



Thanks to UNICEF and the Italian fund, the newborn of Alimata has just been registered in the birth registry at the CSREF in Mopti, a mandatory step to obtain a birth certificate.

Humanitarian Situation Report No. 02

Reporting Period
February 2024

Mali

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the reporting period, security situation in Mali has been marked by an increase in incidents attributed to the Non-State -Armed Group in the central and southern regions of the country. The ongoing military operations continue to have a negative impact on humanitarian access, with curfew in the northern regions (Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal, Menaka), travel restrictions and blockade in the surrounding areas of main cities.
- As for socio-political and diplomatic situation, it is still marked by the decision of Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso to withdraw from ECOWAS with immediate effect.
- A total of 1,743 schools were non-operational in February due to insecurity, affecting over 522,000 children and 10,400 teachers. This reflects a rise since January, with 90 newly closed schools and only 4 reopened.
- 8,854 severely malnourished children (including 4,516 girls) aged 6-59 months were admitted for treatment and 52,437 children were immunized against measles in Sikasso, Kayes, and Kita regions.

UNICEF RESPONSE AND FUNDING STATUS*

	Nutrition	SAM treatment	9%
		Funding status	4%
	Health	Measles vaccination	3%
	Water, sanitation and hygiene	Access to safe water	2%
		Funding status	0%
	Child Protection, GBVIE and PSEA	MHPSS	5%
		Funding status	6%
	Education	Access to education	4%
		Funding status	5%

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

SITUATION IN NUMBERS



3,834,000
Children in need of humanitarian assistance

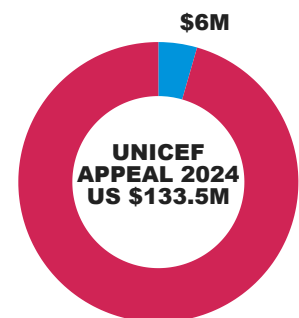


7,100,000
People in need of humanitarian assistance



354,739
Internally Displaced Persons¹

FUNDING STATUS (IN US\$)**



\$127.5M

2023 carry over

Funding gap

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

FUNDING OVERVIEW AND PARTNERSHIPS

In 2024, UNICEF has appealed for US\$ 133.5 million to respond to the humanitarian needs of children and women in Mali.

No new contributions have been received so far in 2024.

US\$ 6 million has been carried forward from previous years, representing 4 per cent of the total appeal.

The funding gap is US\$ 127.5 million (96 per cent of the appeal). There are major funding gaps in all sectors, the largest in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH), Social Inclusion, and Social and Behavior Change (SBC).

UNICEF will continue to advocate for resources, and in particular flexible/softly earmarked, pooled, and multi-year funding, which is one of the best ways to achieve impact for children by facilitating a faster, more agile, and cost-effective response.

UNICEF appeals for urgent assistance to reach the most vulnerable emergency-affected children and families with life-saving support.

SITUATION OVERVIEW AND HUMANITARIAN NEEDS

The socio-political and diplomatic situation, it is still marked by the decision of Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso to withdraw from ECOWAS with immediate effect. In the wake of this statement, tensions between the sub-regional organization and the Sahel Alliance States were on the rise. The discussions that followed within ECOWAS's governing bodies (conferences of heads of state) and the appeals for calm made by the institution's historic figures made it possible to lift the sanctions imposed on Mali and Niger in view of creating the conditions for a constructive dialogue aimed at resolving the differences and preventing their withdrawal from ECOWAS.

Regarding the security situation, it is still dominated by Force Armée Malienne (FAMA) operations to secure and reconquer the national territory in the Central and Northern regions. In the southern regions, Jamā'at Nusrat al-Islam Wal Muslimin (JNIM) appears to be accelerating its installation phase by increasing attacks on poorly secured security force positions, such as checkpoints and isolated outposts, in Koulikoro, Segou, Kayes and Sikasso regions and implementing controls on certain roads, particularly in the Koutiala area.

The ongoing military operations continue to have a negative impact on humanitarian access. In addition to curfews in the northern regions (Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal, Ménaka), travel restrictions in the surrounding areas of main cities are imposed to humanitarians by Security Forces. The deterioration in the security situation is accompanied by an increase in criminal incidents, which increasingly affect humanitarian personnel.

The town of Ménaka has been experiencing access problems since December 2023. Prices for basic food items have soared, markets are empty and the few that remain are struggling to cater for the new arrivals and host communities. The scarcity or absence of flights to bring food and medicine to Ménaka only exacerbates the crisis. The influx of displaced people is putting additional pressure on existing resources.

During the reporting period, twenty (20) confirmed cases of measles were recorded compared to the same number in February 2023. The cumulative number of confirmed measles cases from the 1st to the 9th week of 2024 (January-February) is seventy (70) compared to fifty-six (56) cases in the same period in 2023, a decrease of 27%.

Mali has been experiencing a polio epidemic due to the circulating PV variant type 2 since February 03, 2023. The country has a total of 24 cases of cVDPV2 including 06 cases from environmental surveillance and 18 cases from AFPs, of which 02 are from 2022, 15 cases for 2023 and 1 case for 2024.

There have been 998 suspected dengue cases in the Koulikoro, Sikasso, Mopti, Taoudenit and Bamako regions, including 172 confirmed cases. Since the epidemic's onset in July 2023, 6,991 samples have been analyzed, with 1,104 positive cases and 34 deaths, resulting in a fatality rate of 3.08 per cent.

As of February, 1,743 schools were non-functional due to insecurity, impacting over 522,000 school-aged children and 10,400 teachers. This marks an increase since January, with 90 newly closed schools and only 4 reopened. The situation remains volatile, with 63 schools reopening and 67 newly closed between December 2023 and January 2024.

SUMMARY ANALYSIS OF PROGRAMME RESPONSE

Health

During the month of February 2024, i.e., from the 06th to the 09th week, fifty-two thousand four hundred and thirty-seven (52,437) children were vaccinated in response to the recorded measles outbreaks, out of an expected target of fifty-five thousand three hundred and sixty-seven (55,367) aged 09 months to 14 years, representing a CV rate of 95%. The responses were organized in the DS of Diema, Kita, Nioro, Kadiolo and Sikasso. From the 1st to the 9th week (January and February), in response to measles outbreaks, the cumulative number of children vaccinated is fifty-six thousand four hundred and fifty (56,450) out of an expected target of 585,367 children aged 09 months to 14 years, i.e., a CV rate of 95%.

Preparations for the polio campaign continue, the 1st passage is scheduled from April 26 to 29, 2024.

Nutrition

During the reporting period, 8,854 severely malnourished children (including 4,516 girls) aged 6-59 months were admitted for treatment. The Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) recovery rate stood at 95.9 percent, the mortality rate at 0.16 percent, and the drop-out rate at 3.9 percent.

This month, 51,275 primary caregivers (including 38,845 pregnant and lactating women) received counseling support on Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF). These services are fundamental for fostering the healthy growth and development of young children. Additionally, a total of 4,779 children aged 6-23 months were reached with Multiple Micronutrient Powder (MNP) in Gao, Ménaka, and Mopti regions, and 84,660 children were covered with vitamin A supplementation.

Since the beginning of the year, Nutrition Cluster partners have provided life-saving assistance to 365,399 people, representing 15% of their annual target of 2.5 million people. Monitoring of nutrition status in hotspot areas through rapid SMART surveys is ongoing, with the preparation phase targeting the following areas: subdivisions of Kidal, Ansongo, Bourem, Koro, Bankass, Douentza, Gourma Rharous, and IDP sites of Gao, Mopti, Bourem, and Ménaka. The data collection process is planned for April 2024.

Child protection, GBViE, and PSEA

In February, 19,422 children, comprising 10,397 girls, along with 296 caregivers (187 women) received psychosocial support via UNICEF's implementing partners, in child-friendly spaces and Transit Centers in Bamako, and the regions of Bandiagara, Douentza, Gao, Menaka, Mopti, San, Segou, Sikasso and Timbuktu.

During the same timeframe, 32 unaccompanied and separated children (16 girls) were provided with holistic care in family-based or appropriate alternative care settings in Bamako, Gao, Menaka, Mopti, Niore and Kayes.

Finally, 5,188 people (2,334 girls, 1,955 boys, 543 women and 356 men) had access to gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention, or response interventions supported by UNICEF. A total of 2,020 people (635 girls, 561 women, 438 boys, 386 men) were given access to a safe channel to report any potential case of sexual exploitation and abuse by aid workers.

Education

As of February, 1,743 schools were non-functional due to insecurity, impacting over 522,000 school-aged children and 10,400 teachers. This marks an increase since January, with 90 newly closed schools and only 4 reopened. The situation remains volatile, with 63 schools reopening and 67 newly closed between December 2023 and January 2024.

UNICEF and its partners continue to support the schools reopening across the country, especially in humanitarian settings. In Menaka, reopening was facilitated by partner support, including incentives for volunteer teachers and infrastructure enhancement initiatives. Meanwhile, in Sikasso, school resumption depends on authorizations from armed groups, subject to conditions such as religious curriculum inclusion and community-funded incentives for volunteer teachers.

UNICEF provided continuous short-term assistance to 160 volunteer teachers in Timbuktu, ensuring the active participation and engagement of 8,000 students (including 3,505 girls) in schools.

UNICEF and its partners, including APIDEV, WVI, and Teaching Academies (AE), worked to ensure access to education and create protective learning environments despite challenges in areas with significant displaced populations, particularly urban areas. In Macina, UNICEF supported 1,025 displaced children (547 girls) by providing 20 tents equipped with teaching materials, desks, mats, and school supplies. Additionally, in the Tombouctou region, 14 tents were established, benefiting 560 children (260 girls).

In line with the CERF UF objective for post-Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) in Segou, UNICEF and UNHCR collaborated with their implementing partners and stakeholders to ensure project complementarity. Key achievements to date include the training of 195 SMC members (95 women) on Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Conflict and Disaster Risk Reduction, and social cohesion in Tombouctou town. Additionally, six semi-durable learning spaces were constructed in schools hosting IDPs.

The cluster continued its efforts to enhance reporting and data analysis by integrating the 3W and 5W matrices into the Kobo collect system. Training sessions for cluster members were planned for early March. Additionally, after activating the Project module in Mali's 2024 response plan, the Education Cluster initiated a project selection process among its members. This process resulted in the selection of 37 projects following evaluation by an ad hoc committee.

Water, sanitation and hygiene

UNICEF and its partners continued providing lifesaving services, including hygiene promotion in emergency affected areas. In the regions of Kayes, Sikasso, Ségou, Mopti, Gao, Menaka, Kidal and Timbuktu, 500 people (including 269 children and 120 women) received essential Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) supplies, including family hygiene kits, hygiene kits, water treatment products, buckets, and jerry cans, during this reporting period. In addition, 1,000 women and adolescents received menstrual hygiene kits in the region of Timbuktu.

The WASH Cluster organized a strategic advocacy workshop on February 7, with support from the Global WASH Cluster. The workshop convened around thirty participants from the Cluster's advocacy working group and strategic orientation committee to initiate the development of an advocacy strategy for the sector. Ten key issues affecting the sector were identified, including under-financing, insufficient consideration of climate change impacts, water resource scarcity, water quality concerns, and access difficulties due to security issues. This led to the creation of a collective advocacy framework for the sector.

In terms of the WASH Cluster response, UNICEF and 23 other WASH Cluster actors reached 89,605 people, including 48,182 children. Over 91 per cent of the assistance was directed towards water access (including 18 per cent for emergency water supplies).

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

With the support of UNICEF, community platforms in the regions of Sikasso and Koulikoro, as well as women leaders in the Bamako District, organized 1,749 educational talk sessions on the importance of vaccination. These sessions reached 33,484 individuals, including 29,111 women.

Throughout the month, 2,205 individuals, including 1,065 women, participated in community engagement activities to promote vaccination demand, while 753 individuals 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 and Nutrition Clusters, the Child Protection Sub-Cluster (Area of Responsibility) and co-leads the Education Cluster As Cluster 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 the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) at the national and sub-national levels. UNICEF also participates in the in-country interagency prevention of SEA (PSEA) Task Force and interagency Gender in Emergency Working Group.

UNICEF leads the WASH and Nutrition Clusters, the Child Protection Sub-Cluster (Area of Responsibility) and co-leads the Education Cluster.

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES AND EXTERNAL MEDIA

On World Radio Day, Malian youth's commitment to promoting peace and solidarity through community radio stations gained visibility via amplification on UNICEF's global and country office social media channels. With support from the Peacebuilding Fund

(PBF), UNICEF has equipped youth centers in Mali and trained young people, both girls and boys, to become agents of social transformation. These individuals address community challenges like education, particularly girls' education, nutrition, and health. UNICEF Mali shared and amplified content from the Regional Office's social media campaign on child-friendly justice, backed by the European Union. Stories of children affected by the humanitarian crisis receiving psychosocial support and socio-reintegration were shared. The UNICEF Representative persistently advocated for children impacted by the crisis in Mali, engaging in discussions in Washington DC with the Director of the African Bureau and separately meeting the Country Manager for Mali at the Global Partnership for Education to explore collaborations. Media engagement this month resulted in 34 reports mentioning UNICEF, focusing on the crisis's impact on children. In February, our content reached over 571,000 accounts, advocating for the humanitarian crisis and children's needs, alongside highlighting UNICEF and local NGO responses to support crisis-affected communities.

- In Timbuktu, the "Reading Corner" makes school enjoyable
<https://www.unicef.org/mali/en/node/1406>
- Walking to survive
<https://www.unicef.org/mali/en/stories/walking-survive>
- Fadimata: A nutrition champion is born
<https://www.unicef.org/mali/en/stories/fadimata-nutrition-champion-born>
- Mopti, training on natural disaster management
<https://www.studiotamani.org/158911-mopti-formation-sur-la-gestion-des-catastrophes-naturelles>

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 APRIL 2024

ANNEX A - PROGRAMME RESULTS

Consolidated Programme Results

Sector			UNICEF and IPs response			Cluster/Sector response		
Indicator	Disaggregation	Total needs	2024 targets	Total results	Progress*	2024 targets	Total results	Progress*
Nutrition								
Children aged 6 to 59 months with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) admitted for treatment	Total	-	201,250	17,809	4%	201,250	17,809	4%
	Girls	-	201,250	10,531	2%	201,250	10,531	2%
	Boys	-	201,250	8,278	2%	201,250	8,278	2%
Primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counselling	Total	-	463,522	56,041	11%	463,522	56,041	11%
	Women	-	463,522	42,470	8%	463,522	42,470	8%
	Men	-	463,522	13,871	3%	463,522	13,871	3%
Health								
Children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles	Total	-	2.2 million	56,450	2%	-	-	-
Children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against polio	Total	-	1.4 million	-	0%	-	-	-
Water, sanitation and hygiene								
People accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking and domestic needs	Total	3.4 million	523,500	12,759	0%	1.3 million	89,605	6%
	Girls	3.4 million	523,500	3,550	0%	1.3 million	24,933	2%
	Boys	3.4 million	523,500	3,700	0%	1.3 million	25,985	2%
	Women	3.4 million	523,500	2,807	0%	1.3 million	19,712	1%
	Men	3.4 million	523,500	2,702	0%	1.3 million	18,975	1%
People use safe and appropriate sanitation facilities	Total	2.1 million	50,000	-	0%	160,000	574	0%
	Women	2.1 million	50,000	-	0%	160,000	285	0%
	Men	2.1 million	50,000	-	0%	160,000	289	0%
People reached with critical WASH supplies	Total	2.1 million	336,000	9,759	0%	1.3 million	15,232	0%
	Women	2.1 million	336,000	4,862	0%	1.3 million	7,678	0%
	Men	2.1 million	336,000	4,897	0%	1.3 million	7,554	0%
Child Protection, GBViE and PSEA								

Children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)	Girls	-	384,783	17,586	3%	786,930	19,676	1%
	Boys	-	384,783	16,511	3%	786,930	18,377	1%
	Women	-	384,783	427	0%	786,930	523	0%
	Men	-	7,486	232	1%	786,930	326	0%
People with safe and accessible channels to report Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	Girls	-	572,500	1,134	0%	-	-	-
	Boys	-	572,500	696	0%	-	-	-
	Women	-	572,500	822	0%	-	-	-
	Men	-	572,500	623	0%	-	-	-
Children who have exited armed forces and groups provided with protection or reintegration support	Girls	-	700	1	0%	1,000	1	0%
	Boys	-	700	7	0%	1,000	7	0%
Unaccompanied and separated children accessing family-based care or a suitable alternative	Girls	-	2,400	47	1%	4,000	68	1%
	Boys	-	2,400	49	1%	4,000	79	1%
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions	Total	-	166,100	9,649	3%	-	-	-
	Girls	-	166,100	4,120	1%	-	-	-
	Boys	-	166,100	3,780	1%	-	-	-
	Women	-	166,100	1,053	0%	-	-	-
	Men	-	166,100	696	0%	-	-	-
People with safe and accessible channels to report Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations	Total	-	572,500	3,275	0%	-	-	-
Children who have exited an armed force and groups provided with protection or reintegration support	Total	-	700	8	0%	1,000	8	0%
Children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS)	Total	-	384,783	34,756	5%	786,930	38,902	3%
Unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified	Total	-	1,600	96	2%	4,000	147	1%
Education								

Children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	Total	-	300,000	11,534	1%	300,000	11,534	1%
	Girls	-	300,000	5,826	0%	300,000	5,826	0%
	Boys	-	300,000	5,708	0%	300,000	5,708	0%
Children receiving individual learning materials	Total	-	1.1 million	1,262	0%	2.8 million	1,262	0%
	Girls	-	1.1 million	634	0%	2.8 million	634	0%
	Boys	-	1.1 million	628	0%	2.8 million	628	0%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, C4D, RCCE and AAP)								
People engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms	Total	-	600,000	3,197	0%	-	-	-
People sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms	Total	-	100,000	1,790	1%	-	-	-

**Progress in the reporting period February 2024*

ANNEX B — FUNDING STATUS

Consolidated funding by sector

		Funding available		Funding gap	
Sector	Requirements	Humanitarian resources received in 2024	Resources available from 2023 (carry over)	Funding gap (US\$)	Funding gap (%)
Health (including public health emergencies)	14,005,125	-	230,731	13,774,394	98%
Nutrition	33,272,170	-	1,416,650	31,855,520	96%
Child protection, GBViE and PSEA	25,346,535 ^{2,3}	-	1,628,827	23,717,708	94%
Education	32,437,460	-	1,665,919	30,771,541	95%
Water, sanitation and hygiene	15,622,525	-	-	15,622,525	100%
Social protection	1,000,000	-	-	1,000,000	100%
Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)	8,815,085 ⁴	-	-	8,815,085	100%
Emergency Preparedness	3,001,100	-	1,015,621	1,985,479	66%
Total	133,500,000	0	5,957,748	127,542,252	96%

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ENDNOTES

1. Rapport DTM Decembre 2023

2. The Child Protection budget (including mine action) includes US\$ 2,807,873 for protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA), and US\$3,743,831 for Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in emergencies response.

3. This budget line item is higher than in 2023 due to mine action activities and an increase in targeted unaccompanied and separated children; this budget may change during revision as unit costs are revised.

4. Of the total of US\$ 8,815,085, the Humanitarian Cash Transfer (HCT) budget is US\$ 5,298,400; Social and Behaviour Change amounts to US\$ 1,406,674; rRisk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) is US\$ 1,406,674; and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) amounts to US\$ 703,337.