



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Mali Country Brief February 2019



## In Numbers

191.3 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1,546,068 cash-based transfers made

US\$ 35.7 m six months (March-August 2019) net funding requirements, representing 57% of total needs.

273,685 people assisted  
in February 2019

## Operational Updates

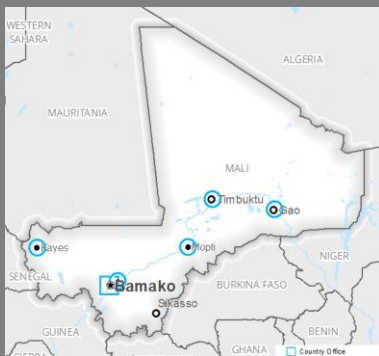
### Operational Context

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 150,000 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.



Population: 18.5 million

2017 Human Development Index: 182 out of 189

Income Level: Low

Chronic malnutrition: 31% of children between 6-59 months

- The number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) increased to an estimated 145,000 persons, out of which WFP assisted 75,000, while the remaining IDPs received food assistance through the Rapid Response Mechanism and other NGOs. WFP also directly assisted 19,000 new IDPs in Ménaka 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.
- Food assistance for asset (FFA) interventions target 93,276 beneficiaries. To improve results of FFA activities, WFP provided a regional training to the Ministry of Agriculture on participatory planning tools (3PA), held from 18 to 22 February in Ségou. A cost benefit analysis was also initiated in a selected number of sites, not only to analyse the impact of its interventions, but also to consolidate a more systematic tool to support the setup of an adaptive safety net package.
- Within a 3-year project in collaboration with the Asset Impact Monitoring System (AIMS) project team in Rome, WFP shared the list of 100 georeferenced assets and four convergence zones (Kolokani, Bandiagara, Niafouké and Gao / Ménaka). These assets will be tracked through satellite imagery which will allow to monitor their development.
- During the reporting period, 500 households were identified and trained in activities that contribute to building peace in Mopti and Ségou: 20 peers were trained in natural resource management (one of the main causes of conflict in these regions); and 20 members of the Village Savings and Loan Association (AVEC) were trained in the creation and development of Income Generating Activities (IGAs).
- A Fill the Nutrient gap scoping mission was rolled out in February and developed the action plan to support the launch of the exercise by end of March.
- From 11 to 13 February, WFP held its 2018 annual review and 2019 planning retreat. Key strategic planning issues related to the new 2020-2024 CSP were discussed involving government counterparts and key partners.
- WFP took part in the UN Common Country Assessment technical workshop, which constitutes a key step in the formulation of the new integrated United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2020-2024), that aligns with the UNDG priority of an Integrated Strategic Framework (ISF).
- Given the concentration of interventions in conflict affected areas, WFP initiated a social cohesion study to strengthen its understanding of conflict dynamics and the organizations' contribution to conflict reduction.
- WFP Mali manages the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) on behalf of the humanitarian community. In February, six destinations were served and UNHAS services were used by 102 organizations, a total of 1170 passengers and 1374 kg of freight were transported.

Main photo Credit: WFP/Virgo EDGAR NGARBAROUM

Caption: Ladies of Koundougou in front of the warehouse built thanks to the support of the small producers.

Contact info: Virgo Edgar Ngarbaroum ([virgo.edgarngarbaroum@wfp.org](mailto:virgo.edgarngarbaroum@wfp.org))

Country Director: Silvia Caruso

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/mali](http://www.wfp.org/countries/mali)

**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)
<b>195,8M</b>	<b>124.2M</b>	<b>35.7 m</b>

**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, 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:** 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 February, monitoring visits were carried out in 494 distribution sites across the country. Activities covered by these visits include school feeding, treatment of moderate acute malnutrition and caregiver support, FFA, and seasonal assistance involving cash-based transfers (CBT). Markets and retail traders participating in CBT were also visited as part of food basket price monitoring.
- **Monitoring assessments:**
- Cereal prices are down slightly compared to December 2017 for sorghum and millet (-6 percent each), and stable for imported rice (5 percent), local rice (2 percent) and maize (1 percent). However, they remain above the average of the last 5 years and some markets in the north and centre of the country are still in crisis. The cost of the food basket is stable (4 percent) compared to December 2017 although it is still high in some district in the north of the country. The terms of trade goat/cereals are slight deterioration in the country compared to December 2017 (-9 percent).
- The activities of the National Survey on Food and Nutritional Security (ENSAN) for February started and results are expected in March 2019.
- **Key monitoring findings:** Post distribution monitoring 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. Increase of intercommunal clashes in Mopti, Segou and Menaka regions continued to involve forced displacement of population, the teachers' strike which causes the intermittent closing of the schools, closure of schools due to insecurity, and other social services and impact community's livelihood and vulnerability.
- 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.