



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Mali Country Brief May 2019



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.

The past few months were characterised by escalating violence and conflict, leading to a sharp rise in internal displacement, the continued disruption of markets, and a deterioration in the supply of basic social services. Despite the relatively favourable 2018 agricultural season, there was a significant deterioration in the food and nutrition security outlook compared to the projections made at the end of 2018. The results from the March 2019 *Cadre Harmonisé* indicate that over 330,000 persons are in food security crisis or worse. During the upcoming lean season, from June to September, close to 550,000 people are projected to be severely food insecure and in need of urgent food assistance. These figures represent a 36 percent deterioration compared to the *Cadre Harmonisé* projections made in November 2018.

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**

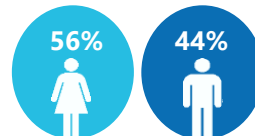
In Numbers

171 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 3 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 34 m six months (June–November 2019) net funding requirements

389,683 people assisted in May 2019.



Operational Updates

Emergency Response

- The Food Security Cluster identified a large gap in coverage of needs in the Mopti region, mainly due to the effects of insecurity. Inter-community conflicts and armed attacks/ threats have led to increased levels of displacement in northern and central Mali. Newly displaced people need assistance in the immediate term, while constraints on access to land for cultivation could affect food security in other areas.
- The suspension of activities by a WFP partner in Mopti region, due to insecurity, delayed deliveries in some parts of the region. Working with the local offices of the community welfare service and with communities, WFP was able to provide distributions to nearly 19,000 of the 25,000 targeted people in the affected areas.

Food assistance for asset (FFA) creation

- Joint workshops were organized by WFP and National Directorate of Rural Engineering in Mopti and Gao, to review technical studies of micro-dams.

Social Protection

- A joint WFP, FAO, UNICEF and ILO concept note on social protection was submitted to the SDG-Fund. This collaboration is intended to accelerate the achievement of SDGs by extending social protection to vulnerable populations affected by structural seasonal shocks and crisis, especially in difficult to access areas.
- A meeting of the National Technical Committee for the Unified Social Register (USR) took place to review the official launch strategy, following the recent changes in the governmental parent department.

Smallholder Agriculture Market & Value Chain Support (SAMS)

- WFP participated in the Global Agriculture and Food Security Programme forum from 13–15 May to share its experience with participants from 30 countries. The project in Mali aims to improve productivity, quality, processing, post-harvest handling and marketing of paddy rice and cowpea grown by five farmer organizations.

Nutrition

- During the reporting period, 68,450 people were treated in health centres, including 48,480 children aged 6–59 months and 19,970 pregnant and lactating women.

School Feeding

- WFP provided assistance to a reduced number of children in May due to ongoing teacher strikes, which led to the closure of some – but not all – schools for the school year. The strike officially ended on 17 May and the school year will be extended until the end of July instead of June. Insecurity continues to disrupt primary education with over 950 schools currently closed across Mali, preventing access to education for over 285,000 children.

UNHAS

WFP Mali manages the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) on behalf of the humanitarian community. In May, seven destinations were served and UNHAS services were used by 96 organizations, a total of 1,013 passengers and 4,022 kg of freight were transported.

Main photo

Credit: WFP/Katia I. Oslansky

Caption: Classroom of children who benefit from the school feeding programme in Toya, Timbuktu.

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

2019 Total Requirement (in million USD)	2019 Total Contribution (in million USD)	6 month Net Funding Requirement (in million USD)
110 m	31.6 m	34 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:

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

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

- Provide nutritious complements to targeted children aged 6–23 months and cash to PLW to prevent undernutrition outside of crisis/post-crisis areas.
- Provide nutritious foods to children and food assistance (food/CBT) to PLW for treatment of malnutrition – including support to caregivers.
- 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:

- 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.
- 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:

- 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.
- 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:

- 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:

- 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.
- Provide transportation services to humanitarian and development partners through the Humanitarian Air Service

Monitoring

- **Monitoring coverage:** In May, 947 sites across the country were visited by monitoring missions. The activities covered by these visits include school feeding, treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and caregiver support, food assistance for asset creation, as well as emergency 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 remained stable during the month. Prices for sorghum (-21 percent), millet (-15 percent), maize (-17 percent) were in most cases significantly below the levels at the same time in 2018. Prices for local (-1 percent) and imported rice (+3 percent) were near or slightly above last year's levels. The supply of local grains and pulses to the markets is adequate to meet demand in most markets. The exceptions include certain markets in Kidal, Ménaka and Mopti regions, affected by insecurity, inter-community conflicts and the closure of certain borders with Algeria.
- Food basket costs are stable compared to March, and the same time in 2018. Nevertheless, they remain very high in Menaka and Kidal regions and parts of Gao, (Bourem and Gao cercles) Mopti (Tenekou) and Timbuktu (Gourma-Rharous) regions.
- **Key monitoring findings:** No face-to-face Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) outcome exercises were conducted during this period. However, a mobile PDM (mPDM) through mobile Vulnerability Assessment Mapping (mVAM) system to collect quantitative and qualitative data associated with the scaling up of resilience activities was launched in late April. Data analysis is still going on. Preliminary results are expected in June. Two other mPDMs (one on the pre-lean season assistance and one on the Post targeting process for the lean season) are planned to be held during June.

Challenges

- Due to increased requirements and funding constraints, WFP cannot cover all food assistance needs during the lean season and is forced to reduce rations to 70 percent in June. This reduction could continue throughout the lean season if additional resources are not mobilized.
- In north and central Mali, insecurity has added to already high humanitarian needs while creating difficulties to access affected populations. In Mopti region, increased intercommunal clashes forced the displacement of thousands of households. In addition, schools across the centre and north were affected both by the teachers' strike and the closure of schools due to insecurity.
- Critical funding deficits are strongly affecting the implementation of MAM treatment activities, which will be interrupted starting June 2019.

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.