

Disaster Needs Analysis Mali - March 2012

ECB || Emergency Capacity
Building Project



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About this document: This desk study presents estimations of scale, severity and likely impact of a disaster. It aims to inform decision making for preparedness and emergency response. Information has been collected through a review of secondary data, contact with the field and lessons learnt from past similar crises. The DNA is intended to complement and integrate assessment-related data from other agencies. Feedback to improve the DNA is welcome (dna@acaps.org). ECB and ACAPS thank agencies and NGOs who have shared data and analysis. **Disclaimer:** Information provided is provisional as it has not been possible to independently verify field reports. As this report covers highly dynamic subject, utility of the information may decrease with time. Please use the most recent update. **References:** Please note that the underlined citations have a hyperlink to the web source and that an accompanying glossary is available [here](#).

Crisis Overview

Current estimates indicate that over 3 million Malians are food insecure. Ongoing drought compounded by conflict has resulted in serious food insecurity, malnutrition and displacement. Agriculture production for 2011/12 is estimated to be 12% lower than the 2006-10 average. As a response, the Government of Mali has declared a food crisis, launched a national action plan and called for international assistance.

The Système d'Alerte Précoce (SAP – Mali early warning system) has identified more than 1.5 million people at risk of ICP level 3 food insecurity. An estimated 320,000 children will require treatment for acute malnutrition in 2012. According to Fewsnet, poor and very poor households will be in stress situation between February and March and could face food consumption deficit starting in May 2012 if aid efforts are not undertaken.

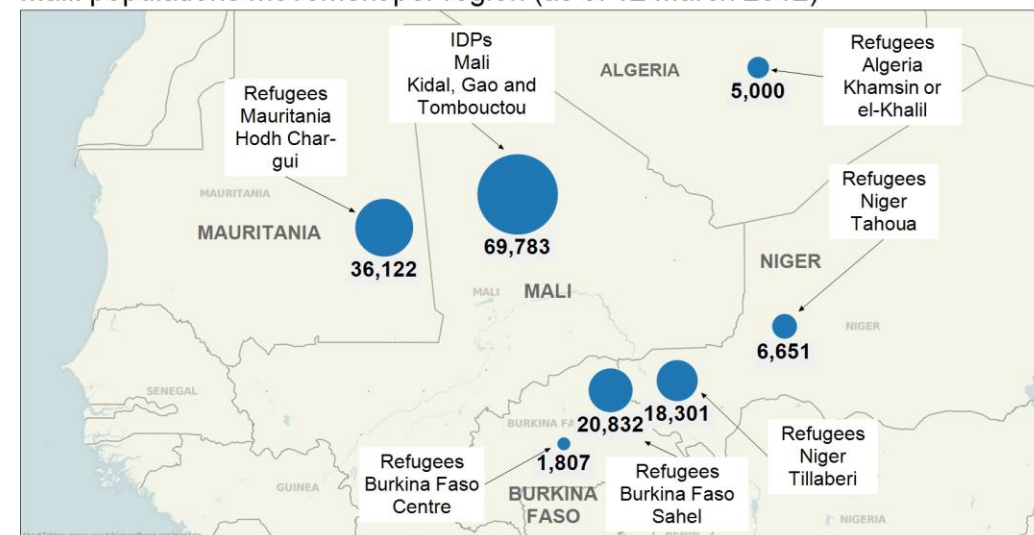
One of the main concerns is food access as cereal prices have increased significantly and have not responded to normal price variations according pre and post harvest seasons.

Across the Sahel, over 10 million people face food insecurity, with one million children at risk of severe acute malnutrition. Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania and Niger have declared a food crisis and called for international assistance ([OCHA 01/03](#)).

In contrast to the 2010 emergency, in 2012 Sahelian food markets show signs of stress. Price levels are anticipated to be well above average in key West African market systems limiting economic access to food ([WFP 10/02](#)). Increased pressure on limited resources due to environmental degradation is further aggravating the situation. Those affected by the 2010 drought have had little time to recover.

Displacement caused by ongoing conflict has further put pressure on the fragile food security situation in Mali and neighbouring countries (Niger, Burkina Faso, Mauritania). Conflict between the Malian armed forces and Tuareg rebels under the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) has displaced more than 150'000 within and outside Mali. The largest number of refugees has been registered in Mauritania. Conflict between Tuareg rebels and the Government of Mali characterizes pastoral sedentary relations.

Mali: populations movement per region (as of 12 March 2012)



Sources: OCHA 06/03, UNHCR 12/03

Map created 12 March by ACAPS

Table of Content

Core Document

- Key Priorities
- Recent and on-going assessments
- Information Gaps and Needs
- Recommendations for further assessments
- Operational Constraints
- Lessons Learned
- Stakeholders
- Population Profile
- Displacement Profile
- Humanitarian Profile

Annexes

- Country Profile
- Sectoral Page – LFS
- Sectoral Page – Health
- Sectoral Page – WASH
- Sectoral Page – Protection
- Sectoral Page – Shelter
- Key Background Documents
- Timeline

Key Priorities

Most affected areas (according to available information on accessible areas only)

- Regions of Kayes, Gao, Koulikor and Tombouctou.
- Areas receiving conflict affected populations in Mali and neighbouring countries.

Most affected groups

- Farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists.
- Children <5, women and girls, older people.
- Malnourished populations.
- Severely food insecure households, poor and very poor households.
- IDPs, returnees and host communities.
- Malian refugees in other countries.

Priority interventions

- Address food deficits through local/regional purchases, food imports, cash transfer, CFW/FFW, animal destocking, subsidised sales of cereals, blanket feeding, and relocations of stock
- Nutritional interventions: screening, treatment and preventive measures
- Provide emergency health services to cholera affected communities
- Distribute WASH and hygiene items to flood and cholera affected communities.
- Monitor potential epidemic outbreaks
- Increase access to safe drinking water, especially in rural areas, through distribution of water treatment and water storage materials
- Increase livestock access to water, especially in rural areas
- Rehabilitation of water supply systems
- Provide essential services to IDPs, returnees and host communities, including:
 - Protection
 - Registration
 - Emergency Shelter
 - NFIs
 - Reintegration assistance.

Recent and on-going assessments

Non exhaustive list based on publicly available information only.

- The first Sahel Household Economy Analysis (HEA) took place in 2007. Since 2007, 19 additional HEAs have been conducted across Mauritania, Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso: 11 in agricultural zones, four in agro-pastoral zones, three in pastoral zones, and one in a peri-urban context ([SWG 2011](#)). The national [Early Warning System](#) (EWS) periodically assess vulnerability to food insecurity.
- UNICEF conducted a national nutrition Survey with partners in June/July 2011 ([UNICEF 07/2011](#)).
- A joint FAO/CILSS/WFP Crop Assessment Mission visited the country in early 2012 to estimate 2011 aggregate cereal production ([GIEWS 23/01](#)).
- FEWS NET assessed food security prospects for 2012, supported by evidence collected from field assessments, producers, and government technicians ([FEWS NET 02/2012](#)).
- Merlin assessment team (comprising of a team leader, health and logistics advisor) visited Mali between 28 February and 4 March 2012. ACF finalized a field assessment in Gao early 2012. MSF is currently doing a field assessment in Tombouctou.
- According to the “Response plan addressing the food and nutrition crisis in the Sahel” drafted by the inter-agency standing committee’s Food Security and Nutrition Working Group ([IASC 15/02](#)), The following assessments are planned in Mali:
 - Assessment of household food security (SAP, WFP, FAO, CILSS).
 - Market assessment (WFP, CILSS, FAO).
 - Study on households’ livelihood profiles (Save the Children and partners).
 - Vulnerability study done by livelihoods zones (ACF).
 - National Nutrition Study is planned for June 2012.

Information Gaps and Needs

- Insufficient data is being collected at the field level to allow comprehensive analysis of the situation. This is further hampered by lack of accessibility to low security areas. **More coordinated field assessments are required to verify the current situation** as well as the mapping of on-going and planned assessments (survey of surveys). Systematic sharing and analysis of assessment findings
- Information regarding the coverage of humanitarian assistance.
- Regularly updated and shared information on disease outbreaks
- Regularly shared and updated information on admissions in nutritional centres
- Information on needs and priorities directly expressed by affected communities
- Access to and information on conflict affected areas
- The number and situation of Malians who have fled to western Guinea
- Information on the estimated 5,000 refugees in Khamsin or in transit to el-Khalil in Algeria.

Recommendations for further assessments

- Rapid joint assessment in newly secured and accessible conflict affected areas.
- Coordinated rapid assessments in food crisis affected areas, focusing on pastoralists, farmers, and agro-pastoralists communities. If no information monitoring system can be set up following this first assessment (district or community level), plan for an updated rapid assessment in the coming months.
- Strengthen capacity of regional, national and decentralised institutions to conduct needs assessments and maintain monitoring.
- Use a sub-regional or regional approach, covering all key trade linked zones in West Africa, when assessing food insecurity.
- Initiatives in integrated analysis of food and nutrition security based on livelihoods (Harmonized Framework and Integrated Classification of Food Security Framework, IPC) need to be pursued, strengthened and initiated in neighbouring countries.
- Needs assessments should take into account significant differences in livelihoods strategies and productive assets between different socioeconomic categories of communities or households.
- As the food crisis evolves, migration increases, and vulnerability of marginalised categories of people on the move should be assessed.
- Carry out nutrition surveys in affected areas using the Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) methodology. If not possible, use the number of admissions of <5 severe and moderate acute malnutrition as a proxy for the malnutrition incidence. The last nutrition survey dates back to June 2011 and an update is necessary as soon as possible, targeting primarily the most food insecure areas.
- Information monitoring systems should diversify beyond the bias on rates of crop production ([ALNAP 01/10](#)) and include the following:
 - Food security basic indicators at community level
 - Population movements
 - Remittance volume and loss
 - Price evolution in markets and comparison to previous years
 - Availability of food and livestock in markets and comparison to previous years
 - Admission in feeding centres and comparison to previous years
 - Epidemiological surveillance
 - Copying mechanisms
 - Priorities as expressed by the population
 - School dropout figures
 - Other country relevant sectoral information.
- Sex and age disaggregated data is needed to improve the analysis of specific needs of sub-groups of the population.

Operational Constraints

Security constraints

- Humanitarian operations have been impeded by fighting between Mali Government forces and Tuareg rebels, cross-military activities and a regional proliferation of weapons following the Libyan crisis. Illegal arms and drugs trafficking have increased violence ([IASC 15/02](#)). Military escorts are being used by most of humanitarian organizations to access the affected areas.
- Recent security incidents and an upsurge in attacks by Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) have restricted humanitarian access to some regions in Mali, especially in the north and around Tombouctou, leading many humanitarian organizations to pull out of the area.
- Mali has pushed for joint Mali, Algeria, Mauritania and Niger action against AQIM ([ICG 12/2011](#)).
- The possibility of opening humanitarian corridors is being discussed ([UNHCR 23/02](#)).
- The ICRC has suspended a livestock vaccination campaign in the Kidal and Ménaka areas due to fighting (the campaign continued in the Gao, Bourem, Asongo, Tombouctou and Gourma Rharouss areas) ([ICRC 20/02](#)).
- Medecins du Monde suspended its health and nutrition operations early February in the Kidal region because of growing insecurity ([Alertnet 07/02](#)).
- The security situation in the areas that host Malian refugees in **Niger**, as well as in other areas of the country and **Mauritania**, is of significant concern. With the presence of terrorist groups, military escorts are required for UNHCR missions in the area ([UNHCR 23/02](#)).

Logistic Constraints

- The Sahel represents a significant environmental and geographical challenge in terms of humanitarian access combined with the need for a tailored response for humanitarian action to reach the nomadic population ([UNSC 18/01](#)).
- Access to remote areas is affected by poor infrastructure and high logistics costs ([IPS 15/2](#)). Unpredictable population movements further complicate operations.
- WFP stresses the need for calls for an airlift between Mopti, Kidal and Gao ([IRIN 20/2](#)). 1million USD from the CERF was allocated to WFP/UNHAS to operate a humanitarian flight for 5 months in Mali. The plane is supposed to arrive soon and the activities should be able to start middle march. For now there is no information on the schedule, routes, timetable and the modus operandi. For security reason the plane will be based in Niamey.
- Humanitarian presence in Mali pre-crisis was not as strong as in neighbouring countries (such as Niger). As a result, humanitarian operations have been slower to scale up than in the other drought affected countries ([UNHCR 23/02](#)).

Funding

- In January, the regional CAP was only 38.2% funded ([OCHA 12/01](#)).

Lessons Learned

- Needs assessments are increasingly coordinated and rigorous, yet remain overly focused on crop production and often concentrate disproportionately on food insecurity. Drought presents multiple threats to lives and livelihoods – it does not exclusively affect ‘food security’ (ALNAP 2011), thus there is a need to ensure a multi-sectoral approach to understanding needs.
- Similarly, emergency response to flood victims often consists of food and basic household items but does not include helping people to rebuild their houses (USAID 2012).
- Drought is a recurrent and natural event in many areas. Humanitarian and development organisations need to be more effective by take this into account in their programming (ALNAP 2011).
- Many populations who live in drought-prone areas have developed strategies for responding to drought. The best way to support these populations is to understand and then to support and enhance these coping strategies (ALNAP 2011).
- Change in rainfall patterns in Mali has resulted in an increase frequency of alternating drought and floods impacting significantly on livelihoods and the ability of communities to recover (USAID 2012).
- Mali, along with Niger, Angola and Sierra Leone, has one of the highest rates of deaths attributable to environmental risks: close to 3,000 deaths per 1,000,000 are due to environmental causes (HDI 2011).
- As water sources dry up, specific vulnerabilities emerge for women and children as water collection becomes more problematic in terms of distance and security. (USAID 2012).
- It is known in the Sahel region, specifically in Mali and Niger, that conflict can arise when farmers encroach on pastoral lands and routes and when pastoralists encroach on farmland and cut trees for fodder (USAID 2012).
- The current vulnerabilities in the Sahel cannot be overcome through humanitarian aid alone. To prevent the recurrence of the crises in the region, it is crucial to adopt a comprehensive approach to resilience and mobilize sufficient funding to support longer-term projects that tackle the underlying structural causes of food insecurity and malnutrition (OCHA 07/02).
- Communities are increasingly dependent on markets during drought. Innovative interventions to maximise the potential for markets to meet people’s various needs can have far-reaching benefits (ALNAP 01/10).
- The international community has repeated mistakes made in previous food crises. A slow response resulted in deterioration of the situation, unnecessary suffering, a loss of assets by poor households in both agricultural and pastoral areas, a huge increase in the level of need and a significant rise in costs (SWG 2011).
- With the evolution of technical developments on farmers’ fields, the concept of a ‘package’ is no longer suitable, as many forms of adaptations are taking place according to local situations and farmers’ inclinations (ALNAP 03/2008).
- Many populations who live in drought-prone areas have developed strategies for responding to drought. The best way to support these populations is to support and enhance these strategies. Effort should be made to understand locally developed coping strategies in order to support and enhance them (ALNAP 10/2011).
- Observed localized supply problems, and insecurity, imply that conditions are not always conducive to cash transfers throughout the region (WFP 10/02). Local cash transfer assessment and strategies are required.
- The lessons from the drought in the Horn of Africa in 2010/11 show that national governments and the international community must improve their response in a number of areas (Oxfam-SC 18/02):
 - **Manage the risks, not the crisis:** *All actors* need to review their approach to drought risk reduction and not wait for a degree of severity before responding. *All actors* and early warning specialists need to develop a common approach to triggers for early action, to be used by both humanitarian and development actors.
 - **Earlier drought response:** *National governments* should recognise their primary responsibility to meet food security needs, providing political leadership for a drought response;
 - **Earlier drought response:** *The international aid community* should embed a risk reduction approach in all its work, thus allowing long-term development interventions to adapt to the changing context. Humanitarian work should include preventative focus on the basis of forecasts (including livelihood protection and ‘no-regrets options’). Communities should be assisted to prevent, mitigate, prepare and respond to crises. Systems need to be developed to integrate risk management throughout the development and humanitarian cycle – through investing significantly in people and partner organizations and reviewing organizational structures and systems. *Donors* should provide more agile and flexible funding – by including crisis modifiers in multi-year development grants to build recurring crisis response into development programming; and by ensuring that humanitarian funding can be rapidly available to support pre-emptive or early response. Funding needs to be able to respond to uncertainty.

Stakeholders

National Actors

- **Government of Mali (GoM):** Mali is seen as an example democracy in Africa. However, corruption is still endemic at most levels of society ([TrustLaw 2010](#)). Mali's first democratic presidential elections were held in 1992. Amadou Touré is currently in his second mandate and, as constitutionally stipulated, final term. **Elections are scheduled for 29th of April.** The Malian Constitutional Council has yet to make a decision on whether it will hold the elections on the due date or adjourn them due to the recently erupted conflict in the North ([Al-Jazeera 19/02](#)). The frontrunners in the upcoming elections share the same political agendas as the current Government ([Think Africa Press 21/02](#)).
- The Government declared a state of emergency in response to the drought and called for international assistance ([IPS 15/05](#)). It aims to mobilise USD 154 million for subsidised sales for food and seed distributions and for replenishing the national food-security stock ([IASC 15/02](#)).
- **Tuareg rebels (MNLA):** different fractions of Tuareg rebels have been involved in a territorial conflict with the Government since the mid-1970s. Former leader of Libya, Colonel Qaddafi, backed the Tuareg rebel movement while the Tuareg fought alongside Qaddafi in the recent Libyan Revolution. The returnees from Libya are carrying weaponry, which has allowed for a reinvigoration of the rebellion that had been silent since the peace agreement in 2009. Regrouped in the *Mouvement National pour la Libération de l'Azawad* (MNLA), they pose a considerable threat to security. The MNLA is reportedly backed by Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) ([ICG 01/2012](#)), however some officials highlight that tensions are arising between AQIM and Tuareg groups in certain areas. This is evidenced by a MNLA announcement on 19 December 2011 indicating the group's intention to expel AQIM members from its territory ([UNSC 18/01](#)). Mali's political parties have jointly called on the Government to hold a forum for peace and reconciliation as a way to end a Tuareg rebellion ([IPS 10/02](#)).
- **COREN:** the Northern activist group *Le Collectif des Ressortissants du Nord* (COREN) denounces any calls for autonomy and stresses the territorial integrity of Mali. Supporters that gathered in Bamako on 26 February 2012 openly dissociated themselves with the separatist MNLA. As a member of the group, a former Mali Prime Minister stated that COREN is committed to helping the Government to stabilize Mali ([Voice of America 27/02](#)).
- **Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM):** Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb originated in the 1990s to fight Algeria's secular Government. In January 2007, it changed its name from the Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat to Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb. Integrated into the Al-Qaeda structure, the group is supportive of global Jihad. AQIM targets Westerners and has attacked UN offices ([NY Times 10/2009](#); [Council on Foreign Relations 07/2009](#)).
- **Western Sahara Separatists Polisario Front:** the separatist movement from Western Sahara is involved in the kidnapping of Europeans on Malian territory. The organization is collaborating with AQIM in drugs and arms trafficking ([ICTS 01/2012](#)).

International State Actors

- **Senegal:** the Senegalese Government expressed its military support to its eastern neighbour in combating the Tuareg rebels through the deployment of military reinforcements ([Al-Jazeera 19/02](#)).
- **Algeria:** Algeria has offered to negotiate in the conflict between the GoM and the Tuareg rebels. Algeria's interest is linked to its fears of secessionist groups in the region affecting its territorial integrity due to cross border ethnic and historical links across all five of the Maghreb countries ([Al-Jazeera 19/02](#)). Algerian troops crossed into northern Mali in mid-December to assist in counterterrorism operations against groups affiliated to AQIM. In addition, the Algerian Government has set up a crisis-unit on the Malian border to handle the influx of refugees and to control smuggling ([ICG 01/2012](#); [Algerie City 28/2](#)).
- **Mauritania:** the Mauritanian Government has distanced itself from the conflict, stating that this is "an internal Malian issue that does not concern neighbouring countries". Nevertheless, they have reportedly offered to sponsor mediation ([Magharebia 24/02](#); [Al-Jazeera 19/02](#)).
- **Niger:** The Government of Niger has assisted in the transfer of refugees to camps ([IRIN 27/02](#)).
- **ECOWAS:** the 16 members of the Economic Community of West African States urged rebels and Malian officials to find a peaceful end to the violence that has displaced thousands of people in the Sahel region. In addition, they have committed USD 3 million towards humanitarian assistance ([CFC 22/02](#)).

Humanitarian Community

- After an emergency meeting at WFP HQ in February 2012, leaders of United Nations agencies, representatives of affected Governments and major donors called for an urgent scale up of assistance to address rising levels of hunger and malnutrition caused by the combined effect of drought, high food prices, displacement and conflict affecting the Sahel region of West Africa ([UNDP 15/02](#)). The installation of a Humanitarian Country Team in Mali is being finalized and some clusters are activated (it was reported on the 22nd of February that the Food Security Cluster by WFP and FAO and the Nutrition Cluster under the lead of UNICEF are being established). Mali is included in the food security response strategy drafted by the inter-agency standing committee's Food Security and Nutrition Working Group ([IASC 15/02](#)).
- UNHCR has been scaling up activities in response to the displacements and has reopened national office; previous camps from the 1990s that are too close to the conflict area are being relocated; social services in some camps, as well as the water infrastructure are being renovated and food distribution is being planned. ([UNHCR 17/2](#); [UNHCR 02/2012](#); [IRIN 24/02](#)).

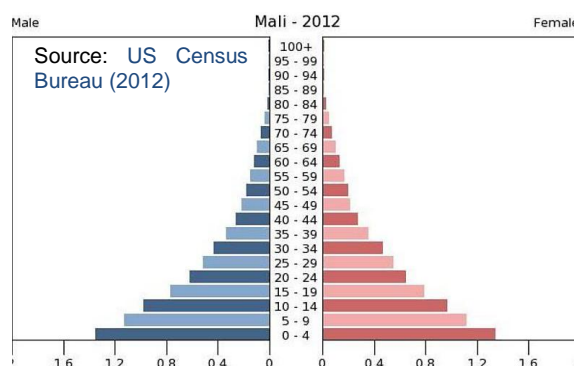
Population Profile

- The provisional results of the 2009 census indicate a population of 14,517,176 (INSTAT 2009). Recent projections estimate that Mali's population by mid-2012 will be 14,533,511 (US Census Bureau 2012).
- In 2012, annual population growth is estimated at 2.6% (US Census Bureau 2012).
- Two thirds of the population (66.7%) live in rural areas.
- Annual urban population growth rate (4.7%) is higher than in rural areas (2.2%) (WB 2010).
- 47% of the population are children (<15 years), 51% are 15-64 years and 2.2% is 65+ (WB 2010).
- The fertility rate is high (6.4), and 19% of young women aged 15-19 are already mothers (WB 2009, UNFPA 2011).
- With roughly 2.6 million (18%) inhabitants, Sikasso region holds the largest share of the Malian population, followed by Koulikoro (16%), Ségou (16%), Mopti (14%), Kayes (14%), and the capital district of Bamako (13%) (INSTAT 2009).
- The most densely populated areas are Bamako (7,179 p/km²), Sikasso (37 p/km²), Ségou (36 p/km²), Koulikoro (27 p/km²), Mopti (26 p/km²) and Kayes (17 p/km²) (INSTAT 2009, AK 2012).

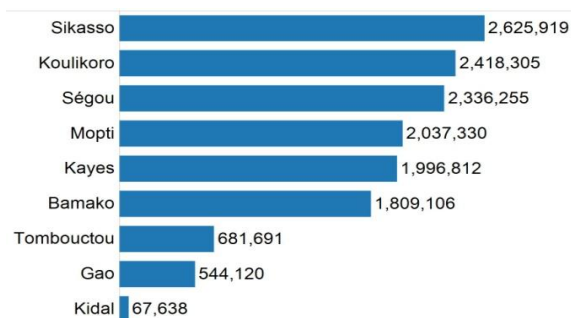
Older people (Hal 09/03)

- % caring for grandchildren or other OVC: A national survey shows that 15.8% of children in Mali aged 0 and 15 years are orphans cared for by members of their extended families (DHS 2006).
- % of older person headed households (HH): Numbers vary by region. Kayes: 55.6% of household heads are 60+; in Badingara 36.5% are 60+. In Kidal 12.5% of household heads are 70+ (SAP surveys).

Population pyramid Mali 2012



Population per region – Mali Source: INSTAT (2009)



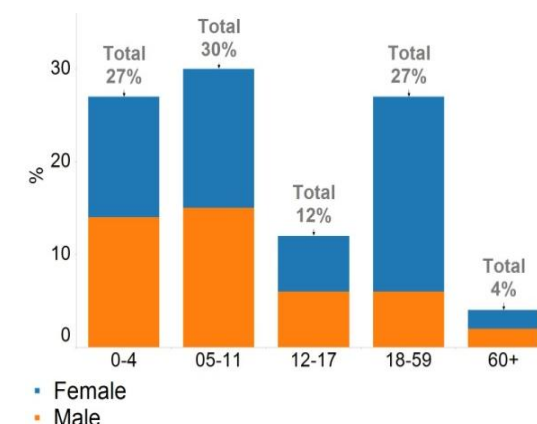
Sex and Age Disaggregated Data for older people (Afristat)

Age	Male	Female
50 - 59 years	279,000 (1.8%)	349,000 (2.2%)
60 - 69 years	155,000 (1%)	219,000 (1.4%)
70 - 79 years	63,000 (0.4%)	91,000 (0.6%)
80 +	22,000 (0.1%)	33,000 (0.2%)

Displacement profile

- More than 150,000 people have been uprooted within and outside Mali since the resumption of clashes between Malian forces and the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) (OCHA 06/03, UNHCR 12/03).
- Others fled from violence and retaliation by army troops, inter-community tensions and intimidation (UNHCR 23/02).
- In addition, Tuareg families living in southern regions and the capital were displaced to other countries following two attacks in February in Bamako on property owned by Tuareg and Moorish populations (OCHA 23/02).
- Initial reports on the population displaced by the current conflict suggest family members, including older people, are moving together. However, the category 12-17 years old is surprisingly under represented compared to the national average.

Total registered refugee population originating from Mali per age and sex (as of 1 march 2012) Source: UNHCR (01/03)



Conflict background

- The Tuareg are traditionally nomadic people who live in the semi-arid Sahel and arid Sahara in an area covering Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger, Nigeria and Libya (UNHCR 23/02). After independence, the Tuareg were divided among the newly independent nations but felt largely underrepresented in the new governments. There have been several periods of displacement due to either conflict or drought: a Tuareg insurgency in 1990 forced a significant number of refugees to Algeria, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal (UNHCR 23/02).
- In January 2012, the MNLA rebels reportedly attacked three towns in northern Mali which represented the first significant Tuareg militant offensive for the three years and marked the beginning of renewed armed operations by the MNLA (UNHCR 23/02).

Current Crisis Impact

IDPs displaced during conflict

- Around 30,000 people were internally displaced on the 8th of February by fighting between the secessionist groups and the army in northern Mali, with 26,000 fleeing from the town of Ménaka and 4,000 from Aguelhoc (IDMC 20/02).
- 11,000 displaced persons were located in the village of Inhalid, 100 kilometres north of Tessalit, Kidal region, due to fighting in the area (ICRC 17/02). Another 4,200 people took refuge in Abanco, 125 kilometres south of Tessalit, following clashes. In the Niafouké area, Tombouctou region, more than 11,000 displaced people, were identified (ICRC 17/02).
- As of 6 March, a total figure of **69,783** IDPs has been estimated within Mali. There are many uncertainties about the exact numbers, due to access and unpredictable movements (OCHA 06/03).

Returnees from Libya

- Population movements owing to the crisis in Libya have caused the mass return of migrants to Chad, Ghana, Mali and Niger. As of 15 December 2011, IOM registered 209,030 returnees from Libya, including **11,230** in Mali. However, these figures do not include returnees who crossed the borders without the assistance of IOM. According to all Government estimates, the total number of returnees, including unregistered cases, is approximately 420,000, of which **30,000** are in Mali (UN 17/01).
- Such large returns have led to an abrupt halt in remittances to home communities, and reduced food resources available (FAO 06/02).

Refugees from Mali in neighbouring countries

- As of 12 March 2012, **88,713** people have crossed into neighbouring countries and been registered, mostly to Mauritania, Niger and Burkina Faso, but also to Algeria and Guinea (UNHCR 12/03).
- 57% of refugees are females, 69% of all refugees are children. More than a quarter (27%) is <5.
- 4,069 Nigeriens living in Mali have returned to Niger (UNHCR 01/03).

Mauritania

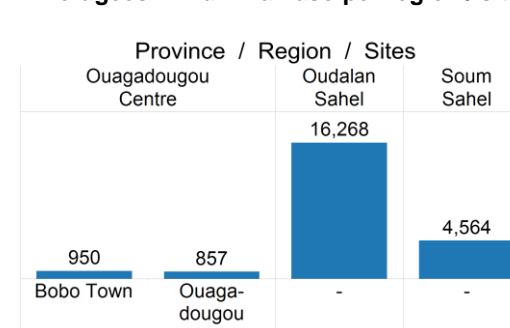
- As a result of recent fighting, the estimated number of Malian refugees in Mauritania is 36,122 as of the 12 March, 2012. Prior to the current crisis (at the end of 2011) there were 1,200 registered in Mauritania.
- The main border crossing point is Fassala, but refugees also arrive in Adel Bagrou, Bassiknou (Hodh el Charghi region), and Gougui (Hodh El Gharbi region). They are registered by the police, vaccinated in a medical facility and provided health care (OCHA 23/02).
- UNHCR and the Government of Mauritania have agreed to locate the refugees further inland to Mbera, 50 kilometres from the border (OCHA 23/02). This camp had hosted Tuareg refugees in the 1990s and still has several water points and structures that will be renovated in schools and health centres (UNHCR 17/2, IRIN 24/02). Between 21 and 23 February, 4,211 refugees were transferred from Fassala to Mbera (UNHCR 25/02).

- Of the current refugees, 18,693 and 17,429 are located in the Fassala and Mbera camps respectively. The number of Malian refugees continued to increase at an average rate of 1,000 people per day (UNHCR 12/03).
- **Place of origin:** The refugee population is mainly composed of Tuaregs, the majority of whom are women and children and originating from Léré, Tombouctou, Niaki, Guargandou, Tenenkou, Goundam and Niafunké (IRIN 06/02, OCHA 23/02, IRIN 24/02)
- **Refugee profile:** Refugees cross the border with few resources, their basic needs are not covered and they are vulnerable to protection risks. Immediate protection, food, nutrition, shelter, water and sanitation, non-food items (blankets, sanitary kits and mosquito nets), health care and education assistance are required (OCHA 17/02). Many of them are women and children who already show signs of malnutrition (IRIN 06/02, IFRC 23/02).
- **Situation at the border:** The refugees represent an additional burden to the region of Hodh el Chargi, where the Fassala and Mbera camp are located. This region is already facing a serious food and nutrition crisis due to poor rainfall in 2011, as a result of which the vulnerability of both refugees and host communities is highly aggravated. The additional pressure on the poor resources weakens their already stretched coping mechanisms. The malnutrition rate in Hodh el Chargi is 14.8% (IFRC 22/12). Below average rainfall in 2011 has stimulated drought conditions which have resulted in crop failures and reduced the production of sufficient pastures for livestock, putting the country close to a food crisis. The 2011 cereal production decreased by 38% compared to a five year average and 52% compared to the previous season (IFRC 22/12).

Burkina Faso

- The majority of Malian refugees have entered the country at Tina-koff, Inabao and Deou in the northern province of Oudalan. They are being hosted by individual families or stay in temporary makeshift camps (UNHCR 14/02). Border monitoring by UNHCR and partners has been initiated at the key entry points: Kolovos in the Kenedougou province, Faramana in the Houet Province, Yense in Yatenga province, Soum and Oudalan provinces (OCHA 23/02). Refugees are scattered in six sites, including Inabao, Gandafabou and Mentao and are also being hosted by individual families.
- The total number of refugees registered was **22,639** as of the 12 March, 2012. Prior to the current crisis there were 1,200 registered in Burkina Faso by the end of 2011 (UNHCR 19/02, UNHCR 02/03).
- The majority (16,268) have been registered in Oudalan province, in the upper part of the Sahel region (UNHCR 12/03).

Refugees in Burkina Faso per region / site



- 800 or more are crossing the border each day, and the Government has urgently requested shelter, food and medicine aid in the northern Sahel Region (IRIN 29/02).
- The Government of Burkina Faso declared that arrivals from Mali will be granted refugee status on a prima facie basis (OCHA 23/02). The Government has asked UNHCR to help with the relocation of thousands of these refugees from spontaneous settlements in the north of the country to locations further away from the border (UNHCR 14/02).
- A joint mission of UN agencies, the Government and NGOs identified two former sites, Goudebo and Ingani, for new camps in the Sahel region in the north of Burkina Faso (OCHA 23/02).
- Malians have also made their way to the urban areas of Ouagadougou and Bobo-dioulasso, where they stay with host families or in rented accommodation (UNHCR 17/2).
- On 24 February, a group of 600 refugees living in an Ouagadougou soccer stadium were relocated temporarily to a Ministry of Social Welfare and National Solidarity training centre at Somgande on the northern outskirts of the city. The Government is providing them with food and water. Some 1,000 people are in the capital (IRIN 29/02).
- **Place of origin:** The refugees include Tuareg businessmen who fled with their families to safety in Burkina Faso, following the attacks in Bamako and Kat (OCHA 23/02).
- **Refugee profile:** The new arrivals are a mix of rural people, urban middle class and community leaders, mainly from the Tuareg ethnic group. The majority of the arrivals are using the main crossing points of the Sahel region in the north. They are arriving by road or are on foot (OCHA 23/02). An inter-agency assessment has identified food insecurity, difficulty to access drinking water and a lack of latrines as the main areas of concern (OCHA 17/02). Food consumption consists of brought food stocks, production of livestock and products purchased on local markets. Children were not malnourished but they were deprived of milk and food (UNHCR 14/02). Many refugees are women and children (UNHCR 14/02).
- **Cross-border analysis:** The armed conflict increases the distress of the local population already suffering the effects of food insecurity. The influx of refugees will further aggravate the situation of limited food, water and sanitation in northern Burkina Faso (OCHA 23/02). Tensions between host population and refugees could arise due to scarce resources. Measures such as increasing the number of wells and increasing security to prevent cattle theft could reduce this tension (IRIN 29/02).

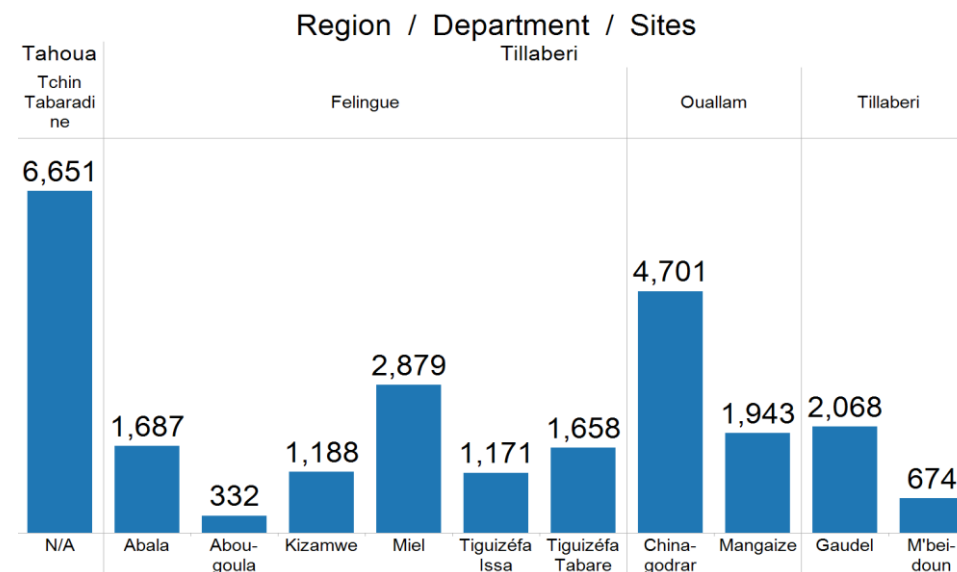
Niger

- The estimated number of Malian refugees in Niger is **24,952** as of the 12 March, 2012. Prior to the current crisis there were 307 registered in Niger at the end of 2011 (UNHCR 24/02, UNHCR 12/03).
- The majority of the arrivals are coming through the entry points of Anderbouboukane and Koutougou. Arrivals are reported in the towns of Mangaizé, Chinégodar, Koutoubou, Yassan, Aballa and Ayorou, which are located in the

areas of Ouallam, Tillabery, Filingue and Tera. These departments are part of the Tillabery region (OCHA 23/02). As of 24 February UNCHR started registration of refugees at the border village at Mangaizé and will then move to other areas (IRIN 24/02).

- The number of refugees in Ouallam is 6,644: 4,701 at Chinégodar site and 1,943 at Mangaizé site. 2,742 refugees are in Tillabery, while others have found refuge at smaller sites in Filingue area (UNHCR 02/03).
- The UNHCR standard is to have people at least 50km from a border, and together with the Government of Niger is planning to transfer refugees in Chinégodar to a camp that will be established near the town of Ouallam (100 km from Niamey) (OCHA 17/02). This site has an estimated capacity of 30,000 people. An additional site closer to the border, where there is cattle forage, may be considered (in the Mangaizé area) for the refugees who fled with livestock and who do not want to move far from their areas of origin (OCHA 23/02).

Refugees in Niger per region / site Source: UNHCR (12/03)



- **Place of origin:** Most Malian families are from the Anderbouboukane and Ménaka areas (Gao region) of Mali (UNHCR 14/02, IPS 22/02).
- **Refugee profile:** The profile of the population is mixed; nomads with a predominantly rural background and refugees from urban areas. Arrivals to Niger from Mali include both Malian refugees as well as Niger nationals (4,069) who

have lived there for more than 20 years and may have obtained Malian nationality (OCHA 23/02, UNHCR 01/03).

- Most Malian families from Ménaka and Aderaboukane have arrived without resources (IPS 22/02). As many refugees fled abruptly, they may cross back into Mali to gather their belongings. Many are without documents due to their hasty flight (OCHA 23/02).
- People are living in makeshift shelters, facing extreme temperature fluctuations between day and night. The health situation is relatively stable but there are incidences of malaria, eye infections, diarrhoea and respiratory infections. In addition, the sanitation and clean water situation is inadequate (UNHCR 14/02).
- The immediate needs in Niger are to provide protection, ensuring access to the territory, registration, the provision of emergency shelter, basic domestic items (NFI) and access to essential services (OCHA 23/02).
- **Cross-border analysis:** Niger is one of the poorest countries in the region and is affected by a severe drought (IRIN 24/02) and poor harvests (IPS 22/02). The closure of Niger's border with Nigeria, after attempts by militant group Boko Haram to set up a base in the drought-stricken country, has had an impact on the local economy.
- The absence of Nigerian livestock buyers in local markets seems to have affected pastoralists across the region (IRIN 27/02). Some of the Malian men have arrived with animals, hoping to sell them in Ayorou town but the livestock trade in Ayorou is poor with too few buyers for the number of cattle available (IRIN 27/02).
- Most towns in the region are inundated with people from food-scarce areas looking for work. An assessment found that 94% of the villages in the districts of Tillabery, Ouallam and Filingue do not have enough food; 89% of the population, or more than a million people, are affected (IRIN 27/02).
- The Tillabery region is one of the areas hardest hit by the food crisis and the scene of recent inter-community violence. The fighting has resulted in casualties. In addition, people have been taken captive and families have been dispersed (ICRC 28/02).
- Usually home to 1,500 residents, as of 2 March Chinégodar now hosts 13,005 refugees (OCHA 02/03). The growing influx of refugees has overwhelmed the ability of residents to house and care for them. All around the village, clusters of shacks have sprung up to provide shelter for the refugees (IPS 22/02). The host population are Tuaregs like the refugees and share their scarce food and water, but resources are stretched (IRIN 27/02).

Key priorities for displaced population

Most affected areas

- Since 17 January, attacks have been taking place in three main regions in northern Mali: Gao, Kidal and Tombouctou (CFC 22/02). The cities in the Gao region by the border with Niger (Ménaka, Anderamboukane), the cities of Léré and Niafounke in the Tombouctou region and Intillit, and Tissit in the Kidal region and Aguelhok and Tessalit near Algeria have also been affected (UNHCR 23/02).

Most affected groups

- The majority of displaced persons are ethnic Tuaregs from rural areas, and ethnic Songhai, Moor and Fulani groups. They are currently hosted in remote and arid border villages that are affected both by food crisis, severe drought, and the general insecurity in the Sahel region (UNHCR 24/02).
- Women, Children under 5, older people.

Recommendations for intervention

- Refugees are in need of adequate shelter, food, water and sanitation, healthcare and education. In addition, they need basic household items (NFI) such as sleeping mats, mosquito nets, blankets and kitchen sets (UNHCR 24/02).
- Strengthen access to health services, especially for children and pregnant/breastfeeding women (UNHCR 14/02).
- Increase security to avoid inter-community as well as host community/refugee tensions. Access to water through the provision of wells should be considered in order to reduce tensions (IRIN 29/02).
- Complete the level 1 registration process in affected areas and hosting countries and communities
- Integrated programs for hosting communities
- Establish site-specific referral pathways and ensure communities are informed of these services
- Earmark locations within refugee camps for especially vulnerable households (child, female and older person), which are near services and protection
- Ensure mainstreaming of protection issues in all activities across all sectors

Displaced*

≈ 158,496

Refugees

≈ 88,713

(OCHA 06/03 , UNHCR 12/03)

Mauritania

36,122
(UNHCR 12/03)

Burkina Faso

22,639
(UNHCR 12/03)

Niger

24,952
(UNHCR 12/03)

Algeria

≈ 5,000
(OCHA 12/03)

Guinea

No data
(IRIN 06/02)

IDPs

≈ 69,783

(OCHA 06/03)

Manaka

≈ 26,000
(OCHA 23/02)

Kidal

≈ 4,200
(OCHA 23/02)

Abanco

≈ 4,200
(OCHA 23/02)

Niafouké

≈ 11,000
(OCHA 23/02)

Inhalid

≈ 11,000
(OCHA 23/02)

Gao

≈ 5,000
(OCHA 23/02)

Humanitarian Profile

The humanitarian profile attempts to account for the number of people having humanitarian needs arising from a given emergency. It is a count of the number of "affected" people in the emergency. Different groups are identified within the humanitarian profile, such as displaced, non-displaced, IDPs and refugees and asylum seekers. Source: IASC 2011

Due to lack of recent disaggregated data available, the disaggregated IDP numbers (OCHA 23/02) do not add up with the total estimated IDP figure (OCHA 06/03).

* The total displaced population figure = total IDP figure (OCHA 06/03) and refugee figure (UNHCR 12/03 + OCHA 06/03).

Country Profile

Key indicators

Main indicators

- The total population of Mali is estimated to be 14,517,176 as of 2009 (INSTAT 2009).
- Life expectancy at birth is 50 for men and 56 for women (WHO 2009).
- The annual population growth rate is 3% in 2010 (IFAD 2010).
- The urban/rural population share is 33.3% to 66.7% (WB 2010).
- Adult literacy rate is 26% for females and 52% of the men (IFAD 2010; UNICEF 2011).
- Mali is considered to have low human development and ranks 175/187 on the Human Development Index (UNDP 2011).
- There is a vast gender gap. The country scores low in both the Social Institutions and Gender Index and the Gender Inequality Index (99/102 and 175/187 respectively) (SIGI 2009; UNDP 2011).

Health and Sanitation indicators

- The mortality rate for under five year olds is 178 as of 2010. This is the 6th highest ranking in the world (UNICEF 2011; WHO 2009).
- Mali has a Maternal Mortality Ratio of 830 per 100,000 live births. The surrounding countries Niger and Nigeria have equal scores, but this ratio is higher than the African average (WB 2010).
- Malnutrition prevalence: underweight 27%; wasted 10%; stunted 15% (UNICEF 2011).

Main characteristics

Geography and Climate

- The country's territory is 1,240,192 sq. km and ranks 24th in the world in between South Africa and Angola (CIA 2012).
- Mali is landlocked, mostly flat to rolling northern plain that extends into the Sahara Desert and Savanna in the south. 65% of Mali's land is desert or semi-desert. The northeast is characterized by rugged hills. Only 3.8% of the land area is arable (FAO 2003; IFAD 2010; HewsWeb 2011; CIA 2012).
- The climate is semi-arid, with a wet season (Mid-March/June to November) and a dry season (CIA 2012).
- Floods occur occasionally at the end of the wet season, Mali ranks 42/162 in UNISDRs flood risk ranking. In addition, severe droughts and locusts are hazards to Mali (FAO 2003; IFAD 2010; HewsWeb 2011).
- On a scale of 1 to 7, with 1 indicating a severely stressed water situation, Mali is placed in at 5, as are e.g. Angola, most Central European countries and the United States (UNEP 2008).

Economy and Markets

- Gross national income per capita: USD 600 in 2010 (WB 2010).
- Unemployment in 2004: 8.8% (UNdata 2012).
- People living under the national poverty line: 47.4% in 2009 (UNDP 2011).
- The income share that is held by lowest quintile is 6.5% (IFAD 2010).
- Mali is one of the 'heavily indebted poor countries' (IMF 2011).
- Mali's northern desert areas are rich with hydrocarbons and mineral resources. Mali is Africa's third gold producer, but also exploits iron and oil. Other unexploited mineral resources include diamonds, bauxite, magnesium and uranium (MISNA 02/02).
- Some main trade routes cross the Malian desert, providing an income to the inhabitants (MISNA 02/02).

Socio-cultural characteristics

- Ethnic groups: Mandé 50% (Bambara, Malinke, Soninke), Peul 17%, Voltaic 12%, Songhai 6%, Tuareg and Moor 10%, other 5% (CIA 2012).
- Language: French, Bambara, Fulfulde (Peulh), Songhai and Tamasheq (Minority Rights 2012).
- Religion: Muslim 90%, minority of Christians and traditional beliefs (Minority Rights 2012; CIA 2012).

Education

- The net school enrolment for boys is 79% and 66% for girls (UNICEF 2011).
- The rural-urban gap primary school attendance is qualified as *very large* (UNESCO 2008).
- The net secondary school enrolment is 35% for males and 22% for females (UNICEF 2011).

Governance

- Mali ranks as a free country in Freedom House's Freedom Ranking, score: 2/7 (political rights) and 3/7 (civil liberties) (Freedom House 2012).
- World Press Freedom Index: 25/179, sharing this place with Slovakia and OECS (RwB 2012).
- The Ministry for Internal Security and Civil Protection is responsible for disaster Management (Preventionweb 2011).
- Corruption Perceptions Index: 116/178 (Transparency 2010).

- Mali's constitution calls for an independent judiciary although in reality the executive exercises huge power over the judiciary because of its power to appoint judges. The highest court is the Supreme Court. It also has a Constitutional Court. There are various lower level courts although village chiefs and elders play a large role in the judiciary by arbitrating on smaller disputes ([Merlin Safety and Security Assessment 2012](#)).
- The legal system is based on a combination of French civil law and customary law. Local chiefs decide the majority of disputes in rural areas ([International SOS 01/02](#)).

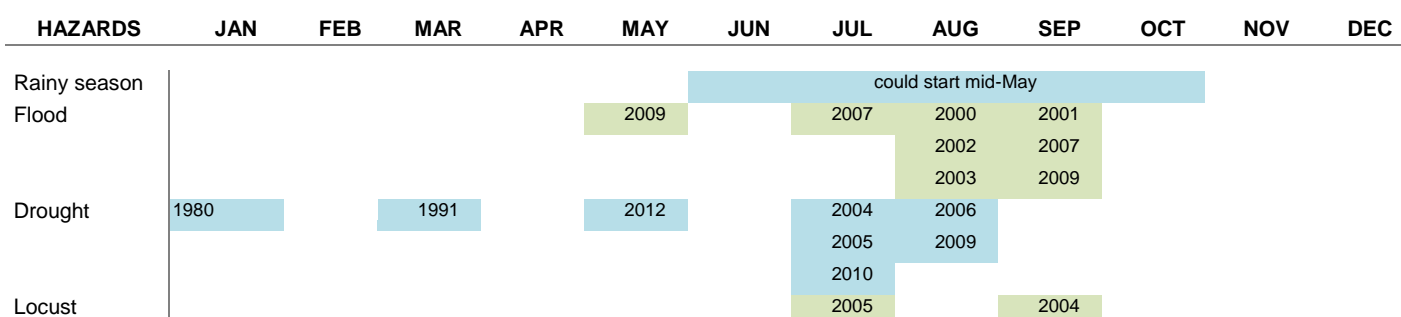
Information

- Mali is one of the most information-deprived countries, with a largely illiterate population and a nascent technology infrastructure ([USAID 2012](#)).
- Freedom of assembly and association are respected, where news media operations are among the freest in Africa ([Merlin Safety and Security Assessment 2012](#)).
- The overall quality of the media is limited by the lack of adequate journalism training and a high level of poverty, which leads many low-paid journalists to take bribes. While the Government does not restrict access to either foreign media or to the internet, due to infrastructure limitations, Mali has one of the lowest internet penetration levels in West Africa, at only 2.7% ([Freedom House 2012](#)).

Hazards

Natural Hazards

- The Niger River floods occasionally at the end of the wet season. The floods provide much needed fertile agricultural soil along its banks and create pasture for livestock. The floods can affect up to almost 50,000 people (2007). The highest death toll a flood has reached in 20 years is 25 (2009). On an average, a flood takes five lives ([CRED 2012](#); [FAO 2003](#); [IFAD 2010](#); [HewsWeb 2011](#)).
- Mali is vulnerable to droughts. Accumulative droughts in 2005 (1 million people affected) and 2010 (600,000 people affected) have stretched the community's coping mechanisms ([HewsWeb 2011](#)).
- Mali belongs to the natural habitat of desert locusts. Mali's harvests are thus at risk for desert locust plagues ([NG 2012](#)).



Modified to WFP 2012:

Other Hazards

- The presence of different groups that benefit by a destabilized area to conduct their (illegal) activities and the proliferation of weapons in the region are threats to the Malian population.
- Mali holds pesticide stocks. These pose a risk since they, once spilled, remain toxic for years. In 2007, FAO had to intervene with an emergency operation to destroy 75 tons of leaking dieldrin. Some areas in the Gao/Kidal region are found to have soil contamination ([UNEP 2010](#); [WB 2011](#); [FAO 2012](#)).

Livelihoods and Food Security

Key characteristics

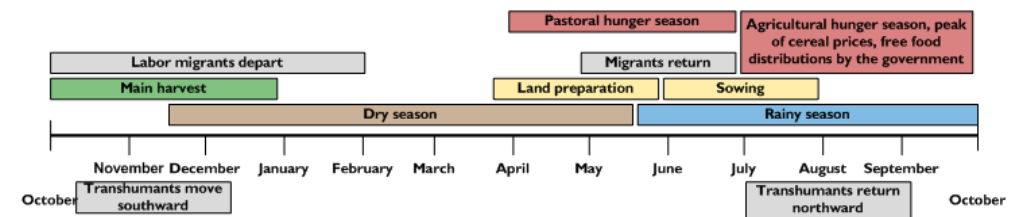
- Mali is landlocked and subject to significant climatic variations.
- High population growth exerts pressure on the country's resources. The majority of the population is young and resides in rural areas.
- A large proportion of the population are engaged in the agricultural sector, which is the backbone of the economy (FAO 2010).
- The most productive agricultural area lies along the banks of the Niger River between Bamako and Mopti and extends south to the borders of Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, and Burkina Faso (US Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2011).
- Domestic production of cereals can generally meet the population's needs, however, agriculture is vulnerable to fluctuating rainfall patterns and this forces the country to rely on emergency food aid in years where supply does not meet demand (FAO 2010).
- Cereals represent more than two-third of the dietary energy supply (millet, rice, sorghum, maize). These staples are complemented by dairy products and to a lesser extent by pulses (cowpeas), starchy roots (sweet potatoes, yams, cassava) and fruit and vegetables. This diet lacks diversity and is poor in essential micronutrients. In addition, recent years have seen changing food consumption patterns and rice has become predominant (FAO 2010).
- Although overall food security has improved in recent years, households remain highly vulnerable and chronic food insecurity persists (FAO 2010).

Livelihoods characteristics

- Agricultural activities occupy 70% of Mali's labour force and provide about 33% of the GDP. Small-scale traditional farming dominates the agricultural sector, with subsistence farming of cereals, primarily sorghum, millet, and maize on about 90% of the cultivated land (US Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2011).
- Mali's livestock activities focus on cattle, sheep, and goats. The largest concentrations of cattle are in the areas north of Bamako and Segou extending into the Niger delta, but herding activity is gradually shifting southward, due to the effects of previous droughts.
- The Niger River is an important source of fish, providing food for riverside communities with the surplus exported. Due to drought and diversion of river water for agriculture, fish production has steadily declined since the early 1980s. The Government has initiated plans to develop fish breeding, mainly in the Niger delta (US Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2011).
- The agricultural sector has developed considerably due to policies that have had a positive impact on cereal production with a particular focus on rice production. (FAO 2010).

- Rice is grown extensively along the banks of the Niger between Segou and Mopti. The Office du Niger, located north of Segou toward the Mauritanian border, is the most important rice producing region, producing approximately one third of Mali's paddy rice. Using water diverted from the Niger, the Office du Niger irrigates about 80,000 hectares of land for rice and sugarcane production (US Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2011).
- The majority of the poor and very poor make their livelihoods from day-labour and self-employment (FEWS Net 01/2010).
- Households rely significantly on the market for their food needs (FEWS Net 01/2010).

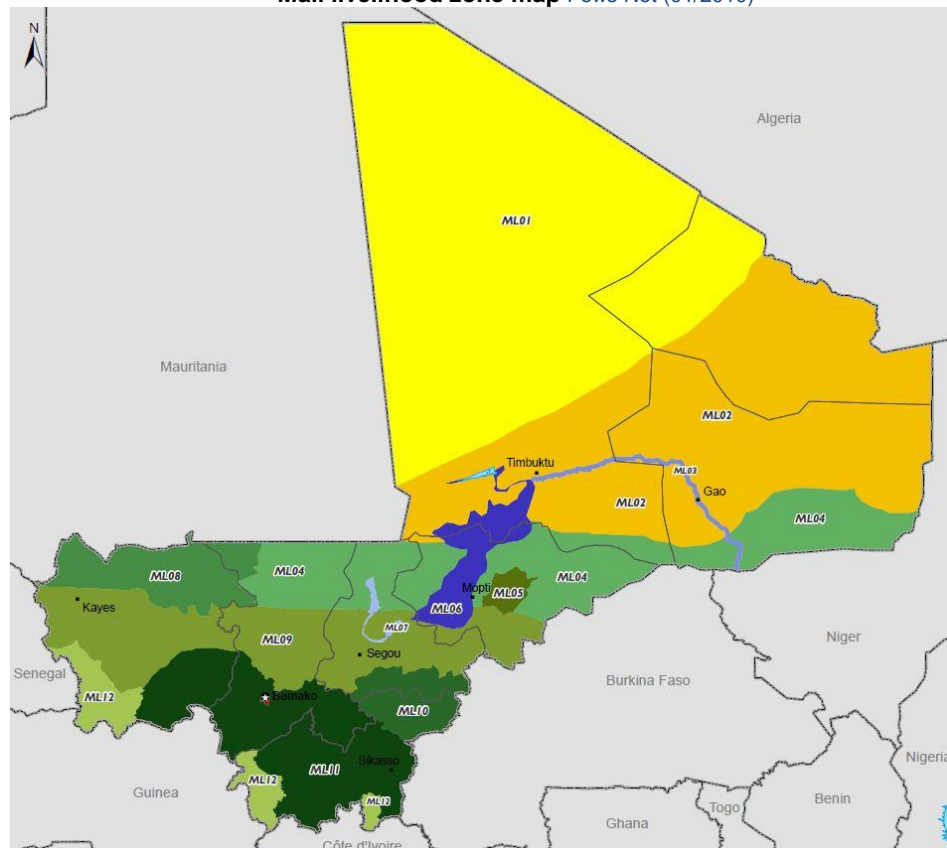
Mali seasonal calendar and critical events timeline Source: FewsNet (10/2011)



Underlying Factors of Food Insecurity

- Drought and insufficient rains are a major factor impacting on food insecurity in the Sahel as well as volatile cereal prices floods and crop pests (particularly crickets and grain-eating birds) represent a recurrent problem. The severity of impact varies.
- Livestock diseases (including, liver fascioliasis, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and anthrax).
- Crowding in southern pastures beyond the northern zone in a bad year forces animal sales and incites conflict with settled populations over water and crop damage (Fewsnet 01/2010).

Mali livelihood zone map Fews Net (01/2010)

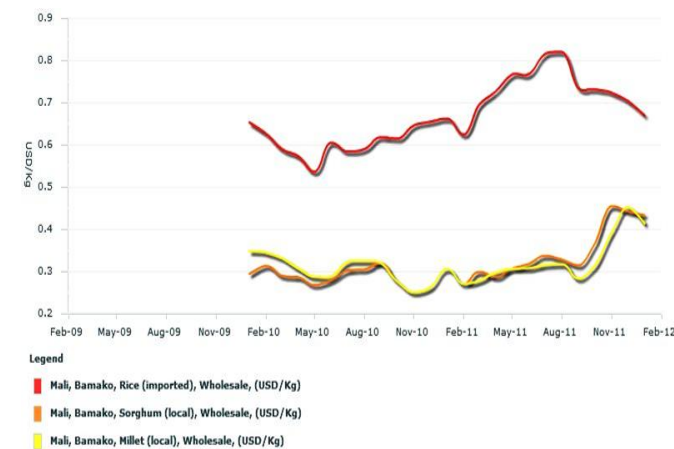


- ML01 - Nomadism and trans-Saharan trade
- ML02 - Nomadic and transhumant pastoralism
- ML03 - Fluvial rice and transhumant livestock rearing (agropastoral)
- ML04 - Millet and transhumant livestock rearing
- ML05 - Dogon plateau - millet, shallots, wild foods, and tourism
- ML06 - Niger delta/lakes - rice and livestock rearing (agropastoral)
- ML07 - 'Office du Niger' - Irrigated rice
- ML08 - North-west remittances, sorghum, and transhumant livestock rearing
- ML09 - West and central rainfed millet/sorghum
- ML10 - Sorghum, millet, and cotton
- ML11 - South maize, cotton, and fruits
- ML12 - South-west maize, sorghum, and fruits
- ML13 - Bamako urban

Markets and Prices

- Millet, rice, and sorghum constitute the basic staple foods for the majority of the Malian population. Millet has traditionally been the most widely consumed, but since 2005 rice has become a popular substitute in urban households. Sorghum is generally more important for rural than urban households (FewsNet 2/2012).

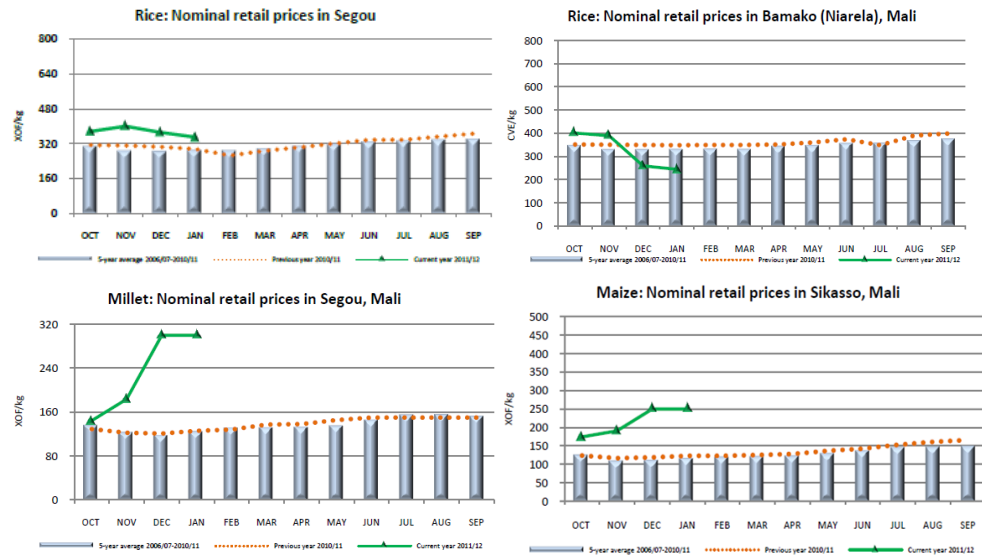
Market prices February 2009 – February 2012



- There have been cereal shortages in major markets in the Sahelian belt as a result of unusually low supplies after the harvest and increased demand from neighboring countries. In response to this the Government implemented export restrictions to increase the availability of local grain (FAO 15/02).
- Limited supplies in markets have triggered an increase in the prices of basic necessities, weakening the situation of tens of thousands of people (ICRC 17/02). Coarse grain prices have increased significantly between October and December 2011. These stabilized by end of the December at high levels. Millet and sorghum remain scarce in the markets of Bamako and Kayes (WFP 02/2012).
- The price of the main staple Millet has risen to an exceptionally high level since October 2011. The Millet price of January 2012 is more than doubled if compared to January 2011 and the 5-year average (Fewsnet 02/2012).
- Maize prices have experienced a very high increase as well, from 130 XOF/kg in January 2011 to 250 XOF/kg in January 2012 (Fewsnet 02/2012).
- The price to import rice has experienced a significant decrease. The price against which rice is bought to disseminate in Bamako is now slightly under both the price of last year and the regional average (Fewsnet 02/2012). However, this is not directly translated into the prices at the regional markets. Segou is one of the most important markets of Mali. Rice prices in Segou are slightly above the five year average and the price of last year (Fewsnet 02/2012; Fewsnet 02/2012).

Price evolution for main staple food compared to last year and five year average

Source: Fewsnet (02/2012); Fewsnet (02/2012)



Food deficits

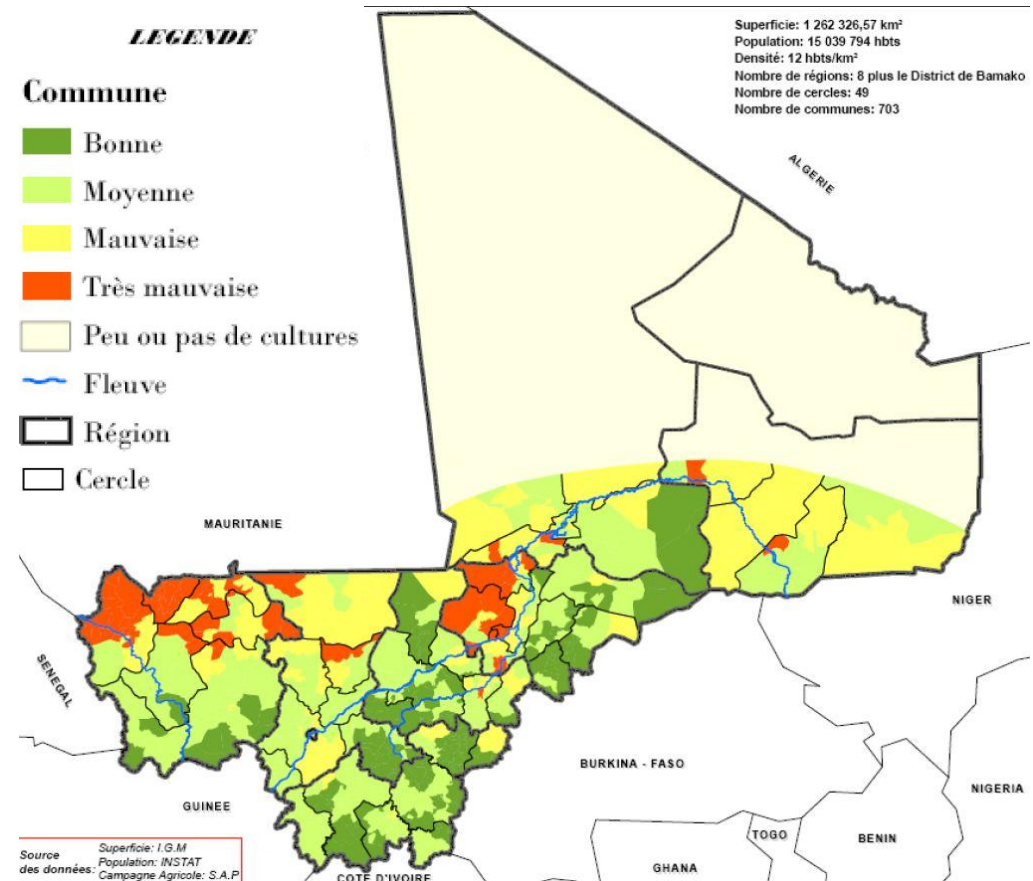
- Mali's agro pastoral belt experienced widespread agricultural and pastoral production deficits in 2011/12. Fewsnet estimates that the per capita cereal production for 2011/12 will be 12% lower than the 2006-2010 average (FEWSnet 12/2011).
- Drought together with grasshopper and bird infestations reduced cereal production by 20 percent compared with the 2010 harvest (FAO 15/02).

Increasing food insecurity levels

- SAP in Mali has identified a **total of 159 communes at risk, totalling 2.9 million inhabitants**. Of these 104 communes are considered to be facing "food difficulties" and 55 communes are considered to be facing "economic difficulties". Among those, an **estimated 1.2 million people are likely to be at risk of food insecurity in the coming months** (SAP Oct 2011).
- This evaluation is the basis for Government's action plan and response. However, despite alarming signals coming both from field observation and regional biomass maps, the north-eastern part of the country bordering Niger have not yet been mentioned by the Early Warning System as amongst those areas most at risk. The list of communes at risk is currently being revised by the national SAP and an increase is expected (ECHO 01/02).

- The purchasing power of pastoralists has declined, and the shorter harvest season has reduced opportunities for households that rely on casual labour (FAO 15/02).

Map - provisional assessment of agricultural production 2011-2011 Source: SAP (Oct 2011)



- The CILSS mission conducted in December indicated that prices should stabilize following the unusual post-harvest increase, but will be high going into the lean season (WFP 02/2012).
- Between February and March/April, poor and very poor households will face food insecurity with serious food consumption deficits starting in May 2012 if aid efforts are not undertaken (FEWS Net 12/2011).
- Revenues from agricultural labor will see a steep decline due to poor harvests. In addition, other opportunities for local labour will also be limited except for in the

sale of plants (hay), which will be intensified and could produce higher than usual revenue (FEWS Net 12/2011).

- **IDPs:** Many families, including some with very young children, pregnant women and elderly people, are living under trees or out in the open. Women and children have been traumatized by the fighting. Those who have been displaced are finding it hard to get supplies. Displaced people face a shortage of water and pasture land for livestock, especially in the Ménaka area, Gao region. The scarcity of resources could lead to tension, as animal breeding and farming are the main means of livelihood (ICRC 20/02).
- **Refugees:** Refugees are still arriving in Fassala in large numbers and their transfer will take time. Emergency action is essential to help thousands of refugee families and to reduce the impact of this crisis on the local population. Drought and the sudden influx of people have caused the price of staple products to escalate (Solidarités 20/02).

Coping Strategies

- The region is not adequately prepared to cope with a new food crisis. Recurrent droughts and food insecurity have eroded coping mechanisms and left people increasingly more vulnerable (OCHA 07/02).
- In a bad year, households reduce their expenditure on nonessential items and increase their expenditure on staple foods.
- The following strategies are employed by households to increase their income in difficult years:
 - Increase the number of householders migrating in search of labor opportunities as well as the number of months they spend away from the village.
 - Increase livestock sales.
 - Increase sales of livestock products.
 - Increase the amount they borrow in loans (in cash and in food). If the household borrows from a wealthier relation, they will normally be able to wait for a better year before paying back the loan.
 - Increase consumption of wild foods (dependent on the availability of wild foods, which is often reduced during drought).
 - Seek more local labour opportunities
- As a coping strategy, workers will travel to cities and gold-mining areas of the country, but this is not a high revenue option (Fewsnet 12/2011).

Key priorities

Most affected areas (based on public information only)

- Region of Kayes, Gao, Koulikoro.
- Tombouctou.
- Areas receiving conflict affected populations in Mali and neighbouring countries.

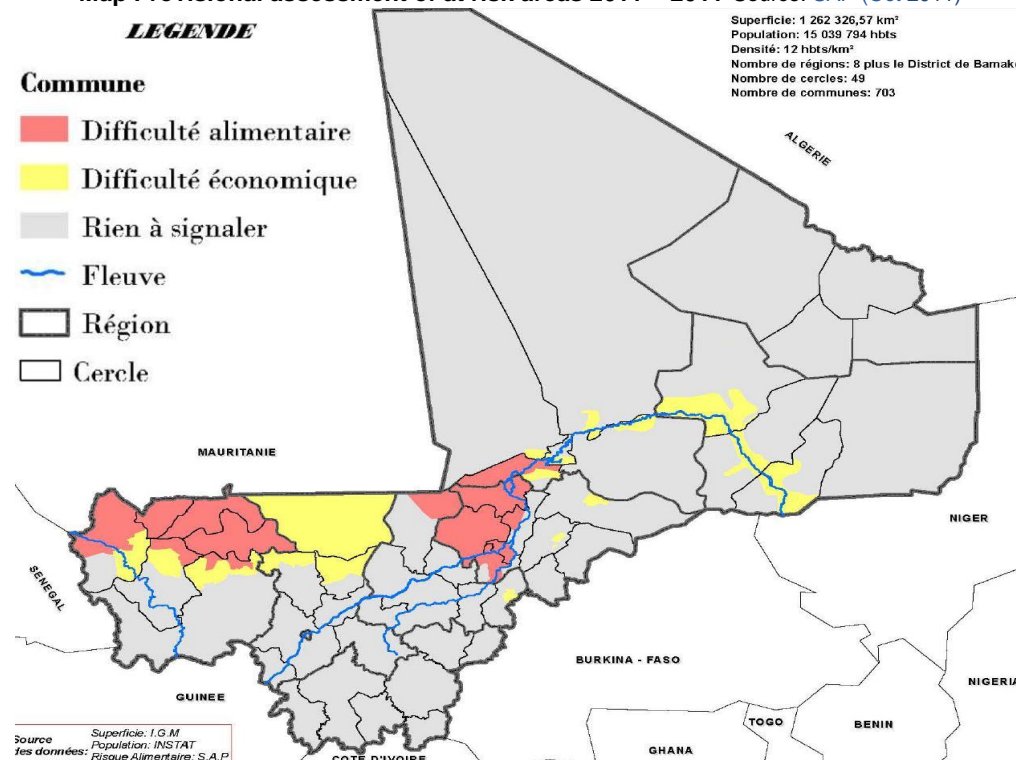
Most affected groups

- Farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists.
- Children <5, women and girls, older people.
- Malnourished populations.
- Severely food insecure households, poor and very poor households.
- IDPs, returnees and host communities.
- Malian refugees in other countries.

Recommendations for intervention

- Emergency food distribution.
- Address immediately food deficits through appropriate avenues, including:
 - Local/regional purchases.
 - Food imports.
 - Cash transfer, CFW/FFW (if/when relevant).
 - Animal destocking.
 - Subsidised sales of cereals.
 - Blanket feeding relocations of stocks in country.

Map Provisional assessment of at risk areas 2011 – 2011 Source: SAP (Oct 2011)



Health and Nutrition

Key characteristics

- Limited access to basic health care, poor quality of care, and low immunization coverage contribute to high child and maternal mortality rates, although both are declining. The situation is further worsened by limited access to safe water in rural areas and lack of adequate sanitation (FAO 2010).

Morbidity and Mortality

- In 2010, the <5 mortality rate was 178 per 1,000 live births, over 35% of these deaths were attributable to malnourishment (UNICEF 06/02).
- The main causes of <5 mortality are: neonatal (infection, preterm, asphyxia, tetanus etc.) (26%), pneumonia (24%), diarrhoeal disease (18%), malaria (17%) and measles (6%) (Countdown country profile; MOH NCD 2010).
- Pneumonia is a major public health concern, with lower respiratory tract infections (LRTIs) the second most important cause for morbidity (after malaria).
- Malaria: A 2010 MOH survey found malaria prevalence in children aged 6-59 months was 37.5%. In rural areas, the prevalence was higher at 44.6% (MOH 2010). During the overlapping period of rain and hunger season (June to August), malaria appears to be the major (closely followed by malnutrition) cause of consultation/hospitalisation in the centre and south of Mali (Merlin 02/2012).
- The vaccination campaign for Meningitis A with the new, long-lasting effect conjugate vaccine was completed end of 2011, hence incidence of cases of infection with Neisseria Meningococcus. Cases are expected to be much lower in 2012 than before. Between week 1 and 49 in 2011, 390 cases and 14 deaths have been reported (WHO 02/02).
- 85% of children aged 6-59 months are anaemic; one in four children has severe anaemia with <8.0g/dl (MOH Survey 2010).
- Communicable, maternal, peri-natal and nutritional conditions account for about 75% of all deaths, non-communicable diseases account for 20% (MOH NCD 2010).
- Nearly 4 in 5 (79%) of all households consume iodized salt (UNICEF 2010). The universal salt iodization strategy has resulted in a substantial regression of iodine deficiency disorders (FAO 2010).
- Vitamin A deficiency is a public health problem among women (FAO 2010). However, 2010 saw a 99% coverage rate for <5s from 2006-2010 (UNICEF 2010).
- HIV prevalence rate of adults aged 15-49 (2009) is 1% (Health Policy Project 2012), compared to an average of 2% in 12 regional countries (UNAIDS 2011).
- A cholera outbreak in 2011 resulted in 1,246 cases and 51 deaths between week 1-49. Children are more vulnerable to cholera, as they dehydrate faster, and malnourished children are especially at risk (WHO 02/02; UNICEF 11/10).

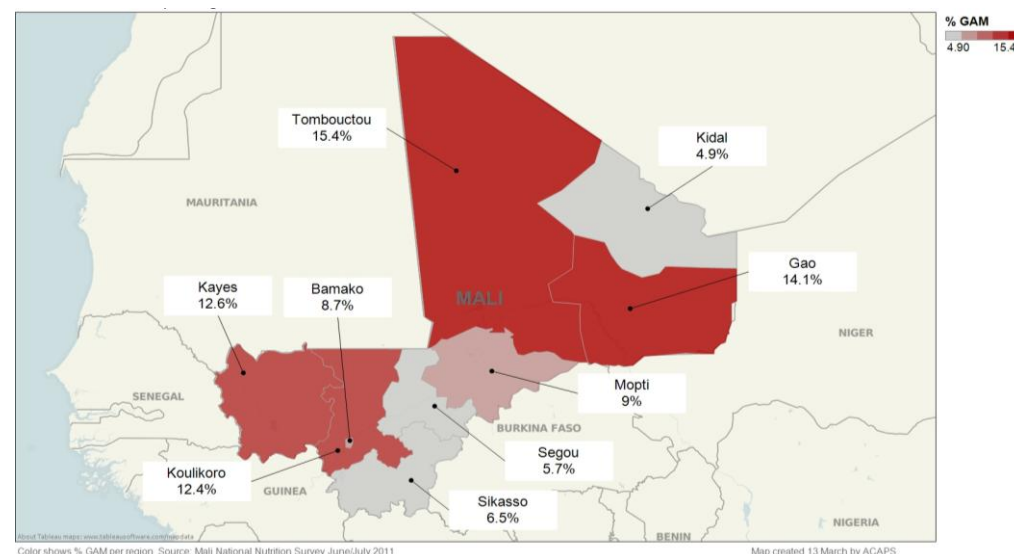
Maternal and Child Health

- The 2010 reported maternal mortality rate was 460 (UNICEF 2010).
- 38% of children <6 months are exclusively breastfed (UNICEF 2010).
- Early initiation of breastfeeding is becoming more widely practiced, however, complementary feeding practices are inadequate (FAO 2010).
- Poor breastfeeding practices, limited access to health care, chronic food insecurity and poverty are the main causes of malnutrition among children (FAO 2010).

Nutrition

- An estimated 226,000 children die each year from malnutrition or malnutrition-related causes across the Sahel region. GAM affects 10%-14% of children in Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Burkina Faso, and more than 15% of children in Chad (OCHA 07/02).
- An ACF survey in Kayes region found that 1/3 of children aged 6-59 months had diarrhoea during the previous two weeks. GAM prevalence was twice as high among those children (ACF 2012).

Mali: % GAM per region Source: Mali National Nutrition Survey (2011)



Current Situation

- GAM prevalence usually rises during the *hunger gap* in June; this increase is expected in March/April this year ([FEWSNET](#)).
- A compromised harvest will worsen the already critical nutrition situation and increase prices of staples foods impacting the purchasing power of households and early transhumance of livestock over borders ([UNICEF 06/02](#)).
- The estimated caseload of children with severe acute malnutrition is 175,000 ([UNICEF 06/02](#)).
- The national GAM rate has increased from 8.9% in 2010 (MICS) to 10.9% in 2011 (SMART), with the highest rates recorded in the northern Sahelian area. A June-July 2011 SMART survey found the GAM rate was critical (above 15%) in Tombouctou and serious, above 10%, in Gao, Kayes and Koulikoro ([WFP 10/02](#)).

Specific Refugees

- Among the 11,000 refugees fleeing Mali and entering Mauritania many are women and children showing signs of malnutrition ([IFRC 23/02](#)). No further information is available for refugees in other countries.

Key priorities

Most affected areas (based on public information only)

- Region of Kayes.
- Region of Gao.
- Region of Koulikoro.
- Region of Tombouctou.
- Areas receiving conflict affected populations in Mali and neighbouring countries.

Most affected groups

- Farmers, pastoralists and agro-pastoralists.
- Children <5, women and girls, older people.
- Malnourished populations.
- Severely food insecure households, poor and very poor households.
- IDPs, returnees and host communities.
- Malian refugees in other countries.

Recommendations for intervention

- To treat acute malnutrition.
- Acute malnutrition screening of under-fives.
- Provide emergency health services, especially for IDPs.
- Measles vaccination campaign.
- Provide emergency health services in cholera affected communities.
- Monitor potential epidemic outbreaks to enable quick response.

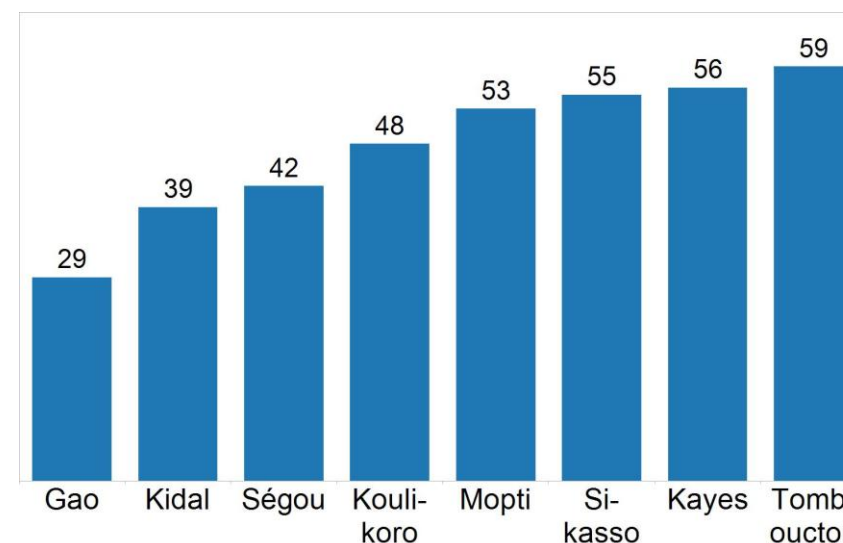
**Special thanks to the Information and Monitoring unit of the WHO in Geneva for sharing their valuable information*

WASH

Access to Water

- In 2008, 56% of the total population used an improved drinking water source (UNDP 2012). 82% of the urban population and 49% of the rural population had access to improved water sources (UNICEF/WHO JMP, 2010).
- The geographical distribution of water facilities reveals great disparities with regard to the rate of access to drinking water in the regions varying from 29% to 59% in 2006 (WB 2008).
- The stock of water facilities in place is composed of 87% of boreholes equipped with hand pumps and wells and 13% water stand pipes. In 2006, the total number of water facilities amounted to more than 29.000 (15.600 hand pumps, 9.800 modern wells/cistern wells, and 3.700 water stand pipes) (WB 2008).
- Mali and Niger depend on the Niger River and its tributaries for the majority of their water resources. A reduction in water levels of the Niger River has been noted in the last decades. Deforestation, pollution of the river by gold mining, textile dye activities and sand extraction from the river bed have aggravated the impact of climate change on the water levels and the water quality in Mali (USAID 2012).
- Problems of access to safe drinking water are largely underlined by an uneven temporal and geographical distribution of water combined with an under-exploitation of available water resources (WWDR2 2006).
- Ageing water system infrastructures, progressive crumbling of the management structures and maintenance, and absence of post-construction activities and regular support to communities lead to a high rate of water facilities breakdown, approximately 30% in 2006. Modern wells also face a significant rate of breakdown, estimated at 29%, mainly because of the seasonal drying up of facilities (WB 2008).
- There are many obstacles that prevent people from adopting good hygiene practices. Access to safe water is the first major issue, but there is also a social inertia caused by misconceptions and local customs. In some places, washing hands with soap is a sign of impoverishment (UNICEF 2009).

Access to drinking water per region (in %) Source: WB (2008)



Access to improved Sanitation facilities

- 76% of the urban population and 49% of the rural population of Mali have access to improved sanitation facilities (UNICEF/WHO JMP 2010).
- The proportion of open defecation in rural areas is 27.6% and 7.1% in urban areas (UNICEF/WHO JMP 2010).
- 62% of households do not have protected excreta disposal systems. The lack of basic services and poor hygiene practices result in an alarming level of water borne diseases, notably diarrhoea (WHO 2010). Malaria, acute respiratory and diarrhoeal diseases are main health issues (WHO 2010).
- About one in five children dies before the age of five and approximately half of these deaths are caused by hygiene-related preventable diseases (UNICEF 2009).
- Defecating in the open is still a common practice throughout rural regions of Mali, and in many villages latrines are constructed only for the elderly or disabled. Traditionally, open defecation in villages was encouraged, because excreta could be used as fertilizer for crops. This practice, however, greatly contributes to poor hygiene and sanitation conditions, and diarrhoea-related illnesses (UNICEF 2010).
- High levels of malaria incidence in the (rural) south of the country as well as in the Mopti Region and the poor level of sanitation in the same area are causal factors in the malnutrition that are not dealt with by either MoH or stakeholders (Merlin Mali Assessment Report March 2012).

Current Crisis Impact

- Strain on, and shortage of, water sources and pastures are worsening with the insecurity where the majority of animals are seeking pasture (UNICEF 13/02).
- **Mali:** The biggest problems faced by the inhabitants of Gao, Kidal and Tombouctou result from a lack of access to safe drinking water, food and health care. These chronic difficulties are exacerbated by the recent deterioration of the security situation (ICRC 15/01).
- **Malian refugees in Niger:** 8,000 people are sharing one borehole in Chinegodar village, which produces unsafe water. The lack of latrines and open defecation is cause for concern regarding the spread of diseases particularly exacerbated by winds. There is also a problem with sanitation. People do not have water to wash their hands and they do not have money for soap (CAFOD 15/02).
- In Chinegodar children are among those suffering from malnutrition and dehydration in the refugee camp. A United Nations mission visited the village and found conditions to be extremely difficult and the hygiene deplorable, increasing the risk of a cholera epidemic (AFP 07/02 and MINSa 02/02).
- In Gaoudel, Ayorou district, there is the need to drill wells to support the host community with water due to the high numbers of arriving refugees, who now outnumber the villagers. The only water source in Ayorou - an uncovered well - will run dry in two months (IRIN 27/02).
- **Malian refugees in Mauretania:** In Fassala, the price of water has increased fivefold. Both in Fassala and Mbera, building latrines, drilling water boreholes, installing drinking water networks, and distributing kits comprising essential items is a priority (Solidarite 27/02).
- **Malian refugees in Burkina Faso:** An inter-agency assessment has identified food insecurity, difficulty to access drinking water and a lack of latrines for refugees in the northern and sahelian zones of Burkina Faso (OCHA 17/02).
- Refugees also brought cattle and consider the provision of watering points and grazing a priority (UNHCR 14/02).

Key priorities

Most affected areas (based on public information only)

- Region of Kayes.
- Region of Gao.
- Region of Koulikoro.
- Region of Tombouctou.
- Areas receiving conflict affected populations in Mali and neighbouring countries.

Most affected groups

- Rural population with limited access to improved water sources and sanitation facilities in north Mali.
- Children <5, women and girls, older people.
- Malnourished populations.
- Severely food insecure households, poor and very poor households.
- IDPs, returnees and host communities.
- Malian refugees in other countries.

Recommendations for intervention

- Provision of emergency water supplies and hygiene kits for IDPs and refugees stranded in villages in neighbouring countries.
- Restoration and maintenance of water infrastructures and establishment of new water sources in the affected areas.
- Provision of latrines in affected areas.

Protection

Key characteristics

Child Labour

- Mali adopted the National Action Plan for the Elimination of Child Labor on June 12, 2011. The plan aims to eliminate the worst forms of child labor by 2015, and all child labor by 2020 by providing children with access to education, vocational training, and support, and by offering income-generating activities for concerned families (HRW 2011).
- The action plan also envisages a law on child trafficking, prosecutions of child traffickers, and an increase of the minimum age of employment from 14 to 15 to comply with Mali's international commitments (HRW 2011).
- About half of Mali's children perform hazardous labor, many of whom start working as young as age five. Sectors using child labor include: agriculture, domestic labor, small-scale gold mining, commerce, and fishing. Working severely impedes children's access to education. Some children are trafficked into exploitative work situations, from within Mali and the sub-region (HRW 2011).

Women's Rights

- Women's rights are limited, where tradition dominates daily life. Nearly ¾ of all Malian women have been subjected to female genital mutilation (FGM) (SIGI 2012). UNICEF reports 85% prevalence of FGM for women between 1997 and 2010, with 76% of Malians in support of FGM (UNICEF 2010).
- FGM persists in both rural and urban areas, but is less prevalent amongst two ethnic groups living in the regions of Tombouctou and Gao. To date, there is no legislation to prohibit FGM (SIGI 2012).
- Violence against women is universally accepted, and Malian women have low levels of protection within the family. The legal minimum age for women to marry is 15 years, but they can be married at a younger age with a judge's permission. The law is often disregarded and the incidence of early marriage is extremely high (SIGI 2012).
- Polygamy is legal under Mali's Marriage Code and the teachings of Islam, the religion practiced by nearly all of the population. Just under half of Malian women live in polygamous households; the percentage is higher in rural areas than in urban society (SIGI 2012).
- Women face many constraints in securing employment, accessing food and making a living from agricultural activities (SIGI 2012, UNSC 18/01).
- Freedom of movement for women is limited as they are obliged to follow their husbands, limiting opportunities for employment. The Malian Civil Code also stipulates that a woman cannot start up a commercial business without her husband's agreement (SIGI 2012, UNSC 18/01).
- Malian women have legal rights to property ownership, but these are often restricted in practice. According to tradition, women are entitled only to the less

fertile land and often obtain a life interest in its "use", not its ownership (SIGI 2012).

- Inheritance is governed primarily by Islamic Sharia law, which discriminates against women. Daughters are entitled to receive only half the share received by sons (SIGI 2012).

Minority Rights

- Though the Malian government pledged to facilitate the socio-economic reintegration of Tuaregs and tried to enter into disarmament negotiations with the leaders of the disparate groups involved as well as with armed returnees, most negotiations collapsed. Tuareg grievances relate to under-representation in governments and militaries, marginalization within society and high rates of poverty (NATO CFS 19/02, UNSC 18/01).
- Niger, host to 23,000 refugees, is worried that its own Tuareg population may rise up in rebellion, inspired by the MNLA. A former rebellion in northern Niger led by the MNJ (Nigerien Movement for Justice), with links to the Malian Tuaregs, inflicted chaos in the north from 2007-9. Former fighters from the MNJ were among a convoy that arrived in northern Niger in September, bringing Col Gaddafi's son Saadi to safety (BBC 29/02).

Terrorism / Cross-border violence

- Risks of renewed insurgency have increased due to the likelihood that some Tuaregs, returning from Libya in 2011, brought looted weapons (NATO CFS 19/02).
- Tuareg groups benefit economically from revenues gathered from smuggling routes in northern Mali, therefore making them a stronger threat (NATO CFS 19/02).
- AQIM has reportedly maintained mobile training camps along the Algeria-Mali border, taking advantage of the porous borders of the Sahel region to move people and supplies. AQIM has reportedly been expanding operations into Mauritania, Mali, Niger and other countries in response to intensified counterterrorism crackdowns by North African governments (NATO CFS 19/02).
- Despite recent Mauritanian military offences against AQIM and a fall in successful attacks in western Mauritania, AQIM poses a security threat, particularly in Eastern desert areas near the border with Mali, where it is believed to maintain a number of bases (International SOS 01/02).
- The Sahara-Sahel strip has long been an area where illicit trafficking has thrived, with Mali, Mauritania and the Niger at the center of its major routes. The recent appearance of drugs among the items smuggled and trafficked has become a reason for increased concern, in view of its destabilizing effects on the region. The increased flow of weapons in the region is also believed to further fuel the activities of organized crime and terrorist groups. Crimes such as car theft and armed attacks have increased in the northern part of Mali as a consequence of the availability of arms (UNSC 18/01).

- Violence is ubiquitous in northern Mali where conflict over scarce water resources and shrinking grazing lands is endemic. This is exacerbated today by the prolific trade in weapons, by the fact that the region has become a transit point for drug traffickers, and by the emergence of new armed groups that kidnap Westerners ([ICRC 15/01](#)).

Judiciary System

- Police corruption is a problem, though in several cases of police brutality action by the courts has led to convictions. The president is pursuing an anti-corruption campaign that has revealed corruption within state-owned enterprises and other public bodies, and a number of senior officials have been arrested. Steps are being taken to establish accountability for public funding. Bureaucratic delays remain problematic but the situation is improving ([International SOS 01/02](#)).

Current Crisis Impact

Conflict

- Tuareg rebels are waging their biggest offensive since 2009 as they demand autonomy in Mali's north. They have launched several attacks on towns in the region since mid-January, forcing tens of thousands of people to flee their homes ([AFP 01/03](#)).
- In Mali and Niger, authorities appealed to the international community for assistance in protecting and securing their borders. Many officials stated that they did not possess the means to trace weapons in circulation, whether destined for their country or in transit ([UNSC 18/01](#)).

Kidal

- Dozens of soldiers and fighters have been killed in clashes between the Malian armed forces and the MNLA in Aguelhok since 18th of January. A few days later, photographs were circulated which showed the corpses of Malian soldiers' with their hands tied behind their backs, prompting the authorities to accuse the MNLA of carrying out extrajudicial executions, which was denied by the armed opposition. Releasing images of the dead soldiers sparked protests in Bamako on 1 and 2 February. During the demonstrations, the Malian security forces failed to prevent attacks on the homes and properties owned by Tuaregs and other ethnic groups, including Arabs and Mauritians, living in the capital. Security forces' failure to act resulted in thousands of Tuaregs and others, targeted because of their lighter skin color to flee Bamako, with many seeking refuge in neighbouring Niger, Burkina Faso and Mauritania ([AI 17/02](#)). In Aguelhok, the clashes have left many victims among the combatants and the city is said to be devastated ([MINSa 02/02](#)).
- **The Kidal area has been bombed by Malian army helicopters since 11 February.** In addition to human casualties, the attacks have killed dozens of cattle, camels and goats on which the nomadic Tuareg population relies on for livelihoods and food ([AI 24/02](#)).

- The Malian army reported **on February 13th, that soldiers and civilians had been summarily executed during a Tuareg offensive in the town of Aguelhok, Kidal.** France accused the killers of adopting Al-Qaeda-style tactics ([AFP 13/02](#)).
- **Heavy casualties were reported on February 16th** as the result of clashes between Malian forces and Tuareg rebels near the northern town of Tessalit. A Malian army convoy, backed by helicopter gunships, allegedly tried to break through rebel positions and bring supplies and reinforcement to a besieged military base about 7 km outside Tessalit when it came under attack. More than 100 rebels are dead, and 50 were taken as prisoners, though Malian Defence Ministry officials estimate another 100 prisoners were taken and 30 rebel vehicles were destroyed. It is has so far been difficult to independently verify the casualty figures ([Alertnet 16/02](#)).
- **On the 22nd of February, Malian government officials report that an air strike hit a camp, Ag Haross Kayone, home to 20 Tuareg nomadic families** who had fled conflict in Kidal. A four year old girl and a woman were killed, nine others were injured, seven of whom were women and children ([OCHA 01/03](#), [MSF 23/02](#), [NATO CFC 29/02](#)).
- **Malian soldiers battled Tuareg rebels in violent clashes in the north-west on 29th of February.** A military source said the clashes had occurred around the town of **Tessalit**. The information was confirmed by rebel sources and sources close to the Malian military. Both parties to the conflict claim control of the contested city. Numerous military resources have been mobilized ([OCHA 01/03](#), [AFP 01/03](#), [MINSa 01/03](#)). The MNLA attacked Gomakoura, but suffered heavy losses according to the Malian army. Violent fighting was reported in Tessalit on the 29th of February ([OCHA 01/03](#)).
- The heaviest fighting is occurring in **Tessalit**, in the Kidal region. It is reported that the rebels have surrounded an army base. The armed forces however have recourse to combat helicopters and planes ([MINSa 21/02](#), [UNCR 17/02](#)).
- There are also reports of conflict erupting in **Tinzawaten** near the border with Algeria ([MINSa 21/02](#), [UNCR 17/02](#)). Tuareg rebels were reported to have taken control of Tinzawaten, however, no fighting, casualties or injuries were reported. An official of the Malian army in Gao denied categorically the seizure of Tinzawaten ([AFP 08/02](#)).
- Besides attacking symbols of the state and attacking or occupying military camps, Tuareg fighters have disrupted water and electricity supplies as well as mobile phone communications. Troop reinforcements have been sent to the region ([International SOS 01/02](#)).

Tombouctou

- **On the 21st of February, Tuareg rebels of the MNLA took back control of Léré, region Tombouctou and seized Inhalil on the border with Algeria** ([MINSa 21/02](#)).

- The Tuareg offensive has so far resulted in dozens of fatalities, mostly among soldiers and rebel fighters; they have appeared careful to avoid civilian casualties ([International SOS 01/02](#)).
- **On 26th of January, MNLA seized the town of Léré in the south of the Tombouctou region. The lack of a military presence in the town meant that the group encountered no resistance.**
- The town of **Niafunké** was attacked by the MNLA, which is also believed to be surrounding Tinzwatin (Kidal region), a village near the Algeria border. According to a spokesman of the rebellion, Niafunké is now under control of the Tuareg separatist movement. Numbers concerning casualties or damage were unavailable ([MINSa 01/02](#)).
- The military sources quoted by the international press report a contrasting version: the soldiers who were stationed in Niafunké repelled the MNLA attack, which the Malian government has accused of being backed by an unspecified criminal network tied to 'Al Qaeda' ([MINSa 01/02](#)).

Gao

- The MNLA clashed with the military in Ménaka (Gao region), Aguelhok and Tessalit (Kidal region) on 19th of January allegedly killing 50 soldiers. Heavy clashes and the opening of a new front near the Mauritanian border highlight that the MNLA has launched a concerted offensive against the armed forces. Although the MNLA's success in taking Léré reflects the limited military presence and state control in the north, it remains unclear whether the group has the political and military cohesion and capability to sustain a more drawn-out campaign. Reports also indicate that mobile phone services had been disrupted in the area ([International SOS 01/02](#)).
- **40 MNLA rebels entered the city of Ménaka, close to the Nigerien border, on the 2nd of February, after the pull-out of the Malian army** ([AFP 02/02](#)).
- **Clashes between the MNLA and soldiers were reported earlier on 2nd February in the eastern town of Anderamboukane (Gao region), near the Niger border.** The military has acknowledged that it suffered casualties after deploying reinforcements to the area on 25th January following several days of fighting.

Bamako

- Northerners gathered in Bamako on 26th of February to denounce calls for autonomy by what some called "terrorists". Northerners have recently faced discrimination and attacks in Bamako and other parts of the south after rebels killed Malian soldiers, due to association with the rebels. Malians have voiced concerns that there is a risk hostilities could re-emerge if the government does not succeed in ending the rebellion soon ([Voice of America 27/02](#)).
- Mali sought to stamp out growing fury over a Tuareg rebellion in the north which has sparked protests over the government's response to the offensive and attacks on light-skinned citizens. Protests turned violent on Thursday in Bamako, Segou, and Kati prompting US calls for renewed peace talks. The conflict also

increased tensions between the different ethnic communities. Tuareg homes and properties were vandalised and angry protesters also targeted anger at Arabs and Mauritians. Calm returned on the 3rd of February but traffic was lower than usual, some 11 shops had been looted, and the remnants of burned tyres lay on the city's roads ([AFP 03/02](#)).

- The families of soldiers sent to the front have demonstrated against the authorities in Bamako demanding more resources for the armed forces to defeat the rebellion. Another protest was held in Segou, 200 km to the north, against the way the government in Bamako has been handling the crisis ([MINSa 02/02](#)).

Key priorities

Most affected areas (Based on public information only)

- Areas receiving conflict affected populations in Mali and neighbouring countries
- Kidal, especially Tessalit
- Tombouctou, especially Léré and Niafunké

Most affected groups

- Women, children and other vulnerable persons including older persons, persons with disabilities, and minorities
- Non-rebel Tuareg populations
- Communities directly affected by armed conflict.

Shelter

Background

- Houses are typically built of a mixture of earth and cement. Malian towns exhibit an eclectic mix of styles, including traditional mud huts, concrete houses, European-style villas, and mosques and government buildings in the Sudanese style ([Encyclopedia Britannica 2012](#)).
- Nearly three-fourths of the population is rural, typically living in thatched dwellings grouped together in villages of between 150 and 600 inhabitants and surrounded by cultivated fields and grazing lands. The older towns, such as Djenné, Tombouctou, Gao, and Ségou, are built in the Sudanese style of architecture, characterized by tall mud walls with wooden limbs and planks that stick out from the surface, providing a frame for the mud walls but also creating a type of ladder permitting yearly replastering; inside, a series of wooden columns holds up the roof, which has small openings to allow in some sunlight. The newer towns, such as Bamako, Kayes, San, and Kati, consist of a central business district, around which residential districts are grouped ([Encyclopedia Britannica 2012](#)).

Current Crisis Impact

- Some of the IDPs have been taken in by host families but most have built improvised shelters that are insufficient for the conditions of this semi-desert region ([ICRC 08/02](#)).
- **In Mali:** 4,000 people fled their homes from fighting 150 km north-east of Kidal in the north of Mali. Those not taken in by host families, have built improvised shelter found shelter in the bush in the semi-desert region ([ICRC 08/02](#), [IDMC 20/02](#)).
- **Malian refugees in Niger:** Most arrivals are living in the open air, with no shelter, exposed to sandy wind. They are on the edge of a desert: there are no trees, no shrubs, with no suitable resources to build shelter (
- Catholic [Agency for Overseas Development 15/02](#)
- The living conditions for Malian refugees in the northern Tillabéry region of Niger are extremely difficult with many displaced people setting up makeshift camps just outside the villages. Many of these people are women or children. Their shelter is rudimentary ([ICRC 06/02](#)). People living in these makeshift shelters, are further facing extreme temperature fluctuations between day and night ([UNHCR 14/02](#)).
- Refugees in Gaouel, Ayorou district, reportedly need more food, tents, medicine, bed nets, blankets and mats ([IRIN 27/02](#)).
- **Malian refugees in Mauretania** especially lack non-food items such as blankets, sanitary kits and mosquito nets ([OCHA 17/02](#)). In the village of Fassala, refugees have erected makeshift shelters from blankets and wood ([Solidarite 27/02](#)).
- **Malian refugees in Burkina Faso** lack basic services, in particular food, water and shelter ([UNHCR 14/02](#), [IRIN 29/02](#)).

Key priorities

Most affected areas (based on public information only)

- Areas receiving conflict affected populations in Mali and neighbouring countries.

Most affected groups

- Malian refugees in neighbouring countries.
- IDPs in Mali.
- Women, children and other vulnerable persons including older persons, persons with disabilities, and minorities.

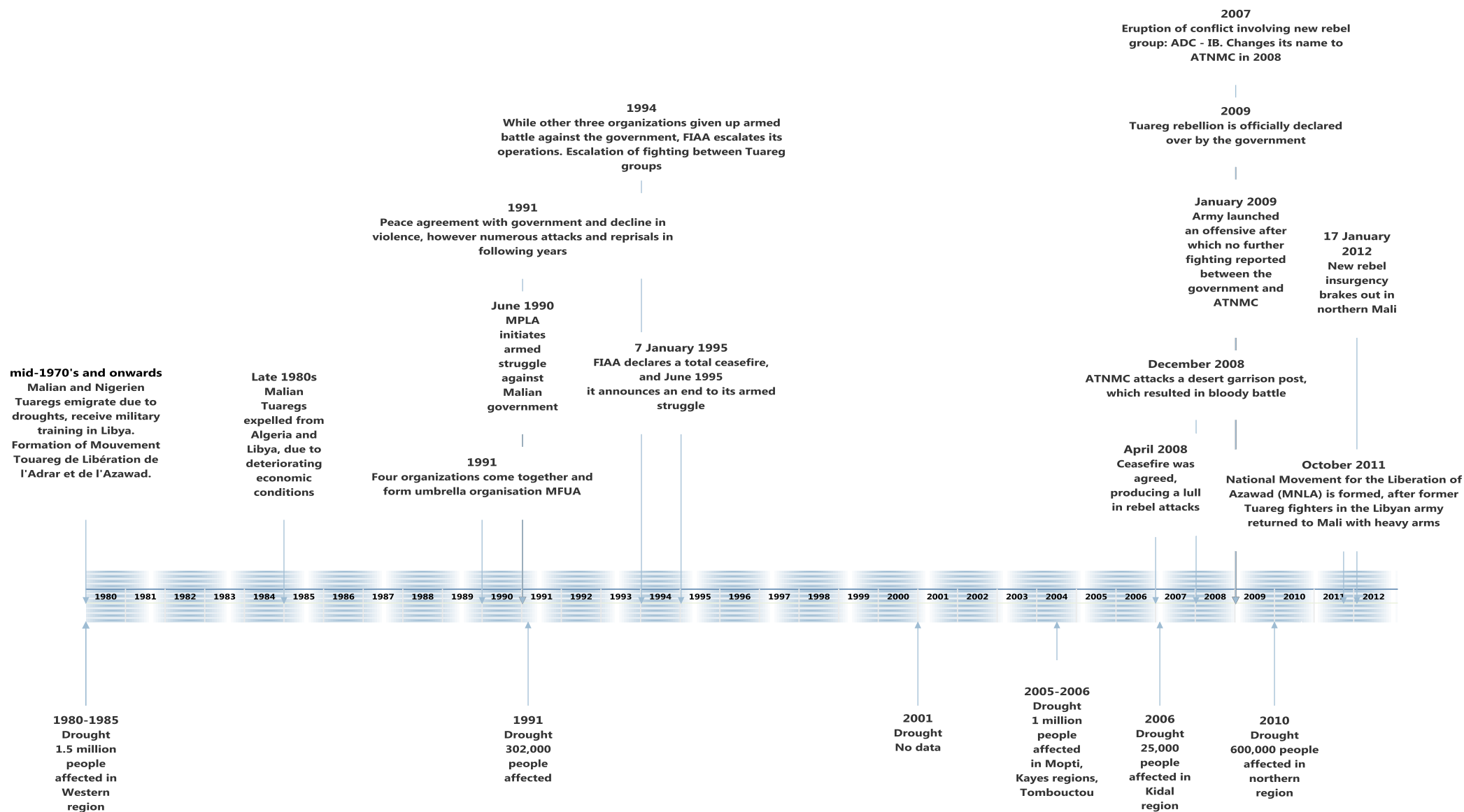
Recommendations for intervention

- Provision of emergency shelter assistance for IDP's and refugees in neighbouring countries.
- Provision of non-food items such as sleeping mats, blankets, mosquito nets and cooking sets (no exhaustive) for IDP's and refugees in neighbouring countries.

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Mali: Armed conflict and droughts 1980 – 2012



Source: EM-Dat (2012), Uppsala Conflict Data Program (2012)