



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES

WFP Mali Country Brief

September, October, November 2024



In Numbers



738,796 people assisted

1,885 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 5.3 million distributed in cash-based transfers

US\$ 61.4 million next six-month (Dec 2024 - May 2025) net funding requirements, representing 55 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.

The Humanitarian Response Plan for 2024 estimates that 7.1 million people will require assistance, 23 percent of them women and 54 percent children. An estimated 1.3 million people are thought to be acutely food insecure (corresponding to phase 3 and above on the IPC scale). As of November, the HRP indicates that, of the US\$ 223 million required for the food security cluster (whose needs far exceed those of other clusters), approximately US\$ 89 million (40 percent) have been financed. All sectors considered, only 35 percent of the HRP has been funded thus far.

Against this backdrop, WFP continues to provide lifesaving assistance despite financial constraints. During this reporting season, WFP finalized its lean season response, reaching 687,000 people (92 percent of the target). Of those, 118,000 people in IPC categories 4 and 5 received four months' worth of full rations, and 569,000 people in IPC 3 received two months' worth of half rations. In Menaka alone, the region with a prevalence of IPC 5 cases, over 76,500 people were assisted.

In terms of flooding assistance -which coincided with this year's lean season- and after a review of needs and coordination mechanisms, WFP assisted close to 48,000 persons.

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.



2022 Human Development Index:
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

- **Food assistance to crisis-affected persons:** WFP's efforts were directed at finalizing the assistance to people more severely impacted by the agricultural lean season and by the catastrophic flooding. WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to almost 48,000 flood-affected persons.
- **Nutrition:** to prevent **moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)**, WFP reached 81,403 children (aged 6-23 months) and 38,316 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs). For MAM supplementation, WFP reached 49,531 children 6-59 months and 13,777 PBWs. To prevent **chronic acute malnutrition**, WFP assisted 31,611 children aged 6 to 23 months and 38,617 PBWG. Modalities include in-kind contributions and e-vouchers, enabling beneficiaries to purchase locally sourced nutritious products. WFP and UNICEF are jointly working on a new strategic approach for child wasting, including curative and preventive interventions.
- **School Feeding:** it is estimated that the 2024-25 academic year, which started in November, will see a **50 percent reduction in beneficiaries** due to limited resources. This notwithstanding, WFP will support 100,000 pupils, 1,000 cooks, and 10,000 adolescent girls. As part of the integrated resilience package, 80 schools will be supplied by local smallholder farmers' organizations.
- **Social safety nets:** through the Unified Social Registry, WFP reached 58,438 vulnerable people including those affected by floods. WFP signed an MoU with Mali's Directorate of Social Protection and UNICEF to strengthen social protection systems.
- **Resilience:** about 185,000 people benefited from the integrated resilience package, including 24,000 participants in community asset creation and 1,200 smallholder farmers (of which 51 percent are women) trained in planning, implementation, and financial management. As part of the program, WFP provided agricultural support, environmental management, and agribusiness training to 60 youths, and supported 10 master's students selected to conduct their final dissertation research on WFP resilience-building projects. To this end, WFP worked with 14 cooperating partners and 6 government entities. As part of the activities to strengthen nutrition-sensitive value chains, WFP completed the deployment of 66 production and processing units, which will be fully equipped and functional in the coming months.
- **UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS):** UNHAS remains committed to reaching vulnerable populations in remote areas, having served 10 regular destinations and 1 ad hoc, transporting 3,217 passengers and 36.7 metric tons of cargo. However, fuel shortages in Mopti and Gao and restricted airfield access in Menaka and Ansongo have disrupted operations. Only 24 of the 105 flights to Menaka were approved, and 8 of 32 to Ansongo. On 17 September, UNHAS lost two aircraft in a security incident in Bamako and have since restored its capacity. In response to OCHA's request, UNHAS conducted a successful reconnaissance flight to Kidal on 13 November and added it to its regular destinations, with two monthly flights starting in December.

Contact info: Violeta GARCIA (violeta.garcia@wfp.org)
Country Director ad Interim: Ibrahima Diallo
Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/MALI

Photo Caption: Women receiving essential food and nutrition support after the devastating floods in Gao.
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Country Strategic Plan (2020-2024)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
1.3 billion	753 million
2024 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (Dec 2024 – May 2025)
300 million	61.4 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 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

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:

- During this period, 2,486 reports were received and processed through the community feedback system (call centre and help desk), including 1,406 positive feedbacks (57 percent), 588 requests for information, 390 requests for assistance, and 74 complaints. Over 70 percent of the feedback concerned emergency activities. At the time of writing, 87 percent of requests were resolved, with the rest still in progress. Notably, 46 percent of the feedback received came from women. WFP conducted community awareness-raising sessions on gender-based violence and sexual abuse and exploitation for 521 people, (64 percent of whom were women and girls). WFP organized trainings for its staff, cooperating partners, traders and transporters, on the centrality of protection, PSEA and the prevention of GBV.

Challenges

- **Humanitarian access:** the security situation in the northern and central regions remains concerning, with populations displaced into Koro circle (Mopti), putting pressure on social services. Rising river water levels have caused floods in Gao and Tombouctou, forcing humanitarian actors to limit movements. The number of humanitarian access incidents reported during this quarter is stable compared to the previous period. Hostilities between the Malian Armed Forces and separatist groups of the CSP-PDA (which changed its name to *Front de Libération de l'Azawad* in November), hamper humanitarian access in Kidal. However, UNHAS managed to conduct the first humanitarian reconnaissance flight in Kidal since the town was recaptured by the FAMA in November 2023. A slight improvement in the Ansongo-Menaka axis was observed, allowing WFP's private transporters to deliver products. Despite high access constraints, WFP and partners continue to operate throughout the country.
- **Funding gap:** The Mali country office has a 58 percent funding gap (USD 27.7 million) in its crisis response component, with a pipeline break in December. WFP Mali requires urgent resources to continue its emergency operations and avoid ration cuts in future emergency interventions.

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, the Republic of Korea, and private sector.