



Highlights

- Mali entered the agro pastoral lean season in June and some 601,000 people are estimated to be in urgent need of food assistance (compared to 425,000 in 2016). More than half of them are in conflict-affected areas in the north or in the central region of Mali where they suffer from localised droughts and excessive flooding combined with widespread insecurity. From February 2017, WFP provided seasonal food assistance to 100,000 persons which were facing to an early lean season and increased it to 260,000 persons from June for the agro pastoral lean season.
- Despite the contributions received, WFP still faces a critical funding shortfall of USD 6.4 million to continue providing life-saving food assistance during the lean season and until the end of the year. Resource gaps may force WFP to reduce rations or number of people assisted.

WFP Mali Country Brief

WFP Assistance

Saving Lives, Reducing Malnutrition and Rebuilding Livelihoods	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
PRRO 200719 (Jan 2015-Dec 2017)	347.4 m	176.7 m (51%)	23 (73%)

*September 2017 -February 2018

GENDER MARKER **2A** PRRO 200719

Through its ongoing Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation in Mali, WFP supports the Malian Government in its efforts to achieve Zero Hunger, in particular in responding to acute food and nutritional needs among vulnerable food-insecure communities throughout the country. WFP maintains an emergency response capacity, protecting and reinforcing people's livelihoods with a specific focus on women.

In 2017, 1.1 million people are targeted for a combination of emergency and seasonal assistance (in-kind food and cash-based transfer), school meals, food assistance for creation and rehabilitation of productive assets, and prevention and treatment of malnutrition programme through targeted supplementary feeding for children, pregnant and nursing women. Flexibility in combining these activities allows programmes to be better tailored to the different socio-economic and security contexts within the country and increases their impact through synergies and effective links between humanitarian and development interventions.

WFP also provides technical support to the Government at central and decentralised levels to enhance national capacity in food security and nutrition analysis, programme implementation, monitoring and coordination.

Since 2009, WFP has leveraged its procurement needs to increase market access and incomes of smallholder farmer organisations, regrouping nearly 56,000 farmers, 43 percent of whom are women. In addition, technical and financial support is provided to increase the associations' organisational, production, aggregation, quality control and commercial capacities.

Smallholder farmer support activities have allowed WFP to substantially expand local and regional purchases from smallholder farmers over the last six years. As of the second half of 2017, these capacity development investments will expand to include value addition and post-harvest losses.

WFP and Government technical services of the Social Protection and Nutrition Ministries are jointly developing a new food assistance delivery model for caretakers of malnourished children in order to increase the effectiveness treatment by encouraging retention and compliance. WFP and MSF signed a partnership in a comparative research study between Plumpy'DOZ and Nutributter and to reduce chronic malnutrition in the health district of Koutiala in the Sikasso region. WFP is partnering also with the Aga Khan Foundation to assess the efficacy of a locally produced nutritional product commonly known as the "Improved Disease or EQUINUT" for the prevention and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in children aged 6-59 months.

Provisions of Humanitarian Air Services in Mali	Total Requirements (in USD)	Total Received (in USD)	6-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)*
SO 201047 (Jan 2017-March 2018)	9.1 m	7.2m (70.4%)	1.5m (42%)-

* September 2017 -February 2018

WFP Mali manages the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) on behalf of the humanitarian community. Out of Bamako UNHAS provides humanitarian air services to seven destinations: Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao, Bourem, Niafunke, Goundam and Menaka. For the period (01/01/17- 29/08/17), UNHAS served 6,639 passengers, transported 23.7 mt of cargo and performed three medical evacuations.

In Numbers

59,000 internally displaced

143,500 refugees in neighbouring countries

601,000 people in need of food assistance.

416,733 people Assisted in August 2017

51%

49%

Main Photo Credit: WFP/Cecilia Aspe
Caption: The technical committee of Zero Hunger Review met to discuss and comment on the first version of the report facilitated by HE Dioncounda Traoré, former president.

Operational Updates

- The security context in the northern and central regions of the country remains volatile and is characterized by armed groups' clashes, restricted access of communities to basic social services and absence of government services in a majority of these regions.
- In the framework of the Government-led National Response Plan (PNR) and in coordination with other actors, WFP is providing seasonal food assistance to 260,000 vulnerable persons, focusing on areas directly affected by conflict and intercommunal violence where 60 percent of persons in emergency need are located. Overall about 601,000 persons need an emergency assistance to cover their essential food and nutritional needs during the pastoral and agropastoral lean season, with other partners responding to a part of the populations not served by WFP.
- On 30 August, the technical committee of the Zero Hunger Review met to discuss and comment on the first version of the report facilitated by HE Dioncounda Traoré, former president. This important process for achieving the Zero Hunger Goal is supported by WFP.
- After the official launch in February 2017, the preliminary data of the study of the Cost of Hunger in Mali were officially validated on 31 August during a ceremony presided over by the Ministry of Economy and Finance. The study aims to measure the social and economic impact of malnutrition in Mali. The final report of the study will soon be finalized and published.
- Under the food assistance for assets activities, WFP carried out cash payment to vulnerable populations in Gao and Timbuktu region. Due to the lack of financial service in the rural areas of these regions, WFP carried out these payments through local NGO which worked with local traders to deliver immediate cash to assisted persons.
- In the framework of a food assistance project to caretakers of hospitalized malnourished children, jointly implemented by WFP and the Government nationwide, WFP is providing training to government local technical services involved in the implementation of this project.

Challenges

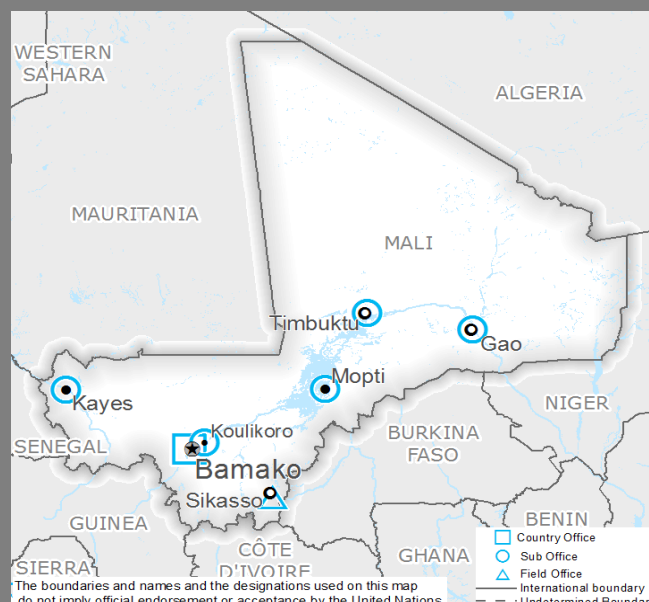
The security situation in northern and central regions of the country remains highly volatile, and humanitarian access remains a major challenge. By working with local NGOs, WFP has been able to deliver food assistance in areas where international NGOs are unable to reach. These partnerships with local NGOs will be developed and scaled-up in order to maximize humanitarian access and develop local capacities.

Impact of Funding Constraints

Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) is seriously underfunded. The financial gap stands at USD 2.7 million until the end of the year. Due to resource constraints, WFP prioritizes the *Centres de Santé Communautaires au Mali* (CSCOMs) in critical or conflict-affected areas. To date, WFP provides assistance in 482 out of 886 CSCOMs, or 54 percent of the health centers targeted by WFP. Lack of resources for school meals compelled WFP to stop assistance to over 40 percent of WFP-supported schools, leaving over 50,000 children without school meals.

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August 2017

Country Background & Strategy



Mali is a vast land-locked country in the heart of the Sahel region. It has successfully achieved the Millennium Development Goal of reducing hunger by 50 percent. Additionally, despite improving, the social indicators remain among the lowest in the world. Over 50 percent of the population lives on less than USD 1.25 a day. One in eight primary school-aged children do not attend school; less than 25 percent have partial secondary education, one third of which are girls.

Following a political coup in March 2012, the north of the country was occupied by non-state armed groups and effectively cut off from the rest of the country until a brief military intervention in January 2013. These events resulted in large scale population displacements. A UN peacekeeping mission was deployed to the country in July 2013 and a new President was elected in August 2013, followed by peaceful legislative elections. As a result of renewed violence led by factions in the north, a Peace Agreement was signed on 20 June 2015. Safety and security remain volatile and violence has increased in north and central Mali despite the signing of this Peace Agreement.

WFP's programmes in Mali are aligned with WFP Global Strategic Objectives 1, 2 and 4, Sustainable Development Goal 2, the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (2015-2019) and several Malian national policies and programmes.

WFP has been present in Mali since 1964.

Population: **18.8 million**

2015 Human Development Index:
179 out of 188

Income Level: **Lower Income Country**

Chronic malnutrition: **30.5 % of children between 6-59 months**

Donors

USA, Canada, CERF, ECHO/DFID, Germany, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, France, Multilateral funds

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