In recent months, renewed insecurity and violence, as well as heavy rains and flooding during the June-to-October rainy season, have contributed to deteriorated humanitarian conditions in northern and central Mali, UN reports. Conflict has impeded the delivery of humanitarian assistance and threatened the safety of relief workers, prompting the UN to impose sanctions on individuals thwarting the 2015 peace agreement’s progress.

Insecurity has also negatively affected market activities and households' purchasing power and access to food, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Nearly 4 million people experiencing moderate or severe food insecurity required food assistance during the June-to-August lean season—an increase of 805,000 people compared to 2016, according to the UN.

To date in FY 2017, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided nearly $47.6 million to UN agencies and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners responding to the humanitarian needs of populations affected by the ongoing complex emergency in Mali.
INSECURITY AND POPULATION MOVEMENT

- On August 22, militants fired at an Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) vehicle in northern Mali’s Tombouctou Region, injuring two staff. Following the incident, UNHCR called for the protection of humanitarian workers and iterated the UN agency’s commitment to providing protection services to populations displaced by conflict in Mali.

- Militants attacked a convoy carrying members of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali in northern Mali’s Kidal Region on September 5, resulting in the deaths of two Chadian peacekeepers and injuring two others, according to the UN Security Council (UNSC). UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the UNSC issued press statements condemning the attacks, and the UNSC also unanimously adopted a resolution imposing sanctions on individuals actively stymying the implementation of the 2015 Agreement of Peace and Reconciliation in Mali—an accord enacted between the Government of Mali (GoM) and opposition groups. The resolution established a committee and panel of experts to review and respond to reported violations of the agreement. The late August and early September incidents are the latest in a series of violent attacks against UN staff and demonstrate the continued risks UN staff in Mali face.

- In addition to escalating insecurity in Kidal and Tombouctou, the expansion of armed groups and increasing criminal activity have led to deteriorating security conditions in Mali’s Gao, Menaka, and Mopti regions. Clashes between armed groups and inter-communal conflict and tension had displaced nearly 141,000 Malian refugees to neighboring countries as of late August, according to UNHCR.

- Populations in Mali and neighboring countries, particularly internally displaced persons (IDPs) and Malian refugees, face heightened protection risks amid limited access to safe drinking water and public services, including documentation and shelter assistance, as well as food insecurity, UNHCR reports. Worsening economic and security conditions have hindered the integration of Malian refugees into host communities in neighboring countries; as a result, many are unable to meet basic needs or pursue sustainable livelihood activities.

- In August, the International Organization for Migration reported that nearly 55,400 IDPs were located in Mali, representing an increase of 3,400 people, or 7 percent, compared to the nearly 52,000 IDPs identified in June. Tombouctou hosted the majority of IDPs—more than 21,000 people—while Segou and Gao hosted approximately 9,000 and 8,000 IDPs, respectively. A January assessment of IDPs, repatriates, and returnees found that approximately 43 percent of IDP households—approximately 15,200 IDPs—intended to return to places of origin, while more than 50 percent, or nearly 17,700 IDPs, planned to stay in displacement areas, citing improved food access, economic opportunities, and safety conditions, according to the UN. More than half of IDPs, repatriates, and returnees reported sheltering in houses; however, approximately one-third of IDPs, 40 percent of repatriates, and 25 percent of returnees were sheltering in tents and other informal sites of as January.

FLOODING

- July flooding in northern Mali significantly affected food security and shelter conditions, as well as livelihood activities, for approximately 7,400 people. According to FEWS NET, flood-affected households will likely experience Stressed—IPC 2—levels of food insecurity through October 2017. The UN reported that flooding had damaged or destroyed more than 760 houses. In comparison, the 2016 rainy season affected more than 9,500 individuals and damaged or destroyed nearly 1,900 houses.

- Between January and mid-August, Malian farmers lost nearly 26,200 livestock due to flooding, the UN reports. Flooding particularly affected farmers in Tombouctou, which accounted for approximately 73 percent of the flood-affected population and nearly all of the lost livestock recorded. In contrast, the UN reported only 1,400 livestock lost during the 2016 rainy season.

- With support from USAID’s rapid response mechanism in Mali, which is co-funded by USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP, an NGO partner mobilized emergency relief staff to assess priority needs, assist with beneficiary

1 The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) is a standardized tool that aims to classify the severity and magnitude of food insecurity. The IPC scale, which is comparable across countries, ranges from Minimal—IPC 1—to Famine—IPC 5.
registration activities, and distribute relief assistance to flood-affected individuals in Mali. To date, three teams of partner staff, in coordination with other humanitarian organization personnel, have registered more than 4,000 people in Gao, Segou, and Tombouctou. The NGO provided one-month food rations to nearly 1,500 people in Tombouctou town and emergency relief and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) items—such as blankets, mats, tarpaulins, water containers, and water purification supplies—to approximately 1,000 people in Mopti’s Kona Bougou village during late August. UN agencies and other relief actors are also providing disaster relief assistance to meet critical food, health, nutrition, shelter, and WASH needs, as well as identifying livestock replenishment needs and supporting the destruction of the dead animal carcasses to avoid water contamination.

**FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION**

- Limited market access and increased food prices are hindering food access for households in Gao and Tombouctou and localized areas of Segou Region, according to FEWS NET. Households in these areas are using unsustainable coping strategies to meet food needs, and will likely continue to experience Stressed levels of food insecurity through September 2017. However, favorable crop production during the October-to-December harvest season will likely modestly improve food security, with the majority of households in Mali returning to Minimal—IPC 1—levels of food insecurity between October 2017 and January 2018.

- Although FEWS NET expects favorable agricultural production in the coming months, food security conditions in Mali deteriorated considerably between 2016 and 2017 lean seasons, according to the Cadre Harmonisé—a food security tool used throughout West Africa for the classification, analysis, and reporting of food insecurity. Between June and August 2017—the end of the pastoral lean season and the beginning of the agricultural lean season—approximately 601,000 severely food-insecure people in Mali required emergency food assistance, a 42 percent increase from the approximately 425,000 people reported in the Cadre Harmonisé 2016 analysis. More than half of the affected population was located in conflict-affected areas in the northern and central regions of the country, where frequent localized droughts and excessive flooding occur, according to the UN World Food Program (WFP). In response, USAID/FFP partner WFP is providing in-kind food assistance and food vouchers to food-insecure populations in Mali, reaching nearly 554,800 people with food assistance in July.

- The UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) projects that 142,000 children ages five years and younger will experience severe acute malnutrition (SAM) in 2017, of whom approximately 21,300 children—15 percent—are expected to develop complications. During the first half of 2017, nutrition actors admitted approximately 36,000 SAM cases for treatment. USAID/FFP partner UNICEF is supporting more than 1,300 health facilities in Mali with health supplies to prevent and treat malnutrition, including medicines, nutrition measurement tools, ready-to-use therapeutic food, and training for health care workers.

- USAID/FFP has contributed nearly $24.7 million to date in FY 2017 funding to WFP to provide food vouchers and in-kind food assistance to food-insecure populations in Mali. USAID/FFP also provided nearly $2.2 million to UNICEF to deliver nutrition assistance to populations in need, and contributed nearly $676,000 to an NGO partner for implementation of an emergency rapid response mechanism, facilitating the delivery of food and relief assistance.

- USAID/OFDA has contributed more than $5.5 million to date in FY 2017 funding to support agricultural and food security interventions, approximately $2.7 million towards economic recovery and market systems, and nearly $1.7 million to support nutrition activities in Mali. USAID/OFDA’s agriculture, food security, and livelihood activities include increasing community resilience by strengthening livelihoods, improving community coordination mechanisms, and protecting livestock for vulnerable agro-pastoral households affected by the conflict and climate shocks.

**SHELTER AND PROTECTION**

- Despite insecurity and limited humanitarian access in northern and central Mali, UNHCR began coordinating with relief actors in August to construct 540 shelters for host community members, IDPs, and returnees in Gao, Mopti, and Tombouctou.
• USAID/OFDA has contributed more than $493,000 to date in FY 2017 funding to NGO partners in Mali to distribute emergency shelter materials and tools and provide training on proper construction techniques.

• UNHCR is also supporting relief organizations with voluntary repatriation and reintegration efforts for Malian refugee returnees through a range of protection activities, including protection monitoring, refugee registration and documentation, sexual and gender-based violence education and prevention, shelter assistance, and WASH services. UNHCR is supporting nearly 30 registration points in 20 GoM-designated priority communes to improve access to documentation for refugee returnees and support voluntary repatriation through cash grants for approximately 6,000 refugee returnees.

• USAID/OFDA contributed more than $2.2 million to date in FY 2017 funding to support UN agencies and NGO partners to strengthen legal, political, and programmatic child protection policies through local and national coordination efforts and support local community-based protection initiatives.

HEALTH AND WASH

• Access to health care services remains limited throughout Mali, particularly in Kidal, where nearly 70 percent of the region’s 32 existing health facilities are non-functional, according to the UN World Health Organization (WHO). Populations in Mali continue to face a high risk of infectious disease outbreaks, including malaria, measles, and meningitis, WHO reports. Between January and mid-February, health officials recorded approximately 5,500 malaria cases, 60 meningitis cases, and 40 measles cases.

• More than 50 percent of Malians do not have access to a latrine or toilet, exacerbating the risk of diarrheal diseases amongst children, according to UNICEF. The UN estimates that approximately 1.2 million people are in need of WASH assistance in the country, including approximately 795,000 people in northern Mali and nearly 404,000 people in southern Mali. To support WASH assistance in vulnerable communities in Mali, UNHCR is restoring eight water points and constructing 12 boreholes to improve water access for refugee returnees and local communities in Gao, Mopti, and Tombouctou.

• To date in FY 2017, USAID/OFDA has provided NGO partners with more than $2 million to support health interventions, including delivering health campaigns promoting immunizations and the use of reproductive health services, improving access to quality health care services, and training community health volunteers. USAID/OFDA has also contributed nearly $2 million to support NGO partners providing WASH support to vulnerable communities in Mali.

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AND RELIEF COMMODITIES

• WFP staff manage the UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS), which provides air services to four main airports in Mali—Bamako, Gao, Mopti, and Tombouctou. Since May 2017, UNHAS added secondary airstrips in Bourem, Goundam, Menaka, and Niafounke communes to its flight schedule.

• USAID/OFDA has provided more than $1.5 million to date in FY 2017 funding to support logistics operations in Mali, including $1.2 million to UNHAS to provide air services for humanitarian workers and logistical support for delivering relief assistance to people in need in Mali. With USAID/FPF support, WFP and UNICEF dispatched more than 11,200 metric tons (MT) of in-kind food assistance and local and regional food procurement, as well as food vouchers, to food-insecure populations in Mali.

OTHER HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

• The 2017 Humanitarian Response Plan for Mali, which requests $293 million to provide multi-sector humanitarian assistance to nearly 1.4 million people, had received $100 million—nearly 33 percent of the appeal amount—as of September 14, leaving a shortage of nearly $205 million, according to the UN.
**CONTEXT**

- Since 2012, conflict in northern Mali has resulted in displacement, violence, and food insecurity. Improvements in the availability of food and basic services and security conditions in some parts of the country resulted in the return of approximately 60,200 displaced people to areas of origin; however, the UN reported that approximately 55,400 people remained internally displaced, while 141,000 Malians had fled to neighboring countries as of July 2017. Prolonged displacement, disrupted trade flows, and constrained humanitarian access continued to increase vulnerabilities among affected families, according to the UN.

- On October 13, 2016, U.S. Ambassador Paul A. Folsom reissued a disaster declaration due to the ongoing complex emergency in Mali. In response, USAID/OFDA supported food-insecure and vulnerable IDPs and host community members through projects that aimed to reactivate agricultural production, restore food security, and revitalize livelihood activities. In addition, USAID/OFDA improved access to emergency health care, protection services, safe drinking water, and sanitation infrastructure. USAID/OFDA also funded technical support and data collection on IDPs, returnees, and host communities to ensure effective, appropriate assistance.
USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MALI RESPONSE IN FY 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMPLEMENTING PARTNER</th>
<th>ACTIVITY</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>USAID/OFDA:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementing Partners (IPs)</td>
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<td>Gao, Kidal, Koulikoro, Menaka, Mopti, Segou, Taoudenit, Tombouctou</td>
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<td>OCHA</td>
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<td>UNHAS</td>
<td>Logistics Support and Relief Commodities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Program Support Costs</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</strong></td>
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<td><strong>USAID/FFP:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>IP</td>
<td>Complementary Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNICEF</td>
<td>430 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid</td>
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<td>WFP</td>
<td>4,960 MT of U.S. In-Kind Food Aid</td>
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<td>Food Vouchers; 2,865 MT of Local and Regional Food Procurement</td>
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<td>3,000 MT of Local and Regional Food Procurement</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN FUNDING FOR THE MALI RESPONSE IN FY 2017</strong></td>
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1 Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds. Funding figures reflect publicly announced funding as of September 14, 2017.
2 USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 14, 2017.
3 Estimated value of food assistance and transportation costs at time of procurement; subject to change.

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 [www.interaction.org](http://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, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or +1. 202.661.7710.
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).