



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Mali

Country Brief

August 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.

In the past few months, escalating violence and conflict led 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, more than 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**

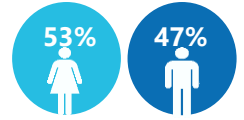
In Numbers

5,795 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.4 m cash-based transfers made

US\$39.6 m six months (October 2019 - Mars 2020) net funding requirements

728,321 people assisted in August 2019.



Operational Updates

Emergency Response and Preparedness (IR-PREP)

- In August, over 508,000 people received unconditional assistance, including close to 170,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs). The majority of those assisted were in the central region of Mopti, where nearly 60 percent of all emergency needs are located. New population displacements continue to be reported and are at risk of escalating in the coming months. In August, distributions included a contribution of 4,050 mt from the Government of Mali's strategic stock to supplement WFP's deficit caused by a reduction in resources.
- WFP is establishing priorities related to protection and accountability to affected population which will include increased understanding of protection risks, internal capacity strengthening, and enhanced efficiency of the complaint and feedback mechanisms.
- Considering the rapidly deteriorating food security situation, an IR-Prep has been granted to the Mali country office within the framework of preparedness in the Liptako-Gourma region.

Resilience building

- A support mission by WFP's Regional Bureau was undertaken in August to help the country office finalize fortification related activities to address micronutrient deficiencies in Mali.
- In August, 82,500 persons participated in food assistance for assets (FFA) activities (asset creation and capacity strengthening).
- A workshop on market-oriented agricultural advisory supporting the NGO *AMASSA Afrique Verte* in Tombouctou was organized in August. The objective of the workshop was to share experiences and skills and facilitate smallholder market access through increased volumes and value of sales.
- Preparations are ongoing for the school feeding programme for the coming school year starting in October. A new financial mechanism for cash-based transfers is being developed with the different national structures. Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) are being prepared with the relevant government ministries.

Policy coherence, capacity development and partnerships

- An ARC Replica regional meeting was organized with Mali, Burkina, and Mauritania to allow these three countries which subscribed to drought insurance to simulate the implementation of the operational plan in case of pay-out.
- The work on the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework continued. Result matrixes were finalised. WFP ensured alignment of its CSP and begun informal consultations with relevant stakeholders.

UNHAS

WFP Mali manages the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). In August, five destinations were served and UNHAS services were used by 96 organisations. A total of 959 passengers and 4,066 kg of freight were transported

Main photo

Credit: WFP/Virgo EDGAR NGARBAROUM

Caption: The Government of Mali contribution to WFP for emergency response.

Contact info: Virgo Edgar NGARBAROUM
(virgo.edgarngarbaroum@wfp.org)

Country Director: Silvia CARUSO

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/mali

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)
123 m	78.5 m	39.6

*2019 Total contribution: 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 August, monitoring missions visited around 800 sites across the country, covering all WFP activities. Markets and retail traders participating in CBT were also visited as part of food basket price monitoring.

• **Monitoring assessments:** Cereal prices are stable compared to the past month and the five-year average. However, the price level remains high in certain areas affected by insecurity, particularly in the centre and the north of the country. Compared to last year, the terms of trade are slightly in favour of pastoralists due to acceptable herding conditions and the low prices of cereals.

• A mPDM campaign was carried out in July to assess the quality of targeting among food assistance beneficiaries. The analysis of the results is ongoing.

• A PDM started in August to assess outcomes of food assistance and food for asset activities. Data collection is ongoing.

• A qualitative study was carried out in early August in Koulikoro and Mopti to increase the understanding of the benefits of nutrition and FFA activities in the communities of implementation. Key findings showed that more women frequented health facilities when receiving cash incentive which contributed to improve their nutrition intake as well as their nutritional and hygiene practices. The FFA activities increased income generation for beneficiaries, reduced migration among the youth, and generated benefits for the community.

• **Complaint and feedback mechanism:** The hotline 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, more than 1,600 calls were received, of which 305 calls for the month of August only, mostly requesting further information and extending thanks for assistance.

Challenges

• Despite ongoing resource mobilisation efforts, the lack of funding to meet the growing needs and ensure adequate assistance to vulnerable populations remains a major challenge. If no funding is received in September, WFP will be forced to prematurely end assistance to seasonally food insecure populations and will provide a reduced ration size of 70 percent to IDPs.

• Since June, the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition has been impeded due to temporary supply constraints. However, between January and May 2019, a total of 37,295 children (6–59 months) and 10,160 pregnant and lactating women (PLWs) were assisted in health centres for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). Treatment for MAM is expected to restart in September.

Donors (in alphabetical order)

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