



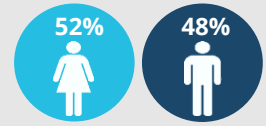
World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES  
CHANGING LIVES



## WFP Mali Country Brief December 2023

## In Numbers



822 144 people assisted

458 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 6.1 million cash-based transfers made

US\$ 84.4 million next six-month (January – June 2024) net funding requirements, representing 56% of the total gap

## Operational Context

Mali is a vast land-locked country in the heart of the Sahel region. While navigating a complex mix of political uncertainties and external pressures, Mali's economy in 2023 presented a contrasting picture of resilience and vulnerability due to a myriad of factors, including regional instability and the effects of the Ukraine crisis. Agriculture remains the backbone of the economy which employs 70 percent of the workforce while mining and services account for the rest of the country's formal gross domestic product.

Following coups in 2020 and 2021, a transitional government under the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) imposed timeframes to hold elections in March 2024. Despite some preparations towards the elections, armed conflict in the north and central regions has been inimical to security, the peace process, and the delivery of aid assistance. The transitional government ordered the accelerated withdrawal of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) by 31 December 2023, ending its decade-long mission and creating a vacuum of critical enabling services needed to continue humanitarian operations.

Mali's food insecurity situation is worrying, with over 715,000 people currently experiencing acute food shortages. This figure, based on the November 2023 Cadre Harmonisé analysis, is expected to rise significantly during the 2024 lean season. Projections indicate that nearly 1.4 million Malians, representing a 10 percent increase compared to 2023, will face acute food insecurity during the same period. The geographic spread of the crisis is also expanding. The number of areas classified as in the "crisis phase" (IPC-3) is predicted to increase from five in 2023 to 13 in 2024.

The 2024 Humanitarian Response Plan for Mali targets 3.9 million people in need with an associated financial requirement of USD 676.5 million.

WFP has been present in Mali since 1964. Operations focus on emergency response, resilience building, and strengthening of national capacities. WFP works with the government of Mali as well as cooperating partners to deliver assistance to the communities who need it the most.

## Operational Updates

According to the November 2023 Cadre Harmonisé figures, it appears that after months of food assistance and work with authorities in Menaka, there is no more population categorized as (IPC-5) in the region. However, the results highlighted a 13 percent increase in IPC-4 (emergency phase) populations, bringing the number of acutely food-insecure people to 715,410 and expanding the number of administrative units (*cercles*) from 5 to 13 thus necessitating continued assistance to ensure that populations do not slide back into IPC-5.

**Food assistance to crisis-affected people:** WFP assisted 421,325 people in the regions of Kayes, Sikasso, Segou, Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao, and Menaka through distributions via SCOPE (WFP's beneficiary information and transfer management platform), e-vouchers and Mobile Money.

**Nutrition:** Through its stunting prevention programme, WFP assisted 25,407 children under two years old, and 25,851 pregnant and breastfeeding women through cash and voucher assistance. WFP's nutrition-specific programming to treat Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) supported 8,936 children under 5 years old and 2,503 pregnant and breastfeeding women. Meanwhile, the blanket supplementary feeding programme reached another 19,217 children under 2 years old, and 3,996 pregnant and breastfeeding women.

**School Feeding:** During the third month of the first quarter of the 2023-2024 school year, WFP provided meals to 149,532 schoolchildren. In addition, WFP started the provision of monthly allowances amounting to CFA 25,000 or approximately USD 40.00 to the 99 cooks in the schools in recognition of their support.

**Climate Risk Financing:** Though the past months marked a below-expectation agricultural production, the Africa RiskView software, the technical engine of the African Risk Capacity (ARC) Agency, reported that the number of people affected by dry spell episodes did not meet the risk threshold, thus no insurance pay-out to implement early response activities in 2024 will be provided.

**Integrated resilience:** WFP reached 74,009 people through Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) to address immediate food needs through cash, voucher, or food transfers and, at the same time, promoted the building or rehabilitation of assets (vegetable gardens and micro dams to support irrigation systems) that will improve long-term food security and resilience.

**UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS):** In December 2023, UNHAS operated across 10 destinations and served 100 organisations (12 UN, 85 NGOs, and three donors). UNHAS transported a total of 1,276 passengers and 14 MT of freight.



2023 Human Development Index: **186 out of 191**

Population: **22 million**

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

Income Level: **Low income**

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**Photo Caption:** (Menaka, Mali) WFP supports families of children who are admitted to URENI (Intensive Nutritional Recovery Units) by distributing food vouchers while their children with severe acute malnutrition receive treatment at the centres, ensuring caretakers' food needs are also secured. WFP/Aboubacar Sidibe

# WFP Country Strategy



## Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
<b>1.3 billion</b>	<b>646 million</b>
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (January - June 2024)
<b>301.7 million</b>	<b>84.4 million</b>

### Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**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 a 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 populations.

**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 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 populations.

### Strategic Result 2: No one suffers from malnutrition

**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 the 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

**Strategic Outcome #4:** 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 to market, using integrated, gender, equitable and participatory

### Strategic Result 5: Countries strengthened capacities

**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 8: Global partnership support

**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.

#### Activities:

- Provide UNHAS services 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.
- Provide Humanitarian Air service in Support of DG-ECHO Funded Projects.

**Accountability to Affected Populations:** While receiving 424 calls in December 2023, the WFP hotline in Mali demonstrated its effectiveness as a platform for accountability and responsiveness. Most calls (97 percent) were promptly addressed, demonstrating WFP's commitment to communities. Analyzing the breakdown of calls, the 64 non-sensitive complaints and information requests offer insights into service delivery gaps, while the 312 positive comments highlight areas of success. The 44 assistance requests underscore ongoing needs, and the remaining 3 percent of unresolved cases are addressed.

## Challenges

**Humanitarian access:** December marked intensified fighting in conflict hotspot areas and an increased presence of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in the north and centre, causing further population displacements and civilian and humanitarian accessibility, respectively. In addition, armed group activities have hindered humanitarian access across the Mali-Burkina Faso border. The security situation is compounded by MINUSMA's complete withdrawal.

**Funding gap:** Mali will enter 2024 with a 72 percent funding gap (USD 53 million) in its crisis response component. WFP Mali requires urgent resources to continue its emergency operations and avoid further ration cuts as it prepares for the pre-lean season response.

## Donors

Donors to WFP Mali in 2023 include Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Additional support was given by the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and private donors.