



WFP Mali Country Brief

March 2018

Operational Context

Mali is a vast land-locked country in the heart of the Sahel region. It has successfully achieved the Millennium Development Goal of reducing hunger by 50 percent. Despite this improvement the social indicators remain among the lowest in the world. Over 50 percent of the population lives on less than USD 1.25 a day. One in eight primary school-aged children do not attend school; less than 25 percent of children have partial secondary education, one-third of which are girls.

Following a political coup in March 2012, the north of the country was occupied by non-state armed groups and effectively cut off from the rest of the country until a brief military intervention in January 2013. These events resulted in large scale population displacements. A UN peacekeeping mission was deployed to the country in July 2013. A new President was elected in August 2013, closely followed by peaceful legislative elections. Due to renewed violence perpetrated by Northern factions, a Peace Agreement was signed on 20 June 2015. Safety and security remain precarious as violence has increased in north and central Mali despite this Peace Agreement.

WFP's programmes in Mali are aligned with WFP Global Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 4, Sustainable Development Goal 2, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2015–2019) and several Malian national policies and programmes. WFP has been present in Mali since 1964.



Population: **18,8 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **179 out of 188**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **23,1% of children between 6-59 months**

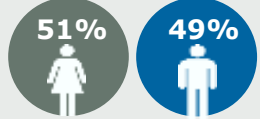
In Numbers

350 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 527,681 in cash-based transfer made

USD 62.2 million six months (April-September 2018) net funding requirements, representing 48 percent of total

175,571 people assisted in March 2018



Operational Updates

Implementation of the Transitional Interim Country Strategic Plan (T-ICSP) began in January 2018. The T-ICSP is based on seven strategic outcomes and aims to support the Government in achieving its National Development Plan (CREDD 2016–2018), the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 of Zero Hunger and SDG 17, Partnership.

According to the March 2018 *Cadre Harmonisé*, 390 000 people are in urgent need of food assistance, with this number rising to 930,000 from June 2018. These figures are higher than the projection made in November 2017. The increase in food insecurity is due to a poor agricultural harvest in some areas, persistent insecurity in northern and central Mali, a basic food basket which is 20-30 percent higher than the same time last year, all of which affect the poorest and most vulnerable households. In addition, insufficient water and low levels of biomass have led to early transhumance, increasing the strain on natural resources and risks of conflicts over resources. These factors have resulted in a deterioration in the food security situation.

In line with the T-ICSP Strategic Result 1 and 2, WFP aims to provide emergency and seasonal assistance to 155,000 vulnerable people starting from March. To combat the deteriorating situation, from June WFP will increase food assistance to 504,000. A total of 197,000 children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women will be assisted to prevent malnutrition. WFP plans to provide nutritious foods to 298,000 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women to treat acute malnutrition. WFP continues to provide food assistance for assets creation in the food-insecure areas vulnerable to agro-climatic shocks.

WFP Mali manages the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) as part of its T-ICSP on behalf of the humanitarian community. From the Bamako base, UNHAS provides humanitarian air services to seven destinations: Timbuktu, Gao, Bourem, Niafunke, Goundam and Menaka. In March 2018, UNHAS served 963 passengers and transported 2,320 kg of light cargo.

Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Alpha Keita
Caption: WFP Mali SCOPE enrolment to food insecure and internally displaced people in Gao, Northern Mali.

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WFP Mali Strategy		
Total Requirements (in USD)	Confirmed Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
Mali Transitional-ICSP (1 January-31 December 2018)		
128.7 m	42.2m	62.2 m
Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food		
Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations are able to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements during crises Focus area: <i>Crisis response</i>		
66.4 m	24.5 m	43.2 m
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 2: Vulnerable people in food insecure and post-crisis areas are able to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements throughout the year. Focus area: <i>Resilience building</i>		
16.9	6 m	7.3 m
Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition		
Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted populations (children 6-59 months and PLW) have reduced malnutrition in line with national targets Focus area: <i>Resilience building</i>		
15.5 m	2.2 m	5.2 m
Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes		
Strategic Outcome 4: Populations in targeted areas, including vulnerable smallholder farmers, have enhanced livelihoods and resilience to better support food security and nutrition needs all year-round. Focus area: <i>Resilience building</i>		
19 m	6.5 m	3 m
Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs		
Strategic Outcome 5: Government (at the local and national levels) and civil society have strengthened capacity to manage food security and nutrition policies and programmes by 2023 Focus area: <i>Root causes</i>		
2.3 m	0 m	1 m
Strategic Result 6: Policies are coherent		
Strategic Outcome 6: Government efforts towards achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 are supported by effective and coherent policy frameworks Focus area: <i>Root causes</i>		
2 m	0 m	0.8 m
Strategic Result 8: Global partnerships		
Strategic Outcome 7: Humanitarian partners have access to common services, (including transportation, emergency telecommunications and food security analysis) throughout the year Focus area: <i>Crisis response</i>		
6.6 m	3.1 m	1.7.7 m

WFP Mali Activities

SO 1	<p>1: Provide unconditional cash or food transfers to populations affected by conflict-related displacement, natural disasters, or production shocks.</p> <p>2: Provide blanket supplementary feeding to children aged 6-23 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in conjunction with general cash/food distributions.</p>
SO 2	<p>3: Provide unconditional cash or food transfers to vulnerable populations affected by seasonal shocks.</p> <p>4: Provide school meals to schoolchildren in targeted areas.</p>
SO 3	<p>5: Provide nutritious complements to targeted children aged 6-23 months and cash to PLW to prevent undernutrition outside of crisis/post-crisis areas.</p> <p>6: Provide nutritious foods to children and food assistance (food/CBT) to PLW for treatment of malnutrition – including support to caregivers.</p> <p>7: Provide fortified rice to targeted beneficiaries and support the production of fortified food commodities in collaboration with the local private sector.</p>

SO 4	<p>8: Provide food assistance for assets to targeted smallholders, to develop, restore and rehabilitate productive community infrastructures and sustainable natural resource use through a participatory process.</p> <p>9: Provide technical and financial support to smallholder farmer's organizations, aimed at encouraging market-oriented production, facilitating access to markets, enhancing value-addition and reducing post-harvest losses, and developing linkages to the school meals programme.</p>
SO 5	<p>10: Provide technical assistance and other support to the Government, to strengthen national capacity for food and nutrition security analysis, and for emergency preparedness and response.</p> <p>11: Support the Government to strengthen coordination among actors in the nutrition sector through REACH mechanism.</p>
SO 6	<p>12: Provide support to the Government Zero Hunger Strategic Review implementation and related analytical work, followed by dialogue with the Government and other stakeholders relating to implications of the findings and recommendations for medium-term planning (CSP, National Development Plan, UNDAF) and improving coordination between different elements of food security response, including adaptive social protection.</p>
SO 7	<p>13: Provide technical expertise and services related to logistics, communications and information management, the food security cluster, and emergency preparedness and response, to humanitarian and development partners.</p> <p>14: Provide transportation services to humanitarian and development partners through the Humanitarian Air Service.</p>

Monitoring

- **Monitoring coverage:** In March, 439 sites were visited compared to 467 planned through third-party monitoring and sub-offices, representing an achievement rate of 94 percent. Sites visited included schools (on school meals and fortified rice), health centres (on MAM treatment and caregivers' activities), markets (on price survey), CBT partner retailer's shops.
- **Monitoring assessments:** PDM outcomes and evaluation carried out during March.
- **Key monitoring findings:** Overall, the markets were well supplied with basic food products and prices remained stable. Fortified rice introduced in school meals is appreciated by children (**59,993 girls, 58,707 boys**). In March, pipeline break of nutritious foods affected the implementation of treatment activities in many areas. The programme for caretakers is functioning as planned. Health workers are satisfied with the process of meal distribution to caregivers and that the programme allows underprivileged parents to stay at health centres with their sick children for the duration of treatment.

Challenges

- Lack of funding is the major challenge for WFP, especially in providing adequate assistance to pastoral and agropastoral populations affected by the early onset of the lean season, as well as to the large increase in populations requiring urgent food assistance during the height of the lean season, between June and September.

Donors

USA, Canada, ECHO/DFID, Germany, Switzerland, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Monaco, Denmark, World Bank, EU, Mastercard, Private donors, Peacebuilding Fund, Multilateral funds.