



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES

# WFP Mali

## Country Brief

April 2021



### 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 2020 Human Development Index ranking. 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 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.

Every year since 2012, 3.6 million people on average (18 percent of the population) experience food insecurity in Mali, due to the combined effects of conflict, forced population displacements, and climate change.

With the COVID-19 outbreak declared in Mali on 25 March 2020, 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 socioeconomic impact of the health crisis. WFP also provides a logistics response through transport and storage of medical equipment.

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



## In Numbers

**150 mt** of food assistance distributed

**USD 5.7 m** cash-based transfers made

**USD 87.4** six months (May-October 2021) net funding requirements

**538,592 people assisted** in April 2021

### Operational Updates

- WFP's emergency food assistance through cash-based transfers for April and May 2021 is ongoing, targeting 287,000 internally displaced persons and their host families in northern and central regions of Mali.
- In preparation for the pastoral lean season assistance planned in June 2021, WFP has trained partners on operational organisation of cash-based transfers (CBT). Registration of beneficiaries is ongoing in the field with government technical services, non-governmental organization partners and representatives of local communities.
- In Kayes region, in April, WFP began distributions of SIM cards to beneficiaries for the provision of cash transfers through mobile money. The CBT operation is due to begin in early June 2021, targeting 41,000 men, women and children hardest hit by the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19.
- Overall in Mali, WFP's school feeding programme targets 114,000 schoolchildren in 656 schools in areas hardest hit by food and nutrition insecurity. On 26 April, WFP and UNICEF facilitated a field visit in Kodian (Koulikoro region) for the European Union's Ambassador in Mali. Activities visited included school meals, school gardens and a fish farming pool. During the visit, students' parents and local authorities expressed satisfaction for the school meals programme and requested its expansion to additional schools in the area.

### United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)

- In April, UNHAS services were used by 89 organizations with 990 passengers and 2,881 kg of freight transported to five destinations (Bamako, Gao, Menaka, Tombouctou, Mopti) within the country.
- Through ECHO-flight, 138 passengers and 816 kg of light cargo were transported for 20 organizations in April 2021 UNHAS will facilitate an interagency mission planned by OCHA to Tombouctou from 19 to 21 May 2021.

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Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/mali>

**Main Photo:** [Caption:](#) Distribution of SIM cards to food insecure families in Sandaré (Nioro of Sahel region).

**Credit:** WFP/Benoit Lognone.

## Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2021 Total Requirement (in USD)	2021 Allocated Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)**
119 m	49.6 m	87.4 m

\*As of 3 May 2021. \*\*As of 16 April 2021

## 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 crisis.

**Focus area:** Crisis Response

**Activities:**

- Provide an integrated food assistance package to vulnerable people 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 people 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 girls' enrolment.
- Provide safety nets to vulnerable populations in targeted areas, particularly women, in line with an adaptive social protection approach.

## 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 Service (UNHAS) 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.

## Monitoring

In April, 1,602 survey responses were collected from 325 sites, including 122 community health centres, 124 schools, and 44 markets. Performance reviews of monitoring during the first trimester, with third party monitors and field offices, saw an improvement (by 16 percent in average) in coverage by all parties in April 2021.

## Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

Over the first three months of 2021, WFP along with its partners reached 77,700 people with key information on emergency food assistance in northern and central regions of Mali. This included 5,000 people reached through community radios and 64,228 people directly reached through interpersonal communication activities conducted on food distribution sites.

A total of 1,212 phone calls were received through the Community Feedback Mechanism between January and March 2021. Of these calls, 272 were related to queries about food assistance plans. WFP provided relevant feedback and adequate follow up actions in response to these calls.

## Funding

USD 87.4 million is urgent needed for the next six months (May-October 2021) to ensure timely and adequate emergency response while simultaneously safeguarding the investments in resilience building during and after the lean season period (June-September 2021).

## Donors

The top five donors to Mali Country Strategic Plan 2020-2024 include Germany, USA, European Commission, Canada and the UK. Additional support has been provided by UN CERF, MINUSMA, UNICEF, the UN Peacebuilding Fund and the World Bank.

Mali's 2020 Annual Country Report available [here](#).