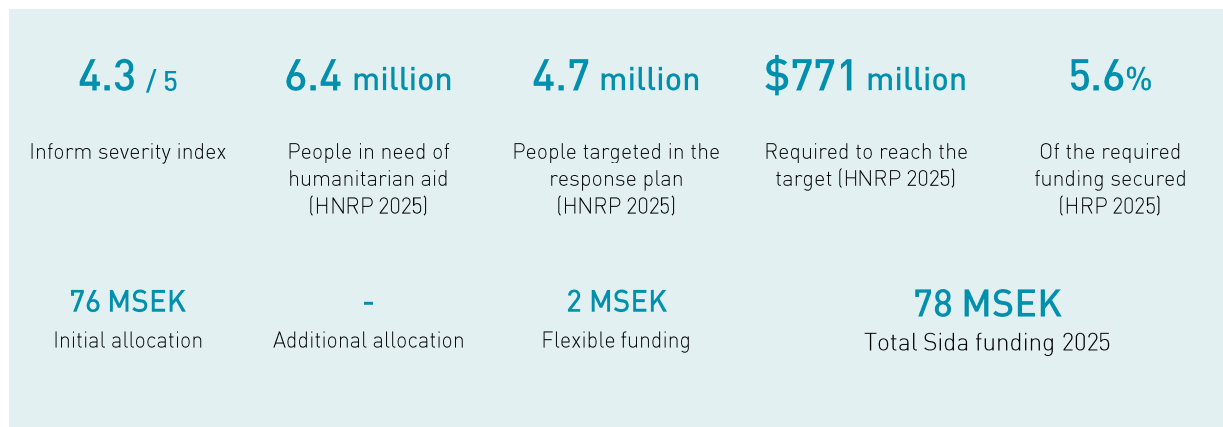


31 March 2025

1. Crisis overviewⁱ



Mali faces a multi-dimensional complex and protracted crisis, causing increasing protection risks and high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. The acute humanitarian needs are driven by climate change, conflict and violence, poverty and a volatile political situation. The severity of the humanitarian crisis in Mali is classified as “very high”, according to INFORM.

Protracted conflict, growing instability and displacement have led to a disruption of agricultural and livestock value chains increasing the vulnerability of affected populations that have lost their means of subsistence. In addition, land degradation and the effects of climate change, inflation, post-harvest losses and limited access to markets contribute to extreme vulnerability. Many communities are struggling to access food, water, healthcare, education, shelter and protection services, leading to the adoption of negative coping strategies.

Armed groups continue to put pressure on communities by besieging of villages, killings, kidnappings, looting and threats that have led to the closure or malfunctioning of the education and healthcare systems. Operational challenges in the country are mainly due to access constraints caused by the active conflict, suspension of access to conflict zones, siege of villages and disrupted road and air traffic by armed groups.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

The withdrawal of the UN peacekeeping mission MINUSMA (United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali), together with the transitional government's decision to withdraw from the peace agreement between the Malian government and a coalition of armed groups in the beginning of 2024, have led to increased levels of violence with a direct impact on civilians. These changes in the context together with decreasing levels of development funding are linked to increasing humanitarian needs as well as access and operational capacity constraints of humanitarian actors in the country. Access constraints are mostly felt by UN agencies but other humanitarian actors are also affected, especially in the northern and central regions where access and transportation is frequently disrupted due to the fight for control of areas between armed groups.

The ability of the population to meet their own assistance and protection requirements is limited due to on-going clashes which leads to consecutive displacements and depletion of resources in host communities. IDP (internally displaced people) sites are often set up spontaneously and as IDPs gather in the same place, basic services are often overwhelmed. Continued high levels of displacement are seen across the country and the majority of displaced people gather around larger towns such as Bamako, Mopti, Gao, Segou and Timbuktu, in search of security and assistance. As of September 2024, 378,763 internally displaced people were registered, 56 per cent women and girls and 58 per cent children. By May 2024, 122,992 refugees have been registered in the country, a duplication of the numbers in 2023 mainly due to a large influx of refugees from Burkina Faso affected by violence in the Liptako-Ghourma area. Over 300,000 Malian refugees are registered mainly in the neighbouring countries, an increase of 100,000 since last year (45 per cent Mauritania, 42 per cent Niger and 13 per cent Burkina Faso).

Protection needs have increased during 2024, linked to the increase in military activities. There has been 288 per cent increase in human rights violations, a 66 per cent increase in gender-based violence (GBV) incidents and an 11 per cent increase in grave violence against children reported, compared to the same period in 2023. The protection crisis puts children in a particularly vulnerable situation, exposing them to early marriage, sexual exploitation, abuse, and abduction for sexual slavery and recruitment to armed forces. Furthermore, 17 per cent of the schools in Mali are not functional as a consequence of the security situation and is estimated to affect half a million children.

The food security and nutrition situation continues with high numbers of severity. Approximately 1.47 million people are prognosed to be in the food crisis phase (IPC) 3, 4 and 5 altogether, an increase with 100,000 people between June and August 2025. More than 100,000 people are expected to be in the emergency and disaster/famine phases (IPC 4 and 5). This is an increase with more than 122,000 people in phase 3, a decrease with approximately 18,000 people in phase 4 and an increase of 900 in IPC phase 5. In the region of Ménaka and this year also Tombouctou,

approximately 3,477 people are expected to be in the catastrophic/famine phase (IPC 5) which is an increase from last year's figures. This is the fifth year that Mali experiences IPC levels of 3-5 affecting 6-8 per cent of the population and WFP categorises Mali as one of five global/regional hotspots with catastrophic hunger conditions in 2025.

In 2024, some 1.4 million children under the age of 5 were expected to suffer from global acute malnutrition (GAM). Rates of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) experienced by children aged between 6 and 59 months rose from 4.2 per cent last year to 11 per cent mid-2024, the highest level in a decade. The situation of displaced children is particularly poor, with increasing numbers of severe and moderate malnutrition in the IDP sites such as Ménaka (20,5 per cent GAM and 4,8 per cent SAM) and in Gao (30,1 per cent GAM and 11 per cent SAM) where the percentage of GAM has doubled from 2023.

In August, the transitional government declared a national floods disaster due to the most exceptional seasonal rains since 1967, affecting people across the Sahel region. Some 370,000 people have so far been affected, including roughly 70,000 displaced by the floods. The worst affected regions are also those that already have high numbers of people affected by the humanitarian situation in the country, namely Ségou, Timbuktu, Gao and Mopti. The food production year 2025 is expected to be greatly impacted by the floods in these areas.

3. The humanitarian response

The protracted humanitarian situation in Mali has created a situation where humanitarian needs are increasing and there is little hope for the situation to improve in the coming year. The humanitarian response in Mali has for the last four years made great efforts to meet humanitarian needs but has only been funded at an average of 38 per cent. It has gone from reaching 60 per cent of people with humanitarian needs in 2021 to approximately 37 per cent of people in need of humanitarian assistance in 2024. OCHA has tackled this challenge by taking out previous strategic objectives relating to resilience outcomes from the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP). In addition, OCHA has for the 2025 HNRP, reduced the overall geographical area that is considered crisis-affected and thereby excluded areas from the HNRP on grounds that remain unclear. Unfortunately, this has led to concerns that people in need of humanitarian assistance, have been arbitrarily excluded from both needs analysis and response planning. The number of people in need according to the HNRP has reduced significantly compared to 2023 and 2024, while multi-sector needs assessment findings are showing the opposite trend. Sida takes an active role together with the donor community in Mali in advocating for an inclusive humanitarian needs analysis.

The challenges faced by humanitarian actors when trying to reach the areas where people are in most severe humanitarian need is one of the major obstacles of the Humanitarian Response in Mali. Currently access to Ménaka, Ansongo and Kidal is managed on *ad hoc* basis since roads are

not passable due to blockage by armed groups in control of the area, and air traffic to Ménaka is only possible when the Malian army is able to clear the airstrip from mines and explosive devices. At the same time other circles in Timbuktu and other areas of the country armed groups are actively hindering humanitarian access because of military incentives and many humanitarian actors rely on their own *modus operandi* for access through negotiations on local level, alternative transportation modalities, utilizing local NGOs for implementation, informants for access-monitoring and third party monitors for assessment of the response.

The HNRP for 2025 has identified 6,4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and protection (20 per cent of the population) and targets 4.7 million people. This is a decrease in the total number of people in need with 500,000 people but an increase of people targeted by 600,000. The total HNRP 2025 budget has increased with \$70 million. The HNRP 2025 mainly targets vulnerable Malian populations (84%), internally displaced persons (9%), refugee populations (5%), returnees (1%) and repatriated (1%). The HNRP 2025 gives highest priority in numbers of targeted beneficiaries to the Health response followed by Food security and WASH, Nutrition and Education in shared third place. With regard to severe needs, REACH's multi-sector needs assessment gives that these are found in the sectors of Education, Protection and WASH in order of highest number of people in severe humanitarian need (4 or 4+). The sectors with lowest funding in 2024 were the Education and Refugee response sectors and the most funded sectors were Coordination followed by Food security and Protection.

The global freeze and scale-back of US humanitarian funding announced in January 2025 is having major consequences on aid operations, and the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) is adapting the response in light of the new funding landscape.

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

Given the protracted humanitarian situation signified by the lack of long-term solutions for social services and means for subsistence as well as the continuously fragile security situation, Sida's humanitarian priorities for 2025 will be multisectoral with a focus on support in Protection, WASH, Education, Food security and livelihoods and Nutrition. Partners have been selected for funding based on their access to populations with the most severe humanitarian needs in these sectors, and with complimenting modalities for support and ability to reach different vulnerable groups. The portfolio therefore takes into consideration partners that complement each other with regards to geographical presence and sectoral focus. Partners have also been selected based on their adherence to humanitarian principles, their role within the humanitarian coordination infrastructure and specific expertise, and their proven ability to work with authorities. Due to the volatile situation, flexible funding is important to allow partners to respond to rapidly evolving situations in the context, displacement or when access opens up to a particularly hard-to-reach area.

INITIAL ALLOCATION (SEK)		
PARTNER	SECTOR	INITIAL ALLOCATION
NRC	Multisector	14,000,000 ¹
IRC	Multisector	12,000,000 ²
Save the Children	Multisector	12,000,000
ICRC	Multisector	22,000,000
WFP	Food Security and Livelihoods, Nutrition	8,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, Education, Child Protection, WASH	8,000,000
TOTAL		76,000,000

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS		
PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING ³	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
MSB ⁴	2,000,000	-
TOTAL	2,000,000	-

¹ The 2025 initial allocation of humanitarian funding is based on Sida's humanitarian allocation analysis methodology. The analysis reflects the current humanitarian situation across crises and is being updated continuously with the latest available data. The information in the HCA is based on reports, data, and information from partner organisations and other entities, as well as observations from field visits and dialogue with partners.

¹ Of which 12 million SEK already committed in 2022. In 2025 NRC have been granted a 2 MSEK increase to cover coordination of the NGO forum/FONGIM in Mali.

² Already committed in 2022.

³ Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.

⁴ Sida provides flexible funding to MSB, and this allocation is therefore subject to change.