

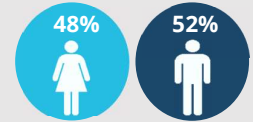


SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Mali Country Brief May-June 2024



In Numbers



513,584 people assisted

156 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2.8 million distributed in cash-based transfers

US\$ 111.4 million next six-month (July - Dec 2024) net funding requirements, representing 73 percent of the total gap

Operational Context

Mali is a vast land-locked country in the heart of the Sahel region. Mali's humanitarian situation remains dire due to a complex crisis characterised by armed conflict, political instability, inter-communal violence and the adverse impacts of the climate crisis. Mali is in the midst of a transitional period with no clear end in sight.

During May and June, WFP was immersed in pre-lean season response. Out of the approximately 715,000 people identified by the *Cadre Harmonisé* to be in IPC3+, WFP prioritized 429,000, based on available and forecasted resources. So far, it has assisted about 64 percent of those prioritized. Simultaneously, WFP is positioning itself to assist about 54 percent of the approximately 1.4 million people projected to be in IPC3+ during the lean season (July - September).

Humanitarian access continues to be a challenge, with blockades by non-state armed actors in Boni (Douentza), Mondoro (Hombori), Farabougou (Niono), Gourma de Diré (Tombouctou) and around Menaka, where populations need assistance. UNHAS operations have been impacted by critical fuel shortages.

Against this backdrop, Malian Government launched the National Response Plan for food and nutrition security in June which estimates that 7.1 million people in Mali will require assistance, 23 percent of them women and 54 percent children. The Government will be providing about US\$20 million worth of food and resilience assistance during the lean season. This represents around 3 percent of the US\$701.6 million needed for the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP). To date, only 7 percent of the HNRP is funded by the Government, compared to 20 percent in 2023.

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.



2023/2024 Human Development Report: **188 out of 193**

Population: **22.6 million**

Chronic malnutrition: **25 percent of children between 6-59 months** (EDS, 2023-2024)

Income Level: **Low income**

Operational Updates

- **WFP's programmatic priorities from May to June** focused on the pre-lean season response and lean season planning, while continuing resilience support to communities throughout the country.
- **Food assistance to crisis-affected persons:** WFP assisted 235,636 people in 6 regions through value vouchers and in-kind.
- **Nutrition:** WFP assisted 43,000 children aged 6-59 months and 14,000 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs) for moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) supplementation. WFP used Mobile Clinics in Menaka to assist MAM children, where 2,225 children aged 6-59 months received care. To prevent chronic malnutrition, WFP offered supplementary feeding to 40,025 children aged 6-23 months and 28,172 PBWGs with local products through e-vouchers. In terms of activities linked to the nutrition-sensitive value chain/food system, 5,000 households have been financially supported (market gardening, small businesses, livestock) and 52 agricultural processing units have been built and are being equipped.
- **School Feeding:** WFP provided meals to 148,850 schoolchildren (49 percent girls) in 636 schools. About 20,400 students in 102 schools did not receive meals due to closures linked to security concerns. A total of US\$ 1,293,992 of cash transfers were used by school committees for food purchases.
- **Resilience:** Eight field level agreements were signed with cooperating partners and government entities to implement capacity building, food for assets creation (FFA), and smallholder agricultural market support (SAMS) activities to the benefit of about 185,000 beneficiaries in seven regions of Mali. A joint workplan was developed for implementing activities at Tamani-Soba, a resilience site and community learning centre showcasing innovative resilience practices and technologies. FFA and SAMS activities reached 18,100 beneficiaries. Additionally, WFP distributed cash to 48,624 beneficiaries through its social protection programme.
- **UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS):** UNHAS served 9 regular destinations and 1 on-demand location, transporting 2,318 passengers and 20.3 metric tons of cargo from May to June 2024. Since November, UNHAS has faced several operational challenges. The lack of regular access to destinations like Menaka and Ansongo, requiring the Malian Armed Forces (FAMA) to secure airfields for each operation, resulted in authorization of only five out of 24 scheduled flights during the period for both locations. Additionally, fuel shortages in Gao and Mopti, caused by the volatile security situation in the Sahel region and the closure of the Niger-Benin border, have disrupted supply routes. Inclement weather conditions have further compounded these issues. These challenges have impacted UNHAS service delivery, leading to a 34 percent reduction in the number of passengers transported compared to the same period in 2023.

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Photo Caption: Food distribution to IDPs in Menaka during the pre-lean season
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Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
1.3 billion	662 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (July - December 2024)
300 million	111.4 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:

A total of 1,359 calls through WFP's complaint and feedback system were received during this period, including 833 positive comments, 239 requests for assistance, 39 complaints and 235 requests for information. Some 95 percent of concerns received through these calls were addressed. WFP set up assistance and help desks to receive and process complaints at distribution sites in Gao and Menaka, processing 90 percent of the primary level feedback/complaints received. Consultation with communities in Gao, Bourem, Ansongo and Menaka enabled WFP to gather the opinions of beneficiary and non-beneficiary communities on participation, dignity, access and security.

Challenges

- **Humanitarian access:** Access constraints continue in the central and northern areas, with the intensification of military operations, road blockades by non-state armed groups (Douentza-Gao, Ansongo-Ménaka, Badiagara-Bankass RN16), forced population displacements and the multiplication of improvised explosive devices. In May 2024, 60 humanitarian access incidents were recorded compared with 39 incidents for the same period in 2023. Access challenges disrupt operations and often lead to delays in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. In response to these challenges, WFP has stepped up its collaboration with local authorities to facilitate access and strengthen mechanisms for monitoring operations.
- **Funding gap:** The Mali country office has a 73 percent funding gap (USD 51.5 million) in its crisis response component, with a pipeline break in July. WFP Mali requires urgent resources to continue its emergency operations and avoid further ration cuts during the lean season response.

Donors

Current donors to WFP Mali include the USA, Spain, European Commission, EU/ECHO, UN CERF, UN BPF, Norway, Belgium, France, Germany, Japan, Luxembourg, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Russian Federation, Switzerland, Sweden, IFAD, United Kingdom, Canada, and private sector.