Due to the current security, political and humanitarian situation in North Mali and the operational difficulties related to the variety of civilian, military, national and international actors working in the same space, a workshop was organized on humanitarian space and access. Around forty actors from different horizons took part (Malian state, national and international NGOs, UN agencies, MINUSMA, security forces, ICRC, donors). The objectives of the workshop were to clarify the challenges of gaining access to the population and preserving a humanitarian space which allows humanitarians to provide the population with assistance and to establish the terms of an action plan.

Five key messages emerged from the workshop:

**Key message n°1:** Improve mutual knowledge of actors in a context where “co-habitation” requires understanding and genuine respect for Humanitarian Principles and the mandates of the different institutions that are present. All actors should receive training in advance and on arrival about the national context, the context in the North, the institutional mechanisms in place and the mandates of the different actors.

**Key message n°2:** The presence of humanitarian actors and access to the population need to be made easier by means of concerted management of security, which takes short and mid-term issues into account. In a dangerous and changing context, exchange mechanisms on the evolution and analysis of the security context should be reinforced as should multi-actor consultation about priority zones to be made secure. Systems for monitoring teams in the field also need to be reinforced. Finally, it is important to think in advance about the management of acute crisis situations to identify solutions of last resort.

**Key message n°3:** It is important to optimize the way the specific impacts related to the presence of the MINUSMA are managed, notably via the Humanitarian Country Team. Taking into account the lessons learned from the deployment of other Integrated Missions, coordination mechanisms between the Humanitarian Country Team and the MINUSMA need to be reinforced, as does the voice of the humanitarian community as a whole.

**Key message n°4:** Existing exchange and coordination mechanisms need to be reinforced. In a context where there are significant humanitarian and reconstruction needs, strategic orientations need to be disseminated and implemented and the UN-CMCtl mechanism should be reinforced in the regions by encouraging the decentralization of civil-military coordination systems.

**Key message n°5:** Strengthen relations with the Malian state, local authorities and communities, notably in order to improve the quality of the response in the short and medium term, and in order to avoid the negative effects that poor relations with the state could have. It is necessary to work more with community organizations and local institutions and strengthen existing coordination mechanisms. Also, an advocacy strategy should be developed amongst donors and development actors to reinforce the capacity of the government.