



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Mali Country Brief December 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 November 2019, there are 199,000 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: **19.7 million**

2018 Human Development Index: **184 out of 189**

Income Level: **Low**

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

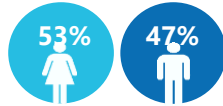
In Numbers

780 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 3.8 m of cash-based transfers

US\$34 m six months (January 2020 - June 2020) net funding requirements

435,300 people assisted in December 2019.



Operational Updates

Emergency Response and Preparedness

- The Government of Mali has officially communicated the results of the November 2019 *Cadre Harmonisé* that reported that 648,330 people in Mali are severely food insecure (IPC 3-5). This number is likely to increase during the lean season period (June-August 2020) with 4.8 million women, men, boys and girls expected to face food insecurity, including 1.2 million who will require emergency food assistance.
- On 20 December, WFP participated in a workshop in Mopti under the leadership of the Deputy Humanitarian coordinator to support the development of an implementation framework for the humanitarian-development nexus in the central regions of Mali. Participants included UN agencies, national and international NGOs based in Mopti and Segou.
- In December 2019, 226,350 conflict and flood-affected people were assisted with food and unconditional cash-based assistance.

Resilience building

- In December, 85,500 people participated in food assistance for asset creation (FFA) activities. Assets created included 1,146 hectares of agricultural and pastoral lands rehabilitated, two micro-dams; 10 moto pumps and 22 boreholes equipped with solar powered water pumps for irrigation, four fishponds developed and stocked with fish, and 2684 m³ of compost pits dug allowing farmers to get organic natural fertilizer.
- Through the school feeding programme, 112,729 children in 656 schools received hot and nutritious meals in December. However, schools were closed for one week due to strikes.
- A total of 31,604 children aged 6-59 months received moderate acute malnutrition treatment. Nutrition sensitization sessions and cooking demonstrations were also organised for parents.
- Preliminary findings from the minimum expenditures basket (MEB) analysis indicated that 52 percent of households do not have the economic capacity to meet their basic needs.

Policy coherence, capacity development and partnerships

- WFP provided technical and financial support to the Ministry of Agriculture to update the country resilience priority map. The latest update of the map dates back in 2014.
- The Minister of Health and Social Affairs has officially launched the Unified Register for social protection in Mali. This platform will provide access to a variety of social protection data and information on vulnerable households in the country.

Main photo

Credit: WFP/Virgo EDGAR NGARBAROUM

Caption: The Soufouroulaye milk production unit built with the support of WFP.

Mali CSP (1 January 2020 – 31 December 2024)

2020 Total Requirement (in million USD)	2019 Total Contribution (in million USD)*	6-month Net Funding Requirement (in million USD)
120.8 m	92.3 m	34 m

*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: Resilience building.

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: Humanitarian partners in Mali have access to common services that enable them to reach and operate in crisis-affected areas throughout the year

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

UNHAS

- WFP Mali manages the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). In December, six destinations were served and UNHAS services were used by 97 organisations. A total of 1,281 passengers and 1,971 kg of freight was transported.

Monitoring

- In December, 400 sites across the country were visited to monitor WFP's ongoing activities, markets and retail traders, as part of the regular food basket price monitoring exercise. Key monitoring findings indicated that the supply of local cereals and pulses in the markets is improving with the arrival of new crops. The prices of cereals and pulses are below the average from the last five years. However, in northern and central regions of the country, insecurity is negatively affecting food availability and prices in the markets.
- The complaint and feedback mechanism's hotline put in place as part of WFP's accountability to affected populations received in December 2,467 calls from crisis-affected communities. Most of the calls refer to information requests about WFP's assistance and thank you calls for the assistance received.

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.
- International NGOs have suspended activities in Ménaka region due to increasing numbers of attacks. WFP's programmes have not yet been disrupted but treatment of moderate malnutrition in the region might soon be affected.
- The Cercles of Koro and Bankass (Mopti Region) became inaccessible to WFP staff following a series of Improvised explosive Devices attacks since December on the main road from Mopti. These incidents added to an already complex situation in the same region where inter-ethnic clashes are taking place.

Donors (in alphabetical order)

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Norway, Private donors, Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Nations CERF, UN Other Funds, UN Peacebuilding Funds, United Kingdom, USA.