COVID-19 Taskforce.
- Providing equipment to the central and districts coordination mechanisms (computers, printers and data collection tools for the coordination mechanisms) and enhanced technology systems to support remote coordination mechanisms.
- Reinforcing the capacities of governmental agents for timely care and referrals in line with the International Health Regulations (IHR) 2005 and support the Ministry of Health and Social Affairs with technical agents at the border posts, sanitary cordons and humanitarian corridors including

coordination with the central, regions and health districts.

- Supporting national governments to facilitate and enhance inter-sectorial coordination for access to emergency health care for irregular migrants and displaced populations, including identifying temporary legal solutions and measures regarding visas and emergency consular support.

TRACKING MOBILITY IMPACTS

As movement across borders and within the country continues to be affected, IOM's capacity to provide data and analysis on population mobility dynamics remains crucial for a more targeted and evidence-based response. Subject to continued funding, IOM will contribute to providing a comprehensive understanding of the effect of COVID-19 on mobility at country level by:

- Conducting regular rapid assessments on the national and regional capacities to prevent, respond and recover from COVID-19 with the objective to identify the gaps and strengthen the coordination mechanisms.
- Using the Flow Monitoring Points in Mali to monitor migration flows and identify the needs of migrants transiting along major routes of high mobility in border areas
- Rolling out rapid assessments through the Event Tracking Tool to monitor the impact of COVID-19 movements at key border points and transit cities and produce reports.
- Tracking the mobility of internally displaced persons and returnees to at-risk areas to facilitate the provision of an ongoing humanitarian response
- Assessing the multi-sector needs and socio-economic impact of displaced people to identify sustainable solutions
- Strengthening the government in managing forced displacement by setting up an operational monitoring system at the level of places of travel via key informants for the real-time information relay.
- Supporting the government in data collection, information management and capacity building of the field operational system.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: CONTRIBUTE TO GLOBAL, REGIONAL, NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE EFFORTS FOR COVID-19 TO REDUCE ASSOCIATED MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY.

RISK COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (RCCE)

IOM will continue to work with the Government of Mali, UN agencies and the civil society at national level to ensure that mobility is taken into account in public health messaging, and that migrants and mobile communities have access to timely, linguistically and culturally appropriate and correct information by:

- Promoting risk communication and community engagement (RCCE) activities through the reinforcement of the capacities of community focal points along 16 cordons sanitaire and 5 Point of Entry (POE).
- Conducting community awareness raising activities, production of fit-for-purpose radio messages and dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material on COVID-19 preventive measures and hotline number at main transit points, bus stations and PoE. This includes

the capacity building of transports and bus companies on IEC material on COVID-19 and feedbacks along the mobility corridors.

- Supporting cross border community-level awareness raising in close coordination with municipality authorities in border communities, as well as training of municipality officials and community members on prevention and preparedness measures, using appropriate medical and physical precautions.
- Producing awareness raising materials for IDPs, travellers and migrants, capacity building of transporters, border agents and agents at the sanitary cordons and ensuring dissemination of materials.
- Establishing a network of focal points in temporary sites and building their capacities in the delivery of key messages.
- Developing and disseminating key messages related to preventive measures and hygiene messages for IDPs, returnees and host communities in the main temporary sites as well as feedback mechanisms.

DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

IOM will continue to enhance existing national and regional level disease surveillance systems through:

- Strengthening Community Event-Based Surveillance, particularly among border communities, Points of Entry, displacement settings, and migrant dense areas. This will be carried out particularly through the reinforcement of COVID-19 prevention measures and capacity among border community leaders and relevant community committees. This will include the training of community leaders, health focal points among communities and traditional healers on community-based surveillance.

LOGISTICS, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY MANAGEMENT

IOM Mali stands ready to support through:

- Engaging with national authorities and UN partners to support the procurement, storage, and distribution of critical supplies.

POINTS OF ENTRY (POE)

IOM will support Ministry of Health and Social Affairs and other key partners to enhance preparedness of prioritized points of entry (POE) to respond through:

- Supporting active surveillance, including health screening, provision of health information for travellers, referral and data collection at POE. This includes the provision of equipment and supplies to ensure the capacity to identify, prevent and control cases of COVID-19

- Based on IOM global tools³, supporting the development and dissemination of POE specific standard operating procedures (SOPs) for detection, notification, isolation, management, and referral, including the development of training curricula and manuals.
- Strengthening the capacity of border and health agents to manage ill travellers, COVID-19 related screening and infection prevention and control procedures at a minimum of five key border posts in Mali (Kouremale, Zegoua, Sona, Gogui and Diboli, which are neighboring respectively Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Mauritania, Burkina Faso) and at central level.
- Improving PoE's response capacity through the provision of fully equipped mobile isolation rooms at the borders to manage suspected cases of COVID-19, as well as protective prevention equipment (PPE), sanitary supplies, IPC materials, supplies for screening and transportation of confirmed cases to health facilities.

NATIONAL LABORATORY SYSTEM

IOM will support enhanced national capacity through:

- Training health agents and providing operational support for the setup of mobile laboratories and supplies at five key POEs.

INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

IOM continues to support enhanced national capacity for infection prevention and control through:

- Enhancing provision of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services at five PoEs and 16 sanitary cordons to support infection prevention and control as well as supporting the development of protocols for handwashing.
- Strengthening the capacity of health agents in key POEs through the provision of trainings on Infection, Prevention and Control.
- Providing adequate hygiene infrastructures (such as handwashing stations inclusive of soap) and hygiene kits to IDPs, returnees and host communities in high areas of displacement.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: ENSURE ACCESS OF AFFECTED PEOPLE TO BASIC SERVICES AND COMMODITIES, INCLUDING HEALTH CARE, AND PROTECTION AND SOCIAL SERVICES

CAMP MANAGEMENT AND CAMP COORDINATION (CCCM)

Many of the displaced populations in Mali have settled in spontaneous settlements referred to as temporary sites in the northern and central parts of the country and are being assisted by the national and local authorities as well as the UN agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). As such, in coordination with other humanitarian partners, it will be important to provide support to the national and

³ "Standard Operating Procedures for Front-line Border Officials at the Point of Entry in Response to COVID-19 Outbreak", March 2020

regional authorities at key temporary sites to prevent, respond and recover from COVID-19 through:

- Improving the main temporary sites' preventive measures in Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao and Menaka to ensure site safety and hygiene for IDPs. This involves a physical reorganization of the living space to reinforce social distancing
- Providing necessary support to the regional health directorates and health districts with high levels of displacement for the establishment of functional referral pathways and SOPs for suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19 in temporary sites.
- Providing isolation tents for suspected and declared cases in temporary sites in Mopti and Gao.

PROTECTION

IOM will enhance capacities to ensure the protection and access to services of migrants, travellers, displaced populations and local communities through:

- Enhancing access of IDPs and migrants to basic services such as health, food, and protection especially the most vulnerable affected by the COVID-19 related mobility restrictions.
- Supporting the Malian authorities in the review of the national protection referral mechanism to include COVID-19 related response and its implementation in providing immediate emergency support and assistance to the most vulnerable migrants and displaced persons.
- Identifying and referring vulnerable migrants and IDPs in need of care or protection to appropriate services.
- Providing direct assistance, monitoring and follow-up for protection cases at the PoE and cordons sanitaire. This entails providing a tailored assistance to address the needs of stranded migrants including adequate access to shelter, food and nutrition and mental and physical health care.
- Providing protection training to border agents and health agents at main PoE and sanitary cordons to ensure protection is mainstreamed across all activities and build their capacities on the application of the referral pathways to assist vulnerable migrants.
- Capacity building of protection actors on the response to protection cases and the safe and ethical referral of specialized cases (including survivors of GBV)
- In cooperation with the Government of Mali and relevant consulate and Embassies, organise humanitarian corridors for voluntary returns of stranded migrants due to COVID-19 mobility restrictions whenever feasible.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND LOCAL PARTNERS TO RESPOND TO THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF COVID-19.

ADDRESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE CRISIS

In coordination with all the relevant stakeholders, IOM will support by:

- Providing an analysis on the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 in Mali as well as on the remittances.
- Restoring livelihoods opportunities for IDPs and returnees where impacted by COVID-19 restrictions.
- Engaging migrants, IDPs and host communities in collective interventions to reinforce inter-communal trust and social cohesion

IOM'S FUNDING REQUIREMENT

IOM Mali funding requirement is **USD 3,000,000**

This amount represents an indicative requirement for planned IOM interventions in response to COVID-19 in Mali, broken down by activity pillars. The figure is bound to evolve, given the evolving nature of the outbreak and the national priorities.

PILLAR ACTIVITY BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING REQUIREMENT	
	TOTAL REQUESTED AMOUNT (USD)
Coordination and Partnerships ●	150,000
Tracking Mobility Impacts ●	700,000 \$
Risk Communication and Community engagement (RCCE) ●	150,000
Disease Surveillance ●	80,000
Logistics, Procurement and Supply Management ●	320,000
Point of Entry (POE) ●	750,000
National Laboratory System ●	150,000
Infection Prevention and Control ●	375,000
Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) ●	100,000
Protection ●	175,000
Addressing Socio-Economic Impact ●	50,000
TOTAL	3,000,000 USD