



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Mali Country Brief July 2018

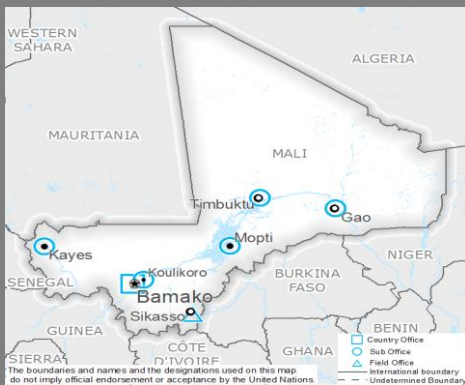


Operational Context

Mali is a vast land-locked country in the heart of the Sahel region. Social indicators remain among the lowest in the world, and the country ranks 175th out of 188 on UNDP's 2016 Human Development Index. Agriculture, livestock and fisheries account for about one-third of Mali's gross domestic product (GDP), and nearly 70 percent of employment (primarily involving subsistence production). One in eight primary school-aged children do not attend school; of those enrolled in school only one-third are girls.

Following a political coup in March 2012, much of northern Mali 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. 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. The state regained control of the area in 2013, and a peace accord - the Algiers Accord - was signed in June 2015 between the main parties to the conflict. However, since mid-2016 there has been a proliferation of conflict and insecurity in the central and northern regions of the country, leading to increased vulnerability of populations and hampering humanitarian access.

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: **17.6 million**

2015 Human Development Index: **175 out of 188**

Income Level: **Low-income**

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

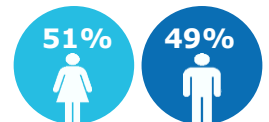
In Numbers

4183 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 5.7 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 41.6 million six months (July-December 2018) net funding requirements, representing 44.7 percent of total

803,506 people assisted in July 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), and is in line with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and 17, on Zero Hunger and Partnerships respectively.
- According to the March 2018 *Cadre Harmonisé*, over 930,000 people required urgent food assistance as of the beginning of the 2018 lean season, a 55 percent increase over the same period last year. The Food Security Cluster and WFP analysis suggests that 1.6 million people will require food assistance by the end of the lean season (September 2018).
- Adverse climatic conditions, persistent insecurity in northern and central Mali, and the resulting rise in food prices have led to a substantial deterioration in the food security situation this year. Most markets are categorized at alert level according to Alert for Price Spikes (ALPS), reflecting significant price increases. This is seen in the increase in prices of staples such as locally produced coarse grains, sorghum (by 20 percent), maize (by 20 percent), millet (by 10 percent) and rice (by 6 percent) compared to the same period last year.
- In July, WFP has provided food assistance to 670,432 people including 27,776 newly displaced people, and nutrition support was provided to 137,821 children aged 6-23 months and 64,512 pregnant and lactating women.
- WFP has also provided treatment for moderate acute malnutrition to 15,564 children aged 6-59 months and to 5,062 pregnant and lactating women.
- WFP continues to provide food assistance for asset creation in the food-insecure areas vulnerable to agro-climatic shocks and plans to reach 277,500 people in 2018.
- WFP manages the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) on behalf of the humanitarian community in Mali. UNHAS connects Bamako to Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao, Bourem, Niafunke, Goundam, Ansongo and Menaka. In July, UNHAS served 93 organisations, 725 passengers and transported 3,064 kg of light cargo.

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Main photo: Credit: WFP/Zacharie Bagula.

Caption: Children of Kabara (Timbuktu) receiving school meals.

Activities:

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.

Strategic Result 8: Global partnership support (SDG Target 17.16)

Strategic Outcome 7: Humanitarian partners have access to common services, (including transportation, logistics, emergency telecommunications and food security analysis) throughout the year

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

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.

14: Provide transportation services to humanitarian and development partners through the Humanitarian Air Service

Monitoring

Monitoring coverage: Through Third-Party Monitoring and field visits, WFP undertook monitoring visits in 1,111 distribution sites across the country. This includes school meals, health centres (for both moderate acute malnutrition treatment and caregiver support), asset creation, cash-based transfers (CBT), Blanket Supplementary Feeding (BSF) and general food distribution. Markets and CBT retailer shops were also visited for the food basket price monitoring.

Monitoring assessments: The first round of the Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM) to collect outcomes data has been launched in July in the regions covered by seasonal assistance and by the preventative nutrition programme through BSF in Kayes, Koulikoro, Segou, Mopti, Gao, Tombouctou and Kidal. To minimize an inclusion and exclusion targeting error, WFP is undertaking a post targeting verification through household survey. The results will be used to make the targeting system more efficient. PDM regarding the caretakers project was carried out in early July using remote interviews through phone calls (mVAM). 230 beneficiaries were interviewed to get their perception about the implementation of the project in the regions of Kayes, Koulikoro, Segou, Mopti, Timbuktu and Kidal. Data analysis is ongoing.

Key monitoring findings: The PDM conducted in July at household level confirmed that households exchanged their vouchers of various food commodities of food assistance with in-kind ration. Although markets are well supplied, cereal prices continued to increase due to the seasonal high demand and bad road conditions due to the rainy season. Participating traders generally had adequate stocks, except for shortages of imported rice, maize and beans in some shops in Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu areas. The results of the fortified rice monitoring survey showed that majority of the respondents considered fortified rice better than ordinary rice in terms of quality, taste and lower cooking time. Majority of respondents declare they're ready to purchase fortified rice at a higher price and wish to also purchase other types of fortified food (bean paste for example).

Challenges

- WFP continues to face funding constraints with cash and commodity deficit projected during the current lean season (the worst for Mali since 2011). Securing sustained funding for meaningful resilience building is also a challenge.

Donors

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

Mali Transitional-ICSP (1 January–31 December 2018)

Total Requirement (in million USD)	Total Requirement (in million USD)	Total Requirement (in million USD)
126.8m	69m	41.6m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected populations are able to meet their basic food and nutrition requirements during and after crises

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

1: Provide unconditional cash or food transfers to populations affected by conflict-related displacement, natural disasters, or production shocks.

2: Provide blanket supplementary feeding to children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women (PLW) in conjunction with general cash/food distributions.

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: Resilience building

Activities:

3: Provide unconditional cash or food transfers to vulnerable populations affected by seasonal shocks.

4: Provide school meals to schoolchildren in targeted areas.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)

Strategic Outcome 3: Targeted populations (children 6-59 months and PLW) have reduced malnutrition in line with national targets

Focus area: Resilience building

Activities:

5: Provide nutritious complements to targeted children aged 6-23 months and cash to PLW to prevent undernutrition outside of crisis/post-crisis areas.

6: Provide nutritious foods to children and food assistance (food/CBT) to PLW for treatment of malnutrition – including support to caregivers.

7: Provide fortified rice to targeted beneficiaries and support the production of fortified food commodities in collaboration with the local private sector.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes (SDG Target 2.3)

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: Resilience Building

Activities:

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.

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.

Strategic Result 5: Countries have strengthened capacity to implement the SDGs (SDG target 17.9)

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: Root Causes

Activities:

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.

11: Support the Government to strengthen coordination among actors in the nutrition sector through REACH mechanism.