



Abdrahamane, one year old, has benefited detection and follow-up of malnutrition cases at the mobile clinic supported by UNICEF on the Bawa site for displaced people, in the Gao region.

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for every child

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 9

Reporting Period
September 2023

Mali

HIGHLIGHTS

- As of 9 September, the Government reported an upsurge in cases of dengue fever, with 12 confirmed cases out of 65 samples tested and no deaths reported. During the month, 6 cases of measles were reported across the country. The vaccination campaign, supported by UNICEF, reached 122,420 children aged between 6 and 59 months. Finally, since february 2023, 10 cases of polio variant, including 2 cases of acute flaccid paralysis, have been detected throughout the country. The vaccination campaign is scheduled to run from 27 to 30 October 2023.
- UNICEF, in agreement with the nutrition cluster and the Ministry of Health, supported the analysis of the severity of acute malnutrition carried out in Bamako from 18 September to 02 October using data from the SMART survey. This analysis revealed a deterioration in the nutritional situation, with 38 out of 60 circles in the emergency phase (compared with 37 circles in 2022).

SITUATION IN NUMBERS



4,700,000

Children in need of humanitarian assistance



8,800,000

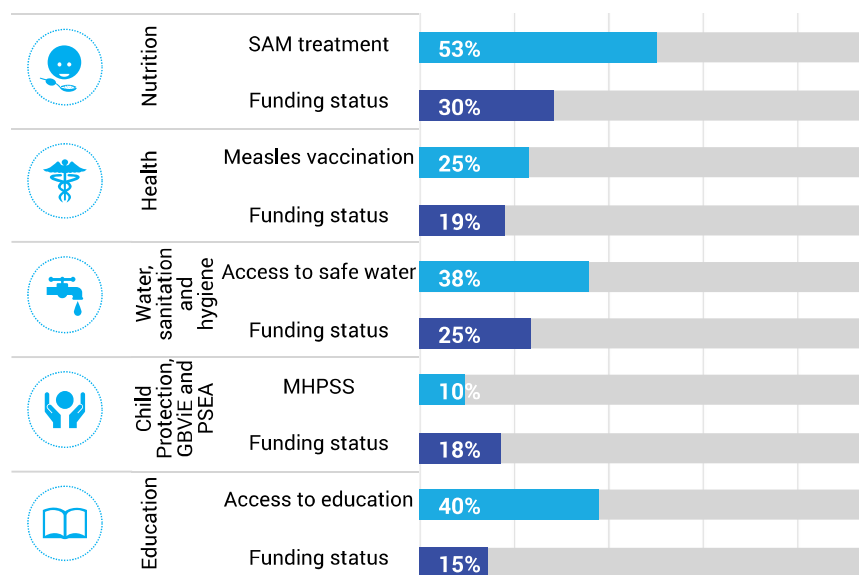
People in need of humanitarian assistance



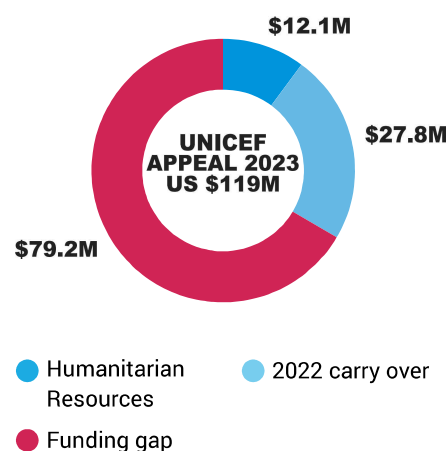
391,961

Internally Displaced Persons¹

UNICEF RESPONSE AND FUNDING STATUS*



FUNDING STATUS (IN US\$)**



** Funding available includes: funds received in the current year; carry-over from the previous year; and repurposed funds with agreement from donors

* UNICEF response % is only for the indicator, the funding status is for the entire sector.

FUNDING OVERVIEW AND PARTNERSHIPS

- In 2023, UNICEF has appealed for US\$ 119 million to respond to the humanitarian needs of children caused by conflict or natural disasters, while facilitating access to quality basic social services for crisis-affected populations in the northern and central areas of the country.
- As of 30 September 2023, US\$ 12 million has been received, in addition to US\$ 27.8 million carried forward from the previous year, amounting to US\$ 39.8 million available, representing 33.5 per cent of the total appeal.
- The funding gap is US\$ 79.1 million (66.5 per cent of the appeal). There are significant funding gaps in many sectors, particularly in Education, Child Protection and Health.
- UNICEF Mali expresses sincere gratitude to all public and private donors who have generously contributed to the 2023 humanitarian response.
- Individual humanitarian contributions have been received from the Governments of Austria, Canada, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Japan, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America (USA); the European Commission and the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and its donors; and the UNICEF National Committees of Germany, Spain, and the USA.
- Thematic humanitarian funding has been provided by the Governments of Denmark and the Netherlands. This flexible/softly earmarked, pooled, and multi-year funding is one of the best ways to achieve impact for children and allows for a faster, more agile, and cost-effective response.

SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS^{2,3}

The 2023 Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) requires USD 751.5 million, of which only 21% is funded as of 30 September.

For the first allocation to Mali, the Regional Humanitarian Fund for West and Central Africa (FHRAOC) released 5.3 million USD to provide emergency multi-sectoral assistance to populations affected by the nutritional crisis and displacement in the regions of Gao (Ansongo circle), Ménaka (Ménaka circle), and Bandiagara (Koro and Bankass circles). Humanitarian interventions funded through this allocation will deliver vital humanitarian assistance to 230,000 displaced people and host populations, in hard-to-reach and underserved areas over a 12-month period. This allocation will fund 10 emergency projects implemented by national/local and international NGOs in the priority sectors of water - hygiene - sanitation, education, nutrition, health, food security and protection.

The Secretary General of the Ministry of Health and Social Development has warned of an epidemic of dengue fever, with 12 confirmed cases out of 65 samples tested and zero deaths reported as of 09 September. Cases were recorded in the health districts of communes 2, 4, 5 and 6 in Bamako, and in 3 regions of the country.

Since mid-August 2023, clashes are scaling up between Malian military forces (FAMA) and NSAGs, including the signatories of the Alger Peace and Reconciliation Agreement. More than 60 people were killed in a suspected non-state armed group attack on a river boat near the village of Abakoira in Mali's northern Timbuktu region on 7 September, marking one of the deadliest incidents yet in an ongoing surge in violence targeting civilians amid simultaneous military and armed group offensives across the Sahel. Curfews were declared in Gao and Timbuktu on 9 and 11 September. On 12

September, CSP-PSD⁴ armed group, one of the peace agreement signatories, launched an attack against FAMA camp in Bourem (Gao region). Gunfire lasted for six hours and Malian forces reacted with air strikes. In this context, humanitarian activities were suspended. Civilian population is at high risk of protection violations and respect of International Humanitarian Law is threatened. Humanitarian actors face important access constraints as all roads, by air, by river or by road, are targeted, but remain mobilized to provide emergency assistance. Still on 12 September, armed men belonging to the Islamic State of the Greater Sahara invaded the village of Tannal, in the Bara commune, Gao. A dozen civilians were reportedly killed, and several others wounded. These ongoing military operations, caused several humanitarian organizations to temporarily suspend their activities. This situation has prompted the President of the Transition to "postpone the festive activities of 22 September" to commemorate Mali's independence. On 13 September, a non-state armed group entered Tannal and Todjel, localities in the region of Gao, and operated indiscriminate attacks targeting civilians. Nineteen of them have died while several persons are recorded wounded. Considering this attack, local populations have begun to flee. The exact number of internally displaced remains unknown so far. In this context, humanitarian access is reduced; however partners remain mobilised to provide emergency assistance, especially in the frame of the Rapid Response Mechanism.

On 16 September 2023, Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso have created a new security alliance (Alliance des Etats du Sahel). It is aimed at serving as an architecture for the collective security of member states, and as a framework for pooling resources to combat the activism of non-state armed groups, transnational crime, as well as rebellions. As a result of the ongoing security situation, access continues to be a challenge for humanitarian organizations in the northern and central regions of Mali. Additionally, access restrictions due to security operations being carried out by FAMA or de facto authorities are more and more effective.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

Health

During the reporting period, six cases of measles were reported throughout the country. As part of the vaccination response in September 122,420 children aged 6-59 months were vaccinated against measles in the District of Ansongo, Kayes, Sefeto, Macina and Bandiagara.

With regard to polio response activities, from February 2023 to date, 10 cases of variant type 2 polio, including 2 cases of acute flaccid paralysis, were detected nationwide. In September, the Government and partners were able to prepare for the upcoming mass vaccination campaign, which will take place in the regions of Bamako, Kayes, Koulikoro, Ségou and Sikasso. The campaign is scheduled to run from 27 to 30 October 2023, and the vaccine (nOPV2) is available in the country for the first round. The campaign will be synchronised in Mali, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, and cross-border meetings are planned.

UNICEF and its partners continued to respond to the health needs of populations affected, by providing health services at fixed health facilities and at community level throughout the country. In September, 84,824 people received routine healthcare services (including 69,420 children under 5 and 16,404 women). The most common morbidities were attributed to malaria, diarrhea and acute respiratory infection. More specifically 16,404 pregnant women benefited from Antenatal Consultation (ANC), 12,067 under one children (6,154 girls) were immunized with pentavalent (penta3) and

36,447 under five children (including 18,588 girls) were treated for malaria while 4,304 children (2,194 girls) received adequate treatment for diarrhea.

Nutrition

In September, 14,305 severely malnourished children 6-59 months of age were admitted for treatment, reflecting the deterioration of the nutrition situation among children. The overall performance of the nutrition services is represented by a 94.9 per cent cure rate, a 0.5 per cent mortality rate, a 4.6 per cent defaulter rate and a 1.8 non responder rate.

In the reporting month, 57,925 pregnant women and primary caregivers of children 0-23 months received counseling support on infant and young child feeding (IYCF).

During the period covered by the report, UNICEF, in agreement with the nutrition cluster and the Ministry of Health, supported the analysis of the severity of acute malnutrition (AMN IPC analysis⁵) carried out in Bamako from 18 September to 02 October using data from the SMART survey. This analysis revealed a deterioration in the nutritional situation in a greater number of areas, with 38 out of 60 circles in the emergency phase (compared with 37 circles in 2022). Following the analysis, a workshop was organised for decision-makers to validate the results of the analysis at national level, and to advocate with the highest authorities for their support in mobilising sufficient resources. In the light of these results, UNICEF will continue to lead and support the ongoing nutritional response, with actions aimed at building capacities and creating synergies between the various nutrition stakeholders to ensure effective and relevant interventions in response to the current situation.

Child protection, GBViE and PSEA

In September 2023, 4,284 children (1,951 girls) affected by the conflict were supported with psychosocial activities thanks to UNICEF and its implementing partners. Since January 2023, 80,398 children (39,280 girls) benefited from psychosocial support activities in child friendly spaces, mainly in the northern and central part of Mali. Regarding the Child Protection AoR, this number rises to 10,127 for September and to 126,798 (63,509 girls) throughout the year.

Moreover, 22 children (5 girls) who have exited armed forces and groups provided with protection or reintegration support in the regions of Bamako, Kidal, Ségou and Timbuktu. Likewise, a total of 140 unaccompanied and separated children (46 girls) were reached with holistic care in a family-based care or reunified through UNICEF partners this month; regarding the AoR, this number rises to 168 children (60 girls).

During the reporting period, 1,652 people (513 girls, 629 boys and 510 women) had access to gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention, or response intervention. Finally, 1,710 people (380 girls, 309 women, 624 boys, 397 men) were given access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers.

Education

During the reporting period, UNICEF, and its implementing partners, APIDEV, IEDA, ASG, WVI, NRC, ATDED, Education Academies (EA) supported and created favorable conditions for access to quality education for 6,698 (3,239 girls) through the construction and rehabilitation of learning spaces, the provision of furniture and, school kits distribution and through capacity building for 527 education stakeholders, including 187 women.

In the preparation of the Back-to-School campaign, 567 learners (272 girls) from 20 accelerated education centers were evaluated

and transferred into formal schools in the Segou region. In the Mopti region, 295 out-of-school children (197 girls) have been inserted in formal schools. UNICEF continued to support capacity building activities for 315 permanent and volunteer teachers (117 women) in Mental Health and Psychosocial support, large group and multigrade class management, didactic and learning evaluation as well as training for 212 School management Committee members (70 women) in their role and responsibilities.

The Education Cluster has contributed to the production of two advocacy briefs, one about the context of underfunding in the CERF (Central Emergency Response Fund), which resulted in an increase in the allocated budget from \$955K to \$1.5 million for education, and another addressing the issue of schools occupied by displaced persons on the eve of the school year in the regions of Mopti and Menaka.

The main challenge remains the worsening of the security situation, especially in the North with limited access and increased number of IDPs.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

In September, UNICEF and partners continued providing lifesaving services, including hygiene promotion and messaging in emergency affected areas, while 736 people received essential WASH supplies including family hygiene kits, hygiene consumable kits, water treatment products, buckets, and jerry cans in the regions of Kayes, Sikasso, Ségou, Mopti, Gao, Menaka, Kidal and Timbuktu. In addition, 240 girls and women benefited from menstrual hygiene kits.

In terms of Cluster response, UNICEF and 64 other WASH Cluster actors reached 53,218 people, including 30,241 children. More than half (52%) of assistance was devoted to access to water (including 11% to emergency water supplies), 48% to hygiene promotion and 6% to sanitation.

Since the beginning of the year, the Cluster has reached 669,584 people i.e., 30% of the annual WASH target.

Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)

In September, as part of the polio vaccination campaign and ongoing activities on COVID-19, 7,972 people, including 2,232 women, took part in community engagement activities to promote demand for immunisation, while 4,821 people, including 3,102 women, asked questions and provided feedback on health emergency issues.

HUMANITARIAN LEADERSHIP, COORDINATION AND STRATEGY

Humanitarian action coordination is led by the Ministry of Health and Social Development, the Ministry in charge of Humanitarian Affairs with the support of the Humanitarian Country Team. UNICEF leads the WASH Cluster, Nutrition Cluster, the Child Protection Sub-Cluster (Area of Responsibility) and co-leads the Education Cluster. As Cluster lead/co-lead agency, UNICEF has continued to effectively support and participate in the Humanitarian Planning Cycle (HPC) process in Mali. UNICEF led/co-led clusters are all part of the Inter-Cluster Working Group (ICWG) led by OCHA at the national and sub-national levels. UNICEF also participates in the in-country interagency PSEA Task Force and interagency Gender in Emergency Working Group.

In addition, as part of the 2024 humanitarian programming cycle, UNICEF, as Cluster Lead Agency, enabled the WASH Cluster (among the 4 Malian representatives) to take part in the training of experts on the new version of the Joint Inter-sectoral Analysis Framework (JIAF 2.0) in Istanbul. This training took place from July

18 to 21, 2023 and aims to build the capacity of national experts in the analysis and identification of cross-sectoral needs.

UNICEF Mali is currently implementing several preparedness activities to scale up its readiness for the withdrawal of MINUSMA, focusing on strengthening field office level preparedness in addition to the existing national contingency plan. This is to ensure a good preparedness to respond to potential needs in the regions that are most likely to be affected by the withdrawal of MINUSMA. Some of the specific preparedness activities that Mali Country Office (MCO) is implementing include:

- Reinforcement of partnerships with local actors and NGOs to enable better humanitarian access and community acceptance,
- Strengthening UNICEF preparedness and response through the development and execution of Country Office and Field Office contingency plans
- The strengthening of the rapid response mechanism based on location and real time monitoring.
- Maintaining close contact with the regional office and head quarter to obtain the support needed to reinforce UNICEF footprint to cope with the consequences of this withdrawal, including the formal opening of an outpost in Menaka and the recruitment of dedicated human resources (security, child protection and emergency).

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES AND EXTERNAL MEDIA

Senior humanitarian officials, Ted Chaiban, UNICEF Deputy Executive Director for Humanitarian Action and Supply Operations, and WFP's Deputy Executive Director, Chief Operating Officer Carl Skau, visited Mali to reiterate the support from both agencies to Mali's people, in cooperation with local authorities and humanitarian counterparts. A joint press release UNICEF-WFP has been published on the nutrition crisis. UNICEF Mali Representative briefed the press in GENEVA highlighting Insecurity in Mali and how children are paying the heaviest price. Interviews were also done by DED Ted and UNICEF Representative BBC and Aljazeera on the nutrition and education crises.

Media engagement in September resulted in 112 media reports mentioning UNICEF and focusing on the impact of the humanitarian crisis on children.

An adolescent girl member of UNICEF Mali young advocates for climate change, delivered a powerful video message, during the #SahelSolutions joint event with UNICEF-WFP-UNHCR in Berlin. She emphasized how central it is to meet the needs of children immediately and in the long term and to invest in the young generation to shape the peaceful community of tomorrow. Five adolescents/youth, participated in the African Climate Summit, in Nairobi and advocated for the access to water in conflict-affected areas, particularly in the north and center of Mali.

More than 18,000 accounts were reached during our continuous awareness-raising campaign focusing on the humanitarian situation in Mali and its impact on nutrition and education. These included posts on the nearly one million children in Mali at risk of acute malnutrition by the end of the year and the impact of more than 1,500 schools closed due to insecurity on near half million children.

- Nearly one million children in Mali at risk of acute malnutrition by the end of 2023 – UNICEF-WFP
<https://www.unicef.org/mali/en/press-releases/nearly-one-million-children-mali-risk-acute-malnutrition-end-2023-unicef-wfp>

HAC APPEALS AND SITREPS

- Mali Appeals
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/mali>
- Mali Situation Reports
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/mali/situation-reports>
- All Humanitarian Action for Children Appeals
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals>
- All Situation Reports
<https://www.unicef.org/appeals/situation-reports>

NEXT SITREP: 30 NOVEMBER 2023

ANNEX A - PROGRAMME RESULTS

Consolidated Programme Results

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response			Cluster/Sector response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2023 targets	Total results	Progress*	2023 targets	Total results	Progress*
Nutrition								
Children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	Total	-	206,700	109,754	▲ 7%	206,749	109,754	▲ 7%
	Girls	-	206,700	58,697	▲ 3%	206,749	58,697	▲ 3%
	Boys	-	206,700	51,117	▲ 4%	206,749	51,117	▲ 4%
Primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	Total	-	496,600	429,967	▲ 12%	496,600	429,967	▲ 12%
	Women	-	496,600	321,338	▲ 8%	496,600	321,338	▲ 8%
	Men	-	496,600	108,629	▲ 3%	496,600	108,629	▲ 3%
Health								
Children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles	Total	-	1.1 million	279,026	▲ 11%	-	-	-
Children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio	Total	-	1.4 million	1.4 million	0%	-	-	-
Water, sanitation and hygiene								
People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs	Total	2.1 million	415,000	158,218	▲ 1%	1.1 million	431,956	▲ 8%
	Girls	2.1 million	415,500	44,026	0%	1.1 million	125,263	▲ 2%
	Boys	2.1 million	415,500	45,882	0%	1.1 million	120,196	▲ 2%
	Women	2.1 million	415,500	34,806	0%	1.1 million	95,025	▲ 2%
	Men	2.1 million	415,500	33,504	0%	1.1 million	91,472	▲ 2%
People use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities	Total	1.3 million	40,000	14,687	0%	100,000	85,763	▲ 10%
	Women	1.3 million	40,000	7,318	0%	100,000	42,026	▲ 3%
	Men	1.3 million	40,000	7,369	0%	100,000	43,737	▲ 7%
People reached with critical WASH supplies	Total	4.1 million	228,000	86,612	0%	1.1 million	153,289	▲ 3%
	Women	4.1 million	228,000	43,154	0%	1.1 million	78,174	▲ 1%
	Men	4.1 million	228,000	43,458	0%	1.1 million	75,115	▲ 1%
Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA								

Children and parents/caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	Girls	-	384,783	39,280	▲ 1%	1.1 million	63,509	0%
	Boys	-	384,783	41,118	0%	1.1 million	63,289	0%
People who have access to a safe and accessible channel to report sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers	Girls	-	572,500	11,022	0%	-	-	-
	Boys	-	572,500	9,178	0%	-	-	-
	Women	-	572,500	7,451	0%	-	-	-
	Men	-	572,500	6,970	0%	-	-	-
Children who have exited armed forces and groups provided with protection or reintegration support	Girls	-	700	76	▲ 1%	1,000	98	▲ 1%
	Boys	-	700	354	▲ 2%	1,000	390	▲ 2%
Unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or a suitable alternative	Girls	-	1,600	544	▲ 3%	2,000	863	▲ 3%
	Boys	-	1,600	1,042	▲ 6%	2,000	1,431	▲ 6%
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	Total	-	166,100	40,685	▲ 1%	-	-	-
	Girls	-	166,100	15,241	0%	-	-	-
	Boys	-	166,100	17,965	0%	-	-	-
	Women	-	166,100	7,479	0%	-	-	-
People with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	Total	-	572,500	34,621	▲ 1%	-	-	-
Children who have exited an armed force and groups provided with protection or reintegration support	Total	-	700	430	▲ 3%	1,000	488	▲ 2%
Children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support	Total	-	384,783	80,398	▲ 1%	1.1 million	126,798	▲ 1%
Unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified	Total	-	1,600	1,586	▲ 9%	2,000	2,294	▲ 9%
Education								
Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Total	-	200,000	80,330	▲ 1%	274,772	104,972	▲ 1%
	Girls	-	200,000	36,514	▲ 1%	274,772	50,752	▲ 1%
	Boys	-	200,000	43,816	▲ 1%	274,772	54,220	▲ 1%

Children receiving individual learning materials	Total	-	1.1 million	72,033	0%	2.8 million	104,854	0%
	Girls	-	1.1 million	38,585	0%	2.8 million	51,476	0%
	Boys	-	1.1 million	40,146	0%	2.8 million	53,523	0%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)								
People engaged in risk communication and community engagement actions	Total	-	800,000	787,643	▲ 1%	-	-	-
People sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms	Total	-	250,000	51,428	▲ 2%	-	-	-

*Progress in the reporting period September 2023

ANNEX B — FUNDING STATUS

Consolidated funding by sector

Sector	Requirements	Funding available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2023	Resources available from 2022 (carry over)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health	11,997,720	1,737,679	575,137	9,684,904	81%
Nutrition	31,259,097	3,193,901	6,174,365	21,890,831	70%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	23,532,094	1,531,070	2,671,302	19,329,722	82%
Education	25,706,846	1,670,547	2,180,155	21,856,144	85%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	15,090,228	2,025,989	1,772,490	11,291,749	75%
Social protection	6,233,882	-	13,186,748	-	0%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	2,948,400	654,926	290,000	2,003,474	68%
Emergency preparedness	2,270,000	1,276,701	935,320	57,979	3%
Total	119,038,267	12,090,813	27,785,517	79,161,937	67%

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ENDNOTES

1. Ministère de la Santé et du Développement Social, Direction nationale du Développement Social du Mali (DNDS), Matrice de Suivi des Déplacements (DTM), Septembre 2023
2. Mali - Conflict, armed violence, protection risks (DG ECHO, UN OCHA, Local media) (ECHO Daily Flash of 15 September 2023)
3. Mali - Conflict, armed violence, protection risks (DG ECHO partners, Mali communiqué, media outlets) (ECHO Daily Flash of 13 September 2023)
4. The Cadre stratégique permanent pour la paix, la sécurité et le développement (CSP-PSD) is a coalition of political and military movements from northern Mali, formed on May 6, 2021
5. The IPC Acute Malnutrition (IPC AMN) classification provides key information for decision makers that focuses on short- to long-term objectives to decrease acute malnutrition. Additionally, together with the IPC Acute Food Insecurity classification, the IPC Acute Malnutrition classification also provides information on acute food insecurity, making IPC an inclusive classification system to inform both acute food insecurity and acute malnutrition.