



WFP Mali

Country Brief

June 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.

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**

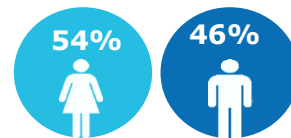
In Numbers

1,926 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 12m cash-based transfers made

USD 53 m six months (July - December 2020) net funding requirements

928,325 people assisted in June 2020



Operational Updates

- On 30 June, WFP started the emergency food assistance for the lean season in Mopti region with distribution of two-months value vouchers. The operation will continue in July targeting over 1 million women, men, girls and boys in northern and central Mali affected by conflicts, population displacement, COVID-19 pandemic and climate change effects. Families including internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, returnees, vulnerable farmers and pastoralists will receive vouchers to procure their chosen food items from local markets. This assistance is provided in support of the government National Response Plan for the lean season (June to September).
- The COVID-19 confirmed cases continue to increase in Mali. As of 10 July, the government daily situation report indicated 2,370 positives cases in the country including 1,621 recoveries and 120 deaths.
- In June, in support to the government COVID-19 response plan, WFP provided food assistance to 10,000 COVID-19-affected people including confined families and patients under treatment.
- As part of its emergency nutrition response, WFP is working on a joint implementation plan with UNICEF to include complementary services such as screening and Infant and Young Children Feeding education using the community platforms for the prevention of malnutrition. This operation is due to begin in July targeting most vulnerable regions such as Gao, Menaka, Mopti and Timbuktu.
- Under the Targeted Supplementary Feeding programme, 33,800 children aged 6-59 months were treated for moderate acute malnutrition in 645 health facilities. In addition, 8,000 caretakers of severely malnourished children received vouchers to support their adherence to the treatment.
- In an effort to address the effects of COVID-19 on education while schools remain closed in the country, WFP in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, targeted 98,000 primary schoolchildren registered in 434 schools in areas most affected by food insecurity, for a two-month take-home ration in July. Assistance will be in the form of cash (except for Kidal region).

Contact info: Virgo Edgar NGARBAROUM (virgo.edgarngarbaroum@wfp.org)

Country Director: Mamadou Mbaye

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/mali

Main photo

Credit: WFP/Benoit Lognoné

Caption: Seasonal assistance through cash to residents in Kayes region

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
146 m	115 m	53 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) which continues to support health and humanitarian responses to COVID-19 through transportation of humanitarian staff and supplies across the country and the provision of medical evacuations. In June, six destinations were served and UNHAS services were used by 84 organizations. A total of 801 passengers and 12,192 kg of freight was transported.

Monitoring

- WFP Mali completed three remote surveys in June, interviewing beneficiaries about their experience during food distributions in COVID-19 context, key food security indicators, and the progress of acute and moderate malnutrition treatment activities. Following distributions of seasonal emergency assistance, food consumption scores of WFP beneficiaries remain elevated with 88 percent of households having acceptable food consumption. However, beneficiary coping strategies were also elevated in comparison to the same period in 2019 with 51 percent of households expressing stress and crisis level coping strategies. Moreover, one in four households are reporting disruptions to livelihoods and access to food due to COVID-19 effects.
- A mobile data collection campaign on food assistance for assets and chronic malnutrition activities was launched in June to collect the key indicators and to provide WFP Mali with lessons learned to inform future interventions.

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

- In June, as part of its Accountability to Affected Populations, WFP carried out a field mission in northern and central regions, visiting sites to identify protection and accountability risks relating to the seasonal food assistance planned for the lean season. Field staff and cooperating partners were briefed on protection issues in the context of COVID-19.

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.