

Mali – Complex Emergency

APRIL 20, 2021

SITUATION AT A GLANCE

<p>20.5 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Population of Mali</p> <p><i>UN – February 2021</i></p>	<p>5.9 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need of Humanitarian Assistance</p> <p><i>UN – February 2021</i></p>	<p>1.3 MILLION</p> <p>Estimated Number of People in Need of Emergency Food Assistance During Lean Season</p> <p><i>CH – March 2021</i></p>	<p>346,864</p> <p>Estimated Number of IDPs in Mali</p> <p><i>UNHCR – January 2021</i></p>	<p>146,930</p> <p>Estimated Number of Malian Refugees in Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger</p> <p><i>UNHCR – February 2021</i></p>
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- The 2021 Mali HRP identifies 5.9 million people requiring humanitarian assistance and requests \$563 million to reach the most vulnerable populations.
- 1.3 million people will likely require emergency food assistance as Mali enters the July-to-October lean season, when food is scarcest.
- USG partners continue to deliver life-saving assistance to vulnerable populations affected by worsening insecurity, political unrest, climatic shocks, and the socioeconomic effects of COVID-19.



TOTAL U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN FUNDING For the Mali Response in FY 2021	USAID/BHA ¹	\$5,650,000
	State/PRM ²	\$15,380,829
Total		\$21,030,829

For complete funding breakdown with partners, see detailed chart on page 5

¹ USAID's Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA)
² U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

2021 Mali HRP Requests \$563 Million to Reach 4.7 Million People

The UN released the 2021 Mali Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) on February 22, outlining plans to provide life-saving humanitarian assistance to 4.7 million people, including 2.6 million children. Overall, the HRP identifies 5.9 million people in need, a decrease of approximately 1.1 million people compared to the amended 2020 HRP released in August, which accounted for additional needs resulting from Mali's coronavirus disease (COVID-19) outbreak, but a 37 percent increase from the 4.3 million people in need prior to the pandemic. The HRP cites the persistence of insecurity, political unrest, climatic shocks, and the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19 mitigation measures as the primary drivers of heightened levels of need in the country in 2021. Furthermore, the UN noted that humanitarian access constraints continue to limit the ability of vulnerable households to access essential goods and services, leading many to adopt negative coping strategies to meet basic needs.

The HRP highlights food security, nutrition, and protection as priority sectors requiring the largest share of funding to improve access to basic services and promote resilience. In particular, the HRP prioritizes the delivery of assistance to highly vulnerable displaced populations—including 311,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) and 48,000 refugees—as well as 651,000 Malians who have recently returned to their areas of origin. The HRP seeks to address the needs of vulnerable populations through protection support, including legal services, community-based protection groups, and gender-based violence (GBV) and child protection advocacy; displacement monitoring and information services; shelter and infrastructure activities; and livelihood support activities; among other critical humanitarian programming. Despite inadequate funding for the amended 2020 HRP—only approximately 48 percent of the more than \$474 million requested was funded by the year's end—the 2021 HRP requests \$563 million for its interventions, a more than 18 percent increase from 2020 funding requirements.

1.3 Million People to Experience Food Insecurity During 2021 Lean Season

Escalating insecurity, flooding in July and August 2020, and the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 are exacerbating food insecurity in Mali, according to a March Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis. As a result, more than 1.3 million people will likely face Crisis—Phase 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity and require emergency food assistance to meet basic needs between June and August—a period that includes the lean season when food is scarcest.⁵ The latest CH projection represents a more than 50 percent increase from the nearly 867,000 people currently experiencing the same conditions and a nearly 30 percent increase from the population requiring emergency food assistance during the 2020 lean season.

In particular, worsening security conditions are undermining many crisis-affected Malians' food access and livelihoods and will likely lead some households in the tri-border area between Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger to face Emergency—Phase 4—outcomes by May, CH reports. Insecurity and the threat of livestock theft in conflict-affected areas of central and eastern Mali have disrupted herd movements, resulting in substantial livestock losses and damaged land due to overgrazing, and diminished livelihoods of pastoral households. Insecurity and displacement also decreased the amount of cultivated land in Mopti Region's Bandiagara, Bankass, Douentza, and Koro *cercles* by 15 to 20 percent in 2020, undermining agricultural production and access to food, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Additionally, displacement and limited access to basic services in conflict-

⁵ The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a multi-partner initiative that developed a standardized scale to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries and time, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5—for acute food insecurity. The Cadre Harmonisé (CH), a framework to analyze acute food insecurity in West Africa and the Sahel, uses a separate but similar scale ranging from Minimal (Phase 1) to Famine (Phase 5).

affected areas of central and southern Mali have resulted in heightened levels of wasting—the deadliest form of malnutrition. Furthermore, COVID-19 mitigation measures have reduced the ability of approximately 47 percent of households in Mali to meet their basic food needs, with Mali’s Gao, Kidal, and Koulikoro regions, as well as Bamako Capital District, being the worst affected.

Insecurity in Northern and Central Mali Heightens Displacement

Intercommunal conflict and escalating non-state armed group (NSAG) violence in the central and eastern regions of Mali have resulted in widespread displacement, loss of livelihoods, and increased humanitarian access constraints. As of December 2020, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) had identified nearly 333,000 IDPs in Mali, an increase of approximately 60 percent from December 2019. Between October and December 2020, displacement increased by more than 21,000 people due to worsening security conditions in the northern regions of Gao and Timbuktu and the central regions of Mopti and Ségou along the Mali–Burkina Faso border, according to IOM. According to the UN agency, 54 percent of IDPs reported intercommunal conflict as the principal reason for their displacement, while 43 percent of IDPs attributed their displacement to NSAG violence as of December 2020, marking a 15 percent increase from October 2020. Increased NSAG activity in Gao and Ségou—including the use of improvised explosive devices to destroy major roads, bridges, and telecommunications infrastructure—has severely limited the ability of conflict-affected populations to access income-generating opportunities, basic services, and humanitarian assistance. Insecurity also resulted in school closures that affected approximately 403,000 children in 2020, posing additional protection risks for affected children. In 2021, persistent violence has continued to displace Malians, with approximately 347,000 IDPs recorded by late January, according to the UN, marking an increase of nearly 14,000 people.

Peace Agreements Aim to Increase Humanitarian Access in Central Mali

In January, representatives from the Fulani and Dogon ethnic groups signed three peace agreements to improve humanitarian access to conflict-affected areas, following more than five years of intercommunal violence, according to the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD), a Swiss-based private diplomacy organization. The Fulani, who are predominantly nomadic herders, and the Dogon, who are predominantly sedentary farmers, both reside in Koro Cercle in central Mali, where tensions over access to land had resulted in armed conflict between the two groups. Under the agreements, the Fulani and Dogon pledged to allow greater movement of people and goods, including humanitarian commodities and personnel, as well as livestock along pastoral corridors, and improve community access to markets and public amenities. Furthermore, the agreements aim to encourage the return of IDPs to the region. The recent peace agreements continue mediation efforts that began in 2018 with a peace accord that facilitated the return of 2,000 IDPs and resulted in a period of reduced tensions; however, renewed conflict following the 2018 agreement required additional mediation measures, according to HD.

KEY FIGURES



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USG partners providing food assistance and agriculture and food security support



7

USG partners implementing health programming



8

USG partners implementing WASH programming



7

USG partners implementing nutrition programming

U.S. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

FOOD SECURITY

To address acute food insecurity in Mali, USAID/BHA supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) and two non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide emergency food assistance—including U.S.-sourced wheat, beans, and vegetable oil, as well as food vouchers redeemable for food baskets in local markets—and agriculture and food security support to populations in need. With approximately \$4.5 million in FY 2021 funding, USAID/BHA-supported food assistance has reached vulnerable populations—including IDPs and host community members—in food-insecure regions across Mali. USAID/BHA NGO partners continue to provide agriculture and food security assistance to vulnerable populations in conflict-affected areas of the country, as well as to individuals impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

HEALTH

USAID/BHA supports the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and six NGO partners to provide life-saving health care—often integrated with nutrition and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming—for conflict-affected people in Mali. USAID/BHA provides medical supplies, supports health units, and trains community health workers to support urgent health needs. Furthermore, USAID/BHA partners conducted awareness-raising messaging focused on identifying incidents of GBV and highlighting GBV response services, the importance of seeking clinical management services, and GBV responders’ confidentiality principles.

WASH

USAID/BHA and State/PRM support WASH programming throughout Mali to respond to the COVID-19 outbreak and prevent communicable disease outbreaks, including cholera, measles, and wasting in children and pregnant and lactating women (PLW). USAID/BHA also supports activities focused on repairing and increasing access to sources of safe drinking water as well as other WASH infrastructure, including latrines and handwashing stations. Through the USAID/BHA-supported Rapid Response Mechanism, a USAID/BHA NGO partner provides food, shelter, and WASH assistance to IDP households in Gao, Ménaka, Mopti, and Ségou.

NUTRITION

USAID/BHA supports partners on the forefront of efforts to prevent and treat moderate and severe wasting across Mali. Working through UNICEF and six NGO implementing partners, USAID/BHA is supporting people in need with community- and evidence-based programs aiming to decrease morbidity and mortality resulting from malnutrition. Focusing on children and PLW in particular, USAID/BHA programs help prevent, identify, and treat wasting among vulnerable populations in Mali.

CONTEXT IN BRIEF

- Since 2012, conflict in northern Mali has resulted in displacement, food insecurity, and violence. Improvements in the availability of food and basic services and security conditions in some parts of the country have enabled the return of nearly 85,000 refugees to areas of origin; however, the UN reports that continued insecurity in northern and central Mali, as well as increasing intercommunal conflict and natural hazards had resulted in the internal displacement of nearly 347,000 people and prompted approximately 147,000 Malians to flee to neighboring countries as of early 2021. Prolonged displacement, disrupted trade flows, and constrained humanitarian access continue to increase vulnerabilities among affected households, according to the UN.
- On December 17, 2020, U.S. Ambassador to Mali Dennis B. Hankins redeclared a disaster due to the ongoing complex emergency in Mali. USAID/BHA continues to support food-insecure and vulnerable IDPs and host community members with food assistance and other emergency interventions to improve agricultural production and revitalize livelihood activities, building community resilience to shocks. In addition, USAID/BHA has improved access to emergency health care, protection services, safe drinking water, and WASH infrastructure. USAID/BHA has also funded technical support and data collection on IDPs, returnees, and host communities to ensure effective and appropriate assistance.

USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MALI RESPONSE IN FY 2021¹

IMPLEMENTING PARTNER	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	AMOUNT
USAID/BHA			
UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Coordination, Information Management, and Assessments (HCIMA)	Bamako, Gao, Koulikoro, Mopti, Ségou, Sikasso, Timbuktu	\$450,000
WFP	Logistics Support	Bamako, Gao, Kayes, Mopti, Timbuktu	\$700,000
	Food Assistance–Vouchers	Countrywide	\$4,500,000
TOTAL USAID/BHA FUNDING			\$5,650,000
STATE/PRM			
Implementing Partner (IP)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Protection, WASH	Niger	\$1,000,000
International Labor Organization	ERMS	Mauritania	\$1,530,829
	Multi-Sector Assistance	Burkina Faso	\$4,100,000
Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)	Multi-Sector Assistance	Mali	\$2,700,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	Mauritania	\$1,400,000
	Multi-Sector Assistance	Niger	\$2,650,000
WFP	Food Assistance	Mauritania	\$2,000,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING			\$15,380,829
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MALI RESPONSE IN FY 2021			\$21,030,829

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of April 20.

² State/PRM funding in neighboring countries represents funding addressing humanitarian needs among Malian refugees.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for disaster responses around the world can be found at [interaction.org](https://www.interaction.org).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [cidi.org](https://www.cidi.org)
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [reliefweb.int](https://www.reliefweb.int).

USAID/BHA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work](https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance/where-we-work)