



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Mali Country Brief December 2018



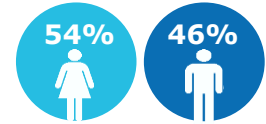
In Numbers

518 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.5 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 31.7 m six months (January - June 2019) net funding requirements, representing 54% of total needs.

247,278 people assisted in December 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 182 out of 189 on UNDP's 2017 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. A UN peacekeeping mission was deployed to the country in July 2013. Since mid-2016 there has been a multiplication of local conflicts and insecurity in the central and northern regions of the country, leading to increased vulnerability of populations and hampering humanitarian access.

Due to favourable agroclimatic conditions during the 2018 agropastoral season, notably high levels of rainfall across large parts of the country, the food security situation is expected to improve in Mali in 2019 when compared to 2018. The situation does however remain worrying; according to the November 2018 *Cadre Harmonisé*, 416,000 persons are projected to be in food security crisis or worse during the lean season between June and August 2019. An additional 3 million persons are projected to be under stress. In parallel, and in large part due to the deterioration of the security situation in the centre, a 75 percent increase in the number internally displaced persons was observed between July and December 2018. The total number of IDPs in Mali now totals close to 110,000 individuals, the large majority of whom will require emergency food assistance into 2019.

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 Mali national five years Strategy for growth and development. WFP has been present in Mali since 1964.



Operational Updates

- In December, 145,000 persons were still internally displaced in Mali including 20,000 newly displaced after November intercommunal clashes. Of these, WFP assisted 105,000, while the remaining internally displaced persons (IDPs) received food assistance through the Rapid Response Mechanism and other NGOs which shared the beneficiary lists to WFP to follow up with food assistance for the next two months. WFP also directly assisted 19,000 new IDPs in Menaka in conjunction with the local government services in charge of social protection. UNCHR reported returns of 800 Malian refugees from Niger to the Ménaka and Gao regions.
- Cereal prices decreased in November 2018 but remain relatively high, affecting food security for the poorest households. Analysis of November price data shows that the food commodity basket is still very high in Gao, Menaka and Kidal regions. The situation should improve in the coming months following the completion of the harvest.
- At the institutional level, WFP participated in technical meetings including a workshop on the new development plan for 2019-2023, which places a special focus on the SDGs. In addition, WFP's participation in different workshops and meetings on the Integrated Strategic Framework (ISF), will deepen the reflection on the contribution that humanitarian assistance and resilience building programming can have towards the consolidation of peace in Mali.
- An inter-ministerial Government delegation, under the leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, carried out a field mission to monitor the implementation of WFP's intervention and to draw lessons and identify good practices which would feed into the formulation of the upcoming Country Strategic Plan (CSP). A first technical restitution took place and will be followed by a presentation to the steering committee coupled with a discussion around evaluation findings and orientations of WFP's 2020-2024 strategy presentation.
- WFP Mali manages the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) on behalf of the humanitarian community. From the Bamako base, UNHAS provides humanitarian air services to eight destinations: Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao, Bourem, Niafounke, Goundam, Ansongo and Menaka. In December five destinations were served and UNHAS services were used by 96 organizations, a total of 984 passengers and 3,943 kg of freight were transported.

Population: 18.5 million	2017 Human Development Index: 182 out of 189
Income Level: Low	Chronic malnutrition: 31% of children between 6-59 months

Main photo

Credit: WFP/Virgo EDGAR NGARBAROUM

Caption: WFP Mali team celebrate 16 days of activism to End Gender Based Violence in Mali

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Mali Transitional-ICSP (1 January 2018 – 30 June 2019)

2018-2019 Total Requirement (in million USD)	2018 Total Contribution Allocated (in million USD)	6 month Net Funding Requirement (in million USD)
195,8 m	122,3 m	31.7 m

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.

Strategic Result 6: Policies are coherent (SDG target 17.14)

Strategic Outcome 6: Government efforts towards achieving Zero Hunger by 2030 are supported by effective and coherent policy frameworks

Focus area: Root cause

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, communication 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:** Despite significant access challenges due to insecurity in many areas, particularly in the north, regular monitoring visits were carried out through the combined efforts of WFP and Third-Party Monitoring (TPM) partners. In December, monitoring visits were carried out in 344 distribution sites across the country. Activities covered by these visits include school meals, treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and caregiver support, food assistance for asset creation, as well as seasonal assistance involving cash-based transfers (CBT) and food distributions. Markets and retail traders participating in CBT were also visited as part of food basket price monitoring.
- **Monitoring assessments:** Baselines for resilience and school meals programmes started early December with results expected in January 2019.
- **Key monitoring findings:** PDM conducted at household level confirmed an improvement of the food security situation among beneficiaries. In October 2018, near two third beneficiaries' households were food secure. However, one third are still food insecure, majority of them are living in Mopti and Segou regions which are very vulnerable areas affected by conflict and difficult to access.

Challenges

- A major challenge for WFP Mali continues to be the unabated insecurity in northern and central Mali with consequent access challenges amidst consistently high humanitarian needs. In November, increase of intercommunal clashes in Mopti, Segou and Ménaka regions continued to involve forced displacement of population and impact community's livelihood and vulnerability. These clashes have not yet impacted the delivery of assistance, however additional resources are likely to be required as increasing number of displaced persons require emergency food assistance.
- In addition, effectively addressing the underlying causes of vulnerability calls for more multi-year support to bring resilience building efforts at scale.

Donors (in alphabetic order)

Canada, Denmark, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mastercard, Monaco, Multilateral funds, Norway, PBF, Private donors, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, UN CERF, United Kingdom, USA, World Bank.