

Profile
at a glance

Mali

Mopti



2013

*“JIPS helped to clarify the pro
doing and that was of great
what was being done, what
and what was missing”*

Penelope Muteteli, UNHCR / Protection Cluster Coordinator



Problems with what we were not doing: understanding what could have been done

In 2012, Mali underwent the biggest political crisis in its history, causing a divide between the north and south of the country. Following the military coup d'état in March 2012, rebel groups occupied the three northern regions of Kidal, Gao and Tombouctou. As a result thousands of people were displaced internally as well as to neighbouring countries like Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Niger.

Towards the end of 2012, a profiling process took place in Mopti, a region between the north and south of the country which was known to host a large number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) from the north. The exercise aimed to provide a comprehensive picture of the displacement situation in this region.

Conducted in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), INTERSOS and the National Institute of Statistics (INSTAT - Institut National de la Statistique), the exercise was undertaken in collaboration with the Commission on Population Movement (CMP - Commission des Mouvements de Population) and the Mali Protection Cluster. Technical support was provided by the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS).

Which methods were used?

The profiling exercise aimed to provide a comprehensive picture of the displacement situation in Mopti. To do so it collected information about a range of different protection issues and vulnerabilities of the population. Data were collected through a household survey and a series of focus group discussions held in November-December 2012, and covered the five accessible districts (circles) of Mopti region: Koro, Bankass, Bandiagara, Djenné and Mopti. Three circles in Mopti – Youvarou, Tenekou, Douentza

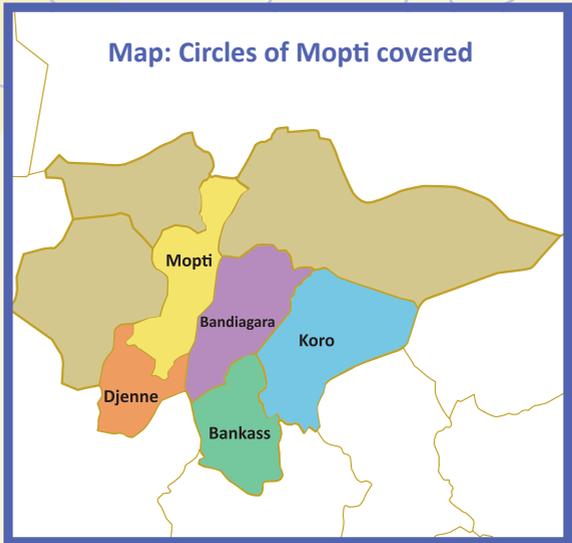
– were inaccessible due to insecurity and the profiling did not cover these regions.

A team of 20 enumerators conducted a survey of 1,350 households. Group discussions were held in each of the five circles surveyed, focusing on both IDPs (divided by age group) and non-IDPs. By using both quantitative and qualitative approaches, the profile was better equipped to provide an accurate assessment of the quality of life of IDPs and hosting families in Mopti.

5 out of 8 districts (circles) covered

1,350 households surveyed

35 focus group discussions held



“Utilising local knowledge and technicalities was critical and that is one lesson I would like to record for future exercises”

Alda Cappelletti, Profiling Coordinator, INTERSOS

What was the impact?

- The profile revealed that the number of IDPs in Mopti at the time of the exercise was significantly lower than the figure previously reported. The main reasons for this disparity were the high mobility of IDPs, who were regularly moving between the north and south, and a lack of capacity by authorities to keep track of arrivals and departures.
- Humanitarian and development actors operating in Mali were informed of the need to improve communication with IDPs as a result of the profile, since many IDPs surveyed claimed to be unaware of their eligibility for humanitarian assistance.
- The report has been widely circulated amongst humanitarian actors, although it has not been formally published. This has led to a greater understanding of the displacement situation in Mali, in particular its highly mobile population, and will be valuable in informing any future humanitarian intervention.

What were the findings?

The profile found that 91% of IDPs surveyed had left their homes due to occupation by armed groups. The majority (35%) came from the northern region of Gao. Within the Mopti district, 78% of IDP households settled in the circle of Mopti and 11% in Bandiagara. Koro, Bankass, and Djenné each host 4% of remaining IDP households.

The high mobility of the population in Mali was the most significant finding. The profile revealed that IDPs were constantly moving between the north and south. Mopti was a popular place of settlement for IDPs precisely because of its proximity to the north, and displaced households commonly travelled back to the occupied areas to check on their homes and agricultural interests.

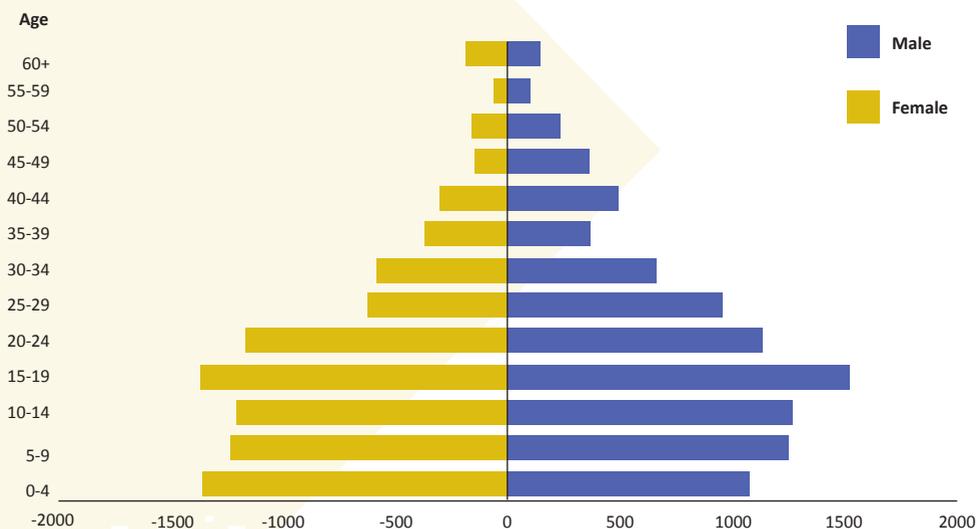
Although the vast majority of those profiled felt secure in their current situation, high levels of economic inactivity among men and women meant that there was a strong desire to return home upon improvement of the security situation.

91% of IDPs left their homes due to occupation from armed groups

Disaggregated numbers

The profile indicates that there were 18,540 IDPs in Mopti in November-December 2012, with an average household size of four. These figures differ from that provided by the Mopti crisis unit, which claimed there were 41,240 IDPs, with households composed of 6.5 people. This disparity could be explained by the high mobility of IDPs in Mopti, but multiple registration of IDPs and lack of capacity by authorities for verification processes are also likely factors explaining the difference.

Figure 1: Mopti population pyramid



The figure above shows the age pyramid of IDPs. The broad base indicates a young population, which is consistent with the general population profile in Mali.

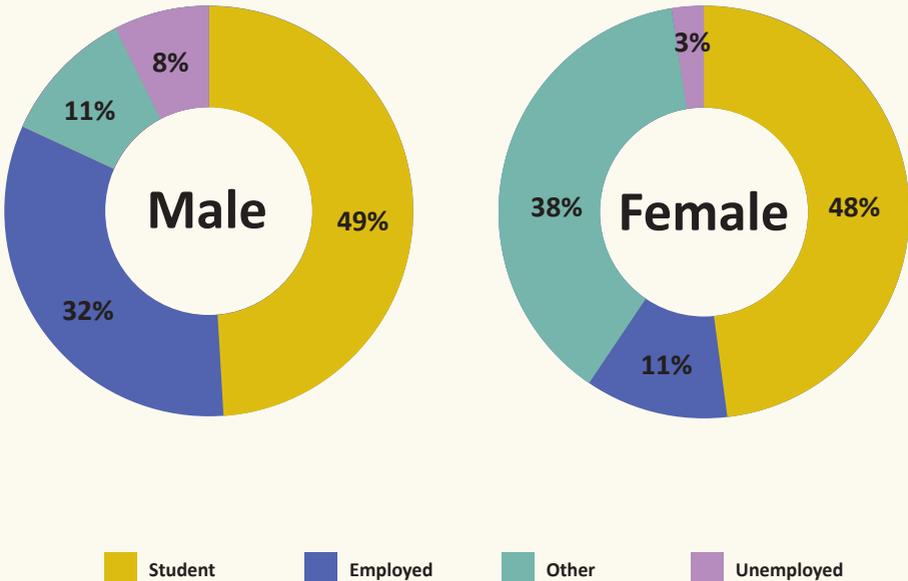
Employment

68%
can't
or v

Surveyed IDPs reported that before the outbreak of the crisis, 42% of men and 16% of women were employed, primarily in agriculture or trade. 3% of men and 3% of women were unemployed, while 50% of men and 49% of women were in education.

Since moving to Mopti, the majority of IDPs are continuing their education and 49% are students. 32% of men and 11% of women aged over 6 years are employed, primarily in trade and the service sector. 8% of men and 3% of women are unemployed (figure 2). Amongst those who do not work, 16% of men and 7% of women consider that there is no work available.

Figure 2: Employment situation of IDPs



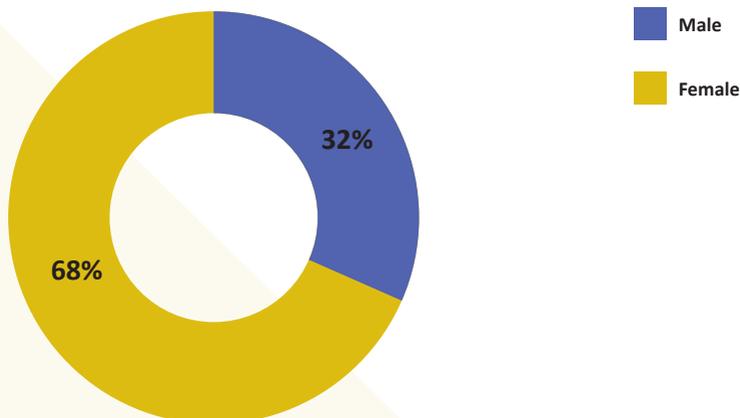
of women not read write

Literacy

Illiteracy was found to be a greater problem amongst women than men, with 68% of females aged over 15 years saying that they cannot read or write in any language. In contrast, the figure for men is less than half, at 32% (figure 3).

Amongst the literate population of IDPs in Mopti, French was the dominant language for both men and women, followed by Arabic. Very few IDPs are literate in languages of African descent.

Figure 3: Percentage of illiterate IDPs (over 15)

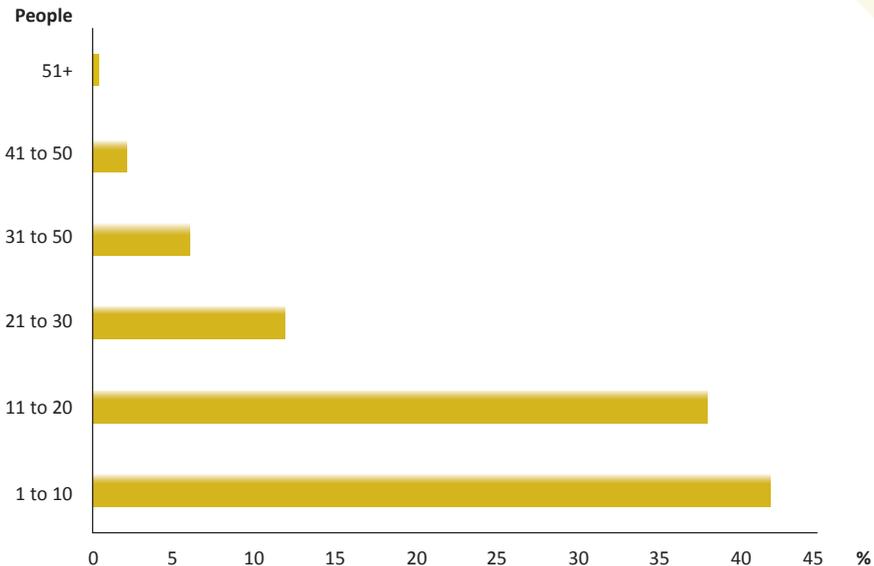


Water and sanitation

Sanitation is a significant concern for IDPs in Mopti, particularly amongst households living with host families. 291 IDP and 54 non-IDP households do not have use of a toilet or latrine. The profiling findings also revealed that higher numbers of IDP households share their latrine facilities with others (figure 4) compared with non-IDP households.

In Koro and Bankass circles, access to water is a problem at certain times of year, as a result of the mountainous topography of these areas. Across Mopti, most households (IDP and non-IDP) do not report problems with water quality. However, 840 IDP and 280 non-IDP households were found to be at risk of water-borne diseases.

Figure 4: Distribution of households sharing toilets with others



Health

Malaria and psychological trauma were revealed to be the most common illnesses suffered by IDPs. At the IDP site in the city of Sevaré, assistance to sick IDPs is guaranteed, and consultations and medicine are provided free of charge. However, many IDPs in Mopti were unaware of this service.

Out of those surveyed, 38% of IDPs and 31% of non-IDPs had not consulted a doctor after contracting an illness during the previous three months. Reasons vary but the majority of both IDPs and non-IDPs felt it was not necessary. Others felt that clinics were too expensive or too far apart. 13% of IDPs believed that they would experience discrimination when visiting a health centre. However, focus group discussion findings indicate that health centres did not discriminate against IDPs.

Security

At the time of the survey, IDP households and host families felt safe in Mopti, and were reassured by the presence of the Malian military. However, other factors, including the presence of militias and unemployed youth, caused a feeling of insecurity in the city of Sevaré.

Additionally, concerns that armed gangs were recruiting children were higher amongst IDP households than non-IDP households. Overall, less than 10% of households felt discriminated against, though this feeling was higher amongst IDPs.

*“Perhaps if
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Alda Cappelletti, Profiling Coordinator, INTERSOS

What were the profiling lessons?

- Capacity building efforts should be integrated into the process, with methodologies developed in conjunction with the NGOs or other organisations implementing the exercise.
- Profiling in Mali demonstrated the need for a comprehensive approach, not only in content but also in partnerships. The process highlighted the benefits of greater interaction between humanitarian actors, to unify methodologies and profiling tools.
- Clear objectives are the foundation of a successful profiling exercise. Technical advice should be sought at an early stage to ensure that a contextually appropriate methodology is advised and developed. Due to the high mobility of the population, a different approach could have been more suitable in Mopti.
- Local actors and local knowledge should be effectively utilised wherever possible, in order to maximise profiling awareness and better reach the target community.

*More information about this profiling exercise, and the profiling tools can be found at:
<http://www.jips.org/en/field-support/country-operations/mali/mopti-2012>
The profiling data is also available upon request.*

This summary provides a glimpse into a collaborative IDP profiling process. Government and non-governmental actors contributed to the process, working together to form its objectives, develop its tools and collect the required data.

JIPS supported these actors to provide a comprehensive picture of the displacement situation in the Mopti region of Mali through an internationally endorsed methodology for profiling IDP situations.

This glance into the Mali profiling exercise hopes to spark interest in learning more about the specific findings, as well as in profiling of IDP situations in general.



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