

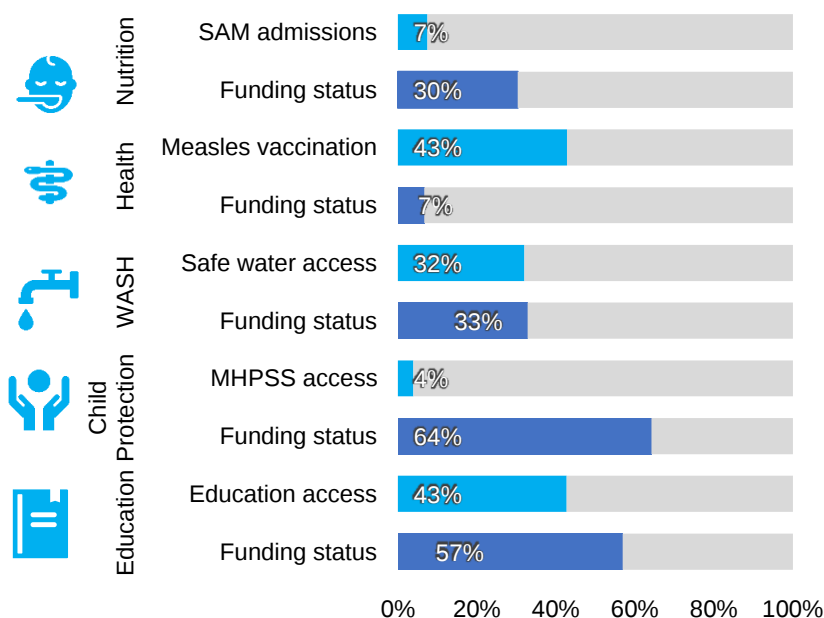


Reporting Period: 1 to 28th February 2021

Highlights

- As of February 2021, 174,342 people were provided with household water treatment and hygiene kits as part of the temporary response to emergencies in Bamako, Sikasso, Mopti, Gao, Timbuktu and Menaka regions.
- 4,996 children (2,442 girls) were reached with mental health and psychosocial support, holistic assistance and socio-economic reintegration support in the northern and central Mali as well as in Bamako district.
- 35,102 children from 9 to 15 years were vaccinated against measles in Sikasso (28,404), Koulikoro (4,442) and Gao (2,256) regions.
- Some 14,497 under-five children with severe acute malnutrition were admitted for treatment.
- 24,779 children (of which 12,393 are girls) accessed formal or non-formal education in the communes of Mopti, Segou, San and Bandiagara with the support of UNICEF.
- Insecurity in the central and northern regions and the COVID-19 pandemic are still affecting the education sector with 1,344 schools closed as of February 2021, affecting the right to education for 403,200 school-aged children.

UNICEF's Response and Funding Status

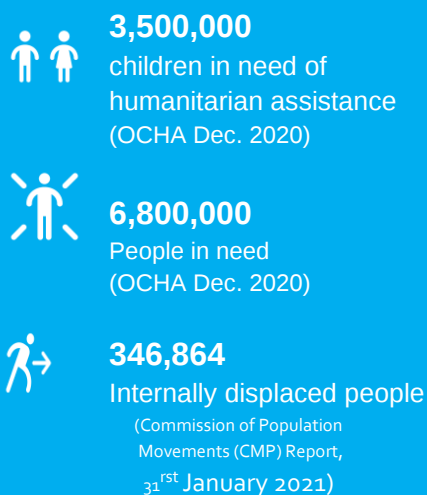


MALI

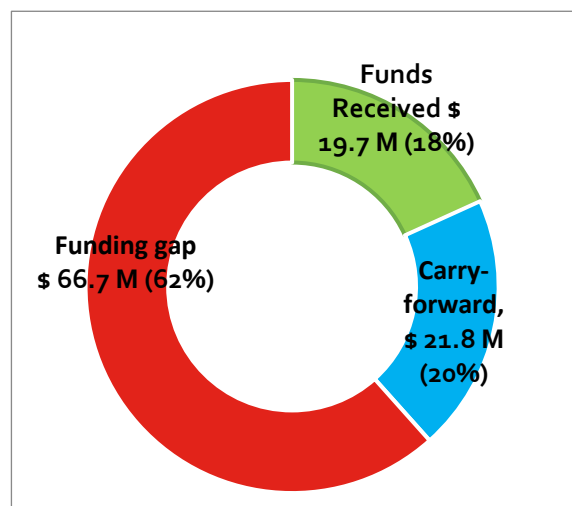
Humanitarian Situation Report No. 2

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Situation in Numbers



UNICEF Appeal 2021
US\$ 108.3 million



*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 2021, UNICEF is appealing for US\$ 108.3 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 north and center of the country. As of 28th February 2021, a total of US\$ 41,582,213 including US\$ 21,848,164 carry-forward was available, representing 38 per cent of the Global Appeal. The HAC 2021 has a funding gap of 62 per cent, and consequently far from covering the needs especially in the Health, Nutrition, WASH and social inclusion, which remain the most underfunded sectors with respectively 7; 30;33 and 40 per cent of funds received. The Governments of the USA (USAID- OFDA), Spain, the Czech Republic, Sweden, Romania, Denmark, Austria, Canada, USA (State), Switzerland (Swiss Agency for Development), Germany and the United Kingdom (DFID), the Spanish, German and Norwegian Committees for UNICEF, UNICEF-China, SIDA, the European Commission/ECHO, USAID/Food for Peace, Education Cannot Wait Fund, GAVI /The Vaccine Alliance Global, have generously contributed to UNICEF Mali humanitarian response. UNICEF expresses its deep and sincere gratitude to all public and private donors for the contributions received.

Situation Overview & Humanitarian Needs

The socio-political and humanitarian situation of the country remained unchanged and continued to be complex, fragile and volatile. The political situation is marked by efforts towards ensuring the full operationalization of the institutions of the transition in Mali.

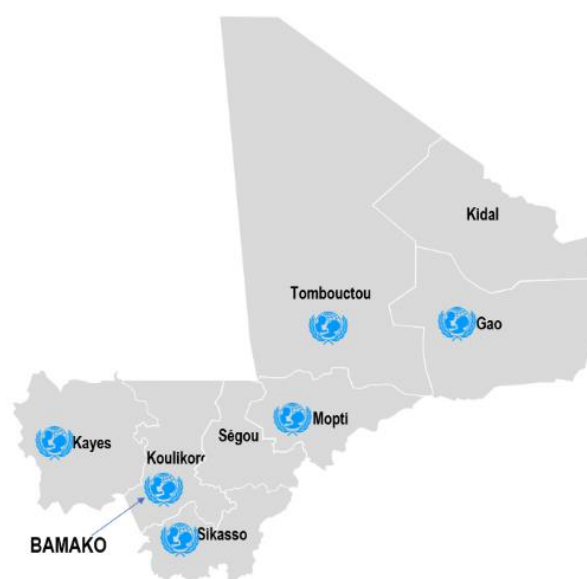
The humanitarian situation in Mali continues to worsen despite the many efforts of humanitarian actors. Based on the HNO/HRP 2021 analysis, the country has 11.7 million people affected by multiple crises, of whom 5.9 million need humanitarian assistance with 51 per cent of women, 54.2 per cent children, 3.38 per cent elderly and 15 per cent people with disabilities. The majority of people in need are in the central regions (Mopti 1.6 million and Segou 1.2 million), the northern regions (Timbuktu 1.1 million; Gao 600,000; Kidal 70,000)¹.

The northern and central regions continue to be characterized by the presence of non-state armed groups with an extension of insecurity along the borders in the Liptako Gourma countries (Burkina Faso and Niger) and the Segou region, with recurrent inter-communal conflicts, the presence of improvised explosive devices and attacks against national and international armed forces as well as against humanitarian organizations.

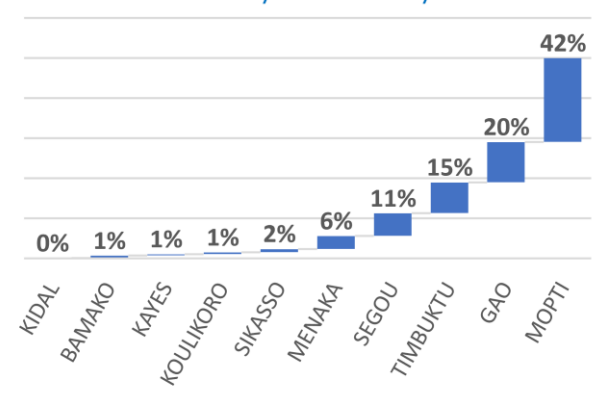
As of 28 February, the country accounts for 346,864² internal displaced people of which 61 per cent are children and 56 per cent women, mostly located in the northern and central regions (Gao, Mopti, Segou and Timbuktu).

Conflicts and the COVID-19 pandemic continued to negatively affect children's rights and welfare and increase their vulnerability and protection risks. Insecurity in central and

Field Structure in Mali



Percentage distribution of IDPs by region from January to February 2021



¹ OCHA - Mali HNO-HRP 2021

² Commission of Population Movements (CMP) Report, 31st January 2021

northern regions was accompanied by violations of the rights of individuals, particularly of children - victims of recruitment by armed groups and forces, gender-based violence and family separation.

Mali passed the second phase of the COVID-19 epidemic towards the end of January 2021. According to SitRep N°143 dated February 28, 2021, the country recorded 8,376 confirmed coronavirus cases, with 353 death (fatality rate 4.2 per cent) in 15 regions (out of 20) as well as in the district of Bamako.

Summary Analysis of Programme Response

Health

The cVDPV2 polio epidemic, which began in the first half of 2020, continues to spread gradually. As of February 28, the country has recorded a total of 47 cases, including 4 environmental surveillance cases and 43 AFP cases, of which the 15 most recent cases are distributed in the health districts of Fana (1), Banamba (1), Kenieba (1), Kita (2), Sefeto (1), Nara (1), Gao (1), Kati (4), Segou (1), and 2 viruses isolated from case contacts in Sikasso and Baroueli. UNICEF continues to support the Ministry of Public Health and Social Development with the deployment of 52 consultants throughout the country

The 1st round preparations took place in February while the campaign will be conducted from March 05 to 08, 2021 in twelve health districts, respectively 7 in Kayes region, 3 in Koulikoro and 2 in Tombouctou, targeting 875, 233 Children.

Measles outbreaks are reported in 19 over 20 regions in the country. A total of 112 cases have been reported, all regions affected, except Taoudenit. Each outbreak has been investigated, and vaccination responses organized at the health centre level reaching 35,102 children from 9 to 15 years including 28,404 in Sikasso Region, 4,442 in Koulikoro region and 2,256 in Gao region.

COVID-19

From the beginning of the COVID-19 epidemic in March 2020 to 28 February 2021, the country recorded, 8,376 cases of COVID-19 in 10 regions across 50 health districts, and 353 deaths reported. The Country is currently in the descending phase of its second wave. In January the country recorded 1,489 confirmed cases with 77 deaths while in February 2021, a significant decrease has been recorded with only 285 cases and 23 deaths.

In February, UNICEF supported the Ministry of Health with the delivery to the National Institute of Public Health (INSP) of 130,000 Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests, 106,500 kits Ribonucleic Acid (RNA), 192,900 RNA extraction kits, 120,000 Viral Transport Mediums (VTM) kits with Nasopharyngeal (NP) and Oropharyngeal (OP) swabs, pack/1 piece and one box of 9 calibration kits for a total value of \$1,449,309. At the regional level, Koulikoro health regional directorate received 200 Calcium Hypochlorite 70%, 50 Combinations, 500 Single-Use blouses, 50 Sprays and 3,000 Household Gloves. Ségou health regional directorate received 1,500 washable masks for volunteers. The lack of personal protective equipment in most health facilities coupled with the fear by health workers of being contaminated, are some of the challenges that the Government continues to address with the support of UNICEF and its partners, while empowering key actors and coordination of the different operational platforms of the health pyramid.

Nutrition

As of February 28, 2021, UNICEF supported the treatment and preventive malnutrition activities in health centers. A total of 6,530 new cases of children aged 6-59 months (3,526 girls and 3,004 boys) suffering from severe acute malnutrition were admitted for treatment, increasing the cumulative number to 14,497 out of 161,210 children targeted.

In terms of nutrition preventive activities, a total of 13,039 caregivers (Men 3,348 and women 9,691) of children aged (0-23 months) benefited from counselling on infant and young child feeding (IYCF), representing 2.71 per cent of the

480,853 caregivers targeted. These results have been achieved thanks to the partnership with the Regional Health Directorates, the health districts and UNICEF implementing partners (IMC, COOPI and ACTED). The main challenges remain insecurity in some places in the Center and North regions and Covid-19 pandemic, which make certain localities inaccessible and reduce access and use of nutrition and health services and the unavailability of data in DHIS2 (District Health Information System) for the regions of Kidal, Taoudénit and Menaka. In addition, the Nutrition Cluster contributed to the finalization of Humanitarian Response Strategy (HRP) for 2021.

Child Protection

During the reporting period, UNICEF and partners reached 4,756 children (2,367 girls and 2,389 boys) with mental health and psychosocial support in Bamako district, Mopti, Ségou, Timbuktu, Gao, Kidal and Ménaka regions. 59 children (11 girls and 48 boys) released from armed forces and armed groups in Ségou and Kidal were reached with holistic assistance and socio-economic reintegration support including income-generating activities, vocational training and education support. Eventually, 181 unaccompanied and separated children (64 girls and 117 boys) received holistic interim care including shelter, food, medical and psychosocial care by UNICEF and implementing partners in Bamako district, Mopti, Ségou, Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal regions. These results were achieved thanks to good collaboration between UNICEF, the Regional Directorates for the Promotion of Women, Children and Families (DRPFs), community-based child protection mechanisms and implementing partners including COOPI, SOLISA, GARDL, Peace One Day and Kanuya. It should be noted that the protection sector has received new funding in early 2021 from Canada and Japan but activities on the ground have just started or are about to start. This explains why the results for the Mental Health Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) access indicator are not yet visible (only 4%) compared to the funds received.

COVID-19

Children who face exacerbated protection risks and need protection in the context of COVID19 have access to the protection services implemented by UNICEF and partners and are included in the overall result. COVID-19 prevention measures are integrated across all UNICEF child protection activities. This includes adapted programmes in collective psychosocial support activities, which are limited to small groups and respect social distancing and ensuring that implementing partners and child protection structures (transit centres, child friendly-spaces, foster families, etc.) are equipped with hand-washing facilities and trained on barrier gestures.

Education

During the reporting period, 73 schools reopened with UNICEF support, reaching 14,001 children, including 6,919 girls, in the Douentza district, Mopti region. Overall 24,779 children (of which 12,393 girls) accessed formal or non-formal education in the communes of Mopti, Segou, San and Bandiagara with the support of UNICEF in collaboration with implementing partners EDUCO and APIDEV. Only 994 children (including 519 girls) received individual learning materials in the same regions due to the late arrival of school materials. School kit distribution will continue in targeted regions alongside March 2021.

In addition, some 3,914 girls and boys (3 to 17 years old, including 2,017 girls) attended a class where the teacher has been trained on psychosocial support and mental health. In Timbuktu, 10 animators were trained in non-formal education pedagogy (including 01 woman), through the implementing partner NRC.

Furthermore, the project funded by Education Cannot Wait First Emergency Response 2 (ECW FER) which principally aims at supporting the reopening of schools closed due to insecurity has started through the setting up of a consultation framework in targeted communes with the partners (NGOs) ASREF and AMAED and the teacher

academies. 11 of the 20 schools of the FER2 project that held consultation meetings have successfully reopened during the reporting period in Douentza academy, Mopti region.

Through the partnership with Studio Tamani, education lessons have been broadcasted through thirty community radios across the country since the 8th of February. The timing of the broadcasts was chosen according to the listening hours of local radios by communities, which were then completed by rebroadcasting the lessons in the evening and during the weekends. By the end of February, 360 broadcasts were produced.

A new partnership has been signed with Search For Common Ground (SFCG) to lead conflict scan and SCORE (cohesion social index) analysis in Gao, Timbuktu and Mopti region within the BMZ program "Building Resilience in Sahel". The conduction of participatory conflict and risk analysis, data collection and analysis will allow to support strategy to provide access to education including reopen schools and support the reintegration of Out of School Children. The partnership includes also Conflict and Disaster Risk Reduction (C-DRR) activities through teacher training and implementation of risk mitigation and response plan at the school level.

COVID-19

In the education sector, all the activities address both COVID-19 and non- COVID- 19 situations. For instance, the radio education program provides access to education contents for children affected by the pandemic and insecurity across the country. It benefits also children who are not back in school after the pandemic and children in schools thanks to the combination of broadcasts and replays. The only activities specific to COVID-19 in the education area was the provision of the COVID-19 WASH kit and the COVID-19 prevention and control protocol to 753 schools, all accompanied by training and sensitization.

WASH

UNICEF supported the government of Mali in assisting the population affected by the crisis in the centre and northern regions and the COVID-19 pandemic in Mali through the Regional Technical Services (the Directorates of Hydraulic, Directorates of Social Development, Solidarity Economy, Directorates of Civil Protection and Directorates of Health). In total 33,168 people (17,828 children) in Bamako, Mopti, Gao, Timbuktu and Menaka regions benefited through short-term emergency kits distribution including water treatment products. Some 174,342 people (75,881 children) people accessed safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene through the critical Wash supplies covid-19 in Bamako, Sikasso, Gao and Menaka regions. These results were achieved in partnership with the Regional Directorates of Hydraulic, Regional Directorates of Social Development and Solidarity Economy, Regional Directorates of Civil Protection, Regional Directorates of Health UNICEF implementing partners including the NGOs NRC (Norwegian Refugee Council), IRC (International Rescue Committee) IMADEL (Initiative Malienne d'Appui au Développement local), GARDL, Solidarités International (SI), ALPHALOG.

COVID-19

In February, UNICEF has so far provided hygiene promotion materials (558 handwashing devices, 5,998 pieces of soap) to 753 schools and 40 public handwashing devices to 40 communities in Sikasso region, to further strengthen COVID-19 prevention.

Social Protection and Cash Transfer

Payment operations of the Government Emergency Cash Transfer Programme (PGTMU) were launched in January 2021. These payments are intended to support poor and vulnerable households as a response to the socio-economic impact of the COVID-19. These government special social's measures represent the first phase that will reach 352,900 households out of a million targeted throughout the country and is the largest social assistance programme implemented in Mali. The cost entirely supported by the national budget is worth 100 billion XOF (USD 185,000,000).

During the reporting period, UNICEF provided technical assistance in the targeting and documentation of the programme implementation to learn from the process and inform subsequent programmes supported by UNICEF. E.g. to avoid double payment during the future payment under UNICEF supported cash transfer programme in response to Covid-19, the updated social registry will be used for targeting. The cash benefit level is also harmonized with the PGTMU.

Communications for Development (C4D)

UNICEF's support to the COVID 19 response continued to be effective on the ground through active risk communication and community engagement. In the northern and central regions, 55 community and local radios are raising awareness on COVID 19 prevention through protection messages including physical distancing, while key community actors such as religious leaders are engaging individuals, families and communities in the fight against COVID-19.

In the Mopti and Searé areas, 20 out of 125 religious leaders were able to engage 250 young people (including 175 women), who in turn sensitised their peers and households within their communities on COVID-19, its potential consequences and on how to prevent contamination. Young actors for peace continued engaging communities in markets, lorry parks on COVID-19 preventive measures. In February, they have reached 350 people including 240 women.



Photo 2- Sensitization by UNESCO club in Daoudabougou market- CP Mabin

In the Timbuktu and Dire areas, the cVDPV2 outbreak response is ongoing. Social mobilization activities have been conducted to prepare the campaign that will be implemented in March 2021.

Humanitarian Leadership, Coordination and Strategy

Humanitarian action coordination is led by the Ministry of Health and Social Development with the support of the Humanitarian Country Team. UNICEF is leading three clusters, WASH, Nutrition and Education and Child Protection Sub-Cluster. UNICEF 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 Task Force.

UNICEF Humanitarian strategies are aligned with the 2021 inter-agency humanitarian response plan (HRP) which aims to save lives and protect affected populations. The process of developing the 2021 Humanitarian Response Plan for Mali is underway and scheduled to be launched in March. UNICEF has been participating actively through the emergency coordination as well as its led- clusters and sub-clusters in the HRP process. UNICEF continues to address the urgent needs of the most vulnerable populations in crisis-affected in north and central regions while strengthening the linkages between humanitarian action and development programming and prioritizing community-based approaches.

UNICEF in Mali, with partners, contributed to strengthening the national health and nutrition systems, delivering emergency assistance, including the provision of water and sanitation packages, the management of SAM cases, measles and Poliomyelitis vaccination, and providing psychosocial support to conflict-affected children. UNICEF continued to promote the continuity of education through community mobilization, community learning centres and the provision of school supplies. UNICEF also reinforced the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism and supported the release of children from armed forces and groups and provided girl survivors of gender-based violence with community care and socio-economic reintegration.

Human Interest Stories and External Media

Publication of 3 Human Interest Stories highlighting BMZ support for the continuity of services such as education and health during the reporting period.



Article

"People must not let their guard down"

<https://www.unicef.org/mali/en/stories/people-must-not-let-their-guard-down>

02/10/2021

Sévaré – Madani Kane speaks softly in the courtyard of his house in the CAN district of Sévaré, where he was self-isolated for two weeks. The 55-year-old pharmacist working at the Somine Dolo hospital in Sévaré, has recovered from Covid-19, and has agreed to share his

[People must not let their guard down: Madani Kane, a pharmacist in a hospital in central Mali, contracted covid-19 and recounts his experience – from the care he received to the period of isolation at home](#)



Article

The joy of going back to school in the time of Covid-19

<https://www.unicef.org/mali/en/stories/joy-going-back-school-time-covid-19>

02/10/2021

Mopti - Aïchata has a smile on her lips as she testifies in this classroom of the Boucary Ouologuem III school in Sévaré. "It's a real joy to be back at school," she says happily. As in many countries around the world, schools in Mali have had to close because of...

[The joy of going back to school in the time of Covid-19: After several months of closure due to the Covid restrictions, schools in Mali have reopened their doors, to the great relief of students like Aïchata](#)



Article

A new school for a new beginning

<https://www.unicef.org/mali/en/stories/new-school-new-beginning>

02/28/2021

Sévaré –, It is on the rooftop of the home that Ali Sy finds the peace he needs to study his lessons. His house is also home to 20 other members of his family who arrived in Sévaré in May 2019 after fleeing violence in Bankass, a town in central Mali. The family found a shelter

[A new school for a new beginning: As in Waliridé's school in Sévaré, the support of UNICEF and its partners makes it possible to provide complete Covid-19 prevention to pupils - from masks and handwashing sets to school kits](#)

Publication of a [press release](#) on the International Day against Child Soldier.



Communiqué de presse

Journée Internationale des Enfants Soldats, l'UNICEF appelle à mettre fin aux graves violations des droits de l'enfant

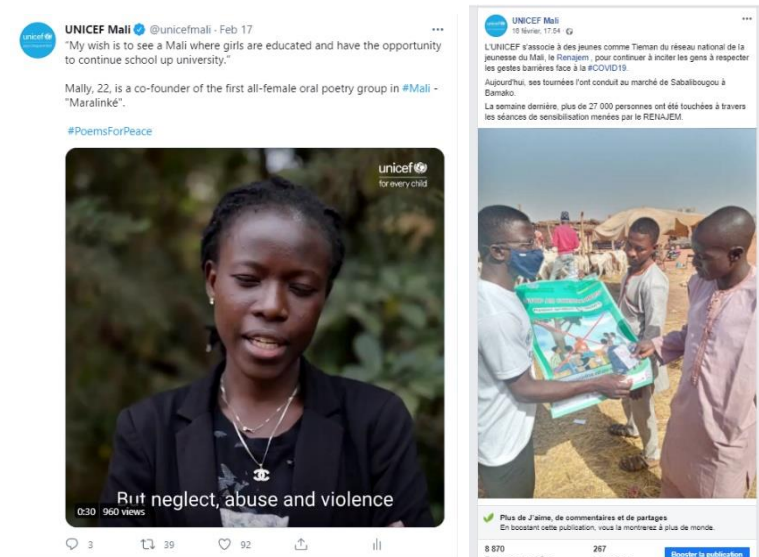
<https://www.unicef.org/mali/communiqués-de-presse/journée-internationale-des-enfants-soldats-unicef-appelle-à-mettre-...>

02/12/2021

Bamako, 12 février 2021 : Depuis le début de la crise en 2012, la détérioration de la sécurité a été à l'origine de graves violations des droits de l'enfant commises par les parties aux conflits. Elles incluent le recrutement et de l'utilisation des **enfants** par les forces et groupes armés.

[Weekly newspaper "Journal du Mali" Dr Fadiga, UNICEF Mali health manager speaks about the arrival of COVID19 vaccines in Mali.](#)

UNICEF Mali social media posts including those related to youth association leading awareness in the fight against COVID19 in public places (Mass gathering places: Markets, Bus station, etc), reached more than 119,000 views.



Next SitRep: 31/03/2021

UNICEF Mali Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/unicefmali/>

UNICEF Mali Twitter: <https://twitter.com/unicefmali>

UNICEF Mali Humanitarian Action for Children Appeal: <https://www.unicef.org/appeals/Mali.html>

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Summary of Programme Results³

			UNICEF and IPs Response			Cluster/Sector Response		
Sector		Total needs	2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼	2021 target	Total results	Change* ▲ ▼
Indicator Disaggregation								
Health								
# children aged 6 to 59 months vaccinated against measles	girls		81,900	17,902	17,902			▲
	boys			17,200	17,200			
# children aged 0 to 59 months vaccinated against polio	girls		81,900	0	0			▲
	boys			0	0			
Nutrition								
# children aged 6 to 59 months with severe acute malnutrition admitted for treatment	girls		161,210 ⁴	7,828	3,768	78,910	7,828	3,768
	boys			6,669	3,213	82,300	6,669	3,213
# primary caregivers of children aged 0 to 23 months receiving infant and young child feeding counselling	Women		480,853	9,691	9,691	369,933	9,691	0
	Men			3,348	3,348		3,348	0
Child Protection								
# children and caregivers accessing mental health and psychosocial support	girls		162,500	2,954	2,367	283,222	3,868	3,868
	boys			3,388	2,389		4,568	4,568
# children released from armed forces and groups reintegrated with their families/communities or provided with adequate care and services	girls		400	14	11	500	14	14
	Boys			71	48		74	74
# unaccompanied and separated children	girls		1,000	81	64		82	82

³ UNICEF's Humanitarian Action for Children (HAC 2021) is being updated to reflect HRP 2021 that will be launched in March 2021.

⁴ UNICEF target is the same as the Nutrition cluster target (161210 for SAM) based on HRP 2021

reunified with their primary caregiver or provided with family-based care/alternative care services	boys			162	117		165	165
Women, girls and boys accessing gender-based violence risk mitigation, prevention or response intervention			40,400					
Education								
# children accessing formal or non-formal education, including early learning	girls		88,400	18,953	12,393	159,000	6,560	▲
	boys			18,823	12,386		6,437	▼
# children receiving individual learning materials	girls		150,000	4,110	519	485,832	3,443	▲
	boys			4,194	475		3,589	
# schools implementing COVID protocols (infection prevention and control)			2,000	192	317	6,500	0	0
WASH								
# people accessing a sufficient quantity of safe water for drinking, cooking and personal hygiene	girls		543,800	48,512	33,428	1,002,661	70,910	70,910
	boys			50,558	34,837		73,900	73,900
	women			36,919	25,439		53,964	53,964
	men			38,353	26,428		56,061	56,061
# people accessing appropriately designed and managed latrines	Men		50,000	882	0	100,000	2,243	2,243
	Women			868	0		2206	2206
# people reached with critical water, sanitation and hygiene supplies (including hygiene items) and services	Women		430,200	87,886	60,559	926,000	93,160	93,160
	Men			86,456	59,573		91,645	91,645
Social Protection								
# households reached with humanitarian cash transfers across sectors			100,000	0	0			

# households reached with cash transfers through an existing government system where UNICEF provided technical assistance and funding			40,000	0	0			
C4D								
# people participating in engagement actions for social and behavioural change	Women		800,000	178,498	152,723			
	Men			154,375	102,703			
# people sharing their concerns and asking questions/clarifications to address their needs through established feedback mechanisms	Women		300,000	13,942	13,942			
	Men			13,605	13,605			

* Change since last report.

Annex B

Funding Status*

Sector	Requirements	Funds available		Funding gap	
		Humanitarian resources received in 2021	Resources available from 2020 (Carry-over)	\$	%
Nutrition	22,764,211	208,817	6,705,258	15,850,136	70%
WASH	21,828,960	6,372,766	804,186	14,652,008	67%
Health	10,829,700	330,295	396,300	10,103,105	93%
Child Protection	12,896,982	6,288,166	1,996,806	4,612,010	36%
Education	14,062,879	4,291,829	3,714,748	6,056,302	43%
Social Inclusion	20,807,766	0	8,230,867	12,576,899	60%
C4D	2,948,400	2,124,076	0	824,324	28%
Emergency Coordination	2,156,609	118,099	0	2,038,510	95%
Total	108,295,507	19,734,049	21,848,164	66,713,294	62%