Mali

HIGHLIGHTS1,2,3

- Mali is experiencing unprecedented and rapidly rising humanitarian needs. An estimated 7.1 million people, more than 30 per cent of the population, are projected to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2024.

- The departure of the United Nations peacekeeping mission in Mali, completed on 31 December 2023, contributed to a deterioration of the already fragile security and humanitarian situation. Adapting to new operational and programmatic challenges, UNICEF, in support of the Government, and in close collaboration with partners, strengthened its Emergency Preparedness and Response, including its field presence.

- According to the March 2024 Cadre Harmonise, more than 2,500 people face catastrophic levels of food insecurity in Ménaka, while 60,000 people are experiencing emergency levels of hunger.

- 3.2 million people, including 1.7 million children, lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

- In a challenging humanitarian context UNICEF requires $134.5 million to address the critical needs of 3.3 million most vulnerable girls and boys in Mali.

KEY PLANNED TARGETS

- 2.2 million children vaccinated against measles
- 201,250 children with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- 1.1 million children receiving individual learning materials
- 523,500 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water

IN NEED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2024</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.1 million people</td>
<td>3.8 million children</td>
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TO BE REACHED

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2024</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3.8 million people</td>
<td>3.3 million children</td>
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FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2024</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>US$134.5 million</td>
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Mali continues to face a complex and protracted humanitarian crisis marked by the persistence of conflicts and insecurity, mainly in the northern and central regions, the effects of climatic hazards, economic crises, and public health emergencies.

Despite significant logistical and security constraints and a relatively short timeframe, MINUSMA departed from Mali by 31 December 2023, with two sites (Bamako and Gao) retained for the liquidation process, which began in January 2024. Since August 2023, non-state armed groups have created sporadic blockades in several towns in the regions of Timbuktu, Gao and Ménaka by blocking main supply routes. The deterioration and spread of the conflict have led to worsening humanitarian consequences. Also of concern is the diminishing presence of non-governmental organizations in some areas due to insecurity and operational restrictions.

An estimated 2.5 million people in Mali are expected to be food insecure in 2024 and an estimated 268,000 children are expected to suffer from severe wasting. According to the March 2024 Cadre Harmonisé, more than 2,500 people face catastrophic levels of food insecurity in Menaka, while 60,000 people there are experiencing emergency levels of hunger.

Nearly 3.5 million people will require emergency health care in 2024. The country has experienced periodic epidemics of polio and dengue fever, and cases of measles have been reported in 32 of the country’s 75 health districts in 2023. An estimated 3.2 million people, including 1.7 million children, lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

Children’s access to education in Mali is precarious, with 1,791 schools reported closed as of April 2024 due to insecurity and attacks on educational infrastructure and staff. This is depriving more than half a million (537,300) children of access to learning and is affecting more than 10,746 teachers.

Children continue to be exposed to protection risks, including family separation, gender-based violence, and recruitment into armed forces/armed groups, leading to dire consequences on all dimensions of their lives, including their mental health and development. From January to December 2023, 1,141 grave violations against 1,024 children were verified, mostly in Timbuktu, Gao, Ménaka, and Kidal regions. Women and children are also at high risk of sexual exploitation and abuse.

The Children’s Climate Risk Index rating for Mali placed the country in the high-risk category, and the impact of climate change (drought, floods) makes environmental crises more common and harder to recover from.

**SECTOR NEEDS**

- **3.5 million** people in need of health assistance
- **3.3 million** people in need of nutrition assistance
- **1.3 million** children in need of protection services
- **2.3 million** children in need of education support
- **3.2 million** people lack access to safe water

**STORY FROM THE FIELD**

In 2024, children constitute over half of the 7.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. A growing number of IDPs, predominantly children, have been fleeing insecurity, grave violations in the northern and central regions, and natural disasters and epidemics. The Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) and the Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC) are facing funding shortfalls of 82 per cent and 88 per cent, respectively. UNICEF and its partners are supporting the Government of Mali in its efforts to provide continued delivery of basic social services, including for the most vulnerable children.
In 2024, UNICEF will remain a crucial first responder in Mali, addressing the urgent needs of children affected by conflict and natural disasters through integrated life-saving and life-sustaining responses. Children will be empowered to express their concerns and hold the Government and humanitarian actors accountable for safeguarding their rights.

The diverse and complex needs of children and adolescents will be addressed, with specific attention to those affected by armed conflict and displacement through dedicated interventions such as holistic care, family reunification, socioeconomic reintegration, and mental health and psychosocial support. UNICEF will collaborate with and equip communities to identify suitable locations and support community-based agents to ensure they can meet children's needs. In light of MINUSMA's departure from Mali and the temporary suspension of the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) activities, UNICEF will enhance its Mine Risk Education (MRE) efforts. Additionally, UNICEF will maintain its leadership in the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on grave violations, since 2024 newly in collaboration with the Resident Coordinator's Office.

To save the lives of children under 5 who are severely wasted, UNICEF’s Nutrition response will support early detection at the community and family levels and provide care through community and health facilities. Preventive interventions such as Infant and Young Child Feeding (IYCF) counseling, growth monitoring, WASH-in-Nutrition, and vaccination will be provided in an integrated manner.

Social Protection interventions will be designed to address vulnerabilities in the evolving context of Mali, using a cross-sectoral, multi-purpose, and multi-stakeholder approach. The focus will be on multi-purpose humanitarian cash transfer interventions while enhancing the responsiveness of the national Social Protection system, including sector-specific information management systems.

UNICEF will implement preparedness activities to strengthen national and local capacities for effective and timely responses. It will focus on reinforcing partnerships with national and international NGOs to enhance humanitarian access and community engagement. UNICEF will collaborate with UN agencies to support Mali’s children and will continue to lead the WASH and Nutrition Clusters, the Child Protection Area of Responsibility (AoR), and co-lead the Education Cluster with Save the Children.

UNICEF enforces a zero-tolerance policy towards SEA and is dedicated to enhancing internal mechanisms for protection among its implementing partners. It will integrate GBV risk mitigation across all sectors, providing capacity building for partners and expanding transformative gender initiatives. Standard measures for SEA protection and GBV risk mitigation will be systematically included in all UNICEF-funded interventions.

Progress against the latest programme targets is available in the humanitarian situation reports: https://www.unicef.org/appeals/mali/situation-reports

This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action, which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.

2024 PROGRAMME TARGETS

Health (including public health emergencies)
- 2,183,930 children vaccinated against measles, supplemental dose
- 1,414,957 children 0-59 months vaccinated against polio, supplemental dose

Nutrition
- 2,012,500 children 6-59 months screened for wasting
- 201,250 children 6-59 months with severe wasting admitted for treatment
- 463,522 primary caregivers of children 0-23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling
- 333,245 children 6-59 months receiving micronutrient powder

Child protection, GBVie and PSEA
- 283,295 children, adolescents and caregivers accessing community-based mental health and psychosocial support
- 166,100 women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention and/or response interventions
- 572,500 people with safe and accessible channels to report sexual exploitation and abuse by personnel who provide assistance to affected populations
- 800 children who have exited an armed force and groups provided with protection or reintegration support
- 2,800 unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified
- 38,268 children provided with landmine or other explosive weapons prevention and/or survivor assistance interventions

Education
- 300,000 children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning
- 1,100,000 children receiving individual learning materials
- 2,500 teachers and facilitators trained in basic pedagogy and/or mental health and psychosocial support

Water, sanitation and hygiene
- 523,500 people accessing a sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs
- 50,000 people accessing appropriate sanitation services
- 336,000 people reached with critical WASH supplies

Cross-sectoral (HCT, SBC, RCCE and AAP)
- 25,000 households reached with UNICEF-funded humanitarian cash transfers (including for social protection and other sectors)
- 11,449,870 affected people (children, caregivers, community members) reached with timely and life-saving information on how and where to access available services
- 600,000 people engaged in reflective dialogue through community platforms
- 150,000 people sharing their concerns and asking questions through established feedback mechanisms

Social protection
- 100,000 households benefitting from new or additional social assistance (cash/in-kind) measures from government-funded programmes with UNICEF technical assistance support
- 200,000 households newly registered in the social registry with technical and financial support from UNICEF
FUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

UNICEF is appealing for $134.5 million in 2024 to meet the humanitarian needs of crisis-affected children in Mali, aligned with the Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP). UNICEF aims to address the most immediate needs, but also to enhance longer-term resilience of the communities and systems by strengthening links between humanitarian action and development programmes, including through support to shock-responsive social protection.

The appeal amount for 2024 is 13 per cent higher than for 2023, in line with higher number of people and children to be reached, increasing humanitarian needs and growing operational costs. The budget for nutrition has increased by 6 per cent due to higher unit costs of ready-to-use therapeutic food and in-country transportation and distribution, due to insecurity and access challenges. The budget for child protection has increased by 7 per cent to include mine risk education activities, which UNICEF will undertake to fill a gap created by the temporary suspension of UNMAS efforts in that area following the withdrawal of the United Nations peacekeeping force. The budgets for education and health are both 15 per cent higher to cover the rising operational costs in these sectors.

As of 31 May 2024, only 11 per cent of the funds required by UNICEF to respond to humanitarian needs in Mali laid out in the 2024 appeal had been received. Yet these low levels of funding will subsequently undermine the capacity to adequately address children's needs in the humanitarian crisis they are living through. UNICEF holds a vision of Mali's children, thriving and with their rights upheld, and the support they need to get through the current difficult period is crucial to that future. In parallel, development investments must focus on building resilience and systems to avoid further deterioration in the humanitarian situation.

Without sufficient and timely funding, UNICEF will be unable to facilitate access to quality, critical essential social services (including protection for nearly 3.8 million children affected by the crisis), respond to the needs resulting from the weakened education system or support the national response to the continuing nutrition crisis.

*This includes costs from other sectors/interventions : Cross-sectoral (6.6%), Emergency Preparedness (3.0%), Social protection (<1%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal sector</th>
<th>Revised 2024 HAC requirement (US$)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>14,005,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>33,272,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>25,346,535</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>32,437,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>15,622,525</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross-sectoral</td>
<td>8,815,085</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social protection</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emergency Preparedness</td>
<td>4,001,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>134,500,000</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appeal sector</th>
<th>Original 2024 HAC requirement (US$)</th>
<th>Revised 2024 HAC requirement (US$)</th>
<th>Funds available (US$)21</th>
<th>Funding gap (US$)</th>
<th>Funding gap (%)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>14,005,125</td>
<td>14,005,125</td>
<td>739,137</td>
<td>13,265,988</td>
<td>94.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>33,272,170</td>
<td>33,272,170</td>
<td>4,353,438</td>
<td>28,918,732</td>
<td>86.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child protection</td>
<td>25,346,535</td>
<td>25,346,535</td>
<td>2,481,324</td>
<td>22,865,211</td>
<td>90.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>32,437,460</td>
<td>32,437,460</td>
<td>1,915,048</td>
<td>30,522,412</td>
<td>94.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASH</td>
<td>15,622,525</td>
<td>15,622,525</td>
<td>1,725,688</td>
<td>13,896,837</td>
<td>89.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cross-sectoral</td>
<td>8,815,085</td>
<td>8,815,085</td>
<td>98,954</td>
<td>8,716,131</td>
<td>98.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social protection</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>100.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emergency Preparedness</td>
<td>3,001,100</td>
<td>4,001,10025</td>
<td>3,001,100</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>133,500,000</td>
<td>134,500,000</td>
<td>14,314,689</td>
<td>120,185,311</td>
<td>89.4%</td>
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ENDNOTES

1. The drop in PIN figures compared with 2023 is explained by a new targeting methodology introduced by OCHA and the removal of resilience targets from the HNRP during the 2024 HPC process.

2. Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC). According to the March 2024 “Cadre Harmonisé”, and given the extensive looting of livestock, very high food prices, and limited opportunities for income-generating activities, Emergency (IPC Phase 4) outcomes are likely throughout the period from February to September, with a small proportion of the population in Catastrophe (IPC Phase 5) in the inaccessible areas of Ménaka during the lean season.

3. Despite a decrease in the overall number of people in need compared to 2023, UNICEF will reinforce its programmes to reach a higher number of people and children in 2024. Therefore, in line with this efforts and the increasing humanitarian needs and growing operational costs, the amount requested in this appeal is 13 per cent higher than for 2023. In WASH, there has been a dramatic rise in the price of essential supplies and fuel, leading to cost overruns. In child protection, unit costs have increased by 10% due to inflation and challenging access, with new targets added for unaccompanied children and victims of mines. The education sector’s high targets remain to fulfill UNICEF’s role as the provider of last resort. In health, increased targets for vaccination and high freight costs due to security issues have escalated expenses. For nutrition, the price of therapeutic products and logistical costs have risen significantly. These factors justify maintaining the budget to ensure continued quality assistance

4. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Mali Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP) 2024

5. Ibid.

6. This figure is calculated using the highest coverage programme targets: Children to be reached with measles vaccination, supplemental dose (2,183,930); people accessing sufficient quantity and quality of drinking water and for domestic needs (523,500); children to be reached with individual learning materials (1,100,000); and unaccompanied and separated children provided with alternative care and/or reunified (2,400). This total includes 50 per cent women/girls and 15 per cent people/children with disabilities. UNICEF is committed to needs-based objectives, which means covering the unmet needs of children, and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.

7. UNICEF is committed to needs-based targeting, which means covering the unmet needs of children and will serve as the provider of last resort where it has cluster coordination responsibilities.

8. This figure is calculated using the highest coverage programme targets: Children to be reached with measles vaccination, supplemental dose (2,183,930); 10 per cent of people accessing sufficient quantity and quality of water for drinking and domestic needs, representing children aged 15–18 years (52,350); children to be reached with individual learning materials (1,100,000); and unaccompanied and separated children to be reached with family-based care or a suitable alternative (2,800). This total includes 50 per cent girls and 15 per cent children with disabilities.

9. To ensure increased beneficiary participation, UNICEF will emphasize the human-centred approach and community engagement through strategic orientations. These strategies will be translated into community plans adapted to the local context and implemented through a mix of approaches to relay essential information to the population in equitable ways, to support and strengthen their knowledge and foster resilience. The use of the RapidPro platform and U-Report through surveys will enable UNICEF to assess opinions and perceptions of the quality of interventions. To evaluate the implementation of interventions and collect feedback from communities, a system of accountability mechanisms will be put in place.

10. UNICEF will adopt a cross-sectoral approach to uphold children’s rights in humanitarian situations, recognizing the diverse needs they encounter. To mitigate the disruption of Education caused by conflict and displacement, UNICEF will provide cash transfers to households with children, facilitating their access to Education by covering school fees, uniforms, books, and other related expenses. In response to the heightened vulnerability of children to malnutrition and disease in conflict-affected areas, UNICEF will extend cash transfers to support families in accessing healthcare services and nutritious food. Additionally, households with children will receive cash transfers to enable them to obtain protection services and psychosocial support, addressing the psychological and emotional impacts of conflict and displacement while ensuring children’s safety and well-being. These initiatives will also include targeted cash transfers for Child Protection services, such as legal assistance, family tracing and reunification, and support for caregivers. This comprehensive support aims to safeguard children and prevent exploitation and abuse in contexts of armed conflict and displacement. Furthermore, targeted cash transfers will be allocated to households hosting displaced children, ensuring their access to essential services and support systems. Community-based cash assistance programmes will encompass entire communities, including households with children, to foster social cohesion, prevent conflict, and enhance community resilience, thereby addressing the social and economic disparities exacerbated by conflict and displacement. To assist families in regaining economic stability and reducing their reliance on humanitarian aid, cash transfers will also be provided to households with children, supporting income-generating activities and livelihoods recovery.

11. This appeal is aligned with the revised Core Commitments for Children in Humanitarian Action (CCCs), which are based on global standards and norms for humanitarian action.

12. UNICEF is committed to supporting the leadership and coordination of humanitarian response through its leadership or co-leadership of cluster coordination for the WASH, Nutrition and Education Clusters and the Child Protection AoR. All Cluster Coordinator costs are included in sectoral programme budgets.

13. UNICEF is committed to empowering local responders in humanitarian crises in a variety of ways. The revised Core Commitments made investing in strengthening the capacities of local actors in the humanitarian response a mandatory benchmark for UNICEF action. A more localized response will improve humanitarian action and is fundamental to achieving better accountability to affected populations.

14. Beyond the UNICEF targets for these interventions, other humanitarian partners are expected to reach the remaining children/families in need.

15. The high number of people vaccinated can be attributed to the numerous epidemic districts in 2023. In several of these districts, cases were scattered, necessitating the vaccination of a larger population. A national follow-up campaign is planned for 2024, while in 2023 a small-scale response was organized to contain the epidemics.

16. As the provider of last resort, UNICEF has raised its target to address a greater proportion of needs due to the MINUSMA departure, which was anticipated to result in increased insecurity and fewer implementing partners in the field.

17. UNICEF has increased the number of emergency WASH kits to 10,000 in 2024, for 300,000 people in need, compared with 5,600 kits in 2023 for 168,000 people. As WASH Cluster lead, UNICEF has provided nearly 90 per cent of the WASH kits for the emergency response to implementing partners, mainly via the Rapid Response Mechanism and decentralized Government bodies. With the departure of MINUSMA and increasing population displacement in the country, the future situation remains uncertain. UNICEF has therefore increased the immediate WASH response target compared with 2023.

18. The population target is higher than the total number of people/children to be reached because the target includes mass media outreach.

19. In 2023, UNICEF engaged 990,461 people, including 382,211 women, in dialogue through community platforms across the country. A decline in these figures is expected in 2024, as the 2023 results were primarily driven by the COVID-19 vaccination campaign, which will now receive less emphasis.

20. In 2023, UNICEF recorded 93,269 individuals, including 11,155 women, for this indicator, solely through the call center of the "Agence Nationale de Télésanté et d'Informatique Médicale". In 2024, UNICEF plans to implement a new system to gather feedback through additional channels, targeting 150,000 individuals.

21. As at 31 May 2024

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

24. Out of the total US$8,815,085, the humanitarian cash transfer budget amounts to US$5,298,400; Social and Behavior Change (SBC) is allocated US$1,406,674; Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) receives US$1,406,674; and Accountability to Affected Populations (AAP) is designated to US$703,337.

25. Ongoing efforts to mitigate and adapt to the operational, humanitarian, and security implications of the MINUSMA departure (increased operational costs and humanitarian needs, reduced humanitarian space, etc.) have led to a 30 per cent increase in the Emergency and Field Operations section budget. Efforts include strengthening UNICEF's field presence by opening an outpost in Menaka and developing rapid response and humanitarian access strategies based on localization.