



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Mali Country Brief July 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 have been escalated 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. This evolving situation has led to a 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 during the current lean season, 550,000 people require urgent food assistance. However, this figure did not include some 150,000 newly internally displaced persons (IDPs) arriving since the beginning of 2019. As a result, 700,000 persons currently require urgent assistance.

WFP's programmes in Mali are aligned with WFP Global Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 4, Sustainable Development Goals 2 and 17, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2015–2019) and Mali national five-year strategy for growth and development for 2019–2023. 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**

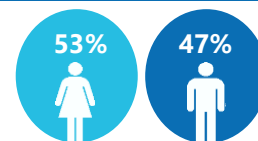
## In Numbers

**2,050 mt** of food assistance distributed

**US\$ 2.8 m** cash-based transfers made

**US\$35.7 m** six months (August 2019 - January 2020) net funding requirements

**605,300** people assisted in July 2019.



## Operational Updates

### Emergency Response and Preparedness

- In July, WFP provided unconditional food assistance to over 450,000 people, including close to 170,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). The majority of the vulnerable people assisted were in the central region of Mopti, where nearly 60 percent of all emergency needs are located. Assistance was provided in the form of a hybrid ration comprising of cash transfers and food.
- As part of the emergency response, and in coordination with Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) partners, WFP provided food assistance to 11,200 new IDPs in July. New population displacements continue to be reported and are likely to increase in the coming months.
- A contribution of 4,050 mt from the Government of Mali's strategic stock will be used to cover emergency needs in August. However, without additional resources from mid-September, WFP will not be able to provide food and nutrition assistance to highly vulnerable populations, including IDPs.
- In July, WFP provided assistance for the prevention of acute malnutrition to 59,000 children (6-23 months) and 33,000 pregnant and lactating women.
- In line with WFP's commitments on protection and accountability to affected populations, a Protection advisor joined WFP Mali in August 2019. The advisor will work in close coordination with national authorities and partners at national and regional levels to ensure that protection policy is cross-cutting and mainstreamed throughout the programme cycle.

### Resilience building

- As part of an integrated resilience strategy, 82,500 persons benefited from food assistance for assets (FFA) activities and 12,860 children (6-23 months) received assistance for the prevention of chronic malnutrition.
- The school feeding programme continued through the end of July, due to the extension of the school year following multiple strikes throughout the year. WFP reached some 130,000 children in 629 schools.

### Policy coherence, capacity development and partnerships

- WFP contributed in the organisation of a high-level nutrition forum held in Bamako from 23 to 25 of July. The forum highlighted the need to make nutrition a national priority and to commit increased financial resources so as to contribute to economic growth and poverty reduction.
- The Government carried monitoring missions in six regions, financed by WFP, to evaluate the school feeding programme in 60 schools.
- WFP took part in different planning workshops aimed at finalising the results matrix and strategic orientation of the 2020–2024 UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF).
- A capitalization workshop was held on 10 and 11 July in Mopti on the WFP/FAO/UNHCR Peace Building Fund "Peers for Peace" project. The workshop highlighted the positive impact on social cohesion and the need to build upon results. A final evaluation of the project by *Urgence Réhabilitation Développement* research group is in progress.

### UNHAS

- WFP Mali manages the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). In July, seven destinations were served and UNHAS services were used by 103 organisations. A total of 1,014 passengers and 2,684 kg of freight were transported.

### Main photo

**Credit:** WFP/Katia Oslansky

**Caption:** The women of Toya village in Timbuktu are now able to cultivate nutritious foods thanks to FFA activities.

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**Mali Transitional-ICSP (1 January 2018 – 31 December 2019)**

2019 Total Requirement (in million USD)	2019 Total Contribution (in million USD)	6-month Net Funding Requirement (in million USD)
<b>123 m</b>	<b>78.5 m*</b>	<b>35.7 m</b>

\* This figure includes carry over from 2018, multi-year contributions, and contributions confirmed in 2019, including multilateral contributions.

**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 July, around 800 sites across the country were visited by monitoring missions, including 10 percent through WFP and 90 percent through Third Party Monitoring. All activities were covered. Markets and retail traders participating in cash-based transfers (CBT) were also visited as part of food basket price monitoring.
- **Monitoring assessments:** Cereal prices remained stable compared to May 2019. Prices for maize (-22 percent), sorghum (-20 percent), millet (-16 percent) were below the levels at the same time in 2018.
- Compared to June 2018, the terms of trade are slightly in favour of pastoralists due to the acceptable breeding conditions.
- A multisector assessment was carried out in the Segou region to assess the increasing needs of IDPs and host population in the area. Shelter, wash, food, non-food items and protection were identified as the most urgent needs, which are likely to increase as the lean season continues.
- **Key monitoring findings:** Preliminary results from mobile post distribution monitoring (mPDM) show that beneficiaries received rations as planned for both voucher and in-kind distributions. The distribution process is generally well organized in all regions, except in Gao and Menaka where there were some issues due to insecurity. The hotline number for the complaint and feedback mechanism was disseminated at distribution sites in all regions, and communities were sensitized on how to use it. Since the beginning of the year 1,300 calls were received, of which 480 in July, mostly requesting further information and extending thanks for assistance.

**Challenges**

- Despite ongoing resource mobilisation efforts, increasing needs mean that funding deficits remain significant and are providing a major challenge in ensuring adequate assistance to vulnerable populations. If no additional resources are mobilised, WFP be forced to reduce the number of people assisted as well as the ration sizes from mid-September.
- Regarding the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM), pipeline deficit in October will lead to a halt in the programme unless resources immediately materialise. Funding and supply chain constraints prevented WFP to provide critical assistance for the treatment and prevention of malnutrition in July.
- In north and central Mali, insecurity continues to affect already high levels of humanitarian need, while proving a challenge to access affected populations.

**Donors (in alphabetical order)**

Canada, European Union, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Multilateral funds, Norway, Private donors, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Nations Funds, United Kingdom, USA, World Bank.