



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Mali Country Brief November 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 184 out of 189 on UNDP's 2018 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 schools, 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, hampering humanitarian access and leading to increased vulnerability of populations.

The past few months saw escalating violence and conflict, leading to a sharp rise in internal displacements, 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 recent food and nutrition security analysis (*Cadre Harmonisé, November 2019*) indicate that from October to December 2019, 648,330 people are estimated to be food insecure, representing an increase of 250 percent compared to the same time last year. 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 operation is currently focused on emergency response, resilience building and strengthening of national capacities. WFP has been present in Mali since 1964.



Population: 19.5 million

2018 Human Development Index: 184 out of 189

Income Level: Low

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

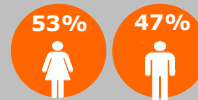
In Numbers

151 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 3.4 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 32.2 m six months (December 2019 - May 2020) net funding requirements

423,724 people assisted in November 2019



WFP SAYS NO to GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Operational Updates

Emergency Response and Preparedness

- In November, 234,280 conflict and flood-affected people, including 12,800 children aged 6-59 months, were assisted with food and cash-based unconditional assistance. Nutrition sensitization sessions and cooking demonstrations were organised for parents.
- WFP delivered trainings on protection and accountability to affected populations in Gao and Mopti, promoting tools such as the toll-free hotline and sensitizing populations on their rights and entitlements as beneficiaries of WFP assistance.

Resilience building

- As part of the food assistance for asset creation (FFA) programme, water pumps equipped with solar panels were installed and tested on 18 sites and will help irrigate beneficiary community gardens. Meanwhile, thanks to ten motor pumps received from WFP in early 2019, farmers harvested 700 tonnes of rice during the cropping season.
- The first two students of a traineeship programme set up by WFP in collaboration with the Polytechnical University of Rural development and applied research (IPR/IFRA) have presented their dissertations with valuable qualitative analyses. This initiative contributes to building valuable skills amongst targeted youth.
- Results of the nutrition SMART evaluation carried out in September highlighted that global acute malnutrition (GAM) is overall stable in 2019, with a prevalence of 10 percent nation-wide; however, serious to critical situations are registered in several regions, namely Kidal, Taoudeni, Tombouctou, and Menaka, with GAM rates reaching as high as 15.4 percent.
- The school feeding programme continues to be affected by insecurity: 47 out of 656 targeted schools were closed by radicals in November, leaving 10,000 children out of school.

Policy coherence, capacity development and partnerships

- National consultations for the evaluation and revision of the national social protection policy (PNPS) action plan started and will continue throughout December.

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Main photo: Credit: WFP/Virgo EDGAR NGARBAROUM

Caption: Kadidia Barry, an IDP in the classroom in Sévaré where she is living

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

2019 Total Requirement (in USD)	2019 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six-month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
123 m	96.2 m	32.2 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: Crisis response

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

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- UNHAS, managed by WFP in Mali, were provided to 100 different humanitarian organisations. A total of 1,115 passengers and 2,027 kg of freight were transported to five different destinations.

Monitoring

- In November, 468 sites across the country were visited to monitor all ongoing activities, as well as markets and retail traders, as part of the regular food basket price monitoring exercise. Key monitoring findings include that the supply of local cereals and pulses in the markets is improving with the arrival of new crops and the prices of cereals and pulses are below the average from the last five years. However, in some areas, insecurity is negatively impacting food availability and prices on the markets.
- The complaint and feedback mechanism hotline received in November alone 1,900 calls from WFP beneficiaries, mostly information requests about WFP's assistance and thank you calls for the assistance received.
- A market feasibility study conducted in few communes of the regions of Timbuktu, Gao, Mopti, Kidal and Segou highlighted that food assistance through cash transfers (mobile money) or a mix of mobile money and in-kind was feasible in most assessed areas.

Challenges

- Despite ongoing resource mobilisation efforts, rising food assistance and livelihood support needs continue to present major challenges in ensuring assistance to vulnerable populations at planned scale. In November, to cope with the funding gaps and food shortages, WFP had to reduce its ration sizes (30 percent cut) for conflict-affected vulnerable people, including IDPs.
- Growing insecurity is negatively impacting the implementation of activities in northern and central regions of Mali. Access to large swaths of the regions of Gao, Menaka, Douentza and Koro was disrupted, rendering the provision of assistance in these regions difficult. The mitigation measures WFP is adopting is slowly helping to increase access to these currently off-limit areas.

Donors

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Norway, Private donors, Republic of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Nations Funds, United Kingdom, and USA.