In Numbers

27 mt of food assistance distributed

US$ 3.3 m cash-based transfers made

US$ 65 m six months (May - October 2020) net funding requirements

474,756 people assisted in April 2020

Operational Updates

- In April, WFP provided seasonal food assistance targeting 320,000 people affected by conflict and the effects of climate change in Gao, Kayes, Menaka, Mopti, Timbuktu and Touadenit regions. In line with the government recommendations, WFP adjusted its food distribution processes, providing its NGO partners with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and hygiene kits. Additionally, food distribution sites were enhanced with all COVID-19 preventive measures including physical distancing, handwashing and temperature checks.

- The UN system in Mali (MINUSMA and UN agencies) signed an agreement with the Ministry of Public Health and Social Affairs in April to provide an integrated response to the COVID-19 pandemic. UN agencies will provide multisectoral assistance worth USD 3.4 million based on their areas of expertise.

- In response to the deteriorating food security situation in Mali, the Prime Minister, Boubou Cisse launched a call for emergency response. Estimated at USD 38 million, the response plan will be funded by the Government of Mali at USD 25.5 million leaving a gap of USD 12.3 million that needs to be filled. Key priority actions include the purchase of 56,000 mt of cereals to support food insecure families, 16,000 mt of animal feeds to support pastoralists and 244 mt of improved seeds (rice and sorghum) for farmers. The Government is also planning to purchase and mill 10,000 mt of cereal (maize or sorghum) for pregnant and lactating women.

- On 17 April, WFP facilitated transport and delivery in Bamako of the much needed COVID-19 equipment (medical face masks, Infrared thermometers, medical Goggles, gloves and shoes covers) donated by the Government of China to Mali.

- WFP, through its Communication with Communities strategy, supported sensitization of special groups (internally displaced persons, refugees, returnees and pastoralists) on COVID-19 preventive measures during food distributions in Gao, Kayes, Menaka, Timbuktu and Touadenit regions. A total of 55,000 households were reached with COVID-19 preventive messages across the country.

- In response to the COVID-19 in Mali, WFP also received request from the Ministry of Public Health for the provision of logistics services including storage, warehouse management, and in-country transport.

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Main photo:
Credit: WFP/Benoit Lognoné
Caption: WFP food distribution in Mopti region in COVID19 context
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 Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)

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 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes (SDG Target 2.3)

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 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 April, seven destinations were served and UNHAS services were used by 65 organizations. A total of 410 passengers and 4,291 kg of freight was transported.

Monitoring
- The monitoring and evaluation system has been reviewed to respond to the COVID-19 context. This has resulted in postponing outcome level data collection of resilience activities and the shift towards more remote data collections using cell phones.

- In April, WFP activated a task force with the National Early Warning System, FEWSNET, FAO and the Food Security Cluster in order to strengthen food security and nutrition monitoring system in the context of COVID19. A Mobile Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping (mVAM) campaign was launched for in-depth analysis of COVID-19 impact on households’ food security and nutrition situation.

- Preliminary findings from the WFP-supported remote evaluation of COVID-19 impact on market prices, households’ food security and nutrition situation show that traders in northern regions of Mali are facing supply issues for imported food items. The evaluation pointed to a decrease in food consumption and an increase in the use of negative coping strategies due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations
- In April, WFP received, through the hotline, 375 phone calls from the crisis-affected populations. The majority of the calls received were inquiries about WFP food distribution planning details. All COVID-19 related questions were systematically referred to the Ministry of Health through the toll-free line. Beneficiary feedback through the hotline helps adjust programmes and communication with communities as needed.
- WFP actively participated in the Inter-Agency Accountability to Affected Populations’ Working Group in Bamako, helping to revitalize the group and reinforcing coordination. In Mali, the Inter-Agency Accountability to Affected Populations’ Working Group is led by the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator.

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.

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020 Total Requirement (in USD)</th>
<th>Allocated Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>146.4 m</td>
<td>110 m</td>
<td>65 m</td>
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