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World Children's Day is UNICEF's annual day of action for children, by children, marking the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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Humanitarian Situation Report No. 11

Reporting Period
November 2023

Mali

HIGHLIGHTS

- On 14 November, in the context of MINUMSA departure, the Malian army announced the recapture of Kidal, in the northern part of the Country, thus igniting the re-establishment of State authority over the region, which had been controlled for more than a decade by political opposition armed groups. The military operations, which started in September 2023, forced many people to move towards neighboring localities and the Algerian border.
- A total of 150,907 children under five years were screened for malnutrition of which 7,815 were severely malnourished and admitted for treatment, in November. According to the Nutrition Cluster, lack of funding hampers scaling up nutrition interventions in Gao, Menaka, and Kidal regions.
- Since January 2023, 82,590 children (40,162 girls) benefited from psychosocial support activities, mainly in the northern and central parts of Mali. Regarding the Child Protection Area of Responsibility, the number has risen to 136,876 children (68,317 girls).

SITUATION IN NUMBERS



4,700,000

Children in need of humanitarian assistance



8,800,000

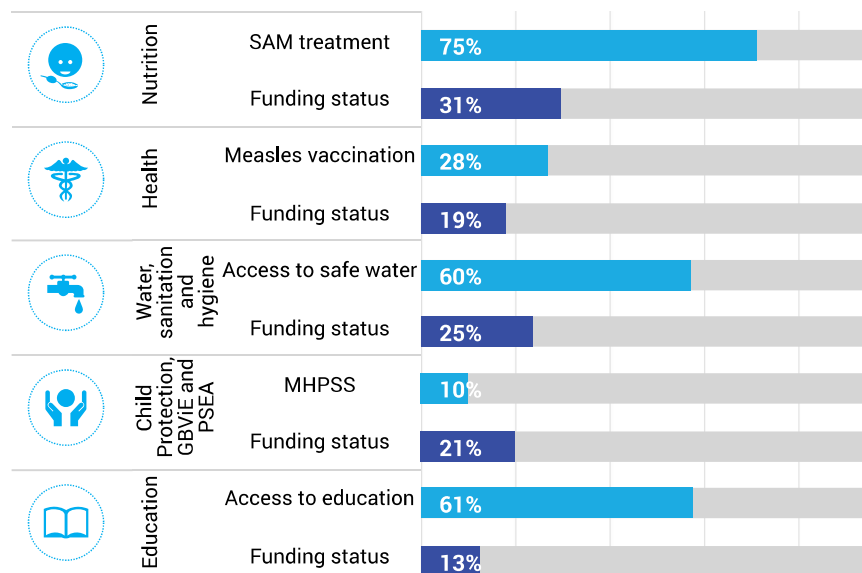
People in need of humanitarian assistance



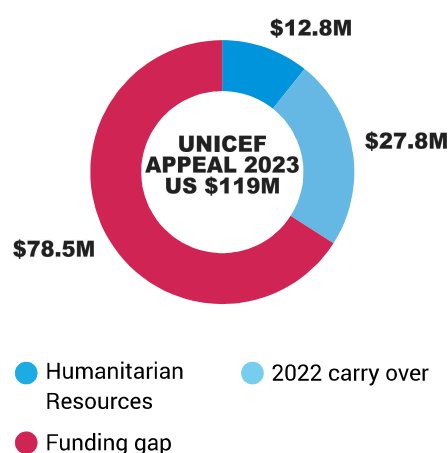
391,961

Internally Displaced Persons¹

UNICEF RESPONSE AND FUNDING STATUS*



FUNDING STATUS (IN US\$)**



** Funding available includes: funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors

* UNICEF response % is only for the indicator, the funding status is for the entire sector.

FUNDING OVERVIEW AND PARTNERSHIPS

- In 2023, UNICEF has appealed for US\$ 119 million to respond to the humanitarian needs of children caused by conflict or natural disasters, while facilitating access to quality basic social services for crisis-affected populations in the northern and central areas of the Country.
- As of 30 November 2023, US\$ 12.8 million has been received, in addition to US\$ 27.8 million carried forward from the previous year, amounting to US\$ 40.6 million available, representing 34 per cent of the total appeal.
- The funding gap is US\$ 78.4 million (66 per cent of the appeal). There are significant funding gaps in different sectors, particularly in Education, Child Protection and Health.
- UNICEF Mali expresses sincere gratitude to all public and private donors who have generously contributed to the 2023 humanitarian response.
- Individual humanitarian contributions have been received from the Governments of Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America (USA); the European Commission and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and its donors; and the UNICEF National Committees of France, Germany, Spain, and the USA.
- Thematic humanitarian funding has been provided by the Governments of Denmark and the Netherlands. This flexible/softly earmarked, pooled, and multi-year funding is one of the best ways to achieve impact for children and allows for a faster, more agile, and cost-effective response.

SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

Despite the military operations carried out by the Malian Security Forces (FAMa), the overall security situation remained dynamic and has been marked by coordinated security incidents involving Non-State Armed Groups (NSAG) in the North and Centre of the Country. The offensives launched by the FAMa have started the re-establishment of State authority over Kidal region, which had been controlled for more than a decade by political opposition armed groups affiliated to the Cadre Stratégique Permanent pour la Paix, la Sécurité et le Développement (CSP-PSD). The military operations that began in September 2023 forced many people to move towards various localities in the region and the Algerian border. According to local sources, the town of Kidal, Adjelhoc, Anefif and Tessalit have been emptied of around 70% of their populations. According to local partners, the clashes between the Malian Armed Forces (FAMa) and the armed groups led to a substantial increase in the number of displaced people, from 4,535 in October to 11,596 spreads on November 14, 2023 in Kidal region, mainly concentrated in villages close to the Algerian border, such as Talhandak. In the meantime, Jama'at Nusrat al Islam wal Muslimeen (JNIM) continued to maintain pressure on local population in Mopti, Bandiagara, Timbuktu, Koutiala and Nara and, to a lesser extent, on Gao region by carrying out reprisals against civilians suspected of collaborating with Malian Security Forces or not paying taxes, and by blocking main supply routes (RN15). JNIM also targeted military outposts and conducted asymmetric attacks against military convoys using Improvised Explosive Devices (IED). Military operations, as well as attacks by NSAG, contribute to shrinking humanitarian access and represent a threat for the safety of humanitarian personnel too.

During the last week of October and the beginning of November, JNIM interrupted learning in several schools in the regions of Timbuktu and Sikasso; Teachers and students were ordered to stop lessons and all teaching materials were set on fire. Pupils from nearby schools were warned and moved away before the attackers arrived in Timtaghene and Tinzawatene.

In November 2023, Mali recorded 1,928 suspected cases of dengue fever throughout the Country and 15 suspected cases of measles were reported in the regions of Gao, Koulikoro, Bamako and Sikasso.

The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) appealed for USD 751.5 million to assist 8.8 M person in need in Mali. However, as of 8 November, it was only funded up to 24.6%.

According to OCHA, during the third quarter of 2023, 145 humanitarian actors provided humanitarian assistance across Mali to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable people, mainly in the sectors of Food Security, Nutrition, Water, Hygiene and Sanitation, Health, Education, Protection and Shelter. Overall, 10 United Nations agencies, 77 international NGOs, 54 national NGOs and 4 Red Cross movements took part in the initiative.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

Health

For this reporting period, UNICEF supported the measles outbreak response in the Timbuktu region where 42,616 children were immunized (13,111 in Dire, 14,678 in Goundam and 14,827 in Niafunke).

UNICEF and its partners continued to respond to the health needs of the affected populations, by providing health services at fixed health facilities and at community level, throughout the country. In November, 292,879 people received routine healthcare services (including 251,013 children under 5 and 41,866 women). The most common morbidities among children continue to be attributed to malaria, diarrhea and acute respiratory infection. 41,866 pregnant women benefited from Antenatal Care (ANC), 39,995 under one year children (20,397 girls) were immunized with pentavalent (penta3), 123,257 under five years children (including 62,861 girls) were treated for malaria and 9,622 children (4,907 girls) received adequate treatment for diarrhea. Finally, 49,623 children (14,543 girls) received treatment for Acute Respiratory Infections (ARI).

During the same period, 28,516 children (14,543 girls) were registered at birth, out of a total of 31,342 births recorded.

Nutrition

A total of 150,907 children under five years of age were screened for malnutrition, for the reporting month. Out of these, 7,815 severely malnourished children 6-59 months of age were admitted for treatment. The SAM recovery rate was 96.2 per cent, the mortality rate at 0.2 per cent and the default rate at 3.6 per cent.

Since January 2023, 158,229 children aged 6-59 months have been admitted and treated for Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM), reaching 80 percent of the annual target.

This month, 50,968 primary caregivers (including 38,698 pregnant and lactating women) received counselling support on infant and young child feeding (IYCF). Additionally, a total of 66,846 children aged 6-23 months were reached with Multiple Micronutrient Powder (MNP) in Gao, Menaka and Mopti regions.

According to the Nutrition Cluster, the scaling up of nutrition

interventions in Gao, Menaka, and Kidal is hampered by a lack of funding. Since the beginning of the year, nutrition partners provided life-saving assistance to 1,271,586 people, representing 62% of the annual target. In 2024, the Nutrition Cluster in Mali plans to assist 2.5 million most vulnerable people, for which US\$ 74.6 million is required.

Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

In November, 3,435 children (1,690 girls) affected by the armed conflict were supported with psychosocial activities, thanks to UNICEF and its implementing partners. Since January 2023, 82,590 children (40,162 girls) benefited from psychosocial support activities in child friendly spaces, and recreational and other secure spaces, mainly in the northern and central parts of Mali. The corresponding figure for Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR) is 136,876 children (68,317 girls).

As reported last months, AoR results regarding the reintegration and protection of children who have been freed from armed forces and armed groups rely largely on the work of UNICEF's partners, which attests to UNICEF's critical role as last resort actor for the Child Protection sub-cluster. Thus, 25 children who have exited armed forces and/or armed groups (CAAFAG), including 2 girls, were provided with an appropriate response by UNICEF's partners, in the region of Tombouctou.

The number of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) provided with holistic care through UNICEF's partners sums up to 1,977 (695 girls), from January to November, including 141 children (71 girls) in this reporting month. Regarding the AoR, the cumulative number of UASC receiving an appropriate protection since January is 2,756 (1,055 girls).

Additionally, 2,406 people (including 798 girls, 781 boys and 827 women) were provided access to a gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response intervention during the reporting period, which adds up to a total of 43,899 since January. Likewise, 39,600 people were provided with access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) by aid workers throughout the country. UNICEF's Child Protection partners are requested to have SEA complaint mechanisms, each partner has the liberty to implement culturally adapted mechanisms, such as complaint boxes, toll-free lines, SEA focal points within the community among others.

Education

During the reporting period, UNICEF, and its implementing partners, APIDEV, IEDA, ASG, WVI, NRC, ATDED and Education Academies (EA) supported and created favorable conditions for access to quality education for 48,289 children (23,580 girls) through the construction and rehabilitation of learning spaces and classrooms, the provision of essential school equipment and supplies, and capacity building for school management committees.

In the region of Gao and Menaka, 47 classrooms have been rehabilitated, giving access to 5,664 children (2,680 girls), and 7 schools have been reopened through community dialogue and the recruitment and training of 76 volunteer teachers, benefiting 936 children (533 girls) with access to learning opportunities.

Educational kits were distributed to 6,761 children in Mopti, Koro, Bankass and Djenné.

UNICEF continued its back-to-learning campaign in 59 municipalities, allowing 12,794 children (including 6,212 girls) to return to school. More than 93,801 people, including 41,884 women, were reached by home visits, community dialogue sessions and radio broadcasts to encourage children aged 6 to 12 to return or go to school.

During this period, one of the challenge was to raise awareness about the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) among beneficiaries. The lack of resources to reach children in need created delays in classroom construction and limitation to support displaced pupils (in Sikasso, Gao and Mopti). Persistent insecurity challenged the reintegration and return to school of out-of-school children due to the non-functionality of many schools (in Gao, Mopti and Tombouctou). Finally, structural problems and social and cultural norms continued to hinder children's access to and retention in school, particularly for girls and children with disabilities.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

UNICEF and its partners continued providing lifesaving services, including hygiene promotion in emergency affected areas. In the regions of Kayes, Sikasso, Ségou, Mopti, Gao, Menaka, Kidal and Timbuktu, 55,732 people (including 28,412 women) received essential Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) supplies, including family hygiene kits, hygiene kits, water treatment products, buckets, and jerry cans, during this reporting period.

In addition, 180 girls and women received menstrual hygiene kits in the region of Segou. Since January 2023, 17,018 beneficiaries have been provided a menstrual hygiene kit in the regions of Segou, Kayes, Sikasso, Bamako, Koulikoro, Bandiagara, Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal.

On the same period, the WASH Cluster has reached 830,853 people, 37 per cent of the annual WASH target.

Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

As part of the polio vaccination campaign and ongoing activities on prevention messages, 818,587 households in the southern regions of Mali were reached with messages on the benefits of immunization, raising awareness among 3,375,904 people (including 2,089,147 women) of the importance of full immunization for children aged between 0 and 23 months.

A total of 31,956 people, including 13,839 women, took part in community engagement activities to promote demand for immunization, while 1,968 people, including 407 women, asked questions, and provided feedback on health emergency issues.

UNICEF has equipped town criers, griots, and radio stations with megaphones, computers, and Dictaphones to better prepare and communicate with the communities in response to emergencies.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION AND STRATEGY

Humanitarian action coordination is led by the Ministry of Health and Social Development, the Ministry in charge of Humanitarian Affairs, with the support of the Humanitarian Country Team. UNICEF leads both the WASH and Nutrition Clusters, the Child Protection Sub-Cluster (Area of Responsibility) and co-leads the Education Cluster. As Cluster lead/co-lead agency, UNICEF has continued to effectively support and participate in the Humanitarian Planning Cycle (HPC) process in Mali. UNICEF led/co-led clusters are all part of the Inter-Cluster Working Group (ICWG), led by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at the national and sub-national levels. UNICEF also participates in the in-country interagency prevention of SEA (PSEA) Task Force and interagency Gender in Emergency Working Group.

In addition, as part of the 2024 humanitarian programming cycle, UNICEF, as Cluster Lead Agency, enabled the WASH Cluster to take part in the training of experts on the new version of the Joint Inter-sectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF 2.0) in Istanbul, Türkiye. This

training took place from July 18 to 21, 2023 and aimed to build the capacity of national experts in the analysis and identification of cross-sectoral needs.

UNICEF Mali is currently implementing several preparedness activities to scale up its readiness for the withdrawal of MINUSMA, focusing on strengthening field office level preparedness in addition to the existing national contingency plan. This is to ensure good preparedness to respond to potential needs in the regions that are most likely to be affected by the withdrawal of MINUSMA. Some of the specific preparedness activities that Mali Country Office (MCO) is implementing include:

- Reinforcing partnerships with local actors and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to improve humanitarian access and community acceptance,
- Developing and implementing Country Office's and Field Offices' contingency plans,
- Strengthening and contextualizing rapid response mechanisms and based on localization and real time monitoring.
- Maintaining close contact with the UNICEF Regional Office and Headquarters to obtain the support needed, and to reinforce UNICEF footprint in the field, including the formal opening of an outpost in Menaka with dedicated human resources (security, child protection and emergency).

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES AND EXTERNAL MEDIA

World Children's Day (WCD) was celebrated in Mali on 20th November under the national theme "Protecting Children in Times of Crisis". It was an opportunity to celebrate progress made for children, while reminding everybody of what still needs to be done. Thousands of children, including those who are conflict-affected, displaced, and vulnerable, participated across Mali, advocating for a better, safer, and more inclusive Mali, for every girl and every boy.

Furthermore, UNICEF organized a Talkshow, to support the Ministry of Youth, where more than 3,000 youth and adolescents participated as part of the #AnBeGnokonBolo "We are together" project. Hundreds of young people and adolescents took part in the event to discuss, with authorities, their commitment and role as #changemakers for peace in #Mali. The Talkshow was attended by key decision makers such as the Ministry of youth and sports, the UN Resident Coordinator, the UNICEF Mali Representative, and officials from the UN Peace Building Fund.

In addition, UNICEF and the Ministry of Communication conducted a training for 60 journalists and a dozen of photographers on children rights and gender-sensitive journalism. This network of child rights champion journalists, most of them from conflict-affected regions, will place particular emphasis on promoting the rights of children, particularly the most vulnerable and those affected by the crisis.

This month, media engagement resulted in more than 130 media reports mentioning UNICEF and covering the impact of the humanitarian crisis on children.

- Ahead of World Children's Day 2023, UNICEF Mali is strengthening its partnership with child rights c
<https://www.unicef.org/mali/en/stories/unicef-mali-child-rights-champions-raise-their-voices-foreverychild>

HAC APPEALS AND SITREPS

- Mali Appeals
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/mali>
- Mali Situation Reports
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/mali/situation-reports>
- All Humanitarian Action for Children Appeals
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals>
- All Situation Reports
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/situation-reports>

NEXT SITREP: 31 JANUARY 2024

ANNEX A - PROGRAMME RESULTS

Consolidated Programme Results

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response			Cluster/Sector response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2023 targets	Total results	Progress*	2023 targets	Total results	Progress*
Nutrition								
Children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	Total	-	206,700	154,981	▲ 4%	206,749	154,981	▲ 4%
	Girls	-	206,700	58,697	0%	206,749	58,697	0%
	Boys	-	206,700	51,117	0%	206,749	51,117	0%
Primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	Total	-	496,600	530,821	▲ 10%	496,600	530,821	▲ 10%
	Women	-	496,600	397,022	▲ 8%	496,000	397,022	▲ 8%
	Men	-	496,600	133,799	▲ 2%	496,600	133,799	▲ 2%
Health								
Children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles	Total	-	1.1 million	321,642	▲ 4%	-	-	-
Children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio	Total	-	1.4 million	1.4 million	0%	-	-	-
Water, sanitation and hygiene								
People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs	Total	2.1 million	415,000	249,693	▲ 13%	1.1 million	559,761	▲ 6%
	Girls	2.1 million	415,500	69,479	▲ 4%	1.1 million	163,162	▲ 2%
	Boys	2.1 million	415,500	72,409	▲ 4%	1.1 million	156,561	▲ 2%
	Women	2.1 million	415,500	54,930	▲ 3%	1.1 million	123,775	▲ 1%
	Men	2.1 million	415,500	52,875	▲ 3%	1.1 million	119,147	▲ 1%
People use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities	Total	1.3 million	40,000	18,653	▲ 10%	100,000	90,706	▲ 5%
	Women	1.3 million	40,000	9,294	▲ 5%	100,000	46,258	▲ 4%
	Men	1.3 million	40,000	9,359	▲ 5%	100,000	44,448	▲ 1%
People reached with critical WASH supplies	Total	4.1 million	228,000	127,757	▲ 9%	1.1 million	202,821	▲ 1%
	Women	4.1 million	228,000	63,655	▲ 5%	1.1 million	103,435	▲ 1%
	Men	4.1 million	228,000	64,102	▲ 5%	1.1 million	99,386	▲ 1%
Child Protection, GBVIE and PSEA								

Children and parents/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	Girls	-	384,783	40,162	0%	1.1 million	68,317	0%
	Boys	-	384,783	42,428	0%	1.1 million	68,559	0%
People who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers	Girls	-	572,500	12,344	0%	-	-	-
	Boys	-	572,500	10,640	0%	-	-	-
	Women	-	572,500	8,664	0%	-	-	-
	Men	-	572,500	7,952	0%	-	-	-
Children who have exited armed forces and groups provided with protection or reintegration support	Girls	-	700	84	0%	1,000	105	0%
	Boys	-	700	444	▲ 11%	1,000	480	▲ 8%
Unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or a suitable alternative	Girls	-	1,600	695	▲ 7%	2,000	1,055	▲ 6%
	Boys	-	1,600	1,282	▲ 10%	2,000	1,701	▲ 9%
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	Total	-	166,100	43,899	▲ 1%	-	-	-
	Girls	-	166,100	16,232	0%	-	-	-
	Boys	-	166,100	19,086	0%	-	-	-
	Women	-	166,100	8,581	0%	-	-	-
People with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	Total	-	572,500	39,600	0%	-	-	-
Children who have exited an armed force and groups provided with protection or reintegration support	Total	-	700	528	▲ 12%	1,000	504	▲ 2%
Children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support	Total	-	384,783	82,590	▲ 1%	1.1 million	138,876	0%
Unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified	Total	-	1,600	1,977	▲ 17%	2,000	2,756	▲ 15%
Education								
Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Total	-	200,000	121,195	▲ 12%	274,772	145,847	▲ 8%
	Girls	-	200,000	57,591	▲ 6%	274,772	71,829	▲ 4%
	Boys	-	200,000	63,614	▲ 6%	274,772	74,018	▲ 4%

Children receiving individual learning materials	Total	-	1.1 million	99,693	▲ 1%	2.8 million	125,816	0%
	Girls	-	1.1 million	50,001	▲ 1%	2.8 million	62,892	0%
	Boys	-	1.1 million	49,692	▲ 1%	2.8 million	63,069	0%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)								
People engaged in risk communication and community engagement actions	Total	-	800,000	822,484	▲ 4%	-	-	-
People sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms	Total	-	250,000	56,778	▲ 1%	-	-	-

*Progress in the reporting period November 2023

ANNEX B — FUNDING STATUS

Consolidated funding by sector

Sector	Requirements	Funding available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2023	Resources available from 2022 (carry over)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	11,997,720	1,737,679	575,137	9,684,904	81%
Nutrition	31,259,097	3,617,287	6,174,365	21,467,445	69%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	23,532,094	2,223,190	2,671,302	18,637,602	79%
Education	25,706,846	1,236,178	2,180,155	22,290,513	87%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	15,090,228	2,025,989	1,772,490	11,291,749	75%
Social protection	6,233,882	-	13,186,748	-	0%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	2,948,400	654,926	290,000	2,003,474	68%
Emergency preparedness	2,270,000	1,276,701	935,320	57,979	3%
Total	119,038,267	12,771,950	27,785,517	78,480,800	66%

Who to contact for further information:

Pierre Ngom
Representative
T +223 94 78 64 24
pngom@unicef.org

Thierno Abdoul Bah
Chief Field Operations and Emergency
T +223 70 46 45 78
tabah@unicef.org

Susanna Mullard
Chief Resource Mobilisation & Partnerships
T + 223 74 98 07 99
smullard@unicef.org

ENDNOTES

1. <https://dtm.iom.int/fr/reports/mali-rapport-sur-les-mouvements-de-populations-septembre-2023?close=true>