



World Food Programme

SAVING LIVES
CHANGING LIVES



WFP Mali Country Brief December 2024

In Numbers



760,506 people assisted

421 mt of food assistance distributed

US\$ 1.6 million distributed in cash-based transfers

US\$ 72.7 million next six-month (January 2025 – June 2025) net funding requirements, representing 58 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 amid a transitional period with no clear end in sight.

The 2024 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) for Mali estimated that 7.1 million people in Mali required assistance, 23 percent of them women and 54 percent children. From the 4.1 million people targeted, 36.8 percent were reached. The food cluster was financed at 42.2 percent, having received USD 94 million of the 222.6 million required.

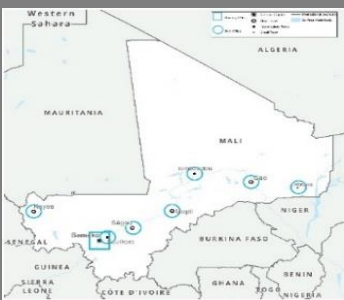
During this reporting season, WFP continued providing lifesaving and life-changing assistance, while preparing its 2025 response. WFP is making significant efforts to improve its targeting strategy and to finish contractual agreements with its cooperating partners ahead of the 2025 lean season, a time of agropastoral scarcity where food stocks run low, and which concentrates the bulk of WFP's response.

Projections for 2025 are lukewarm: while no IPC 5 numbers are expected during the upcoming lean season (an improvement from 2024), the number of people in IPC 3 to 5 has increased to 1.5 million people. In the same line, the HNRP of 2025 identifies 5.9 million people in need in Mali, a slight decrease from the 7.1 million people in need in the previous year; however, the number of people in need within the food security category has risen to 2.9 million people in 2025 (compared to 2.5 in 2024), a 16 percent increase.

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

- **Food assistance to crisis-affected persons:** In December, WFP provided food assistance to 196,488 people, including 26,202 disaster victims, 43,740 refugees, 87,264 vulnerable residents, and 39,282 internally displaced persons. Despite access challenges, over 8,130 vulnerable residents in Kidal received in-kind aid, while assistance continued in Ménaka for people facing emergency levels of food insecurity (IPC4+). WFP also supported decentralized services in all regions to aid flood victims.
- **Nutrition:** In crisis areas, WFP provided nutritional assistance to 17,760 children (6-23 months) and 838 pregnant and breastfeeding women affected by floods. At health centres, 13,561 children (6-59 months) and 5,230 women received MAM supplementation and IYCF awareness messages. For chronic malnutrition prevention, 37,841 children (6-23 months) and 39,259 women were supported at resilience sites. WFP also collaborated with the MISOLA unit to include flour in children's diets in Mopti and integrated 7,019 women into IGAs and cash-for-learning programs.
- **School Feeding:** In December, resource constraints limited cash distributions to only 50% of program beneficiaries. Over two months, the initiative reached 271 schools, benefiting 91,702 pupils and supporting 1,042 volunteer cooks. CNCS and WFP held a strategic meeting to advocate for sustained canteen assistance for 498 schools whose needs are not met. The lack of support jeopardizes the continuity of the programme and could affect academic performance and household food security.
- **Social safety nets:** A total of 214,668 vulnerable people were reached by the end of December 2024. Activities to strengthen the national social protection system began with the organization of three national commissions of the National Strategic Guidance Council on Social Protection and a preparatory meeting for the National Social Protection Conference scheduled for February 27-29, 2025.
- **Resilience:** WFP reached 70 municipalities, focusing on conflict-affected and climate-impacted regions (Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao, Kayes) and prioritized vulnerable groups, including children (6-23 months), PLWG, and households in IPC 3+ areas.
- In 2024, 23,144 farmers (9,893 women) participated in 668 training sessions on cereal/vegetable production, natural resource management, and post-harvest techniques, enhancing food security, incomes, and crop diversification.
- WFP's SAMS program enabled 6,149 farmers (2,207 women) to sell over 1,210 metric tons of produce worth 54.6 million XOF. Support included capacity-building for cooperatives and facilitating 76 connections with financial institutions and processors.
- Furthermore, under nutrition-sensitive programs WFP assisted 9,403 children aged 6-23 months with supplementary feeding along with 7,818 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWG).



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**

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Photo Caption: A breastfeeding woman after receiving food from WFP in the village of N'Tjibougou, Nossombougou, Koulikoro Region.

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Country Strategic Plan (2020-2026)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
1.7 billion	766 million
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (January – June 2025)
236 million	72.7 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, to support effective and efficient humanitarian response.
- Provide on-demand engineering services to support effective and efficient humanitarian response.
- Provide Humanitarian Air service in Support of DG-ECHO Funded Projects.

- Livelihood activities improved resilience of families by diversifying income sources and enhancing food production. A cash transfer program reached 13,692 households (97% women-headed), and women-led food transformation units received targeted support.
- **UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS):** UNHAS operated 10 regular destinations in 2024, transporting 1,179 passengers and 5.2 metric tons of cargo. It initiated flights to Kidal in December, with two monthly frequencies, facilitating aid delivery and safe travel for humanitarian workers. Two key year-end meetings—Steering Committee and User Group—focused on service improvement and financial review. Despite concluding its decade-long partnership with DG ECHO on 31 December, UNHAS maintained reliable air transport to remote areas.

Accountability to Affected Populations:

- From December 1 to 31, 2024, WFP's community feedback system received 790 responses: 263 assistance requests, 121 information requests, 8 complaints, and 395 positive feedback. Most calls concerned emergency aid (75%), followed by nutrition (14%). Women's participation increased to 52% from 44% in May-June. Of these, 96% were resolved. Additionally, the complaints committee directory was updated, listing 1,783 committees with 7,832 members, 31% of whom were women.

Challenges

Humanitarian access:

- In December 2024, military operations and armed group blockades, notably in Léré (Timbuktu), disrupted humanitarian operations, causing delays and suspensions. Armed groups continued attacks in central regions like Macina, Bandiagara, and Bankass, and planted IEDs along main roads, complicating movement. Despite these challenges, WFP utilized alternative routes, UNHAS flights, and private transporters to maintain humanitarian assistance in Kidal and Ménaka.
- **Funding gap:** WFP Mali has a 67 percent funding gap (USD 52.9 million) in its crisis response component, with a pipeline break in February. 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, the Republic of Korea, and private sector.