



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Mali

Country Brief

May 2020



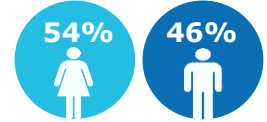
In Numbers

38 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 3.2 m cash-based transfers made

USD 76 m six months (June - November 2020) net funding requirements

449,623 people assisted
in May 2020



Operational Updates

- The COVID-19 confirmed cases continue to increase in Mali. As of 1 June, the government daily situation report indicated 1,315 positives cases in the country including 744 recoveries and 78 deaths.
- In support to the Government response to COVID-19 and as part of its food assistance planned for the lean season in June, WFP planned a sensitization campaign targeting beneficiaries, local authorities, and partners. Key campaign messages include beneficiaries' rights, food distribution process in COVID-19 context, food entitlements, eligibility criteria, distribution calendar and locations.
- Following a request from the Ministry of Public Health, WFP increased its storage capacity in Bamako from 500 mt to 700 mt to accommodate medical products for COVID-19 response in Mali.
- In May, WFP completed a mobile vulnerability assessment and mapping (mVAM) for in-depth analysis of COVID-19 impact on markets and households' food security and nutrition situation. Preliminary results indicated a deterioration in several food security indicators compared to the last national food security assessment (ENSAN) carried out in February 2020. Price increases were also noted in northern regions of Mali for imported food items due to border closure and high market dependency on imports.
- The data collection for market retail capacity assessment in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu, Segou and Mopti was completed in 404 villages with 2,500 interviews carried out. Findings from this evaluation, expected by mid-June, will provide better guidance on the choice of transfer mechanisms for food assistance.
- Life-saving food assistance for May was carried out targeting 326 000 vulnerable men, women, girls and boys in northern and central regions and 3,000 persons affected by COVID-19 in Kayes region.
- In an effort to address the negative effects of COVID-19 on education, WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Education planned to provide take-home rations to vulnerable families whose children were enrolled in WFP school feeding programme. The operation is due to begin in mid-June targeting 98,000 primary schoolchildren registered in 434 schools in the country.

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.

Due to continued violence and conflict in northern and central regions of Mali, the number of Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) in the country has quadrupled - from over 50,000 in March 2018 to nearly 240,000 people in the same period this year. While the majority of the displaced rely on farming for their survival, satellite imagery analysis conducted by WFP in November 2019 revealed a decrease in agricultural activities in several areas affected by insecurity. 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.

Following the COVID-19 outbreak in Mali on 25 March, WFP, in collaboration with other UN agencies, steps up support to the Government and other partners to monitor the COVID-19 impact on food security, assisting those already directly affected, such as quarantined households and patients in isolation wards. WFP also provides a logistics response through transport and storage and is supporting the Government to expand safety nets to cover populations increasingly affected by the socio-economic impact of COVID-19.

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**

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Main photo

Credit: WFP/Virgo EDGAR NGARBAROUM

Caption: WFP food distribution in Faladié.

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
146 m	110 m	76 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 May, six destinations were served and UNHAS services were used by 76 organizations. A total of 453 passengers and 9,457 kg of freight was transported.

Monitoring

- In May, various mobile data collection campaigns were launched using remote data collection methods instead of face-to-face interviews as a preventive measure against COVID-19.
- As part of its post distribution monitoring exercise, the WFP country office in Mali completed a remote survey in May. Almost 1,000 beneficiaries were interviewed about their experience during food distributions in COVID-19 context, key food security indicators, and their coping strategies. WFP Mali also remotely tracked the progress of acute and moderate malnutrition treatment activities. Interviews were conducted with the Technical Directors of local health centres as key informants.
- In June, remote data collection will be launched for food assistance for assets and chronic malnutrition activities in order to monitor key food security indicators and COVID-19 impact on the progress of activities.

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

- The country office is conducting a survey on the complaints and feedback mechanism via the Call Centre to assess beneficiaries' satisfaction and adjust its response. The operation which begins on 20 May is due to be finalized by the end of June. Findings will help WFP adjust its CFM strategy.

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.