

## CONTEXT

- Recurrent climatic shocks—including drought and seasonal floods—and protracted conflict continue to generate high levels of humanitarian need across Mali. According to the UN’s 2024 Mali Humanitarian Response Plan, an estimated 7.1 million people in the country, or approximately 32 percent of the population, are likely to require humanitarian assistance during 2024.
- Sustained armed conflict and intercommunal violence, as well as climatic shocks, had internally displaced approximately 355,000 people in Mali as of December 2023, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM)’s Displacement Tracking Matrix. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported nearly 99,120 Malian refugees residing outside of Hodh El Chargui’s Mbera refugee camp in Mauritania as of the end of February, including more than 14,000 new arrivals in January alone. Additionally, as of March, Mali hosted more than 88,800 refugees, the majority of whom fled insecurity in neighboring Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger in recent years, according to UNHCR.
- Nearly 1.4 million people across Mali are likely to face Crisis—Phase 3—or worse levels of acute food insecurity during the June-to-August 2024 lean season, when food is most scarce, according to a March 2024 Cadre Harmonisé (CH) analysis.<sup>1</sup> Additionally, between June 2023 and May 2024, an Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) analysis estimates that nearly 1.4 million children under five years of age and nearly 88,000 pregnant and lactating women (PLW) will experience acute malnutrition, including more than 313,000 children experiencing severe acute malnutrition.
- Armed conflict and intercommunal violence have generated insecurity and hindered humanitarian access, particularly in Mali’s Ménaka Region, contributing to high levels of unmet need in Mali throughout recent months, the UN reports. Approximately 65 percent of the population in Ménaka has been displaced and humanitarian access remains severely restricted, resulting in deteriorating food security conditions, disrupted livelihoods, and impeded access to basic goods, according to the UN and the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).



## ASSISTANCE

- USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/BHA) supports the UN World Food Program (WFP) to reach food-insecure individuals within conflict-affected populations countrywide with emergency food and nutrition

<sup>1</sup> CH is a standardized framework used across West Africa and the Sahel that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of acute food insecurity. The CH scale is comparable across countries in West Africa and ranges from Minimal—Phase 1—to Famine—Phase 5.

commodities. WFP is also providing nutrition assistance to PLW and children to prevent acute malnutrition in central and northern Mali during the 2024 lean season.

- USAID/BHA supports shared services, such as humanitarian coordination, information management, and assessments, to build humanitarian capacity and improve the effectiveness of relief operations in Mali. In partnership with IOM, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), WFP, and multiple nongovernmental organization (NGO) implementing partners, USAID/BHA helps to support displacement monitoring, strengthen national early warning systems for food security, and enhance host government data collection and analysis to inform humanitarian interventions.
- USAID/BHA supports the implementation of water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programs, including activities that respond to the outbreak of communicable diseases, such as cholera and measles, and WASH-related acute malnutrition affecting children and PLW. USAID/BHA also bolsters access to safe drinking water for IDPs, host communities, and returned IDPs in Mopti Region by supporting the installation and rehabilitation of handwashing stations, latrines, and water taps to enable and promote optimal WASH practices.
- USAID/BHA supports early recovery, risk reduction, and resilience (ER4) interventions in Mali that promote self-reliance, enabling households to cope with recurrent shocks. Since October 2020, USAID/BHA has provided sustained, multi-year funding to an NGO partner to implement a five-year program as part of USAID’s early recovery and resilience goals. The program aims to improve food security and resilience among conflict-affected households in Gao, Mopti, and Timbuktu regions by strengthening the capacity of local partners to implement food security activities and enhancing mechanisms for community participation throughout programming. In FY 2023, the NGO supported 12 priority natural resource management projects, reaching approximately 1,500 participants through cash-for-work activities, including constructing pastoral wells and rehabilitating degraded agricultural land.

USAID/BHA Funding in Mali <sup>2</sup>			
	Emergency <sup>3</sup>	ER4	TOTAL
FY 2023	\$71,964,021	\$11,550,322	\$83,514,343
FY 2024	–	–	–

<sup>2</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of April 29, 2024. Totals include estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

<sup>3</sup> Includes funding for programs that integrate ER4 activities with emergency response.