**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. At the end of September, 15,219 people were affected by COVID-19, with 548 recorded deaths.

WFP’s operation in Mali focuses on emergency response, resilience building, and strengthening of national capacities. WFP has been present in Mali since 1964.

**In Numbers**

- **1,341 mt** of food assistance distributed in September
- **USD 2.7 m** cash-based transfers made in September
- **USD 13 m** six months (October 2021–March 2022)
- **855,772 people** assisted in September 2021
  - *52% women and 48% men reached in September.

**Operational Updates**

- According to the Cadre Harmonisé food security analysis report issued in March 2021, 1.3 million people are estimated to be food insecure during the June-August lean season when food stocks are lower, as families await a new harvest.
- At the end of the September lean season distribution cycle, more than 500,000 beneficiaries were assisted, and around 340,000 IDPs in the central and northern regions of the country, of which 52 percent women and 48 percent men.
- In Mali, WFP positioned itself as a technical and financial advisor for the preparatory work of the national Malian food systems summit on areas such as: nutrition-sensitive value chains, climate-risk insurance, innovative technologies, women and youth empowerment via investments in semi-and industrial food production and transformation units. Together with FAO and UNICEF, WFP will be contributing to the policy dialogue around the review of the “Zero Hunger Strategic Review (2018)” to examine concrete steps taken to strengthen food systems at national level.
- In Mali, the new school year that was scheduled to start on 18 October 2021 has been postponed to 1 November 2021, reportedly due to the fact that hundreds of classrooms are under renovations and could not be finished as per the initial schedule.

**UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)**

- In September 2021, UNHAS services were used by 88 organizations with 1,322 passengers and 4,5 mt of freight transported to five destinations within the country including Bamako, Gao, Ménaka, Mopti and Timbuktu. Through ECHO-flight, 215 passengers and 3.2 mt of light cargo were transported. Special flights: one to Mopti for UNFPA. The second UNHAS user group meeting was held with participation of the Deputy Humanitarian Coordinator and multiple Head of Agencies.

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Main Photo caption: Women of the MISOLA association in Mopti.
Credit: WFP/Mahamadou Abdourhamane
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2021 Total Requirement (USD)*</th>
<th>2021 Available Contributions (USD)*</th>
<th>Six Month Net Funding Requirements (USD)**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>225 m</td>
<td>179.7 m</td>
<td>13 m</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*As of Oct 2021. **As of 17 Sept 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 nutritional 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 approach.

Strategic Result 4: Focus on livelihoods for smallholder farmers (particularly women-led groups), have more resilient livelihoods for improved food security and nutrition throughout the year.

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.

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) flights 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.
- Provide an integrated food assistance package to vulnerable populations in targeted areas.
- Provide on demand engineering services in order to support effective and efficient humanitarian response.

Monitoring

In September 2021, data was collected from 278 sites in over 108 communes in the regions of Gao, Ménaka, Mopti, Segou and Timbuktu, including community health centres, voucher distribution sites and markets across the intervention areas. The PDM outcome survey on crisis response activities ended on 1 October 2021 and 99 percent of samples were completed. Preliminary results show that of the 2,868 beneficiary households interviewed, over 95 percent reported good satisfaction with the food assistance provided by WFP and its partners, particularly in regard to the type of assistance received.

Protection and Accountability to Affected Populations

In September, WFP sensitized staff and partners on the use of the complaint and feedback mechanism in Mopti, Gao, Timbuktu, Kayes, Koulkoro and Bamako. A training workshop on the centrality of protection in Kayes was conducted, targeting cooperating partners and WFP staff. Technical support was provided for the training of TPM agents on protection and accountability.

Funding

Critical lack of resources is expected from October 2021, affecting 414,210 beneficiaries including 127,000 IDPs and 137,280 COVID-19-affected people. WFP urgently needs USD 13 million for the next six months (October 2021 – March 2022) to ensure timely and adequate emergency response. WFP Mali is working on a budget revision to align the remainder of the Country Strategic Plan’s budget with increasing needs in Mali.

Donors

The top donors to Mali Country Strategic Plan 2020-2024 include Canada, Denmark, European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Mali, Monaco, Norway, Rep. of Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and USA. Additional support was provided by Private Donors, World Bank, MINUSMA, UN CERF and other UN agencies.

Mal’s 2020 Annual Country Report available [here](#).