



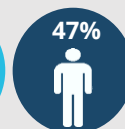
World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

WFP Mali Country Brief March & April 2025



In Numbers



242,321 people assisted

Preliminary figures

251.44 MT of food assistance distributed

US\$ 2,364,594 distributed in cash-based transfers

US\$ 94.1 million next six-months (June-November 2025) net funding requirements, representing 71 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 is deteriorating with a complex crisis characterised by armed conflict, extreme weather events, inter-communal violence and the adverse impacts of the climate crisis. At the political level, Mali is undergoing a transitional period.

In the midst of considerable funding constraints affecting the global humanitarian response, WFP continued providing lifesaving and life-changing assistance. In March and April, WFP Mali completed targeting for the 2025 pre-lean and lean seasons, initiated food and nutrition distributions, and continued supporting students in several schools across the country.

Due to funding constraints, the 2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) for Mali has been reduced from USD 771 million to USD 285 million, revising the target population from 4.7 million to 2.1 million people.

In the same vein, WFP has undergone a reprioritization exercise, reducing its intended implementation plan for 2025 by 22 percent. WFP aims to provide emergency food assistance to 650,000 beneficiaries in 2025 (a 35 percent reduction compared to 2024), with reduced rations (70 percent) and duration. Priority will be given to the most food-insecure areas.

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

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

Population: **22.6 million**

Income Level: **Low income**

Operational Updates

- **Emergency food assistance:** WFP assisted 233,879 beneficiaries from vulnerable host communities (especially in Menaka, Gao, Mopti, Tombouctou and Taoudénit), 8,040 internally displaced persons, and 402 refugees. In March alone, WFP distributed 24.6 mt of oil and US\$ 115,058.
- **Nutrition:** as part of the pre-lean season response and to prevent acute malnutrition, WFP reached 18,012 children (aged 6–23 months) and 12,706 pregnant and breastfeeding women and girls (PBWGs), distributing 78 mt of fortified cereal blend (CSB++) to children and disbursing US\$ 260,000 to beneficiaries. To date, 80 percent of the planned beneficiaries for the pre-lean season have been met. WFP also provided supplementation assistance to 50,577 moderately malnourished children (aged 6–59 months) with RUSF and 19,859 undernourished PBWGs with CSB+ through health centres, achieving a 95 percent recovery rate.
- **School Feeding:** WFP continued assisting schools in priority areas, supporting 119,221 students in March and April. In response to funding reductions, a joint press release was developed with the National School Feeding Centre warning about funding shortfalls.
- **Social safety nets:** WFP worked on registering 150,000 beneficiaries living in Menaka, Gao, and Tombouctou into Mali's Unified Social Registry. Beneficiaries were identified through the innovative approach of registering individuals through kiosks deployed in several communes and circles, ensuring reach into remote areas.
- **Resilience and food systems:** during this period, several memorandums and letters of understanding were renewed with relevant technical structures and research institutions, while field-level agreements were signed with cooperating partners.
- **UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS):** Between March and April 2025, UNHAS supported humanitarian operations by transporting 1,514 passengers and 11.5 mt of cargo across nine regular destinations. UNHAS implemented operational changes, including reducing flight frequencies to Tombouctou (from four to three weekly flights), as well as to Douentza, Nianfuke, Ansongo, and Menaka (from two to one weekly flights). The number of regular destinations was streamlined from ten to nine, with Kayes reclassified as an ad-hoc location. Additionally, UNHAS adjusted the size of its fleet to two aircrafts to align with current operational needs. During the latest Steering Committee meeting, UNHAS invited feedback on a potential adjustment to the cost recovery rate. Most members recommended a three-month observation period before any final decision is made. Despite these changes, UNHAS reaffirmed its strong commitment to sustaining humanitarian access in hard-to-reach areas and assured donors of its continued efforts to safeguard and enhance the impact of their contributions.



Contact info: fatoumatahouma.ba@wfp.org

Country Director: Gian Carlo CIRRI

Further information: www.wfp.org/countries/MALI

Photo Caption: © WFP/Mahamadou ABDOURHAMANE | A woman waters her crops in a solar-powered garden supported by WFP

WFP Country Strategy

Country Strategic Plan (2020-2026)

Total Requirements (US\$)	Total Received (US\$)
1.78 billion	773,6 million
2025 Requirements (US\$)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in US\$) (June- November 2025)
236 million	94.1 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, 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.

Protection-Gender-AAEP: Between 01 March and 30 April 2025, WFP trained partners on protection, accountability, and gender, and held focus groups with over 390 participants (45 percent women) to identify protection risks. Community feedback remained limited, with 323 cases, mostly assistance requests and positive feedback.

Challenges

Humanitarian access: Despite the 98 percent access rate retained by WFP and partners, several factors continue to hamper humanitarian access. These include widespread conflict and insecurity exacerbated by threats from improvised explosive devices. Furthermore, administrative hurdles, military operations, and armed group restrictions continue to hamper humanitarian access. Access to implementation sites requires continuous efforts and daily negotiation. Key corridors and areas such as Boni, Nouh Bozo, Tessit, and the Kwala-Nara axis have experienced significant delays and aid suspensions. Although there was a partial easing in Boni in late March, several localities including Nouh Bozo, Dogofri, Farabaougou, and Tessalit remain under movement restrictions. Security challenges are further compounded by ongoing attacks and crossfire along roads such as Gao-Ansongo, Sikasso-Bougouni, and Kati-Kita, as well as irregular checkpoints, notably along the Sikasso-Heremakono route.

Funding gap: The funding situation of WFP Mali remains bleak, with a 79 percent funding gap (USD 65.8 million) in its crisis response component, with a pipeline break in June. WFP Mali requires resources urgently to continue emergency operations.

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.