



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Mali Country Brief August 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 population displacement and vulnerability of conflict-affected communities.

Every year since 2012, 3.6 million people (18 percent of the population) on average, experience food insecurity including 600,000 people severely affected. 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 currently focuses on emergency response, resilience building and strengthening of national capacities. WFP has been present in Mali since 1964.



In Numbers

2,316,227 mt of food assistance distributed

3,119,474 m cash-based transfers made

USD 26 m six months (September 2020-February 2021) net funding requirements

951,352 people assisted
in August 2020

Operational Updates

- The lean season and conflict related response continued over the month of August, with 916,000 vulnerable people reached, including 156,000 internally displaced persons. Furthermore, following important flooding in Mali, WFP started emergency food assistance targeting 34,000 flood-affected people in Gao, Koulikoro and Menaka regions. Projections from the national contingency plan indicate that 139,000 people in the country could be affected by flooding this year.
- The nutrition emergency response also continued in August in partnership with UNICEF, targeting 115,000 children aged 6-59 months and 18,385 pregnant and lactating women in Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao and Menaka region. Social behaviour change activities also continued in August promoting health and nutrition practices in targeted communities. Preparatory work for the setup of fortified blended flour has started in August and will be finalized by the end of the year.
- Since June 2020, WFP is supporting 142,000 people to create productive assets such as land rehabilitation, feeder roads, water pond, erosion control, tree-planting, construction of agricultural infrastructure, borehole, rehabilitation of irrigation schemes for paddy rice. While these activities require gathering of people, appropriate measures were taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 including the split of workers into small groups, the provision of face masks and handwashing kits and the respect of physical distancing on project sites. WFP also launched in August a food assistance for asset project involving the production of home-made face masks and soap to support COVID-19 prevention efforts while improving vulnerable families' livelihoods. Participants are mainly women whose livelihoods have been disrupted by COVID-19.
- WFP Mali continues to provide logistics support to the Government including storage, transport, dispatches and inventory of health equipment and materials destined for COVID-19 response.
- In order to ensure continued assistance to vulnerable population during the lean season, WFP prepositioned 6,000 mt of food in Mopti, Gao and Timbuktu. The operation had experienced two major challenges including insecurity and poor road conditions caused by the rain.

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Main photo

Credit: WFP/Youssouf Amadou Cisse

Caption: Distribution of livestock to vulnerable families in Timbuktu 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 | 147 m | 26 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 areas 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 an coordination services, as well as other preparedness interventions in the absence of alternatives, in order to support effective and efficient humanitarian response.
- Provision of Humanitarian Air Service in Support of DG-ECHO Funded Proje
- Provide on demand engineering services 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 August, five destinations were served and UNHAS services were used by 86 organizations. A total of 776 passengers and 6,742 kg of freight was transported. UNHAS is also managing a fleet of two ECHO-flight aircraft based in Mopti and serving six destinations across the country. Through ECHO-flight, 52 passengers and 25 kg of light cargo were transported for 13 organizations in August.

Monitoring

In August, WFP, through Third Party Monitoring, reached in northern and central regions of Mali, 312 households with in-person surveys and 417 households through the call centre. Price increases in cereals (rice) were reported in Segou and Menaka due to flooding that prevented traders from accessing markets.

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

In August, the toll-free number has received 819 calls that is a 19 percent increase compared to July 2020, amounting to a total of 3,594 calls received between January and August 2020. Most of the calls come from WFP beneficiaries and are related to food distribution calendar, beneficiary targeting/selection criteria, food quality and preferences for distribution modality (cash versus in-kind).

In partnership with community radios in Timbuktu and Gao regions, WFP continues to engage with local communities including WFP beneficiaries through radio programmes relating seasonal food assistance, blanket feeding and resilience building.

Donors

Donors to Mali in 2020 include Canada, Denmark, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, the Government of Mali, Monaco, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UN CERF, UNICEF, the UN Peacebuilding Fund and the Private Sector.