



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Mali Country Brief July 2020



Operational Context

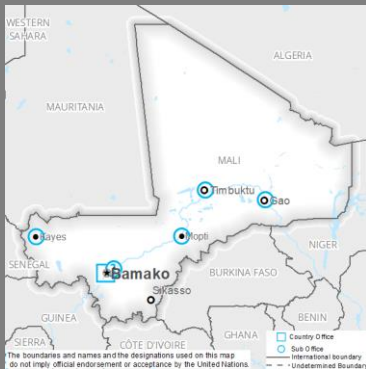
Mali is a vast land-locked country in the heart of the Sahel region. Social indicators remain among the lowest in the world, and the country ranks 184 out of 189 on UNDP's 2018 Human Development Index. Agriculture, livestock and fisheries account for about one-third of Mali's gross domestic product (GDP) 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 quintupled - from over 50,000 in March 2018 to nearly 267,000 people in June 2020. 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.



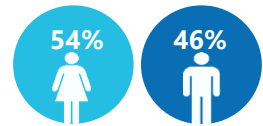
In Numbers

1,849 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 5.9 m cash-based transfers made

USD 33 m six months (August 2020-January 2021) net funding requirements

982,982 people assisted in July 2020



Operational Updates

- WFP and its cooperating partners are running a large-scale food and nutrition intervention to assist nearly one million people in the northern and central regions of Mali including Gao, Kidal, Ménaka, Mopti, Ségou, Taoudénit and Timbuktu. The assistance provided in support of the Government National Response Plan targets internally displaced persons, refugees, returnees, and vulnerable families from July to September – the lean season period - when stocks are low between harvests and families struggle to survive with little food. Families will receive two-months commodity vouchers to procure their preferred food items from local markets.
- In some particularly vulnerable regions (Gao, Menaka, Mopti and Timbuktu) the emergency food assistance has been complemented with nutrition services including supplementary feeding and advice on best feeding practices and behaviour changes. Children aged 6-23 months received fortified blended flour, while pregnant and lactating women receive commodity vouchers and soap to meet their nutritional needs while applying basic hygiene practices. The nutrition component of the support is implemented in collaboration with NGOs partners, experts from the Ministry of Public Health and a large network of community health workers, with financial support from UNICEF.
- The COVID-19 pandemic situation in Mali is of concern especially in central and northern regions lacking adequate medical infrastructure. As of 31 July, the government daily situation report indicated 2,521 positives cases in the country including 1,927 recoveries and 75 deaths.
- 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 in the form of cash (except for Kidal region) will continue in August. In addition, WFP and the Ministry of Education have developed the national strategy of school feeding in the context of COVID-19. It was officially circulated by the ministry on 29 July.

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Main photo

Credit: WFP/Virgo Edgar NGARBAROUM

Caption: School feeding programme in Mopti 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	146 m	33 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 and nutrition needs during and in the immediate aftermath of crisis.
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.
 - Provide take-home ration to households whose children are targeted by the above-mentioned activity and also prevention kits to the schools in order to respond to COVID-19

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 commo services that enable them to reach and operate in crisis-affected area throughout the year.
Focus area: Crisis Response

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

UNHAS

WFP Mali manages the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) which continues to support health and humanitarian staff and supplies across the country and the provision of medical evacuations. In July, five destinations were served and UNHAS services were used by 86 organizations. A total of 905 passengers and 3,730 kg of freight was transported.

Monitoring

WFP Mali completed three remote surveys in July, 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. 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. The third remote survey was related to interviewing FFA and nutrition beneficiaries. The data analysis for this survey is going on and the results and lessons learned will serve as complementary findings and reference for future interventions. The monitoring from Third party monitoring partners is going on WFP assistance; The majority of beneficiaries surveyed confirmed to have received food assistance from WFP through direct distribution. Beneficiaries say the quality of the food was good and the majority have heard of the free toll number.

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

In July, the toll-free number has received 524 calls. Cases of protection were reported, and beneficiaries received satisfactory feedback. A mission from Gao and Timbuktu was organized to follow the distributions of the seasonal assistance. Protection risks have been identified and measures have been taken so that distributions can be made according to the new WFP distribution guidelines and under the best conditions.

Donors

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Norway, Provide Donors, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Nations Peacebuilding Fund, United Kingdom, United States of America, World Bank.