WFP Mali
Country Brief
March 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, Nioulo 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 March 24th, 2022, a total of 30,466 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 727 deaths were registered in Mali.

In Numbers
92 mt of food assistance distributed
USD 1.2 m cash-based transfers made
USD 105 m six-month (April-September 2022) net funding requirements
227,968 people assisted in March

Operational Updates
• In 2022, WFP plans to cover the immediate food security needs of 2,385,000 vulnerable people and provide an emergency nutritional response to prevent acute malnutrition to over 250,000 people, notably children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls (PLWG). Under activity 1, about 270,000 vulnerable internally displaced persons 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.

• In March 2022, WFP’s assistance reached 227,968 people, of whom 96,138 benefited from emergency food assistance, 17,431 were assisted with prevention and treatment activities for acute malnutrition, while 114,339 children received school meals.

• 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 Government’s distributions. WFP plans to assist 1.2 million people during the lean season from June to September in complement to the Government and other partners’ responses.

• In 2022, WFP’s unconditional and shock-responsive social safety nets will target 375,000 persons, starting from the agricultural lean season, as part of WFP’s contribution to the Government’s national plan. In collaboration with other United Nations agencies, WFP also supports vulnerable communities by providing an integrated resilience package in 20 convergence communes, mostly across the northern and central regions of the country.

• In March, WFP Mali received USD 7.1 million climate risk insurance payout from the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Replica, which will help support 204,000 people in drought-stricken areas such as Bandiagara, Gao, Kayes, and Segou. A portion of this payout helps provide emergency food assistance to 101,000 drought-affected people in the north and centre regions during WFP’s response to the pre-lean season from March to May 2022. Moreover, 23,000 additional people will benefit from activities to build community assets such as pastoral wells, water towers, and fishponds, which will help diversify their production and livelihoods and mitigate the impact of future rainfall deficits. WFP and the Government’s response plans have been jointly prepared and will be implemented in a coordinated manner to achieve significant results.

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Photo credit: WFP/Myrline Sanogo-Mathieu
Caption: Schoolchildren washing their hands before having school meals in Mali
Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2022 Total Requirements (in USD)</th>
<th>2022 Available Contributions (in USD)</th>
<th>Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>102.7m</td>
<td>155.4 m*</td>
<td>105 m</td>
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* 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 integrated food assistance package to vulnerable people affected by crises 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 nutrition package, including both preventative and treatment elements, to vulnerable people affected by crisis based on a needs assessment.

### Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition (SDG Target 2.2)

#### 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 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 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes (SDG Target 2.3)

#### Strategic Outcome 3: Smallholder productivity and incomes (SDG Target 2.3)

**Focus area: Resilience Building**

**Activities:**
- Support national nutrition programme to ensure provision of preventative and curative nutrition services (including SBCC, local food fortification, complementary feeding and capacity strengthening) to targeted populations.

### Strategic Result 4: Countries strengthened capacities (SDG Target 17.9)

#### Strategic Outcome 4: 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 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: 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 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 United Nations Humanitarian 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.

#### School feeding:
In March 2022, on-site hot meals were distributed to 114,399 school children (48 percent girls) in 625 schools. About 83 schools remained shut because of insecurity and they closed at some point during the quarter. As part of a national capacity strengthening exercise, 21 partners (Centre d'Animation Pédagogique and newly integrated school canteen committee members) operating in Timbuktu benefitted from a training on school monitoring and management tools.

#### 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. However, due to subsequent challenges with flight authorizations and low demand, the helicopter was officially terminated on 21 March 2022, after an ad hoc Steering Committee meeting.
- UNHAS budget has been adjusted to USD 11.6 million for 2022 (vs USD 16.9 million) after this decision. Based on funds received, the UNHAS sustainability date is September 2022.
- In March 2022, UNHAS services were used by 93 organizations, with 1,341 passengers and 4,341 kgs of freight transported to six destinations within the country, including Bamako, Gao, Menaka, Mopti and Timbuktu and Douenza.

#### Challenges
- **Continued sanctions**: Mali continues to face sanctions from the ECOWAS imposed since January 2022. However, given the exception granted to essential items (food, medicines, health equipment, fuel, electricity), it is not clear 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 accentuated by the sanctions. Should the sanctions not be lifted in the coming weeks, a liquidity crunch is to be expected.
- **Funding shortfalls**: WFP’s six-month net funding requirements amount to USD 105 million. Funding is urgently required to provide 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 6-59 during the pre-lean season from April to May 2022.

Donors to WFP Mali in 2022 include the European Commission, Germany, Canada, Denmark, France, Spain, Monaco, Switzerland, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom. Additional support is provided by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF).