



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) | 347.5 m | 169.5 m (49%) | 29.8 m (48%) |

*May - October 2017

GENDER MARKER 2A PRRO 200719

Through its ongoing Protracted Relief and Recovery Operation in Mali, WFP supports the Malian Government to achieve Zero Hunger among vulnerable food-insecure communities throughout the country by responding to acute food and nutritional needs. WFP maintains an emergency response capacity (especially in north and central Mali), protects and reinforces people's livelihoods with a specific focus on women. In 2017, WFP aims to assist 1.1 million people through a combination of emergency and seasonal targeted assistance (in-kind food and cash-based transfer), school meals, food assistance for creation and rehabilitation of productive assets, and prevention 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 contexts within the country and aims at greater impact through synergies and effective links between emergency and development interventions.

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

Since 2009 WFP leveraged its procurement demand to increase market access and incomes of some 29 smallholder farmer organisations, representing nearly 56,000 farmers, 43 percent of whom are women farmers. Technical and financial support is provided throughout the value chain in order to increase their organisational, production, aggregation, quality control and commercial capacities.

Main Photo Credit: WFP/Sebastien Rieussec
Caption: Access to education for children in Mali supported by WFP school meals.

Highlights

- The latest results of the *Cadre Harmonisé* show a marked deterioration in the food security situation. 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 flooding combined with widespread insecurity.
- Despite the significant contributions received, WFP still faces a critical funding shortfall of USD 13.5 million to continue providing life-saving assistance during the lean season (only GFD, does not include nutrition). Resource gaps may force WFP to reduce rations or number of people assisted.

From June 2017, the smallholder farmer support activities will include a specific intervention that aims to reduce post-harvest losses through adapted in-home storage systems. Over the years, these capacity development investments allowed WFP to substantially expand local and regional purchases from smallholder farmers.

WFP is partnering with a number of institutions to undertake operational research in the nutrition area. The community-based nutritional health programme in the Kayes Region addresses the critical first 1,000 days of a child's life. WFP is also partnering with *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF) to support the operational research on the ability of various locally made nutritional supplements to treat moderate acute malnutrition and prevent chronic malnutrition. In parallel, WFP is partnering with the Aga Khan Foundation to measure the effectiveness of a local nutrition supplements which could reduce the cost of nutrition treatment in Mali.

| 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 m | 3.1 m (34.7%) | 3m |

*May - October 2017

WFP manages the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) on behalf of the humanitarian community in Mali. UNHAS provides humanitarian air services to four main airports in Mali (Bamako, Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao) and serves secondary airstrips in Menaka. Flights to Kidal were suspended due to the damage caused to the newly refurbished airstrip during local protests.

In Numbers

47,000 internally displaced

141,450 refugees in neighbouring countries

380,000 people in need of food assistance (601,000)

292,928
people assisted in
April 2017



Operational Updates

- Following February 2017 Food and Nutrition Security Assessment, the *Cadre Harmonisé* analysis was completed and validated at the national and regional level in March. It confirmed that 380,000 people are already in critical need of food assistance despite the harvest period. This number will increase to 601,000 people during the upcoming pastoral and agro-pastoral lean season (June-September). Overall some 3.8 million people are estimated to be food insecure at different levels of severity during this period.
- WFP assisted 292,928 people in April through in-kind food and value voucher distributions for emergency support to displaced persons, school meals, seasonal support to pastoral communities, malnutrition prevention and treatment, and community asset creation. WFP also conducted activities to support smallholder farmers.
- Due to the early start of pastoral lean season and conflict-related displacement of population, WFP scaled up its assistance to target 138,000 persons including 47,000 conflict-related displaced persons, facing high food insecurity in the north and centre of the country in April.
- Due to funding shortfall, WFP was unable to address the needs of all the pastoral communities facing an early lean season and prioritized emergency food assistance to displaced persons.
- Data on nutrition as per the September 2016 Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey estimates national prevalence of Global Acute Malnutrition at 10.6—which is considered as 'critical' according to World Health Organization's thresholds. In Gao and Timbuktu regions such rates are even higher at 14.8 and 14.3 percent, respectively.

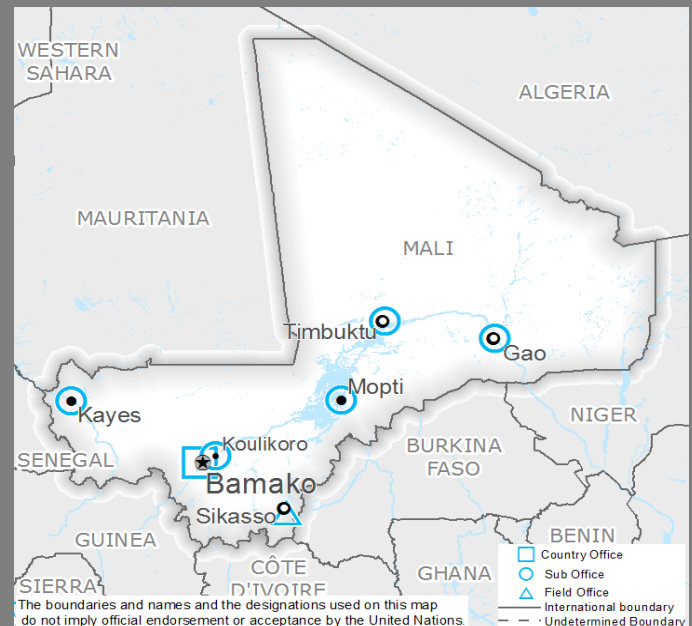
Challenges

- The security situation in north and central regions remains highly volatile. More than 2,000 new conflict-related displaced persons were noted in Gao and Timbuktu regions in April.
- In Mopti region, an armed group prevented WFP partner from timely delivery of food assistance to some pastoral population in March in Tenenku *cercle*. WFP used an alternative road in April to reach these affected population.

Impact of Limited Funding

- While WFP received some contributions to meet increasing needs, several life-saving activities – notably nutrition – remain seriously underfunded. Critical funding constraints also compelled WFP to halve the numbers of schools in the school meals programme.
- WFP Mali continues to assist 595 schools out of 965 schools previously assisted in 2015/16 school year. This represents a drop in the number of schoolchildren assisted from 177,000 to 109,000. Introducing the cash transfers modality in school canteens has led to some efficiency gains. WFP Mali still needs USD 6.2 million to reach all schools for the 2016/17 school year.

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. At the same time, its social indicators – although improving – 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. Despite the signing of this Peace Agreement, the security situation remains volatile and violence has increased in north and central Mali.

WFP programmes in Mali are aligned with WFP 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, ECHO, Canada, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Private donors, Germany, Multilateral funds