

SUCCESS STORY

The return of Maiga



Soumalia Maiga and his family were identified as a returnee family and supported by IOM to support his own business as part of the activities implemented with the financial support from OFDA

Soumalia Maiga, 54 years old, sought refuge in the southern region of Sikasso after having fled from the conflict in Mopti, his town in the north. Maiga escaped with his wife and six children from the 2012 crisis, abandoning his house and belongings.

Being in Sikasso, homeless, with his family, with no money and trying to survive everyday was very difficult for Maiga. He says he does not even want to remember those moments, as he is now living a new life.

Maiga returned to his town in early 2014. 'I heard that the security situation was getting better in Mopti and that there was no danger anymore for me and my family, so I decided to come back but I returned to my place hand empty, jobless, and me and my family needed to survive with the little support from the neighbors', tells Maiga.

Nonetheless, on the 4 March 2014, the DTM team of IOM knocked on Maiga's place as part of the IDPs' evaluation exercises in the field.

'That day, I told my story to the IOM and, few days later, on the 11 March, another IOM team visited me. It was that day when the hope came back to my life. I received the assistance that I needed to restart my life'; says Maiga while showing the small business set up with IOM support.

In addition to the support to set up the business, IOM provided him and his family with NFIs, counselling and psychosocial support.

Key figures

The largest number of returnees is located in the northern region of Timbuktu, reaching **149,146 individuals**, **52%** of the total of returnees. Gao hosts **110,674** returnees followed by Mopti which hosts **23,710**.

Approximately **75%** of the IDPs would like to return to their places of origin in the north due to the improved security, the school calendar and the agricultural calendar (DTM report April 2014).