

30 September 2025

1. Crisis overviewⁱ

4.3 / 5	6,4 million	4.7 million	\$771.3 million	13,6%
Inform severity index	People in need of humanitarian aid (HNRP 2025)	People targeted in the response plan (HNRP 2025)	Required to reach the target (HNRP 2025)	Of the required funding secured (HNRP 2025)
76 MSEK	-	7.7 SEK	83.7 MSEK	
Initial allocation	Additional allocation	Flexible funding	Total Sida funding 2025	

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 severe multi-sectoral needs and 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 as well as a result from shortage of fuel in remote areas.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

The withdrawal of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) followed by the effects of collaboration with the Malian Army's new defence allies together with the transitional government's withdrawal of the 2015 Algiers Accords have led to continued high levels of violence with a direct impact on civilians during 2025. 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. Internally displaced people (IDP) sites are often set up spontaneously and as insecurity increases IDPs often gather in the same places resulting in basic services and host communities being overwhelmed. Continued high levels of displacement are seen across the country and the majority of displaced people gather around larger towns such as Gao, Ménaka, Mopti, Bandiagara, Ségou, Tombouctou and San in search of security and assistance. As of December 2024, 402,167 internally displaced people were registered, 58 per cent women and girls and 58 per cent children. By the end of August 2025, over 260,000 refugees were estimated by UNHCR to be in Mali (158,453 refugees reported, 67 per cent Burkinabé, 15 per cent Nigerian, 17 per cent Mauritanian. This constitute an increase of 70 per cent since the beginning of January 2025, mainly due to a large influx of refugees from Burkina Faso affected by violence in the Liptako-Ghourma area in between April-September 2025. 335,430 Malian refugees are registered mainly in the neighbouring countries, (51 per cent Mauritania, 37 per cent Niger and 12 per cent Burkina Faso).

Protection risks and incidents have increased during the year according to partners as a direct effect of continued hostilities, negative coping mechanisms and cuts in funding for protection activities. Nevertheless figures reflecting GBV incidents in 2025 is up to only 90 per cent of last year's figures which partners report to be due to largely reduced presence of GBV actors and downsizing of GBV staff, weakened management systems and coordination gaps in field locations.

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 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 hotspots with catastrophic hunger conditions in 2025. June 2024 – May 2025 almost 1,6 million children 5 and younger were expected to be in levels of global acute malnutrition (GAM) constituting 37 per cent, and more than 424,000 in levels of severe acute malnutrition (SAM) constituting 10 per cent, of all children under 5. In September 2024, the latest SMART-results recorded, children under 5 in Ménaka city, Kidal city and Gao were continued considered to have the highest levels of GAM with 22,2 per cent (+1,7 per cent compared to the previous SMART), 16,1 per cent and 19,3 per cent respectively. The percentage of SAM in these areas were for Ménaka city 6,8 per cent (+2 per cent compared to the previous SMART), Kidal city 4,7 per cent and Gao 3,6 per cent.

In August 2024, the transitional government declared a national floods disaster due to the most exceptional seasonal rains since 1967, affecting people across the Sahel region. The floods led to at least 95 people killed, 155 injured and over 465,000 people affected (75 per cent women and children), as of 15 January 2025. The floods also destroyed nearly 43,400 houses and buildings, hundreds of water points and some 86,000 acres of crops, raising serious concerns over an exacerbation of needs across the country in 2025.

Between June 2024 - June 2025, the total number of refugees in Mali more than doubled, rising from 96,000 to over 220,000, mainly due to violence in north west Burkina Faso. By the end of August 2025, Mali hosted nearly 260,000 (including over 158,000 already registered), representing an increase of over 70 per cent since January. In Koro cerclée alone in the region of Mopti, around 51,000 new arrivals have been recorded between April and September, with close to 17,000 people arriving in August, averaging 613 individual per day. The humanitarian response is currently grappling with supporting this influx given the low rate of financing and cuts in operations after the funding freeze and cuts earlier this year.

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 among other things 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 increasingly challenging since roads are not safe, and air traffic is only possible when the security clearance from armed groups is granted and fuel supply ensured. In other areas of the country armed groups are actively hindering humanitarian access because of active conflict and struggle of influence over the civilian population and many humanitarian actors, mostly local actors, rely on their own *modus operandi* for access negotiation with non-state-armed groups leaving them vulnerable to security risk and accusations of affiliation with the other side.

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 per cent), internally displaced persons (9 per cent), refugee populations (5 per cent), returnees (1 per cent) and repatriated (1 per cent). 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.

After the launch of the humanitarian reset, a new humanitarian policy focusing mainly on reprioritization and effectivization of the humanitarian system, as a consequence of large donor cuts in the beginning of 2025, the reprioritized plan stands at 2.1 M people (45 per cent of originally targeted) and 285.5 MUSD (37 per cent of the original finances required). 37 per cent of the reprioritized plan have been funded so far.

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 their complimenting modalities for support and ability to reach different vulnerable groups in mind. 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
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 2025 (SEK)		
PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
OCHA	4,000,000	-
MSB	3,708,000	-
TOTAL	7,708,000	

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

ⁱ 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.