



World Food Programme

WFP Central Sahel Situation Report

27 August 2021



3,173,703 people assisted
in June 2021

Highlights

- **Agricultural lean season response:** In **Burkina Faso**, WFP is targeting 1.3 million people vulnerable to food insecurity during the lean season out of the 2.3 million targeted by the Government and other actors. In **Mali**, to respond to the socio-economic effects of COVID-19, WFP started a safety net intervention targeting 182,000 vulnerable and food insecure people. In total, 600,000 people out of the 1.3 million affected by the 2021 lean season will receive food assistance through e-vouchers. In **Niger**, WFP increased its target beneficiaries for crisis response activities from 605,000 to over 689,000 beneficiaries.
- **Flooding:** In **Burkina Faso**, access becomes difficult as the rainy season is running. Some areas are affected by natural access constraints like flooded roads or broken bridges, in addition to insecurity. In **Niger**, over 580,000 persons are expected to be affected by flooding; WFP is coordinating with the Government and is modelling an implementation plan to target more than 200,000 affected persons.

WFP urgently requires USD 219 million from September 2021 to February 2022 to carry out its planned lifesaving operations in the Central Sahel and pre-position relief items for the lean season.

WFP Net Funding Requirements (September 2021-February 2022) <i>As of 17 August, 2021</i>	
Total Net Funding Requirements	USD 219.4 million
<i>Burkina Faso</i>	<i>USD 128 million</i>
<i>Mali</i>	<i>USD 39.6 million</i>
<i>Niger</i>	<i>USD 51.8 million</i>

In Numbers

14.4 million people in need of humanitarian assistance in Burkina Faso (3.5 m), Mali (5.9 m) and Niger (3.8 m) *Source: 2021 Global Humanitarian Overview*

6.5 million people estimated to be food insecure during the 2021 lean season (June-August) in Burkina Faso (2.87 m), Mali (1.31 m) and Niger (2.3 m) *Source: Cadre Harmonisé, March 2021*

7 million people targeted in 2021 by WFP in Burkina Faso (2.6 m), Mali (1.4 m) and Niger (3 m) *Source: WFP Country Strategic Plans*

319,069 refugees in Burkina Faso (22,419), Mali (46,830) and Niger (249,820) *Source: UNHCR*

2 million internally displaced persons in Burkina Faso (1.4 m), Mali (287,490) and Niger (291,061) *Source: UNHCR*

Situation Update

COVID-19 Pandemic

- As of 17 August 2021, 34,098 cumulative cases are reported (13,677 in Burkina Faso, 14,697 in Mali, and 5,724 in Niger), including 901 deaths in total. In **Burkina Faso**, a joint programme for the Sahel in Response to the Challenges of COVID-19, Conflict and Climate Change (SD3C-SEN) was launched on 16 July. The programme is implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and WFP, under the Government's leadership, and is funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). In **Mali**, on 15 July, WFP and UNICEF launched a joint programme "**Respond to COVID-19 Pandemic in the Sahel with Social protection systems**" in the Baraoueli *Cercle* in Segou Region. The joint programme addresses the socio-economic effects of COVID-19 and targets more than 110,000 households and aims to respond to immediate needs, while contributing to national institutional capacity strengthening and the set up and development of nutrition sensitive, shock responsive social protection systems.

Security

- In **Burkina Faso**, the security situation remains highly volatile, especially in the Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel regions, while the Boucle du Mouhoun region has been experiencing renewed tensions for over a month. On 31 July, a first ever Improvised Explosive Device (IED) attack by a NSAG took place on the Kaya – Dori route, which is used by humanitarian workers to reach Dori (Sahel). In **Mali**, most of the attacks in Mopti region took place along the main operational roads, **forcing WFP to temporarily suspend or postpone several field missions**. In **Niger**, persistent attacks, kidnapping, killing, and criminal activities continued to be reported in Maradi, Tillabéri, Tahoua, Agadez and Diffa regions in July.

Photo caption: WFP beneficiaries in Burkina Faso.

Credit: WFP/Simon-Pierre Diouf



WFP Response

- In **Burkina Faso**, WFP provided food assistance to over 1 million people in June, including 731,691 crisis-affected beneficiaries. In addition, WFP distributed in June and July CBT assistance within the framework of the safety net project implemented in the Centre region and the CRIALCES project (*Réponse à la Crise Alimentaire au Centre Sahel*) in the Centre-Nord and Sahel regions. Through the latter, displaced and host-community households received e-vouchers for the purchase of specialized nutritious food.
- WFP proceeded on 31 July and 1 August to a second food distribution via UNHAS in Mansila (Sahel), an especially hard-to-reach area where the food situation is dire, benefitting over 4,200 IDPs and host residents.
- For the first time since November 2020, WFP resumed the distribution of mixed rations composed of in-kind and CBT to refugees at Goudébou camp (close to Dori). Mixed rations have the advantage of meeting the refugee's food needs and preferences. It also allows them to better manage the assistance received.
- In **Mali**, to respond to the socio-economic effects of COVID-19, WFP started a **safety net intervention targeting 182,000 vulnerable and food insecure people**. A total of 600,000 people out of the 1.3 million affected by the 2021 lean season will receive food assistance through e-vouchers. In June, WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 641,332 vulnerable beneficiaries, including 32 percent crisis-affected people.
- In **Niger**, overall, 1,518,252 people were assisted so far, including over 640,000 crisis-affected beneficiaries who received critical food and nutrition assistance.
- As part of the lean season response, **WFP assisted 75,000 people with three months of unconditional food and cash distributions** in the regions of Tahoua, Tillabéri, Zinder and Maradi, in Niger, over April-June, and in the region of Diffa starting from June. From the second week of July, WFP planned to assist 240,000 people (53 percent with food and 47 percent with cash distributions) in the framework of the agricultural lean season response. In a context of operational delays linked to funding and procurement constraints, WFP adapted its response, with beneficiaries receiving a cumulative distribution for June and July, and the third and last distribution planned for August.
- Under the **protracted crisis** through year-long unconditional food assistance is provided to beneficiaries in conflict-affected areas in Niger and in the framework of the Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM), WFP initially planned to assist 365,000 beneficiaries. However, during the implementation phase – thanks to additional funding received – this number was revised to 449,000, bringing the **total target for emergency response during the agricultural lean season to approximately 689,000 beneficiaries** (from 605,000).
- WFP also finalised the **scholarship distributions for the last quarter of the 2021-2022 school year in Niger, providing cash grants to approximately 27,000 adolescent girls** (school scholarships). Out of this total, **11,000 beneficiaries are targeted in emergency areas**.



WFP Response (continued)

On top of the cash grants, the adolescent girls received a multi-sectoral package of activities (including nutrition, WASH and Social Behaviour Change Communication) within the framework of the joint “**Breaking Barriers to Girls' Education**” initiative in partnership with UNICEF and UNFPA.

Assessments and monitoring

- In **Burkina Faso**, on 13 July, WFP conducted a **rapid joint assessment in Tin-Akoff (Sahel)**, one of the hardest areas to reach in the country. A key recommendation is to carry out an emergency operation with food and nutritional assistance to affected population, by air.
- **A Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) exercise on CBT assistance realized among 1,000 displaced households** in the Centre-Nord, Est, Nord and Sahel regions, outlined that: (i) the food consumption score (FCS) evolved positively between May 2020 and May 2021, while the reduced coping strategies index has changed positively since September 2020 (falling from 10 to 7 in May 2021); and (ii) the regularity of assistance over time plus the flexibility of use that cash offers contributed to the improvement of these food security indicators.
- **A PDM exercise was conducted among 1,000 households benefiting from the resilience programme** and receiving CBT assistance in the Centre-Nord, Est, Nord, and Sahel regions. According to key results: (i) 52 percent of households have an acceptable food consumption and 66 percent have used neutral coping strategies; and (ii) between January 2020 and May 2021, the FCS increased from 49 to 52 percent.
- In **Mali**, PDM processes were conducted at household level (IDPs and residents). The majority of the households confirmed that **the food products redeemed for the vouchers were good quality**, matched the value of the vouchers and respected their food choices. No major complaints were recorded during this period.
- Following a **general spike in prices of some staple commodities** in Mali in June 2021, a customized mVAM assessment will be conducted in August to assess the impact and understand the drivers of this sudden increase in prices. This mobile survey will be conducted in partnership with a call centre (“call me”) covering all majors markets in the district of Bamako; Mopti and Koulikoro regions
- In **Niger**, an **end-line survey for the pastoral lean season response** was carried out in July. A sample of 200 beneficiary households were surveyed via telephone calls in Tillabéri, Tahoua, Maradi, and Zinder regions. In July, WFP also continued to carry-out PDM surveys for Rapid Response Mechanism (RRM) beneficiaries across the country (via phone calls). In late July, the country office published its first bi-annual complaint and feedback mechanism (CFM) report, covering the January- June 2021 period. The report included beneficiary complaints and feedback received via community complaints committees as well as through the newly launched toll-free hotline (which was piloted in the regions of Tillabéri and Tahoua in June and was extended to the rest of the country in July).

Food Security Cluster (FSC)

- In **Burkina Faso**, the FSC shared the sectorial assessment of the Humanitarian Response for the second quarter of 2021 (January to June): the **FSC assisted over 1 million people out of the 2.5 million targeted**. For the emergency food assistance, 991,000 people were assisted out of 2 million targeted.
- In **Mali**, from January to July 2021, **944,190 people received emergency food assistance from the cluster partners** (72 percent of the 1.3 million people targeted). This assistance was provided via vouchers (74 percent), in-kind (16 percent), and cash (10 percent). From January to July 2021, 704,234 people received livelihoods support (33 percent of the 2.1 million people targeted)

Logistics Cluster

- With the establishment of a regional coordination logistics working group in Dori (Sahel) on 13 July, the partner network of the Logistics Cluster has been significantly expanded with **the regional coordination logistics mechanism now complete and operational in all priority regions**.
- The Logistics Cluster initiated a Geographic Information System (GIS) national working group on 23 July, composed of the National Institute of Geography, relevant general directorates of the Ministry of Infrastructures, and WFP. This step has officially marked **the start of the GIS project for the mapping of physical access constraints**, which is a critical information for a more efficient humanitarian response.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster

- In **Burkina Faso**, several monitoring visits were realised to follow up on the ongoing implementation of the LAN/electrical network cabling of the SONAGESS, in the framework of its capacity strengthening project. On 3 August, WFP carried out a mission to Djibo town (Soum province, Sahel region) to visit IT installations and the light solution (Data services) put in place for the humanitarian community internet connectivity, as well as to explore future plans on how to expand the service.

UN Humanitarian Air Service

- In **Burkina Faso**, UNHAS transported 243 passengers and 27,191 kg of cargo for 24 NGOs and UN agencies in July, via 98 flights across 13 destinations.

For the second special operation operated by WFP in Mansila on 30 July and 1 August, UNHAS launched a two-day airlift from Sebba to deliver 40 mt of food and nutritional products.

- In **Mali**, UNHAS services were used by 91 organizations in July 2021, with **1,131 passengers and 2,947 kgs of freight transported to five destinations** within the country including Bamako, Gao, Ménaka, Mopti and Timbuktu. UNHAS also facilitated two special flights to Mopti in June for UNDP. Through ECHO-flight, 194 passengers and 1,868 kgs of light cargo were transported for 23 organizations. UNHAS facilitated two special flights on 1 July, respectively to Mopti for WFP and to Sévaré for UNDP.

Funding Challenges

- In **Burkina Faso**, **WFP has limited resources to continue assistance beyond December**, with pipeline breaks starting in November for cash-based transfers and December for in-kind food, mainly cereals (despite providing already reduced rations).
- In **Mali**, **critical funding gaps are expected from August**, affecting **414,210 beneficiaries** including 127,000 IDPs and 137,280 COVID-19-affected people.
- In **Niger**, **WFP continues to be highly concerned by the significant funding gap for the crisis response**, with significant resources gaps across both the cash and food pipelines between August and the end of the year. Moreover, insecurity, lack of food availability and high food prices on certain local markets, are hindering the feasibility of cash distributions in some areas. The risk of flooding raises the concern of new needs emerging in the face of existing deficits.
- **Additional funding is urgently needed to ensure the implementation of emergency preparedness and response actions and prompt assistance to the most vulnerable crisis-affected persons in the Central Sahel countries.**

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