



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Mali

## Country Brief

March 2020



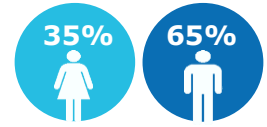
## In Numbers

766 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 4.1 m cash-based transfers made

US\$ 42 m six months (April - September 2020) net funding requirements

360,687 people assisted  
in March 2020



### Operational Updates

#### Emergency Response and Preparedness

- The March 2020 Cadre Harmonise final results show a deterioration in food security and nutrition situation in Mali with 760 000 men, women, boys and girls facing crisis and emergency food insecurity (IPC phases 3 and 4). The analysis projects that this number will increase by 77 percent during the lean season (June-August) with over 1.3 million food insecure people (phase 3-4). The deterioration of the food security situation is mainly due to insecurity, conflicts and climate change effects.
- Since the declaration of COVID-19 pandemic in the region, WFP prepared a concept of operations to prioritise critical programmes, local purchase and prepositioning of food. WFP's COVID-19 response plan will include assistance to patients in treatment centres in collaboration with Médecins Sans Frontière (MSF) and the Direction de la Protection Sociale mainly in Kayes and support to the Government on storage of medical facilities, procurement of Personal Protective Equipment, transport and training of staffs.
- The 'Jack Ma' donation to Mali in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was received in Bamako on 27 March. Each beneficiary country including Mali received 20,000 test kits, 100,000 face masks, 1,000 sets of protective clothing, and 1,100 sets of protective shields. The medical supplies and equipment are donated directly to the Governments in each of the 54 countries to respond to the COVID19 pandemic. WFP is providing support in logistics and handling.

#### Resilience building

- Under the nutrition activities, 11,775 children aged 6-59 months were recorded as new admissions and enrolled in the MAM treatment programme following the regular passive and active screening conducted through the health and community platform in December 2019. No treatment was provided to pregnant and lactating women in March due to a lack of SuperCereal.
- Following the outbreak of COVID19 in Mali on 26 March, the Government closed all schools in the country. As a result, school feeding activities were temporarily put on hold.
- The Government also imposed curfew in the country from 09 pm to 05 am. Moreover, borders remain closed until further notice except for cargo movements. Markets remain open during daytime but public gatherings of more than 50 people are forbidden.

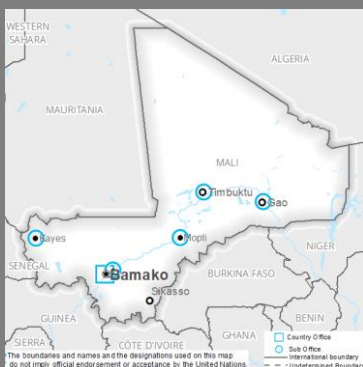
### Operational Context

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, March 2020*) indicate that from March to May 2020, 757,217 people are estimated to be food insecure, representing an increase of 17 percent compared to October-December 2019 period. As of March 2020, there are 218,000 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

## Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
143.6 m	78 m	42 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 March, seven destinations were served and UNHAS services were used by 97 organizations. A total of 1,208 passengers and 5,415 kg of freight was transported. UNHAS also received a third plane in March, due to the increasing demand for air transport services in Mali. It will upgrade UNHAS capacity to 14,400 passengers in 2020.

### Monitoring

- In March, 250 sites across the country were visited to monitor ongoing activities, markets and retail traders, as part of the regular food basket price monitoring. Due to the closing of borders caused by COVID-19, food and livestock prices have slightly increased in markets across the north and central regions of Gao, Menaka, Kidal, and Mopti.

### Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

- In March, WFP received a total of 194 phone calls from its assistance beneficiaries. The majority came from the Mopti region and are related to rumours associated to COVID-19. The WFP country office is monitored, through local informers and the hotline, to adjust programmes and communication with communities as needed.
- In line with the COVID-19 preventive measures, WFP is coordinating protection risks monitoring with the Protection Cluster and supporting the Food Security Cluster to include protection in response planning.

### Challenges

- WFP's Crisis Response in Mali during the pastoral lean season is covered until June, with critical lack of resources starting from July 2020. WFP immediately requires an additional USD 34.5 million to cover the gap in resourcing

### 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.