

1. Summaryⁱ

22	5.3 million	72 MSEK	20 MSEK	12.2 MSEK	104.2 MSEK
Humanitarian crisis ranking (Sida's mid-year allocation analysis)	Number of people with humanitarian needs (Sida's mid-year 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.

In April and July 2026 Mali experienced the largest two coordinated attacks by NSAGs in the central and northern parts of Mali since 2012. Jama'a Nusrat ul-Islam wa al-Muslimin (JNIM) and Front de libération de l'Azawad (FLA) was responsible for the attacks following the fuel and gas embargo placed on main supply routes by JNIM from end of 2025. The attacks led to the killing and assaults of civilians, security instability and unpredictability, damaging of telecommunication, regional curfews, a JNIM imposed blockade on Bamako and a state ordered forced re-location of IDPs from three refugee camps in Bamako. To date FLA controls the city of Kidal and fighting is ongoing by air and on the ground in between NSAGs and the FAMA and its partners in and surrounding the region of Kidal and Ménaka. Partners discuss whether the early July fighting at Anéfis was a turning point in the conflict, as it was followed by partial de-escalation and renewed engagement between Mali and Algeria. However, there is much uncertainty on the objectives of all fighting groups and insecurity is expected to persist as armed actors consolidate territory. The worsened security situation has resulted in access challenges, increased prices of food and fuel, power cuts in crisis affected regions, increased access challenges, civilians seeking safety in larger cities, increased occurrence of sexual violence and assaults by armed groups and in large, aggravated humanitarian conditions.

The regions of Kidal, Gao and Ménaka had, even before the increased hostilities, the most severe humanitarian need. By this humanitarian background an additional 20 MSEK have been allocated to the humanitarian crisis in Mali and partners have been selected mainly based on their comparative advantage, need for funding and capacity to respond to humanitarian needs in conflict affected areas.

2. Humanitarian needs & affected population

Protracted conflict and poverty, active military operations and growing instability has, in the last 14 years, led to widespread displacement of civilians and disruptions of agricultural and livestock value chains, which has led to increased 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 limited 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.

Around 415,000 people were internally displaced at the end of 2025 (DNDS), and roughly 40,000 more were newly displaced in the three months following the 25 April escalation (GPC, IOM DTM). In Bamako, the state-ordered relocation of displaced people from three sites has made little progress and the identified relocation site is not fit for durable accommodation (EHP, 30 July 2026). A reverse cross-border movement is also under way: Burkinabé refugees are returning to Mali in large numbers (Bandiagara region, Koro cercle) under pressure and reprisals, and around 4,670 people fled Kaïn in Burkina Faso into Mali in July 2026.

1.56 million people are expected to be in IPC phases 3-5 over the lean season in 2026 (Cadre harmonisé). More than 56,000 people were expected to be in Phase 4, which correlates well with REACH's multi-sectoral needs analysis on acute food security for 2026. IPC Phase 4 (Emergency) has since been observed in Kidal and Ménaka for the July to September 2026 period (FEWSNET). According to IPC for malnutrition in 2026, 1.12 million children under the age of, constituting were expected to be suffering from global acute malnutrition and 227,000 of them were considered to be in severe acute malnutrition. In education, 2,444 schools were non-functional as of mid-2026 (up 20 per cent on 2025), affecting more than 700,000 children and around 14,000 teachers; the 25 April attacks alone disrupted a further 802 schools and 146,175 pupils (UNICEF mid-year review, 30 June 2026).

Armed groups continue to put pressure on communities through besieging villages, killings, kidnappings, looting and theft of commodities and livestock, constituting violations of international humanitarian and human rights law as well as decreasing self-sufficiency and resilience. The protection situation deteriorated significantly in 2026 compared to the previous year, with sharp increases in rights violations, GBV and explosive-ordnance casualties. Coercive agreements with armed groups and expanding military restrictions are placing civilians under further pressure (Protection Cluster briefing to the Mali Humanitarian Donor Group, July 2026). 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 trying to flee or forced to stay to endure the besieging put themselves in immensely vulnerable situations.

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. According to OCHA, the 20 per cent reduction is not based on

3.8 mn	\$577.9 mn	22%
People targeted in the response plan (HNRP 2026)	Required to reach the target (HNRP 2026)	Of the funding secured [HNRP 2026]

reduced needs but the change in the methodology.¹ 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 circles 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) response was left out of the scope of the HNRP as needs in these areas were linked to structural rather than humanitarian reasons. The three sectors with the highest number of targeted beneficiaries in the HNRP 2026 were Protection, WASH and Shelter and non-food items. The three most funded sectors in 2025 against what was requested in the HNRP were Coordination, Protection 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 has in 2026 been access challenges related to increased hostilities in between the FAMA and NSAGs, the spillover effects of declining funding 2025, bureaucratic impediments including authorisation process taking an average 92 days and work permits for foreign staff are charged at 45 per cent of gross salary.

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 2026 had an emphasis on access for humanitarians to crisis-affected populations and vice versa, centrality of protection, localization, adherence to international humanitarian law, enabling principled prioritization and a focus on anticipatory action as well as finding sustainable and durable solutions for crisis-affected populations. As such many of these priorities are aligned with priorities in the Humanitarian strategy 2025-2029.

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

4. Sida's humanitarian allocation

According to a summary of humanitarian data 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 prioritized 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 with international humanitarian and human rights law.

The outlook for greater stability and the Malian authorities' opportunities to ensure preparedness and response to its population looks bleak for the near future, although there are some indicators on reconciliation. To support crisis-affected populations with assistance that can help beyond a few months of e.g. food supply is therefore of outmost importance. The majority of crisis-affected populations have originally lived off food production and their cattle why it is important that humanitarian efforts help ensure ownership, access and water supply for cultivating fields, and that they offer alternative 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, education and ownership rights. In addition to these needs, in-kind assistance such as food distribution and water trucking will be important in areas with non-functional markets and water supply.

Sida has in previous years supported partners through multi-year funding as well as with 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 and within the funding landscape. Sida intends to implement 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 local 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 unfortunately possible. 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.

In light of evolving needs further aggravated by the decreasing security situation after the April and July coordinated attacks, Sida is allocating an additional 20 MSEK to Mali in September

2026. The allocation will increase the already on-going support to ICRC, WFP and Unicef. For the mid-year allocation 2026 Sida bases the allocation on the people in need of humanitarian support by the data in HNRP and FEWSNET figures from 2026.

PARTNER	INITIAL ALLOCATION
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	14,000,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	14,000,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	23,000,000
WFP	10,000,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	10,000,000
Forum des ONG Internationales au Mali (FONGIM) (through NRC)	1,000,000
TOTAL	72,000,000

FLEXIBLE FUNDING & ADDITIONAL ALLOCATIONS (SEK)		
PARTNER	FLEXIBLE FUNDING ²	ADDITIONAL ALLOCATION
Première Urgence Internationale (PUI)	1,620,000	
Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)	4,500,000	
OCHA Field Coordination ³	5,200,000	
Swedish Civil Defence and Resilience Agency (MCF)	837,000	
WFP		5,000,000
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)		5,000,000
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)		10,000,000
TOTAL	12,157,000	20,000,000

² Flexible funding includes a mix of allocations such as Rapid Response Mechanism and other flexible funding mechanisms.

³ Sida provides flexible funding to OCHA's field coordination, and this preliminary allocation is therefore subject to change.

ⁱ The 2026 mid-year 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.

ⁱⁱ Sida's mid-year allocation analysis consists of three dimensions that are assessed for each of the 25 crisis-affected countries that were included in the initial allocation for 2026: 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 Mid-year Allocation Methodology.

ⁱⁱⁱ Sida uses the most inclusive estimate of humanitarian needs which is available from recent sources and supported by triangulation. For Mali, the sources are HNRP and FEWSNET.