



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Mali

Country Brief

September 2019



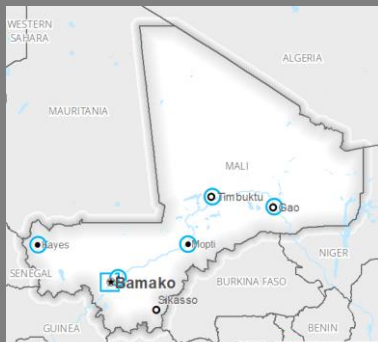
Operational Context

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. As of September 2019, there are 187,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mali, who are almost entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance given the lack of livelihood opportunities.

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 operations are currently focused on emergency response, resilience building and strengthen national capacities. 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**

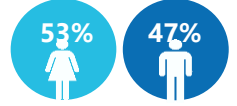
In Numbers

465 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.8 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 39.8 m six months (October 2019 - March 2020) net funding requirements

338,839 people assisted in September 2019.



Operational Updates

Emergency Response and Preparedness

- On 27 September, due to the growing insecurity in Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso fuelled by recurring non-state armed groups (NSAGs) attacks and inter-ethnic clashes, a WFP Level 3 Emergency Response was activated for the Central Sahel region for a period of six months until March 2020.
- In September, WFP Mali provided unconditional food and nutrition assistance to 191,000 people, including internally displaced persons (IDPs). New population displacements continue to be reported and are at risk of escalating in the coming months. In August and September, distributions included a contribution of 4,050 mt from the Government of Mali's strategic stock in response to WFP's funding deficit.

Resilience building

- Five Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between WFP Mali and local governmental rural development services of Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao, Menaka and Koulikoro to enable them to monitor asset creation activities in their respective regions.
- The project "Strengthening populations resilience capacity" funded by the Mali Climate Fund was launched in three communes of the Segou and Kolikouro regions. Activities will be implemented by the NGO *Jeunesse Sans Frontière*.
- With upcoming opening of the new school year, capacity strengthening of more than 500 decentralised school feeding actors was carried out on the new financial mechanism of cash-based transfers to School Management Committees. Strong focus was placed on inclusion of local authorities in monitoring and reporting activities. The new school year will begin in October.
- A workshop was organized in September to officially launch the Fill the Nutrient Gap (FNG) process in Mali. The workshop brought together a variety of stakeholders involved in the food, health, social protection and education systems to jointly work on a multi-sectoral modelling plan of the recently undertaken FNG study to inform nutrition specific and sensitive interventions for enhanced nutritional outcomes in Mali.

Policy coherence, capacity development and partnerships

- WFP Mali, is supporting the Government to conduct two studies on social protection within the framework of the social protection working group. The first aims at evaluating the current 2016-2018 national social protection action plan and elaborating a new plan for 2020-2024; the second will elaborate a policy and procedures manual for the implementation of social safety nets in Mali. WFP also participated to the 18th session of the national social protection technical committee of JIGISEMEJIRI and presented with DNPSES the topic on "Nexus and Social Protection Floor".

UNHAS

WFP Mali manages the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). In September, five destinations were served and UNHAS services were used by 92 organisations. A total of 926 passengers and 2,118 kg of freight was transported

Main photo

Credit: WFP/Virgo EDGAR NGARBAROUM

Caption: Mahamadoun Ahmadou, One man's fight against malnutrition in Northern 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	84.9 m	39.8

*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 September, around 370 sites across the country were visited by monitoring missions. All activities were covered. Markets and retail traders participating in CBT were also visited as part of food basket price monitoring.
- The first round of the PDM outcome data collection started end of August to assess outcomes of food assistance and food for asset activities. The data collection was concluded end of September.
- Regarding The hotline for the complaint and feedback mechanism registered over 1,600 calls from January to August 2019, of which half were information requests about WFP's assistance for the month of August.
- **Monitoring assessments:** the next PDM survey on food and nutrition security indicators is planned for the beginning November.
- **Key monitoring findings:** Food and nutrition assistance process-monitoring data from the first semester of 2019 was analysed. Main results show that 100 percent of women and men beneficiaries were satisfied with the quantity and quality of food rations.

- It also showed that the type of food purchased with cash vouchers was decided mostly by women or jointly by men and women in the household. The large majority of traders were satisfied with the voucher programme. Regarding malnutrition prevention and treatment activities, almost all monitored health centres were functional with trained staff, availability of functional equipment and patient registers. Nutrition protocols were respected, however there were certain challenges such as limited storage capacity, low malnutrition community screening and referrals. This is especially the case in the north where there remain difficulties in accessing health centres particularly for women and children due to the long distances or a lack of information.

Challenges

- Despite ongoing resource mobilisation efforts, increasing needs mean that funding gaps remain sizeable and are providing a major challenge in ensuring adequate assistance to vulnerable populations. In September, WFP was forced to prematurely end assistance to seasonally food insecure populations and provided a reduced ration size of 70 percent to IDPs.
- Since June, the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) has been impeded due temporary supply constraints. However, nutritious food for MAM treatment activities was dispatched to health centres in the regions of Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao and Kayes. Thanks to the dispatch of these food items, WFP plans to assist 19,460 children (6–59 months) and pregnant and lactating women in October.

Donors (in alphabetical order)

Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Private donors, Sweden, Switzerland, United Nations (CERF, Peacebuilding Fund and UN other Agencies), United Kingdom, USA