

SUCCESS STORY

“I will not return to the north, I have found better conditions here...”

Following the death of her husband in Gao during the conflict, Aisha Yattara, a widow with two children set her new life in Bamako. She left Gao in April 2012. ‘I left Gao in the midst of despair’, she says and ‘when I arrived in Bamako I found myself homeless and without means to feed my children’.

She remembers that when she arrived an IOM team approached her at the bus station in Bamako and asked her about her situation.

‘I had nothing, only bad memories of the war’, she says. ‘I left my house and everything that I had, and fled when I knew that they had killed my husband’, Aisha remembers.

Being a displaced woman head of household was very difficult for Aisha. IOM Protection Team provided her and her children with food and psychosocial support.

‘That support was very important, particularly for my children, who saw many things going on during the crisis and who were very affected for the death of their father’, she says.

Aisha decided to stay in Bamako where IOM has supported her to set up a small business of food. She says that she does not wish to go back to Gao and prefers to stay in Bamako. ‘I will not return to the north, I have found better conditions here for me and my children’, says Aisha.



Aisha Yattara a widow with two children victim of the conflict in the northern region of Gao fled to Bamako and has decided not to return. She was identified as displaced person in Bamako by IOM during field activities implemented with the financial support from OFDA. IOM - thanks to AECID- has provided her support to set up her small business and start her new life.

Key figures

The largest number of displaced population is located in Bamako, Mali’s capital, reaching **40,733 individuals**, **30%** of the total displaced population.

Approximately **20%** of IDPs do not want to go back to their places of origin, mainly due to the better security and economic situation that they have found in the current places (DTM report April 2014).