



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Mali Country Brief September 2020



## Operational Context

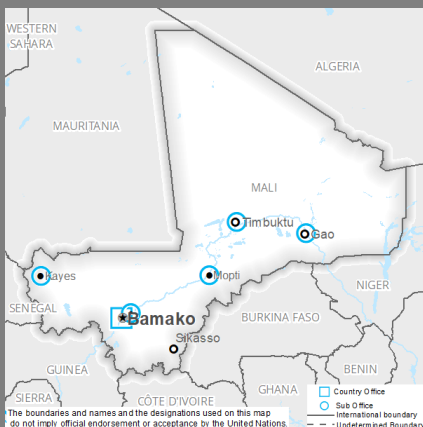
Mali is a vast land-locked country in the heart of the Sahel region. Social indicators remain among the lowest in the world, and the country ranks 184 out of 189 on UNDP's 2018 Human Development Index. Agriculture, livestock and fisheries account for about one-third of Mali's gross domestic product (GDP) 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 and central 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 hampering humanitarian access and leading to increased population displacement and vulnerability of conflict-affected communities.

In August 2020, the Government was overthrown by a military coup. A civilian government has been appointed for an 18-month transition period to prepare for new elections by April 2022.

With the COVID-19 outbreak declared in Mali on 25 March, WFP stepped up to support the Government in monitoring COVID-19 impact on food security, providing food and nutrition assistance as well as expanding safety nets to cover populations increasingly affected by the socio-economic impact of the health crisis. WFP also provided logistics response through transport and storage of medical equipment.

WFP's operation in Mali currently focuses on emergency response, resilience building and strengthening of national capacities. The 2020 Nobel Prize laureate has been present in Mali since 1964.



## In Numbers

**4,927 mt** of food assistance distributed

**4.5 m** cash transferred

**USD 24 m** six months (October 2020-March 2021) net funding requirements

**1,198,811 people assisted** in September 2020

## Operational Updates

- WFP is scaling up its emergency response to flooding to cover the needs of 34,000 flood-affected people in Mali. Food and cash assistance to flood victims has started in Gao, Koulikoro, Mopti, Segou and Sikasso.
- Since June 2020, WFP is supporting 142,000 people to create productive assets such as land rehabilitation, feeder roads, water ponds, erosion control systems, tree-planting, construction of agricultural infrastructure, boreholes, rehabilitation of irrigation schemes for paddy rice. While these activities require people to congregate, appropriate measures were taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 including dividing workers into smaller groups, providing face masks and handwashing kits as well as maintaining physical distancing on project sites.
- In Koulikoro region, WFP in collaboration with its partner G-Force, distributed 9,500 bars of soap and 3,828 masks to food assistance for assets participants to prevent COVID-19 transmission and encourage community work at the project sites.
- Food assistance for the treatment of moderate acute malnutrition is ongoing in targeted health centres in Gao, Mopti, Segou and Timbuktu regions. Support to caretakers is also ongoing along with cooking demonstrations and community sensitization on best feeding practices.
- The second round of the National Food Security and Nutrition Survey (ENSAN) started on 16 September 2020 with the training of interviewers and enumerators. Data collection is ongoing in the field and preliminary results are expected in early November 2020. WFP is providing technical and financial support to this survey.

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

**Country Director:** Sally Haydock

Further information: [www.wfp.org/countries/mali](http://www.wfp.org/countries/mali)

**Main photo**

Credit: WFP/ Djaounsede Madjiangar

Caption: a group of women participate in a soap production session.

**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 Service 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.
- Provision of Humanitarian Air Service in Support of DG-ECHO Funded Projects
- Provide on demand engineering services in order to support effective and efficient humanitarian response.

**Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)**

2020 Total Requirement (in USD)	2020 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
183 m	158 m	24 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.

**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)

**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 personnel and supplies and the provision of medical evacuations. In September 2020, 7,922 kg of freight and 1,054 passengers from 91 organizations were transported to five destinations within the country.

UNHAS is also managing a fleet of two ECHO-flight aircraft based in Mopti and serving six destinations across the country. Through ECHO-flight, 50 passengers and 3,843 kg of light cargo were transported for 10 organizations in September 2020.

**Monitoring**

A remote survey conducted in September on cash-based transfers to people living with HIV/AIDS in Bamako district revealed that most of the beneficiaries use their cash for nutritious food items with more than half of the respondents saying they had participated in nutritional counselling sessions in order to improve their dietary intake and nutritional practices. Most of the respondents also said they were satisfied with the distribution process and thanked WFP for its helpful assistance.

**Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations**

In September 2020, the toll-free number received 1,013 calls most of which come from WFP beneficiaries and were related to food distribution dates, beneficiary targeting/selection criteria, food quality and preferences for distribution modality (cash versus in-kind). Adequate feedback has been provided through appropriate channels.

WFP also continues to use its food distribution sites to sensitize communities on COVID-19 preventive measures including handwashing, physical distancing and use of facemasks.

**Donors**

Donors to Mali in 2020 include Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, the Government of Mali, Monaco, Norway, Private Sector, Sweden, Switzerland, , UK and USA. Additional support has been provided by UN CERF, UNICEF, and the UN Peacebuilding Fund.