WFP MALI
Country Brief
January 2022

Operational Context
Mali is a vast land-locked country in the heart of the Sahel region. 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. 6.3 million people are projected to need humanitarian assistance in 2022, according to the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

According to the results of the latest Cadre Harmonisé of November 2021, 1.8 million people are projected to be acutely food insecure (phase 3 or worse) during the 2022 lean season. A further 4.4 million are in ‘stress’ (phase 2) and risk becoming severely food insecure if no assistance is provided. Acute malnutrition levels in four regions (Menaka, Koro, Nioro and Diéma) are critical, and most of the country is facing serious levels of malnutrition according to the IPC classification.

WFP has been present in Mali since 1964. Operations focus on emergency response, resilience building, and strengthening of national capacities. With the COVID-19 outbreak, WFP has also stepped up to support the Government in monitoring COVID-19 impact on food security, providing food and nutrition assistance, expanding safety nets to cover populations increasingly affected by the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic, and providing logistical support. As of mid-January, a total of 26,012 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 675 deaths were registered in Mali.

In Numbers
- 677 mt of food assistance distributed
- USD 2.9 m cash-based transfers made
- USD 54 m six-month (February-July 2022) net funding requirements
- 138,453 people assisted

Operational Updates
- In January 2022, WFP reached 138,453 people, of whom 67,206 received emergency food assistance, 24,560 were assisted with prevention and treatment activities for acute malnutrition, and 46,687 were children receiving school meals.
- From March to May 2022 (pre-lean season), WFP plans to provide emergency food assistance to 600,000 beneficiaries, including internally displaced persons (IDPs) and vulnerable communities, such as those hosting a large number of IDPs. WFP will provide six months of full ration to IDPs and 3 months of half ration to households in host communities to reduce pressure on already limited local resources and strengthen social cohesion. WFP emergency assistance will be provided in the form of e-vouchers that can be redeemed for food on the local market, cash transfers (including mobile money) or in-kind distribution of food.
- At the peak of the lean season (June-August 2022), and in coordination with Government’s efforts, WFP will target 1.2 million people under its emergency food and nutritional assistance. Emergency food assistance will be coupled with nutrition activities targeting 250,000 children aged 6-23 months as well as pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWGs), to prevent the further deterioration of their nutritional status during the lean season. At the same time, children and PWLGs suffering from moderate acute malnutrition will benefit from treatment programmes.
- In 2022, the caseload for WFP’s unconditional and shock-responsive social safety nets will be 375,000 people, starting from the agricultural lean season, as part of WFP’s contribution to the Government’s national plan. WFP also supports vulnerable communities by providing an integrated resilience package, in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, in 20 convergence communes mostly across the northern and central regions of the country.

UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS)
- The deterioration of the security situation across central Mali has suppressed secure transportation by road. A helicopter arrived in Mali to enable humanitarians to access strategic locations in central areas of the country as of January 2022.
- In 2021, UNHAS transported 14,462 passengers to five regular and five on-demand destinations, and 52 metric tons of cargo. Moreover, the service enabled 138 partner and donor organizations to implement and monitor projects in the most inaccessible and affected regions of the country.
WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Result</th>
<th>2022 Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>2022 Available Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food (SDG Target 2.1)</td>
<td>257.4 m</td>
<td>133.8 m*</td>
<td>54 m</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Including USD 23.3 m from allocated contributions and USD 110.9 m from balances carried forward from 2021 (as of 19 Jan 2022)

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: Food-insecure populations, including school-age girls and boys, in targeted areas have access to adequate and nutritious food all year round.

**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 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 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 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 5: 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.
- Provide on demand engineering services in order to support effective and efficient humanitarian response.
- Provision of humanitarian air service in support of DG- ECHO funded projects.

Monitoring

- Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) was conducted regularly throughout the year to measure the beneficiaries' perception of WFP's assistance. Results of two PDMs conducted in 2021 showed that 97 percent of 2,868 households surveyed were satisfied with the quality of food assistance provided by WFP and its partners.

Challenges

- Tensions are mounting as the military Government of Mali resists pressure from the international community to establish a shorter timeline for the restoration of civilian rule in the country. The Government presented a new timeline to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) which extended the transition period to four years before elections can be held. ECOWAS rejected the timeline and imposed financial and economic sanctions on the country, and closed Mali's borders.
- It is anticipated that the sanctions regime, if it is to continue, will have an adverse impact on the economy, livelihoods, and the food and nutrition security. At the same time, the restrictions on financial transfers and trade are likely to impact the ability of humanitarian actors, including WFP, to distribute cash and purchase commodities either locally or regionally. WFP has developed a contingency plan should sanctions remain in place and have an impact on food security and operations.
- Funding shortfalls for crisis response activities over the next 6 months (February - July) are estimated at USD 64.6 million, representing 67% of the total requirements. Critical pipeline breaks are expected starting from February (Activity 2) and April (Activity 1), which could impact WFP's ability to deliver emergency food and nutrition assistance to 401,000 people, including 370,000 IDPs and vulnerable members of the host communities, 11,000 PLWG and 20,000 children under 5.

Donors

Donors to WFP Mali in 2022 include the European Commission, Germany, Canada, and the United Kingdom, Denmark and Switzerland. Additional support has been provided by the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).