



Highlights

- Mali entered the 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.
- Despite the contributions received, WFP still faces a critical funding shortfall of USD 11.2 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.

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	172.5 m (50%)	32 m (57%)

*July-December 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, protecting and reinforcing people's livelihoods with a specific focus on women.

In 2017, 1.1 million people are targeted 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 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 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 farmers. In addition, technical and financial support is provided throughout the value chain in order to increase the associations' organisational, production, aggregation, quality control and commercial capacities.

As of June 2017, the smallholder farmer support activities will expand to include also reduction of post-harvest losses.

These capacity development investments have allowed WFP to substantially expand local and regional purchases from smallholder farmers over the last four years.

WFP and Government technical services of the Social Protection and Nutrition Ministries are jointly developing a food assistance delivery model for caretakers of malnourished children in order to increase compliance to treatment. WFP and *Médecins Sans Frontières* (MSF) partnered to undertake an operational research aiming to assess cost effectiveness of different treatment approaches for moderate acute malnutrition and chronic malnutrition. WFP is partnering also with the Aga Khan Foundation to test and assess feasibility of a local nutrition supplement 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	3.5m (38%)	-

*July - December 2017

WFP Mali manages the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) on behalf of the humanitarian community. UNHAS provides humanitarian air services to four main airports in Mali (Bamako, Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao). Since May 2017, thanks to a new fleet with capacity to land on shorter runways, secondary airstrips were added to UNHAS flight schedule in Menaka Goundam, Niafounke and Bourem.

In Numbers

59, 000 internally displaced

143,500 refugees in neighbouring countries

601,000 people in need of food assistance.

554, 747
people assisted in
June 2017



Main Photo

Credit: WFP/Virgo Edgar
Caption: Steering Committee of Resilience Project in Northern Mali organized by WFP and FAO.



June 2017

Operational Updates

- WFP food assistance will be provided to 260,000 people in need of critical food assistance, which represents 43 percent of overall people estimated in need of urgent food assistance (*Harmonized framework, March 2017*) WFP is prioritising seasonal assistance to people living in areas directly affected by intercommunal violence and conflict.
- Building on the joint WFP and the *Office des Produits Agricoles du Mali* (OPAM) study which confirmed favourable market conditions, Cash Based Transfers (CBT) will be further scaled up in the northern regions and Mopti. More than 50 percent of the lean season food assistance will be delivered through CBT in Gao and Timbuktu region. Overall WFP plans to distribute USD 1.3 million per month from June to September (CBT).
- Taking into account the specific security context in the north and the limited presence of financial institutions, WFP opted for the value-based vouchers to be redeemed in selected local shops. Food basket and market price monitoring is undertaken through NGO.
- In the south and part of central regions where security is less of a concern, WFP conditional cash transfer will be done through mobile network operator using beneficiary individual cash account.
- On 21 June 2017, the Ministry of Agriculture organized the steering committee of the joint FAO/WFP resilience programme for vulnerable populations in the north (Gao, Mopti, Timbuktu) with different stakeholders and the donor UE/DEVCO.

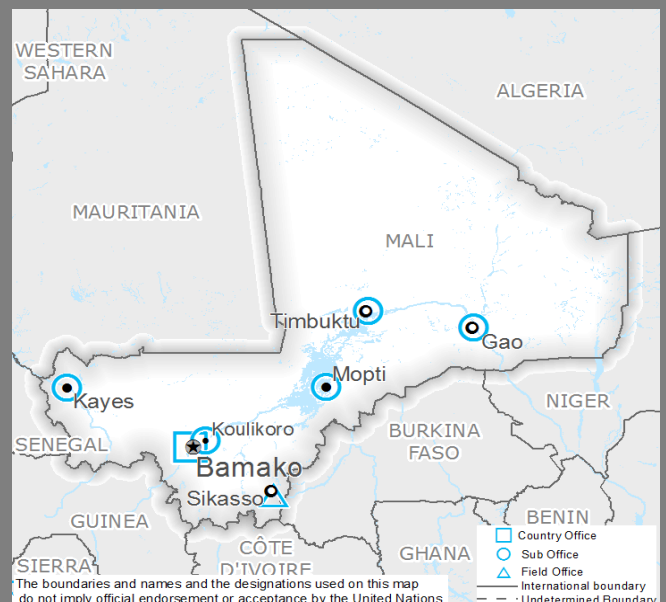
Challenges

- The security situation in northern and central regions of the country remains highly volatile. Humanitarian access remains a major challenge: in Tin-Hama commune, Gao region, activities of armed group prevented WFP partner (international NGO) to access and distribute assistance. WFP has engaged a discussion with local NGOs and local community leaders aiming at creating conditions for restarting distribution in July. The village of Tin-Hama, hosts 1,134 persons in needs of urgent food assistance.
- Introducing the cash transfers modality in school canteens has led to efficiency gains but funding gaps still threaten school meals. USD 1.9 million are urgently needed to ensure continuity in 700 canteens until the end of December 2017. Gaps stand at 100 percent from January 2018. WFP Mali and the Malian Ministry for Education advocate together for school meals.

Impact of Limited Funding

- Treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM) is seriously underfunded. The financial gap currently 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 the schools in the current schoolyear, leaving over 50,000 children without assistance.

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, ECHO, Canada, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Switzerland, Private donors, Germany, Multilateral funds

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