



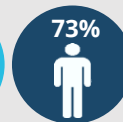
World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Mali Country Brief January 2024



In Numbers



198,502 people assisted

84 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.5 million cash-based transfers made

US\$ 103.1 million next six-month (February – July 2024) net funding requirements, representing 60 percent 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.

The UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) fully withdrew by 31 December 2023, ending its decade-long mission and creating a vacuum of critical enabling services needed to continue humanitarian operations. On 28 January 2024, a significant development unfolded: Mali, along with Burkina Faso and Niger, announced their withdrawal from ECOWAS, citing dissatisfaction with sanctions and perceived interference. The transitional government also announced an end to the 2015 Algiers Peace Accord on 25 January 2024. These unexpected developments further deepen uncertainties and pre-existing fragilities in the country.

Also worrying is Mali's food insecurity situation, 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 geographical spread of the crisis is also expanding. The number of areas classified 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 estimates that 7.1 million people in Mali will require assistance, 23 percent of them women and 54 percent children.

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.



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**

Operational Updates

- **WFP's programmatic priorities for January** were to provide emergency food and nutrition assistance to 429,000 persons during the pre-lean season (March to May), while also launching "School Connect" in 44 schools in Segou and Kayes. In the longer term, WFP plans to link 780 schools to this digital platform that allows real-time monitoring of school attendance, students' daily meal consumption, and food inventory.
- **Food assistance to crisis-affected persons:** WFP assisted 184,896 people in the Gao, Menaka, Tombouctou, Mopti, Segou, and Koulikoro regions through e-vouchers and Mobile Money.
- **Nutrition:** WFP completed planning assistance for 28,000 children aged 6-59 months and 6,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBW/G) for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) supplementation. At IDP sites in Gao, around 1,500 PBW/G received nutritional assistance. WFP assisted 20,172 individuals from 3,362 households in the Gao and Menaka regions by providing cash transfers as part of nutrition-sensitive livelihoods such as livestock raising and backyard gardening. In terms of activities linked to the nutrition-sensitive value chain, 21 artisanal infant flour production units received technical and financial support from WFP along with technical support in the production of fortified flour for infants to 21 women associations.
- **School Feeding:** WFP provided meals to 172,000 schoolchildren (48 percent girls). A total of US\$ 358,194 was transferred to school committees for food purchases. This period was particularly marked by insecurity which continued to impact implementation, about 151 schools remained closed, and thus 30,870 schoolchildren could not receive meals. In the Kidal region particularly, since the start of the school year, WFP could not deliver meals to 6,500 school children due to access constraints.
- **Resilience:** WFP is finalising its plans to guide its partnership with academic and research institutions such as the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), and the World Vegetable Centre. It has also consolidated its partnership footprint with local public research institutions such as the Institute of Rural Economy and the Rural Polytechnic Institute for Training and Applied Research; and continued the second round of internship programme with these institutes, partnering with master-level students who are conducting relevant research across different project sites on resilience as part of their dissertation.
- **UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS):** Insecurity negatively affected the operations of UNHAS flights this month. The military authorities cancelled eight flights to Menaka, while only four flights to Douentza were authorised. So far, 300 passengers have been affected while 4 mt of humanitarian cargo and 4 mt of critical medication have been put on hold for transportation.

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Photo Caption: (Center forward) Habi, 11, plays in his schoolyard. His school is one of many supported by WFP's school meals program, ensuring children have the energy to learn and play. WFP/Arlette Bashizi

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
1.3 billion	646 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (February - July 2024)
301.7 million	103.1 million

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 community approaches.

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:** Number of calls received decreased from 424 in December 2023 to 250 in January, likely due to the completion of major distribution operations. At least 196 calls were positive comments, 54 were requests for assistance, and 39 were non-sensitive complaints and information inquiries. Notably, 98 percent of these calls have been concluded, demonstrating efficient response and follow-up. In addition, the helpline witnessed a significant increase in female callers, rising from 33 percent in December to 43 percent in January. This positive shift suggests improved awareness and inclusivity among beneficiaries. Targeted awareness campaigns utilizing local languages, banners, and posters continue to bridge the gender gap in helpline usage. WFP is also taking part in the collective accountability approach led by OCHA to strengthen accountability and collaboration among agencies and NGOs. As part of its pre-lean season response, WFP started its capacity-building training sessions with cooperating partners that focus on gender, protection, PSEA, and accountability in Mopti, Ségou, and Koulikoro regions.

Challenges

- **Humanitarian access:** Active fighting persists in the north and central regions, and the rest of the security situation across Mali remains tense and volatile. Non-state armed groups continue to be active, carrying out attacks, intimidation, and forced displacement. This ongoing violence, along with criminal activity in the south, continues to impact civilians, while even UN personnel have faced security incidents in major cities like Bamako, Gao, and Timbuktu. The situation remains concerning, with no clear sign of immediate improvement.
- **Funding gap:** Mali entered 2024 with a 79 percent funding gap (USD 69.2 million) in its crisis response component, with a pipeline break in March. 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 2024 include Belgium, Canada, Denmark, the European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Monaco, Norway, the Russian Federation, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UN CERF, United Kingdom, USA, and private donors.