



WFP Mali

Country Brief

February 2020

World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



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**

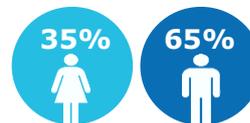
In Numbers

378 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 3.5 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 40 m six months (March - August 2020) net funding requirements

444,791 people assisted in February 2020



Operational Updates

Emergency Response and Preparedness

- In Mali, the security situation is characterized by armed conflict, civil unrest, criminality and terrorism, all concentrated within the northern and central regions. On 10 February, a WFP-contracted truck loaded with 56 mt of food including rice and beans came under attack by unidentified armed people along the road Douentza-Gao.
- New alerts of population displacement were received from the Rapid Response Mechanism in Timbuktu, Mopti and Gao regions, and assessments are ongoing. However, preliminary figures already reported 18,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Timbuktu region.
- WFP Mali is scaling-up to provide emergency food assistance to almost 700,000 conflict-affected communities, including IDPs and host families, as well as communities vulnerable to food insecurity throughout the pastoral and agricultural lean seasons (April-June).

Resilience building

- Under the moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) treatment, 31,600 children aged 6-59 months were provided with ready to use supplementary food (RUSF) resulting in the higher recovery rate of 98 percent.
- School feeding activities are ongoing in Timbuktu region despite the nationwide teachers' strike. Thanks to NGOs support, community volunteers were mobilized to avoid discontinuation of school activities. From the latest figures in January 2020, 1,100 schools were closed nationwide affecting approximately 330,000 children.
- In order to minimize post-harvest losses, a conservation and storage box for onions was created for the Mayelle agricultural cooperative in Timbuktu. The box has a storage capacity of 12 mt. An additional, 2,000 empty storage bags for onions and potatoes were also distributed to vegetable producers in the region.

Main photo

Credit: WFP/Virgo EDGAR NGARBAROUM

Caption: WFP provide cooking demonstration in Lafiabougou health centre in Kayes region.

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
143.6 m	67.2 m	40 m

Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)

Strategic Outcome 1: Crisis-affected people in targeted areas, including refugees and internally displaced persons, are able to meet their basic food and nutrition needs during and in the immediate aftermath of crises.

Focus area: Crisis response

Activities:

- Provide an integrated food assistance package to vulnerable men, women, boys and girls affected by crisis based on a needs assessment and ensure that preparedness measures are taken to support a response that is timely, effective, efficient, equitable and in line with the national safety nets strategy.
- Provide an integrated nutrition package, including both preventative and treatment elements, to vulnerable men, women, boys and girls affected by crisis based on a needs assessment.

Strategic Outcome 2: School-age girls and boys in targeted areas have increased current and future resilience while meeting their basic food and nutrition requirements during the school year.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provide school meals to girls and boys during the school year in targeted areas in a way that supports local markets and promotes girl's enrolment.

Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)

Strategic Outcome 3: Nutritionally vulnerable populations in targeted areas, including children and pregnant and lactating women and girls, have improved nutritional status throughout the year.

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Support national nutrition programme to ensure provision of preventive and curative nutrition services (including SBCC, local food fortification, complementary feeding and capacity strengthening) to targeted populations.

Strategic Result 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes (SDG Target 2.3)

Strategic Outcome 4: Communities in targeted areas, including smallholder farmers (particularly women-led groups), have more resilient livelihoods for improved food security and nutrition throughout the year

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provide conditional support to food-insecure vulnerable households, linked to the development or rehabilitation of productive, natural or social assets, the intensification and diversification of livelihood activities and improved access to markets, using an integrated, gender equitable and participatory community approaches.

Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities (SDG target 17.9)

Strategic Outcome 5: By 2030 national institutions and entities have strengthened capacities to manage equitable food security, nutrition and social protection policies, programmes and interventions in support of zero hunger

Focus area: Resilience Building

Activities:

- Provide a package of capacity-strengthening support to national institutions and entities on analysis and planning; coordination; policy coherence; implementation; and monitoring, evaluation, evidence creation and knowledge management in support of decision making

Strategic Result 8: Global partnership support (SDG Target 17.16)

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 United Nations Humanitarian Air Services flight services that allow partners to reach areas of humanitarian intervention
- Provide logistics, information and communications technology, common and coordination services, as well as other preparedness interventions in the absence of alternatives, in order to support effective and efficient humanitarian response

UNHAS

- WFP Mali manages the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS). In February, 11 destinations were served and UNHAS services were used by 100 organizations. A total of 1,248 passengers and 1,136 kg of freight was transported. Discussions are ongoing between WFP and ECHO for UNHAS to take over the management of ECHO flights/aircrafts in Mali as of 10 March 2020.
- Due to the increasing demand for air transport services in Mali, UNHAS is seeking to operationalise a third plane by mid-March, enabling UNHAS to increase its capacity to 14,400 passengers in 2020.

Monitoring

- In February, 479 sites across the country were visited to monitor ongoing activities. Key monitoring findings indicated that the treatment of malnutrition in Kidal, Timbuktu, Segou, Mopti, and Ménaka regions is disrupted due to shortages of nutrition products. Of the *Centres de Santé Communautaires* (CSCOM) treatment sites monitored, 50-75 percent were out of stock. Growing insecurity in some areas in Timbuktu has also delayed delivery of food supplies in some CSCOM sites since the beginning of February. Across various markets visited as part of the regular food price monitoring, essential food products were largely available. However, while prices remain relatively stable, some products such as corn, sorghum, local rice, and beans are limited in supply. This will likely contribute to increased food prices in the future as demand exceeds supply.

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

- In February 2020, WFP received a total of 224 phone calls. The vast majority came from the Mopti region, followed by Gao and Segou. The majority were "thank you" calls, followed by requests for assistance and questions on the assistance.
- The February post-distribution monitoring indicated that most of WFP beneficiaries are satisfied with the food assistance process. They reported transparency in vouchers, food and cash distributions. No beneficiary has reported any issue relating to vouchers utilization.

Challenges

- WFP's Crisis Response (SO1) in Mali during the pastoral lean season is covered until mid-April, with critical lack of resources starting from May 2020. To address this situation, WFP immediately requires an additional USD 2.2 million.

Donors (in alphabetical order)

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Norway, Private Donors, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Peacebuilding Funds, United Kingdom, USA, World Bank.