



World Food Programme

SAVING
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WFP MALI

Country Brief

February 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 (Ménaka, Koro, Niolo 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.



Population: **20.9 million**

2020 Human Development Index ranking: **184 out of 189**

Income level: **low income**

Chronic malnutrition: **26 percent of children aged 6-59**

In Numbers

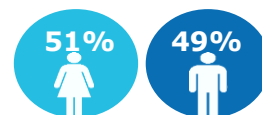
92 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 1.8 m cash-based transfers made

USD 81 m six-month (March-August 2022) net funding requirements

231,200 people* assisted in February

*preliminary figures



Operational Updates

- In February 2022, WFP reached 231,235 people, of whom 95,800 received emergency food assistance, 52,300 were assisted with prevention and treatment activities for acute malnutrition, and 118,000 were children receiving school meals.
- In 2022, WFP plans to cover the immediate food security needs of 2,385,000 vulnerable people, and provide emergency nutritional assistance to 250,000 people to prevent acute malnutrition, targeting children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG).
- Under WFP's crisis response, activity 1, 270,000 vulnerable internally displaced persons (IDPs) will be assisted for nine months (with six months of full rations, which will be reduced by 50 percent from the seventh to the ninth month), while 90,000 members of the host communities will receive three months of half rations. During the pastoral (March-May) and agricultural (June-August) lean seasons. WFP will also assist vulnerable pastoral and agricultural households for three and four months respectively to complement the Government's distributions.
- In 2022, 375,000 persons will be supported through WFP's unconditional and shock-responsive social safety nets, starting from the agricultural lean season, contributing 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. UNHAS envisaged to add a helicopter to its fleet in Mali to facilitate humanitarian organizations' access to strategic locations in central areas of Mali as of January 2022. However, due to challenges with flight authorizations and low demand, the UNHAS steering committee in Mali terminated the helicopter service.
- Following this decision, the UNHAS budget was adjusted to USD 11.6 million for 2022 (from USD 16.9 million). Based on the current resourcing level, UNHAS operations in Mali are funded until 9 July 2022.

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Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

2022 Total Requirements (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
102.7m	155.4 m*	81 m

* Including USD 44.6 m from allocated contributions and USD 110.9 m from balances carried forward from 2021 (as of 3 March 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 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 4: 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 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) 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 on demand engineering services in order to support effective and efficient humanitarian response.
- Provision of humanitarian air service in support of DG-EC funded projects.

Monitoring

- Post-distribution monitoring (PDM) was conducted regularly throughout 2021 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

- During the Extraordinary Summit of 3 February 2022, ECOWAS member states agreed to maintain the following sanctions: closure of land and air borders between ECOWAS countries and Mali; suspension of all trade transactions, with exceptions for pharmaceuticals, medical supplies, petroleum, electricity; freezing of the Republic of Mali's assets in ECOWAS central and commercial banks; suspension of Mali from all financial assistance from ECOWAS financial institutions. On 4 February, the EU Council decided to impose restrictive measures (travel ban and assets freeze) on the Malian Transition Government (MTG). On 9 February, the MTG announced the establishment of a dialogue group at the ministerial level for consultation with ECOWAS, the African Union, and the international community, to work on a new timeline for the country's transition to constitutional order.
- Given the exception granted to necessary items (e.g. food, medicines and health equipment, fuel, electricity), it cannot be determined if the border closure will have a significant impact on food security. An increase in prices is being observed for local staple foods, impacting vulnerable households' access to food. The risk of food inflation is aggravated by the sanctions.
- With a six-month net funding requirement of USD 81 million (March-August 2022), WFP faces serious funding shortfalls across its various activities in Mali, especially crisis response. Critical pipeline breaks are expected to start from February (activity 2) and April (activity 1), which would 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 aged 6-59 months.

Donors to WFP Mali in 2022 include the European Commission, Germany, Canada, USA, Japan, Luxembourg, Sweden, the United Kingdom, Denmark, and Switzerland. Additional support was given by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).