



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Mali Country Brief November 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. The economic sanctions placed on the Government of Mali by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the impact of the Ukraine crisis, caused regional inflation, surge in food and fuel prices, and lowered the economic prospects for 2022. This led to an increase in the number of people needing humanitarian assistance — from 5.9 million in 2021 to 7.5 million in 2022. 9 million people are projected to need humanitarian assistance in 2023, according to initial estimations from the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP).

According to the results of the latest Cadre Harmonisé of November 2022, 1.2 million people are projected to be acutely food insecure (phase 3 or higher) during the 2023 lean season. A further 4 million, 18 percent of the population, are in 'stress' (phase 2) and risk becoming severely food insecure if no assistance is provided. Acute malnutrition levels in four regions (Menaka, Koro, Niéro 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. WFP deploys its food assistance tools to directly assist the affected population and to strengthen the capacity of the government to address food and nutrition insecurity.

Income level: **low income**

2021 Human Development Index ranking: **186 out of 191**

Population: **20.9 million**

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



In Numbers

530 mt of food assistance distributed

USD 3.1 million cash-based transfers distributed

USD 80.5 million six-month (January – June 2023) net funding requirements, representing 47 percent of total

406 000 people assisted in November 2022

Operational Updates

Emergency Preparedness Response:

Across 17 countries analysed in the region, in October - December 2022, **600,000 people were food insecure (CH/IPC Phase 3-5) in Mali**. During the 2023 lean season (**June-September**), the number of food-insecure people is projected to increase to **1.2 million people**. In conflict-affected areas of northern Mali (Menaka cercle), a deterioration of the situation is observed, with 1,600 people estimated to suffer famine (catastrophe-Phase 5) in the projected periods.

Acute Malnutrition Situation

According to the Mali IPC Acute Malnutrition (AMN) analysis of October 2022, 1.5 million children aged 6-23 months are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition from June 2022 – May 2023 (19 percent higher than expected), including 367,000 cases of severe acute malnutrition (16 percent higher compared to 2021) and 1.1 million cases of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM). In the projected phase (November 2022 – May 2023), 33 circles will require urgent and joint actions, including 1 circle in IPC Phase 4 (Critical) and 32 in IPC Phase 3 (Serious).

Food assistance to crisis-affected people:

In November, WFP assisted nearly 96,900 people (47,500 men and 49,400 women) in the regions of Kayes, Gao, Menaka, Ségou, Mopti and Timbuktu, mainly through distributions via SCOPE, e-voucher and Mobile Money.

Nutrition:

In November 2022, through the prevention of stunting program, WFP assisted over 19,200 children aged 6-23 months and 30,600 pregnant and lactating women (PLW). Regarding nutritional assistance, 40,500 children aged 6-59 months and 14,100 pregnant women and lactating women (PLW) received the MAM treatment with a cure rate of 95 percent and a non-response rate of 4.5 percent. For the blanket supplementary feeding program, WFP assisted 18,000 children aged 6-23 months and 18,400 PLW.

Community Feedback Mechanism:

As part of the Community Feedback Mechanism (CFM), the WFP call center in Mali handled 501 calls. Positive feedback and information requests made up 50 and 28 percent of the calls respectively. Eighty percent of the calls are from WFP-assisted beneficiaries. In terms of gender, 64 percent of callers are men, while only 36 percent are women.

School Feeding:

The 2022-2023 school year started on 3 October and more than 79,700 children had been assisted in November 2022.

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Main photo

Credit: WFP/Arlette Bashizi

Caption: Djelika, 18 months old is consulted by a nurse at the community health center in Niéro (Sahel).

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

Total Requirement (in USD)	Allocated and Forecast Contributions (in USD)	Six Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
USD 171.8 million	USD 91.2 million	USD 80.5 million

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

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)

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:

- 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

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.

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 Outcome 5 (Resilience) - Country Capacity Strengthening:

In November, at the end of the farming season, the monitoring of the African Risk View (ARV) indicates that WFP is likely to receive a payout of USD 8 million to provide assistance to communities affected by climate shocks. This corresponds to about 2 million people affected by drought during the farming season 2022/2023.

Strategic Outcome 6 - (Crisis Response) Common services: UNHAS - In November 2022

UNHAS Mali served six destinations, and 105 organizations used UNHAS services. A total of 1,669 passengers and 13.5 mt of freight were transported.

Challenges
Humanitarian Access:

Some events in November 2022 risk exacerbating the conditions in the country. The two most significant are the suspension of public development aid by France to Mali and the subsequent ban by the Transitional Government of all activities carried out by NGOs funded or receiving material/technical support from France, including humanitarian actors. Furthermore, trade unions and civil society organizations in Mali called for a 48-hour civil disobedience throughout the Gao region from 8 November, to denounce insecurity and urge government intervention. Public, private services as well as operations by NGOs and UN agencies were suspended; and schools were closed. Roads to the rural commune of Ansongo were blocked. Clashes involving militants were reported on 29 October in three locations of Ménaka region (Andéramboukane, Inchnane, and Tamalate). Following the latest clashes, dozens of people were killed, and residents started fleeing towards Gao, fearing infiltration by militants and criminals. This resulted in increased crime rates in Gao town, prompting the Malian Armed Forces (FAMA) to launch a large-scale operation to secure the town. Reports suggest that since the intensification of Islamic State Sahel Province (IS-S) operations in March, some 900 people have been killed in Ménaka and Gao regions.

Funding gap: WFP Mali continues to be underfunded for its crisis response component. Only over 40 percent of the next six-month requirements are funded. WFP Mali requires urgent funding for its emergency operations to avoid ration cuts starting from early 2023.

Donors

Donors to WFP Mali in 2022 include Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Japan Luxembourg, Monaco, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom. Additional support was given by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Private donors.