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**SPR Reading Guidance**



## Provision of Humanitarian Air Services in Mali

### Standard Project Report 2016

World Food Programme in Mali, Republic of (ML)



**World Food Programme**

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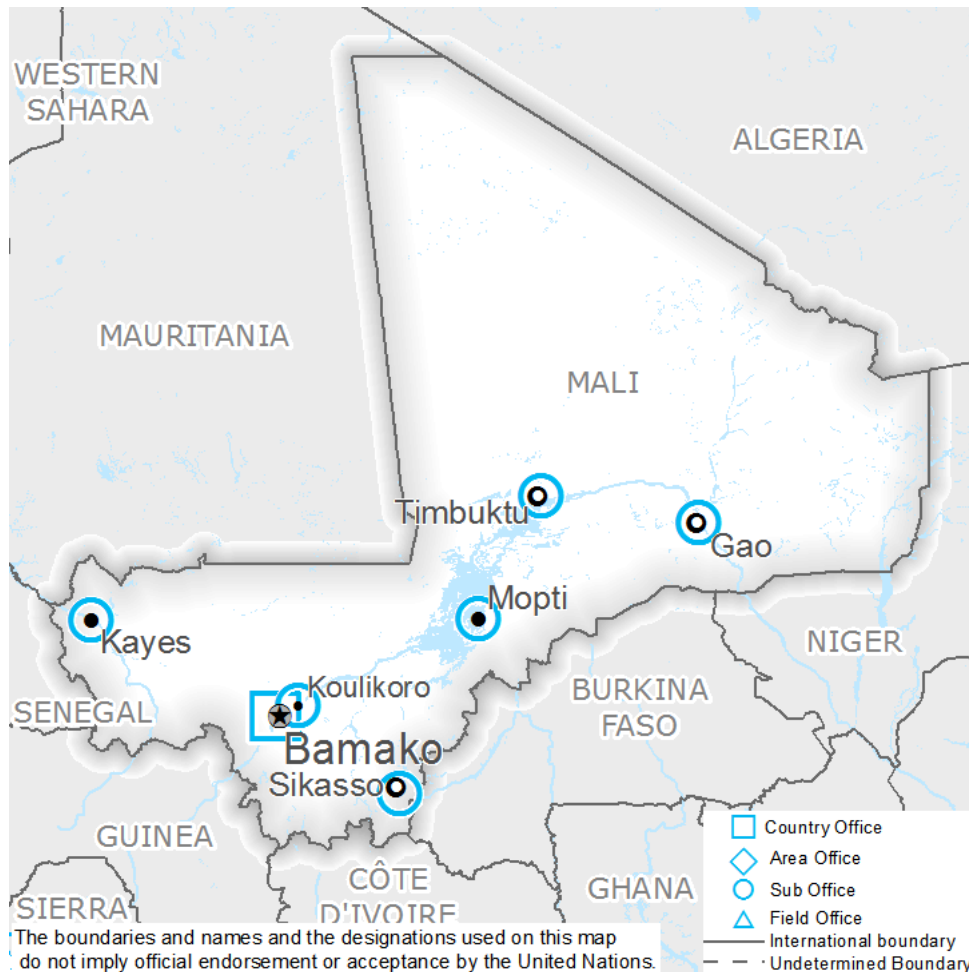
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# Country Context and WFP Objectives



## Country Context

Mali has an estimated population of 18 million people. Growing at a rate of 3 percent per year, the population will double in the next 20 years. Mali is one of the least developed countries in the world, ranking 179 out of 188 on the 2015 United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index and Gender Inequality Index. Over half of the population lives on less than USD 1.25 a day and only 7.7 percent of adult women have reached a secondary level of education compared to 15.1 percent of men. Life expectancy is 58 years and the mortality rate for children under 5 is 122.7 per 1,000. Education in Mali is decentralised, according to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the gross enrolment rate in Mali is 70 percent, the achievement rate is 46 percent and 33 percent of the population is literate. Access to education is a challenge due to poor school infrastructure, poor quality of teaching, child labour, early marriage and insecurity. During the March 2012 political coup, northern Mali was occupied by non-state armed groups, which resulted in large scale population displacement across the region. Despite a peace accord – the Algiers Accords – signed in June 2015 by parties in the conflict, insecurity remains. Furthermore, despite the fact that a majority of displaced persons have returned home, approximately 135,000 refugees are still in camps in Mauritania, Niger and Burkina Faso and 37,000 persons are internally displaced in Mopti, Gao and Kidal.

In 2016, violence between armed groups increased, including among those who were part of the peace accords process. International forces were heavily targeted throughout the year. The increased violence had a direct impact on humanitarian access to affected population: humanitarian staff and warehouses were targeted and looted, equipment was lost and access points were blocked. In addition, local populations became more vulnerable, livelihoods were lost, access to markets became increasingly difficult, rights violations occurred and access to basic

services decreased. In addition, inter-communal clashes emerged in Central Mali, especially over natural resources, which further hindered humanitarian access, led to population displacements and increased the vulnerability of local populations.

As a result of the protracted political crisis, the deteriorating security situation in both northern and central Mali, recurrent climate shocks (droughts and floods) as well as chronic poverty, approximately 25 percent of the population – 3 million people – are food insecure, of which 4 percent are severely food insecure. Regions in northern and central Mali are particularly fragile to food insecurity: some districts in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu, Mopti and Segou are between 40 to 77 percent food insecure. Based on the *Cadre Harmonisé* results in March 2016, around 3 million people were food insecure, including 423,000 severely food insecure.

Malnutrition is a chronic problem that has been exacerbated by the crisis. The Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates are above the World Health Organization's (WHO) alert threshold of 10 percent with Timbuktu, Gao and Segou regions having the highest rate ranging from 13.6 percent to 14.8 percent. Additionally, results from the July 2016 Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey show that 26.2 percent of children under the age of 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition. While the SMART survey shows improvement from 2015, both acute and chronic malnutrition rates in Mali are still high. According to the 2012–2013 Demographic Health Survey, 82 percent of children aged 6-59 months and 51 percent of women are anaemic. Vitamin A deficiencies are frequent, and 88 percent of children receive vitamin A supplements.

## Response of the Government and Strategic Coordination

WFP programmes are in line with the Government strategic framework for strengthening sustainable development, *le Cadre Stratégique de Croissance de Développement Durable* (CREDD) and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2015–2019. Memorandums of understanding (MOU) with government ministries ensure that WFP programmes are aligned with the national policies and priorities for food security and nutrition, agriculture, social protection and education. WFP actively contributes to the operational implementation of the national emergency plan and is an important player in the "Emergency and Relief Plan for the Interim Period of the Peace and Reconciliation Accord".

WFP worked alongside the Government on National Nutrition Policies to set up the National Nutrition Coordination Unit, which plays a key role in the planning, coordination and review of the multi-sectorial nutrition action plan.

WFP provided technical support to the Ministry of Solidarity and Humanitarian Action during the development of its social protection policy and for the design of a simple unified register that will be used to register participants in safety net programmes. WFP also adopted an innovative school meals programme using cash-based transfer (CBT), where WFP partnered with Education Centres to transfer cash to community's school management committees for buying food on local markets to provide meals to schoolchildren.

WFP co-leads with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) the food security cluster, both agencies coordinate emergency food security assistance including national food security surveys between the United Nations (UN) agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and government partners. In addition, WFP and the Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) set up and co-lead a new inter-agency working group on emergency preparedness and response. Finally, WFP presided over the UN Communications Group to ensure that the UN system in Mali communicated as "one UN" and WFP actively participated in different inter-agency fora on gender, protection, nutrition and education.

To promote and improve nutrition in Mali, WFP works at the strategic and policy level with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Health Organization (WHO) and FAO on the Renewed Efforts Against Child Hunger and Undernutrition (REACH) and Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) initiatives.

Further, WFP developed a joint programme with FAO in 2015 to strengthen resilience and stabilise communities in Timbuktu and Gao. This programme is being funded by the European Union.

WFP is also an active member of other coordination groups that combine government members, UN agencies and private and public organizations. Specifically, WFP serves as a Technical and Financial partner for social protection, food security, nutrition, humanitarian access and advocacy/communication coordination groups.

To carry out nutrition and food security evaluations and surveys, WFP has developed strategic partnerships with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), *Institut de Recherche pour le Développement* (IRD), *Institut National de Recherche en Santé Publique* (INRSP) and *Institut National de la Statistique* (INSTAT).

WFP is actively committed to gender equality and women's empowerment. WFP Mali is a member of the inter-agency thematic group on gender, which is under the lead of United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and composed of UN agencies, donors, NGOs and national stakeholders.

The inter-agency thematic group on gender actively works to promote the inclusion of gender concerns and women's participation in the implementation of the peace agreement in Mali and engagements and investments to support the recovery of conflict-affected regions. The thematic group has actively advocated for the integration of gender-based violence concerns and the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 agenda vis-à-vis the national government and the international community.

## Summary of WFP Operational Objectives

In 2015, WFP launched a three year (2015–2017) protracted relief and recovery operation (PRRO) 200719 in Mali with a budget of USD 349 million over the three-year period that is based on a convergence strategy that links emergency food and nutrition assistance with stabilisation programmes that strengthen assets, access to markets and human capital development in communities vulnerable to food and/or nutrition insecurity. This is a transition project from the Emergency Operation (EMOP) implemented between 2013–2014 that supports the government's *Cadre Stratégique pour la Croissance et la Réduction de la Pauvreté* (CSCR), and *Stratégie Nationale de Sécurité Alimentaire et Plan d'Action Multisectoriel de la Politique Nationale de Nutrition* (2013–2021).

Activities for this programme are in line with the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2015–2019 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2 and 17. In particular, WFP is providing seasonal and/or emergency support to communities in northern and central Mali through the cash-based and/or in-kind food transfer modality. The majority of seasonal support is provided to vulnerable populations during the pastoral and agro-pastoral lean season (June–September) but WFP also has the capacity to provide emergency assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs) at the onset of conflict and to repatriated refugees.

PRRO 200719 also aims to treat and prevent moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) and prevent chronic malnutrition. WFP provides treatment for children aged 6–59 months and pregnant and lactating women diagnosed with MAM. In areas with high levels of MAM, WFP implements MAM prevention programmes for children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women. PRRO also includes a community based nutrition programme that aims to prevent chronic and acute malnutrition for children aged 6–23 months and pregnant and lactating women. In addition, nutrition activities provided assistance through vouchers to caretakers of severely malnourished children in therapeutic feeding centres.

To strengthen safety nets in Mali, children receive a fortified midday meal at school. To strengthen long-term community resilience that improves livelihoods and enables communities to withstand environmental shocks, WFP is supporting and training communities to create assets such as dams, fish ponds and community based gardens.

WFP supports and works across the smallholder farmer value chain in Mali, emphasising the inclusion of women farmers by purchasing local products and increasing market access for smallholder farmers.

To overcome the high levels of insecurity on the routes in northern and central Mali, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) Mali provides air transport to the humanitarian community through four main airports in Mali – Bamako, Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao – and serves secondary airstrips in Menaka.

WFP also aims at developing capacity of the local and central government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the management of food security, nutrition, resilience, social protection, and school meals policies and programmes.

# Country Resources and Results

## Resources for Results

In 2016, PRRO 200719 was funded at 48 percent excluding carry-over stock. In terms of activity funding, seasonal support through general food distribution was financed at 42 percent, nutrition 81 percent, school meals 21 percent and resilience 61 percent. Criteria used for funding activities was a blend of WFP's prioritisation for flexible funding and donor ear-marking. WFP Mali prioritised life-saving and Nutrition activities as top priority and resilience and school meals activities following in cases where flexible donations were received.

Donor response for PRRO 200719 activities in 2016 was lower compared to 2015. The reasons stemmed from a shift in donor priorities and shifting emergencies. Following the signing of the peace agreement in 2015 and the results of the *Cadre Harmonisé*, a consolidated framework for the review of food and nutritional needs in Mali resulted in fewer persons requiring food assistance thereby reducing some donor funding for Mali.

WFP Mali also received several multi-year contributions in 2015 for resilience activities through 2017. This had many advantages in providing predictability enabling long-term contracting, local procurement at the appropriate time and proper planning leading to efficiency gains. Other PRRO activities were affected by the late arrivals of contributions.

PRRO 200719 was mostly funded by traditional donors although strong advocacy introduced some new donors including private donors. Low level of funding affected the implementation of all PRRO activities. School meals activity was the least funded despite several calls made by Mali country office to the donor community. The immediate impact was a reduction to the number of schools assisted by 30 percent. The cash transfer modality was introduced to 104 schools in 2016 making the intervention less costly and leading to some efficiency gains. Funding shortage for nutrition activity led to substitution of Plumpy'Sup with SuperCereal Plus for interventions to children aged 6-59 months during two months of the year. Commodity substitution sustained the pipeline but this can negatively impact the activity and increase abandon rates especially in cases where the beneficiaries were not trained on how to use the commodity. For life-saving activities, ration reductions were implemented throughout the year and 80 percent of the planned activities under capacity development transfer tool did not materialise.

In 2015, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) strongly advocated for funding, resulting in multiple donors contributing to UNHAS operations throughout the year. Funding received at the end of 2015 allowed UNHAS operations to be covered through the first four months of 2016. In addition, successful resource mobilization efforts in 2016 and some later contribution from donors enabled UNHAS to secure its operations until the end of 2016, with a two month carry-over to cover services in 2017 for the new Special Operation 201047. To better serve the humanitarian community UNHAS coordinated with the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) Flights to ensure that even remote areas were accessed. Bulletins and communication materials in the flights gave more visibility to WFP operations. Cost recovery policy also led to the positive funding situation of this project in 2016.

As part of the support to Government strategy, Mali country office encourages local procurement especially from smallholder farmers supported via Purchase for Progress (P4P). In 2016, about 17,000 mt of commodities were procured locally, 50 percent of which was sourced from smallholder farmers hence supporting local markets and providing secondary benefits to the local population. Local purchase reduces lead time and mitigates the lack of predictability in contributions at the beginning of the year; local purchases combined with the Global Commodity Management Facility allow WFP to purchase when prices are right but maintain a smooth pipeline. Favourable exchange rates and low prices ensured an additional 10 percent of commodity purchases compared to the plan. Most donors encouraged local procurement especially of cereals over international purchases.

## Achievements at Country Level

WFP was a key player in providing life-saving emergency assistance to internally displaced persons (IDPs), repatriated refugees and seasonal assistance to the most vulnerable populations during the pastoral and agro-pastoral lean season (June-September) through the government led National Response Plan. Due to a lack of funding, WFP provided reduced rations to vulnerable communities. In addition, persisting humanitarian access issues in Ménaka and the Kidal region prevented WFP from providing timely emergency food assistance. To respond to the emergency levels of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) in Timbuktu, WFP scaled up its activities for children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women.

From training communities to creating assets and supporting them in the process, resilience to environmental shocks was strengthened and livelihoods were improved by providing greater access to markets and improving household incomes. Smallholder farmers were trained to improve their yields and reduce post-harvest losses. The smallholder value chain for farmers' organizations was enhanced through WFP's support linking and improving farmers' organizations access to large markets.

WFP contributed to the expansion of social safety net programmes through the use of cash-based transfers (CBT) for emergency assistance, seasonal assistance and community based nutrition programmes in addition to the school meals programme. These interventions complemented the Government's social safety net programmes and enabled them to scale up social protection programmes for the most vulnerable populations. A lack of funding, however, forced WFP to downscale its school meals programme during October-December 2016. WFP had to prioritise schools in Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal, and only provided support to half of the schools planned in the PRRO document.

WFP also contributed to the development of the national policy on food security through providing financial and technical support and through participating in the food security and nutrition working group tasked with designing a new Food Security Policy. WFP also provided financial and technical support to nutrition and food surveys and analysis – *Enquête Nationale sur la Sécurité Alimentaire et Nutritionnelle (ENSAN)* and the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART). Technical support was also provided for the national Early Warning System such as design of data collection tools, trainings, data analysis and reporting, capacity development on new technologies and statistical analysis.

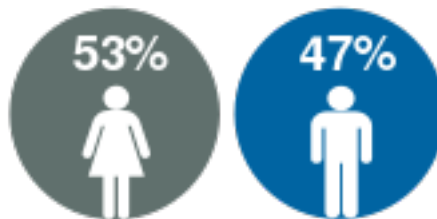
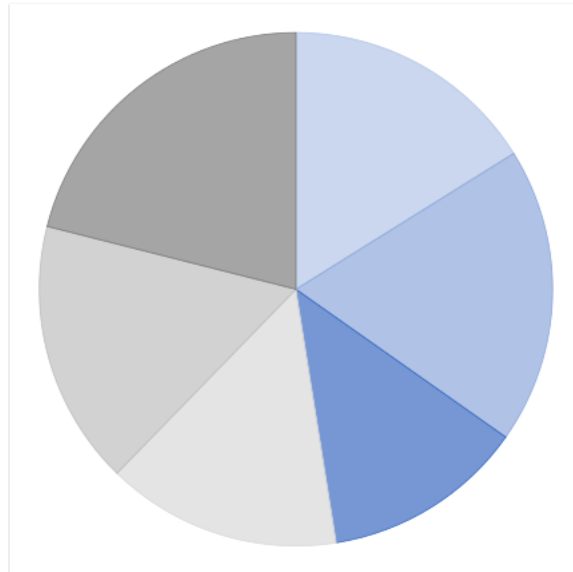


## Annual Country Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries	Male	Female	Total
Children (under 5 years)	136,596	125,304	261,900
Children (5-18 years)	157,928	141,162	299,090
Adults (18 years plus)	107,726	178,391	286,117
<b>Total number of beneficiaries in 2016</b>	<b>402,250</b>	<b>444,857</b>	<b>847,107</b>

Country Beneficiaries by Gender and Age

- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)
- Children (under 5 years)
- Children (5-18 years)
- Adults (18 years plus)



## Annual Food Distribution in Country (mt)

Project Type	Cereals	Oil	Pulses	Mix	Other	Total
Single Country PRRO	14,856	1,711	2,755	6,660	187	26,169
<b>Total Food Distributed in 2016</b>	<b>14,856</b>	<b>1,711</b>	<b>2,755</b>	<b>6,660</b>	<b>187</b>	<b>26,169</b>





## Cash Based Transfer and Commodity Voucher Distribution (USD)

Project Type	Cash	Value Voucher	Commodity Voucher
Single Country PRRO	2,665,352	4,073,705	20,834
<b>Total Distributed in 2016</b>	<b>2,665,352</b>	<b>4,073,705</b>	<b>20,834</b>

## Supply Chain

The two main components of WFP assistance were in-kind food assistance and cash-based transfers (CBT). Commodities were purchased from national, regional and international markets depending on their availability, and were delivered to cooperating partners, assisted health centres and schools by land or by water.

CBT were distributed through partners and WFP worked with wholesalers to redeem vouchers. WFP used selectively local non-governmental organizations (NGOs), a mobile network company and banks for its CBT activities except for the school meals programme where cash was distributed via government local education service and school meals committees to purchase food from the local markets.

WFP uses mainly the Port of Lomé for its commodities imports because of its close proximity to northern Mali as 90 percent of its activities requiring food commodities are concentrated in northern and Central Mali. WFP's main warehouses are based in Mopti and Bamako, WFP Bamako warehouse is located close to local markets. The Mopti warehouse was used to ship commodities to northern Mali – Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal – because of its close proximity to the port in Lomé and its large storage capacities.

Through the Global Commodity Management Facility (GCMF), WFP purchased from local merchants and smallholder farmers' organizations supported by WFP in Sikasso and Ségou. Responding to the growing trend of local purchasing WFP decreased its storage capacities by 60 percent in 2016.

Despite the signing of the peace accord in 2015, insecurity and humanitarian access issues remained problematic for WFP in 2016. WFP lost 35.070 mt of food of which 25.516 mt (72 percent) was looted. WFP was forced to suspend distributions in Kidal in June 2016 when a partner's warehouse was looted. Distributions in Kidal resumed in September when WFP began sending commodities on mixed patrols, with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) convoys.

In order to absorb the USD 2.9 million landside transport, storage and handling (LTSH) deficit acquired in 2014, WFP implemented a 2014–2016 strategy. The operational matrix for this strategy is being revised to match the current operational context.

Since May 2016 the Logistic Execution Support System (LESS) has been fully operational in Mali; all local and international staff have been trained to use it.



## Annual Food Purchases for the Country (mt)

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Beans	891	-	891
Iodised Salt	37	152	189
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	-	37	37
Rice	772	-	772
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>1,889</b>

Commodity	Local	Regional/International	Total
Percentage	90.0%	10.0%	

## Annual Global Commodity Management Facility Purchases Received in Country (mt)

Commodity	Total
Corn Soya Blend	3,150
High Energy Biscuits	47
Ready To Use Supplementary Food	957
Sorghum/Millet	12,562
Split Peas	590
Vegetable Oil	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,375</b>

## Implementation of Evaluation Recommendations and Lessons Learned

In June 2016, the Mali country office commissioned a decentralised evaluation of its Food Assistance for Assets (FFA) programme. The evaluation confirmed that this programme protects livelihoods and enables communities to resist recurrent environmental shocks. It also demonstrated that community and local authority involvement in the creation of assets is critical to the success of the programme, improving food and nutritional security in the short term and strengthening livelihoods in the long term.

Notably, assets strengthened livelihoods and increased household incomes in assisted communities through recuperating natural resources, diversifying diet and increasing access to markets and basic services. In addition, the mixed modality of cash-based transfers (CBT) during the post-harvest season and provisions of food during the lean season were highly appreciated by communities.

In 2016, WFP also tested new methods to overcome the security risks and humanitarian access issues in Gao and Ménaka caused by increased crime, looting and armed violence. WFP used mixed convoys with the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) to ensure that life-saving commodities reached affected populations.

CBT also proved to be a cost-efficient and effective modality for the school meals programme. A pilot CBT in 10 schools in the Koulikoro region proved to be efficient, appreciated by communities and enabled schools to diversify their meals based on local customs and diet. In areas where studies proved that markets were favourable, WFP scaled up its CBT to vulnerable communities and plans to continue this modality in 2017.

For the community based nutrition programme SNACK, an evaluation was conducted by the Institute for Research and Development and results will be finalised in April 2017. Preliminary results from the mid-term evaluation show that similar activities need to be continued in order to tackle chronic malnutrition in Mali. In addition, the evaluation showed that the community level sensitisation component is valuable for tackling the root causes of malnutrition and preventing it in the long term.

Preliminary results from the research based study on Nutributter implemented with *Médecins sans frontières* (MSF) show that Nutributter is as effective as Plumpy'Doz for treating and preventing moderate acute malnutrition. Since Nutributter has cost effective advantages, it has the potential to increase the impact of WFP nutrition activities in the future.

To support the smallholder farmers programme, WFP gave advantageous selling prices to smallholder farmers, thus contributing to improving food security by reducing the relative quantities sold. Participation in the WFP support for smallholder farmers improves the status of women producers as it gives them the opportunity to increase their financial contributions to their families. The initiative also allows women to have access to arable land.

# Project Objectives and Results

## Project Objectives

Following the onset of the conflict in Mali in 2013, WFP launched a special operation, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) to support the growing humanitarian needs in northern and central Mali as a result of the deteriorating security. In line with WFP Strategic Objective 1 "Save lives and protect livelihoods in emergencies", UNHAS served the wider humanitarian community by providing safe, reliable and cost-efficient air transport services for relief workers to remote locations, and ensured access to vulnerable populations in Mali.

Road Traffic to and from northern Mali is laden with landmines and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) in addition to banditry looting and crime. Also, there are no commercial flights to and from northern and central Mali. Hence, UNHAS played a critical role to the humanitarian community in Mali, aimed to:

- Provide safe, efficient and cost-effective inter-agency air transport service for United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and donor organizations providing humanitarian assistance in Mali;
- Transport light cargo such as medical supplies, high energy foods, and information and communications technology (ICT) equipment; and
- Provide timely medical and security evacuations for the Humanitarian community in Mali.



## Approved Budget for Project Duration (USD)

Cost Category	
Capacity Dev.t and Augmentation	12,909,749
Direct Support Costs	973,364
Indirect Support Costs	971,818
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,854,931</b>

## Project Activities

Operating out of Bamako with two medium-size fixed-wing aircraft, one regular and one ad hoc, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) Mali provided flights to six destinations. The main airports were in Bamako, Timbuktu, Mopti and Gao, and secondary airstrips were in Kidal and Menaka. Special flights were coordinated to Kayes upon request. Coordination with the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) Flight from Mopti was also carried out in order to facilitate humanitarian movement to Goundam, Niafounke and other remote destinations.

The planned outputs for 2016 were based on a fleet composed of two contracted aircraft: a regularly used Beechcraft 1900 with 19 seats and another Beechcraft 1900 on ad-hoc basis.

## Operational Partnerships

WFP worked with several partners including the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and other local and national actors. The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) coordinated closely with the Civil Aviation Authority for Clearance on UNHAS flights in Mali. In areas where UNHAS staff are not present, MINUSMA managed flight coordination and airport security.

UNHAS has also a well-established collaboration with other humanitarian aviation actors. In 2016, UNHAS worked with the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) Flight through sharing flight schedules, airfield and safety information, and providing mutual support in the event of technical difficulties. This collaboration will continue in 2017. WFP also worked with MINUSMA, *Médecins sans frontières* (MSF) and the

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), exchanging information and providing operational support when required.

The User Group Committee (UGC) as well as Steering Group Committee (SGC) meetings took place in 2016, specifically, the UGC represented the interests of the humanitarian community in Mali. Its role was to define the requirements and priorities in terms of air transport needs, to monitor the quality of services provided and to give feedback to the WFP Chief Air Transport Officer (CATO). The SGC, which is composed of selected non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations (UN) agencies, UNHAS and donor representatives, provided guidance and made higher-level decisions related to UNHAS. WFP also exchanged regularly with different user organizations through informal meetings discussing air transport needs and providing feedback on its services, particularly on the frequency of flights and the destinations served.

## Performance Monitoring

In 2016, the WFP Aviation Safety performed monitoring missions to ensure that the operation maintains the highest standards of safety and compliance.

Data collected from the Flight Management Application system and the Performance Management Tool (PMT) developed by WFP were used to evaluate efficiency and effectiveness of the operation, taking into consideration traffic analysis, schedule reliability, and origin and destination traffic.

Results and analysis from the PMT were presented to the User Group Committee (UGC) and the Steering Group Committee (SGC). The analysis presented facilitated making high level decisions relating to the special operation such as endorsing proposals made by users during UGC meetings.

## Results/Outcomes

In 2016, Special Operation 200802 achieved its objectives by ensuring that the humanitarian community had access to remote field locations in a safe and timely manner, and by supporting organizations that provide urgent assistance to vulnerable populations in Mali. Since access constraints increased in 2016, the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) flights provided a critical service for humanitarian workers.

The Kidal airstrip was cleared from Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and mines by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). UNHAS was able to begin operating in Kidal since February 2016. After nine flights, however, the airstrip was closed following a demonstration in Kidal that took place on 18 April 2016. Presently Kidal airstrip is not operational. In addition, following an attack on the Gao airport on 29 November 2016 damaging the airport terminal, the airport was temporarily closed until 6 December 2016 resulting in the cancellation of three flights. The Gao airport has been operational since by performing check-in of passengers and luggage at the WFP office in Gao.

In Mali where transport is difficult and often unsafe, UNHAS flights enabled access to a wider geographical area, increased the number of personnel who could provide assistance to vulnerable populations and contributed to the promptness of humanitarian interventions. With the support of UNHAS, light cargo such as medical supplies and information and communication technology (ICT) equipment were transported to enable recovery and relief activities in northern Mali. UNHAS also provided timely medical and security evacuations for the humanitarian community.

The Special Operation received positive feedback from the User Group Committee (UGC). Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and United Nations partners clearly stated during UGC meetings that air transport played a key role in Mali. It enabled humanitarian actors monitor and implement relief activities in northern Mali, thus confirming that UNHAS flights have a positive impact on the humanitarian sector in the country.

The Steering Group Committee (SGC) provided financial guidance and led the decision-making process for the Special Operation. The main decisions emanating from the Committee concerned booking fees – to maintain it at USD 200 due to low funding – and the revision of the current fleet structure by considering the use of a Short Take Off and Landing (STOL) aircraft in 2017 to respond to deep field and secondary runway destinations since UNHAS flight options to northern Mali are currently limited to main airports.

In 2016, UNHAS operations enabled 128 humanitarian and donor organizations to access beneficiary populations. UNHAS transported 8,280 passengers with a booking fee of USD 200 per travel to six regular destinations and a special flight to Kayes. In addition, UNHAS performed seven medical evacuations and transported 33 mt of light cargo. A slight increase in demands and activities from 2015 was noted in 2016 with UNHAS transporting 7 percent more passengers and 2 percent more cargo in 2016.

# Figures and Indicators

## Data Notes

Cover page photo © WFP/ Rein Skullard

UNHAS flights provide humanitarian services throughout the country.

## Project Indicators

### Output Indicators

Output	Unit	Planned	Actual	% Actual vs. Planned
<b>SO1: Special Operation (Air Ops)</b>				
Number of agencies and organizations using humanitarian air services	agency/organization	140	128	91.4%
Number of locations served	site	5	7	140.0%
Number of needs assessments carried out	assessment	4	4	100.0%
Number of passengers transported	individual	8,400	8,280	98.6%
Percentage of passenger bookings served	%	95	92	96.8%
Percentage response to medical and security evacuation	%	100	100	100.0%
Quantity (mt) of cargo transported	Mt	36	33	91.7%