

### 1. Summary<sup>i</sup>

<b>13</b>	<b>6.4 million</b>	<b>72 MSEK</b>	<b>0 SEK</b>	<b>0 SEK</b>	<b>72 MSEK</b>
Humanitarian crisis ranking (Sida's initial allocation analysis)	Number of people with humanitarian needs (Sida's initial allocation analysis)	Initial allocation for 2026	Additional allocation in 2026	Flexible funding in 2026	Total Sida funding in 2026

Mali faces a multi-dimensional and protracted crisis driven mainly by conflict, climate-related shocks and economic and political instability. Violence arising from the asymmetrical warfare between the Malian Armed Forces (FAMA) and with and between non-state armed groups (NSAGs) continue to be one of the main drivers of the humanitarian needs in Mali on top of societies grappling with the effects of climate shocks and protracted poverty. The implications of the large decrease of humanitarian funds in 2025, a large influx of refugees from Burkina Faso and Niger due to increased violence in the Liptako-Gourma region, and the effects of the violence and fuel embargo imposed by the NSAG Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) on southern and western parts of Mali are developments that will likely continue to have large impact on the humanitarian crisis in Mali in 2026.

According to the HNRP 2025, 6.4 million people were in need of humanitarian assistance last year. This figure dropped to 5.1 million PIN in the GHO 2026. Considering the decreasing capacity of humanitarian actors during 2025 to identify and report on humanitarian needs together with shrinking scope of the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) for three consecutive years, these figure are likely to be underestimated.

Sida's initial allocation to Mali 2026 is 72 MSEK and will mainly focus on a multi-sectoral response reaching the most severe humanitarian needs in northern and central parts of Mali, supporting partners' country programs. Specific objectives will be to support more long-term humanitarian results and to support partners with the best access to the worst affected populations and with the capacity to meet the humanitarian needs of populations in a swiftly changing context. Sida will continue to work towards a data-driven and principled humanitarian analysis of needs. Where the opportunity exists, Sida will work to close the gap in between humanitarian assistance and development efforts, increase the decision-making power of local organizations and influence fighting parties to the conflict in the compliance of International Humanitarian and Human Rights Law.

## 2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Protracted conflict, active military operations and growing instability have led to widespread displacement and disruptions of agricultural and livestock value chains, which increases 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. To a large extent, state services responsible for ensuring people's access to food, water and sanitation, healthcare, education, shelter and protection services are absent in the north and central parts of the country, leading to severe multi-sectoral needs and the adoption of negative coping strategies. Refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs) and deprived host communities coping with large influx of IDPs and refugees are among the most vulnerable with the highest humanitarian needs.

According to REACH's multi-sectoral needs analysis (MSNA), the main source of data informing the HNRP 2026, 83 per cent of Mali's population are in need of humanitarian assistance (MSNA index 3-4+). Eleven per cent are considered to be in acute need of humanitarian assistance (MSNA index 4-4+). In terms of sectors, the highest number of people living in *acute* humanitarian need (MSNA index 4-4+) are in need of **water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)** (7 per cent of the population), **education** (6 per cent of the population) and **shelter and non-food items** (1 per cent of the population). The percentage of the population suffering from severe levels of food insecurity (MSNA 3-4+) is 7 per cent according to MSNA figures, which correlates well with the Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) for food security in 2026. 1.56 million people are expected to be in IPC phases 3-5 over the lean season in 2026. More than 56,000 will be in phase 4 defined as when people face extreme food shortages and severe hunger, often skipping meals or days of food to feed children. According to IPC for malnutrition in 2026 1.12 million children under 5, constituting were expected to be suffering from global acute malnutrition and 227,000 of the them were considered to be in severe acute malnutrition.

Armed groups continue to put pressure on communities through besieging of villages, killings, kidnappings, looting and theft of means of subsistence and livestock, constituting violations of international law frameworks as well as decreasing self-sufficiency and resilience. Communities that are at risk of, are currently or have been under siege are especially vulnerable as they struggle to find ways for survival and are caught between besieging NSAGs and the FAMA. People seeking to flee the violence or are forced to stay to endure the besieging put themselves in immensely vulnerable situations.

Areas with active conflict, villages under siege or areas where humanitarian partners for other reasons have difficulties reaching beneficiaries have the highest levels of humanitarian needs. Areas with the most severe humanitarian needs (MSNA index 4-4+) are situated in the north-eastern and the central parts of the country. Sida will nevertheless follow the high severity areas in the western and southern parts of the country, in which needs have historically been connected to protracted poverty but which are currently more affected by the JNIM violence and embargo than the northern parts of the country.

### 3. The humanitarian response

The HNRP for Mali 2026 covers 5.1 million people in need (PIN) of humanitarian assistance and the plan targets 3.8 million people. This equals 80 per cent of the PIN from 2025. According to OCHA, the 20

<b>3.8 million</b>	<b>\$551 million</b>	<b>0%</b>
People targeted in the response plan (HNRP 2026)	Required to reach the target (HNRP 2026)	Of the funding secured (HNRP 2026)

per cent reduction is not based on reduced needs but a change in the methodology.<sup>1</sup> The scope of the plan includes most of the crisis-affected parts of the country with high numbers of beneficiaries with severe humanitarian needs. Nevertheless, some cerclees with acute needs (MSNA 4-4+) in the western and southern regions of the country (Kayes, Kita, Bougouni, Koutiala) and in the northern and central parts (Kidal and Segou) with severe humanitarian needs risks being excluded for reasons that remain unclear.

In the HNRP for 2026 a further focus on resilience has been included, while the strategic objective of protection has been excluded on the grounds that it should rather be considered a cross-cutting principle. According to the plan, this should not be seen as a refocus on less severe humanitarian needs but rather as taking on a more holistic approach focusing on durable solutions and resilience for people with the most severe humanitarian needs and ensuring that less severe needs can be covered by development actors. The three sectors with the highest number of targeted beneficiaries in the HNRP 2026 are **Protection, WASH and Shelter and non-food items**. The three most funded sectors in 2025 were Coordination, Nutrition and Health and the three least funded sectors were WASH, Food Security and livelihoods (FSL) and Education.

Funding cuts in 2025 saw data collection informing the humanitarian response reduce significantly and data informing the 2026 HNRP was made possible mainly by INGO initiatives. Similarly, presence, coordination and expertise in protection have been severely cut, resulting in an inadequate protection response, data collection and reporting. Humanitarian presence in deep field locations was the first to be cut back and the scarcity of fuel is further hampering humanitarian actors' capacity to operate outside the bigger villages.

The main challenges to full response capacity among humanitarian partners have in 2025 been low humanitarian funding, funding cuts and unpredictability related to the US funding, and access challenges related to increased hostilities in between the FAMA and NSAGs. Efforts from national authorities on preparedness and response continue but remain limited according to ECHO's initial Humanitarian Implementation Plan for 2026. The focus for likeminded humanitarian donors in Mali has in 2025 been to ensure access for humanitarians to crisis-affected populations and vice versa as well as a focus on durable solutions for crisis-affected populations. Lastly, donors have focused on prioritization, operationalization of humanitarian reforms and mutual accountability within the ongoing humanitarian reset. Aligning with Swedish priorities, the donor focus on

<sup>1</sup> OCHA, [West and Central Africa | Global Humanitarian Overview 2026 | Humanitarian Action](#), accessed 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2025.

principled prioritization and needs analysis for setting the scope for the HNRP 2026 has been crucial.

## 4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

Based on the above the most severe humanitarian needs are in the sectors of Protection, Education, WASH, and Shelter and Non-Food Items. Taking in the urgency of addressing needs within the sector of FSL as well as the protracted nutrition needs, actors focusing on these sectors will be prioritized as well. Since the most severe humanitarian needs are in areas that are difficult for humanitarian actors to reach, partners with evidenced access to hard-to-reach areas will be prioritized. Partners working through multi-purpose cash will be preferred for areas where markets are still functioning. Sida's allocation 2026 is expected to address the most severe humanitarian needs in the central and northern parts of the country including Kidal, Ménaka, Gao, Douentza, Tombouctou, Mopti and Bandiagara. Additionally, the allocation has been guided by organizations' role within the humanitarian coordination structure and in strengthening compliance of international humanitarian and human rights law.

Since the level of intensity in hostilities between armed groups in Mali has risen consistently since 2019, the outlook for greater stability and the Malian authorities' opportunities to ensure preparedness and response to its population looks bleak. It is therefore important to support crisis-affected populations with assistance that can help them beyond a few months of e.g. food supply. The majority of crisis-affected populations have originally lived off food production and their cattle. Therefore it is important that humanitarian efforts help ensure ownership, access and water supply for cultivating fields, and that they offer alternatives sources of income for displaced people and pastoralists who are no longer able to live off their own production and cattle. Legal documentation remains a great obstacle for IDPs and refugees to find ways of subsistence. In addition to these needs, in-kind assistance such as food distribution and water trucking will be important in areas with significant access constraints and non-functional markets.

Sida has in previous years supported partners with multi-year funding as well as through flexible funding for entire country programs, through a so called program based approach (PBA). Important results have been recorded from this approach such as partners being able to swiftly reprioritize and keep life-saving activities going amidst rapidly changing developments in the context, projects and funding gaps. Sida intends to implement PBA and multi-year funding to partners in the coming strategy period but will not be able to utilize the multi-year modality in 2026, given the transition to a new global strategic partner portfolio. All partners in Mali will be granted PBA support in 2026.

Despite improvements in national NGOs' influence over humanitarian assistance in Mali it is clear that these organizations have limited access to decision-making power and would contribute from direct quality funding. Without a Swedish embassy in-country, managing a direct partnership is not considered realistic at this time. There are, however, several initiatives and regional funds that are increasing their ambition to support local partners in Mali. In 2026, Sida will place a stronger emphasis on the follow-up of all selected partners' work with locally-led humanitarian assistance,

coordination mechanisms for national partners and consider which regional funds may be well-placed to channel support to local partners.

PARTNER	INITIAL ALLOCATION
Norwegian Refugee Council	14,000,000
International Rescue Committee	14,000,000
International Committee of the Red Cross	23,000,000
WFP	10,000,000
UNICEF	10,000,000
Forum des ONG Internationales au Mali (FONGIM) (through NRC)	1,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>72,000,000</b>

<sup>i</sup> The 2026 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.

<sup>i</sup> Sida's initial allocation analysis consists of three dimensions that are assessed for each crisis-affected country: 1) magnitude and severity of humanitarian needs 2) capacity of the humanitarian system to respond to needs and 3) capacity of the crisis-affected country to respond to needs. The qualitative and quantitative analysis produces an index scoring for each country, where the highest ranked country is found to have the greatest proportion of unmet severe humanitarian needs globally, based on available data. Sida's initial allocation for 2026 includes a total of 25 countries with the highest scores. For more information please see Initial Allocation Methodology.

<sup>i</sup> The number of people with humanitarian needs according to Sida's allocation analysis is based on the most inclusive estimate of humanitarian needs that is available from recent sources and supported by triangulation. For Mali, the selected sources was HNRP 2025 as changes seen in GHQ 2026 are being triangulated.