



Mothers carrying home their blanket feeding ration in Niger.
WFP/Rein Skallerud

The Sahel region has some of the **highest food insecurity levels and malnutrition rates** in the world with extremely high malnutrition and child mortality rates even in non-crisis periods. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) **one child in five in the Sahel dies before the age of five**. Malnutrition is an associated cause of more than 30% of these child deaths.

A reduction in food and fodder production, high food prices and **little time to recover from the last drought in 2009/2010**, are further exacerbating this context and have left people with limited coping mechanisms. **The Mali crisis** is impacting on the vulnerability of local populations and triggering additional needs in a complex context of displacement.

The 2012 food and nutrition crisis in the Sahel threatens to affect more than 18 million people. WFP plans to assist over 10 million people through food/cash and nutrition interventions, focusing on the link between relief and recovery.

Highlights

A 14 year old mother participating in the blanket feeding programme to prevent acute malnutrition during the lean period in Kayes in Southern Mali told us:

"Before this programme, I had problems with the breastfeeding of my child, and my child didn't look healthy. Now, after the monthly ration, me and my child are doing much better." Prevention activities will continue throughout the lean season to protect the most vulnerable (pregnant women and nursing mothers and children under the age of two from acute malnutrition. (WFP/Margit Bach)

- July and August mark difficult months for vulnerable households to cope, and for children to access the appropriate diet; for many, humanitarian assistance is the main means of survival. Since January, through food security and nutrition assistance, **WFP and its partners have supported nearly 6 million children, women and men in response to the 2012 Sahel crisis.**
- Under the blanket supplementary feeding programme for the prevention of moderate acute malnutrition during the lean season, **1.3 million children and women were supported.**

In July, large food consignments are arriving to support the increased food needs in the region. Two WFP vessels are being discharged this week in the region, including the CL Antwerp carrying sorghum from India and the Impala bulk carrier bringing a Brazilian donation of rice (11,500mt).

- WFP and partners are closely monitoring the progression of locust in the region. Insufficient or late control of the swarms will have a negative impact on the upcoming harvest.



Preparation of 'oulo' leaves to make 'hako', a local dish in Gorgol region, Mauritania.
WFP/Jacqueline Seeley

Nutrition

*In the Sahel, **children, pregnant women and nursing mothers as well as adolescent girls** endure the worst consequences of crisis, facing the highest risk of **mortality linked to malnutrition** and irreversible effects on the mental and physical development of children.*

*Under **nutrition activities**, WFP has been implementing **targeted supplementary feeding (TSF) activities to treat moderate acute malnutrition** and providing rations to caretakers of children admitted for treatment of severe acute malnutrition since the start of the response. **The blanket supplementary feeding (BSF) programme is ongoing in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger**; in targeted areas, all children under the age of two and pregnant women and nursing mothers receive nutritious products during the lean season in order to prevent deterioration in their nutrition status. As part of this programme, **active screening** is conducted and children in which moderate acute malnutrition is being detected are referred to health centres for treatment.*

- **Burkina Faso:** The blanket feeding programme is ongoing; during the past week, activities were constrained by difficult access to sites because of the rain in the East and North Regions.

Treatment activities were suspended last week carry out a WHO/UNICEF vaccination campaign.

- **Cameroon:** Preparations for the start of the blanket supplementary feeding programme are ongoing: The database that will facilitate the mapping of sites and health centers supervision/supply.
- **Chad:** Blanket feeding and targeted food distributions are ongoing: To date, over 1.1 million people were supported, reaching 89 percent of the target.
- **Mali:** In June, WFP provided nutritional support to more than 80,000 children under the age of two, equivalent to 85 percent of the planned number. In addition, some 3,000 pregnant women and nursing mothers were supported through this activity. The programme to prevent acute malnutrition is now ongoing in all five southern regions of Mali. In Segou and Sikasso regions, the programme has recently started; last week, a nutrition mission to brief the cooperating partner World Vision on monitoring and reporting was carried out.

Following discovery of cholera cases in Gao, a Cholera Task force was established at the beginning of July. To date, the National Health Department reported that three people have died and 35 others were infected by cholera in the city of Gao, northern Mali. Cholera has broken out in Wabaria, a suburb of Gao on the Niger River. WFP is closely monitoring the situation, as it may have a direct impact on people's nutrition status.



MUAC screening under the blanket feeding programme in Niger for referral for treatment, if necessary. WFP/Vigno Hounkanli

- **Mauritania:** Training of implementing partners on how to set up and manage the new nutrition rehabilitation centers in the regions of Hodh Echargui, Hodh el Gharbi, Assaba and Tagant was completed. NGO partners plan the set-up of the rest of the 151 new centres this week.

The results from the malnutrition screening that took place in Nouakchott in June indicate the need to continue with the 104 existing CRENAMs and to set-up nine new sites. Training for the national food security commission (CSA) staff and the community volunteers is planned for the end of July. The new CRENAMs will be established by August.

- **Niger:** During the reporting period 9-15 July, food security and nutrition activities were underway. 1,900 mt food were dispatched for 188,500 beneficiaries. Dispatches are being staggered among partners as food commodities become available.

Under the Blanket Supplementary Feeding programme, WFP dispatched 970 mt of SuperCereal and fortified oil, allowing operational partners to reach 118,000 nursing mothers.

For targeted supplementary feeding activities aimed at treating children with moderate acute malnutrition, WFP dispatched 54.5 mt of SuperCereal plus to nutritional centres to support the urgent needs of 9,100 malnourished children.

- **Senegal:** Training for the implementation of activities and the collection of M&E data is ongoing. Supervisors are being trained in Diourbel on 18 July and in Matam subsequently. So far, 323 supervisors, 368 storekeepers and 280 community volunteers have been trained.

Sub Office focal points and the ARD (Agence Régionale de Développement) monitoring cell are being trained by WFP on post-distribution monitoring for targeted food distributions and C&V in Kaolack on 18 and 19 July. M&E focal points will then train PDM enumerators. Data collection will start on 26 July.

- **The Gambia:** Arrangements are underway for the implementation of the blanket supplementary feeding programme for children under five in targeted districts. Training for the cooperating partners was held on 10 and 11 July. Trainees include the National Disaster Management Agency's (NDMA) Regional Disaster Management Coordinators (RDMCs), the National Nutrition Agency (NaNA) and community development workers as well as WFP Field Monitor Assistants (FMAs). The trained partners are currently conducting sensitizations and mobilization of the communities for BSFP. Following training, registration and screening of the planned 25,000 children under 5 is undergoing in the targeted communities. Monthly food distributions to registered children will begin 25 July.

Food security

WFP's food security activities include conditional activities (food and cash/voucher for assets), as well as unconditional targeted food and cash/voucher distributions implemented in a phased approach, and based on the seasonal calendar of communities.

- **Cameroon:** 20,885 beneficiaries were supported through the drought response which started on 11 June.
- **Chad:** As a result of the discussions between WFP, its cooperating partner, beneficiaries and local authorities, three distribution sites in the department of Abtouyour under Mongo FO were relocated due to inaccessibility issues.

Blanket feeding and targeted food distributions are ongoing: To date, over 1.1 million people were supported, reaching 89 percent of the target.

- **Mali:** In June, through its first round cash transfers, WFP supported 35,625 people (12,935 in Nioro and Diema cercles of Kayes region and 22,690 in Banamba and Nara cercles of Koulikoro region). The second round of in July will build on lessons learned from the first round's implementation.

Cash for work will begin in August after completion of the exercise in Segou and Sikasso to present the activities, the standards for ration calculation and monitoring tools to the partners.

- **Mauritania:** An agreement with CSA, the Government partner, was reached to launch the first cash transfer benefitting 10,466 households. A targeting exercise will be carried out to include 2,000 additional families.

For the rural cash transfer programme, a meeting with the implementing partners was held on 9 July 2012 to exchange experience and lessons learned on the first transfer. The second cash transfer has started this week. To distribute MRO 225,000,000 in all targeted regions.

In the region of Hodh El Gharbi, joint WFP/CSA food distributions started in May 2012 and are ongoing through July. Upon completion, this activity will have covered the needs of 8,245 households (41,210 beneficiaries) for a period of three months.

By mid-July, the first round of deliveries of wheat to village cereal banks was completed. 5,500 mt were distributed in eight regions across the country to cover the needs of some 230,000 beneficiaries for a period of two months.

Food dispatches in the village cereal banks are scheduled every two months, while distributions from the SAVS to beneficiaries are done on a monthly basis. The next WFP food dispatch is scheduled to start early August.

Niger: Under the unconditional cash assistance programme, 65,380 beneficiaries were supported with USD 607,800 last week.

Discussions with partners on lessons learned of the first phase of the response have started for which WFP is conducting workshops in Maradi, Tahoua and Zinder. Sub-offices are currently organizing workshops with partners for the cash transfer programme. In addition, review and analysis of June distributions with implementing cash partners in urban areas began on 16 July.



Cash for work participants in Niger. WFP/Rein Skullerud

- **Senegal:** Targeting and beneficiary lists were completed in Matam on 16 July. Distribution of food vouchers is expected to start on 25 July.
- **The Gambia:** The targeted food distribution for West Coast Region began on 10 July and for Upper River Region on 14 July. Planned targeted food distributions for the remaining three regions are scheduled to begin on 16 and 20 July. Over 100,000 beneficiaries are expected to receive assistance in July. Training of the five cooperating partners (CPs) was completed.

Support to Malian refugees and internally displaced in Mali:

- **Burkina Faso:** In July, nearly 6,000 refugees have received food support. Since the beginning of the crisis, 36,308 refugees were assisted.
- **Mali:** To date, WFP has delivered food and nutrition assistance for an estimated 50,300 conflict-affected beneficiaries in Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal.

WFP now has concluded agreements with four cooperating partners in Timbuktu (CARE, Africare, Handicap International, and Islamic Relief) and four cooperating partners in Gao and Kidal (ACF, OXFAM, ACTED and NCA), and scale-up of interventions is being planned. Targeted food distributions for internally displaced people are currently ongoing in Djenné cercle of Mopti.

Mauritania: The July distribution has started this week, reaching already 70,000 beneficiaries out of a plan of 90,000 people. A complementary distribution may be requested by UNHCR to cover the new arrivals that are registered this week.

A joint WFP/CSA mission for village targeting and beneficiary identification is taking place this week in Hodh Echargui (refugee area) for food distributions to host communities affected by the influx of refugees. 300 households in the Bassikounou area have been identified as potentially vulnerable; this list is undergoing verification by the local authorities.

Food distributions for the host communities will target 30,000 beneficiaries in the localities of Bassikounou, Amourj, Adelbarkrou, Fassala, Megve and Dhar. Distributions for the host communities are expected to commence in the course of July for a tonnage of 2034 mt, covering the needs for a period of four months.

Provisional results from a nutrition survey conducted in the M'Bera refugee camp by the Ministry of Health/UNICEF (funded by UNICEF/ WFP) have found a global acute malnutrition rate of 20% (14% moderate acute malnutrition, 5.9% severe acute malnutrition).

Improvement of the infrastructure of four CRENAMs in the camp is due to start upon arrival of new equipment from Nouakchott (temporary storage sheds, latrines, drinking water storages).

The construction of two additional CRENAMs, expected to be operational by end of July, is underway. The sites have been identified and two wiikhalls will be mounted as a temporary shelter. Eight CRENAM volunteers will be selected and trained by ADICOR in collaboration with UNHCR and UNICEF.

- **Niger:** In support of 1,700 refugees, 29.9 mt food were dispatched to implementing partners on refugee sites of Ayorou, Tondikiwindi, Banibangou, Abala and Tillia. In parallel, 34.3 mt of SuperCereal plus were dispatched, covering the special nutritional needs of 5,700 refugee children under the age of two.

Food security, nutrition and market assessments

- According to the **3 July FAO Desert Locust Bulletin**, adult groups and small swarms migrated from outbreak area along both sides of the Algerian-Libyan border to the northern Sahel in Mali and Niger. Breeding is expected in northern Mali and Niger, giving rise of hopper groups and bands in July and adult groups and swarms in August. Unless controlled, the infestation is likely to continue to increase and threaten crops and pastures.
- **Markets:** Compared to June, millet prices increased in Ouagadougou (+4%), decreased in Bamako (-4%), and remained stable in Niamey (albeit at high levels); these prices remain well above their level in July 2011 (+74% in Ouagadougou, +90% in Bamako and +42% in Niamey). Interventions (subsidized sales, tax breaks for rice imports, targeted food distributions) seem to be limiting price increases.

Logistics

In addition to regular logistics operations, significant efforts in augmenting WFP's capacity for shipping, transporting, handling and storing food for the Sahel response across the region are being made through a regional Special Operation. An Emergency Telecommunications component for Mali, where the ETC project is currently being implemented (see section ETC), is also included in the project. The UN Humanitarian Air Service (UNHAS) is operational in Chad, Mali, Niger and Mauritania providing a vital link to the humanitarian community to access remote sites.

- **The rainy season has started in many locations.** So far, it has not affected operations at large scale, but started causing short downtime on rainy days. In Senegal, some areas in Kolda, Saint Louis and Matam regions are already inaccessible. Food has been preventively pre-positioned in these areas - when possible- for a two months distribution.

In Chad, the prepositioning of food is almost completed for the southern camps. Despite the operational constraints and transporter's delays the operation will be completed on time. The supply of food for prepositioning in the northern camps is still ongoing. The Sudan corridor will be suspended in the coming days as transit will not be passable due to the rains. 20,000 mt of food will be kept under transporters' custody in Sudan until the road reopens.

- **UNHAS** continues to operate from Nouakchott to Kaedi, Kiffa, Aioun and Nema. The rehabilitation works of the crew's accommodation are in progress and expected to be completed within 10-14 days allowing for relocation of the second aircraft base and hub to Nema and the resumption of flights to Bassiknou. In June, UNHAS flew 252 passengers.
- **Nigeria procurement:** The WFP team in Nigeria, deployed to support the procurement operation of 30,000mt of Sorghum, continues working closely with the Nigerian's National Food Reserve Agency. The three silos of Minna Ogoja and Makoudi will provide Niger and Chad operations with much needed cereals. The first convoy of 13 trucks (390 mt) of Nigerian Sorghum for Chad is en route and currently at the Nigerian-Cameroon border under customs clearance. Deliveries to Niger are ongoing, and so far 5000 mt have left the silos.
- **In July, large food consignments are arriving to Tema, Cotonou and Douala to support the increased food needs in the region.** Two WFP vessels are being discharged this week, the CL Antwerp bringing a total of 17,700 mt of much needed sorghum from India and the Impala bulk carrier bringing a 11,500 mt Brazilian donation of rice. In addition, the regular flow of containerised cargo continues to arrive in the region. In July, 69,000 mt is expected to arrive and transit in the West African ports. The inland transport of the consignments arriving in July will

require 2,300 truck movements. From the ports to the final delivery points, the drivers embark on a 10-30 days journey and cross several countries.

Logistics Cluster:

- A Logs Cluster Coordinator arrived in Bamako this week, and held a cluster meeting with partners on 19 July.
- Eight WFP Mobile Storage Units are undergoing customs clearance procedures in Mali, of which two will be at the disposal of the logistics cluster for humanitarian response.
- A contingency plan for fuel is under development between the logistics cluster and Total in Mali.
- A Logistics Capacity Assessment is under development for Mauritania, and will be made available to partners in the coming weeks.

Emergency Telecommunications (ETC)

- **Mali:** The recruitment of five radio operators for the Mopti radio room is ongoing in Bamako. The repeater installation in Mopti for UN and NGOs was finalized and is now available for use. The COMCEN - Radio room installation in Mopti was finalized while the programming/configuration of VHF/HF radios is ongoing. The equipment installation for COMMON Data services in Mopti will take place as of 16 July.

Resourcing Update



WFP partners with the Government of Australia to assist vulnerable people across the Sahel. The above features Australian support in Niger. WFP/Rein Skullerud

WFP's requirements for the 2012 Sahel Crisis, including country-specific and regional Special Operations, amount to USD 888 million. Contributions received so far total USD 528 million leaving a funding shortfall of USD 363 million (See table below). WFP is grateful for the critical support provided by multilateral donors, as well as of Andorra, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Belgium, Canada, the United Nations Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Denmark, the European Commission, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, the Netherlands, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, South Africa, Switzerland, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, Sweden and the United States.

This week, WFP welcomed the generous donations of the UN CERF, the European Commission and Belgium to operations in the region.

Of the total shortfall, US\$ 115 million is urgently prioritized to address pipeline shortfalls for the next three months, of which USD 31 million is needed for cash-based interventions. As of July, WFP faces critical shortfalls in Niger and Burkina Faso and calls on additional donations to support WFP's regional emergency operation in support of Malian refugees and IDPs, also critically under-funded (75% shortfall). Without additional funding WFP's ability to reach and assist the most vulnerable populations in need will be compromised.

- WFP has already advanced \$206 million through internal **advance financing mechanisms to reduce lead times** and provide timely assistance to drought and conflict-affected people. WFP urgently needs new contributions to continue to use such mechanisms and deliver humanitarian assistance.
- Special logistics operations are instrumental to procure and dispatch large volumes of humanitarian assistance to people. WFP calls on its partners to strengthen their support as logistics operations remain half-funded, requiring some USD 19.6 million until the end of the year. Most specifically, the Regional and Mauritania Special Operations are critically under-funded (respectively 85 and 100%).

WFP Sahel Crisis Regional Response Framework: Beneficiaries and requirements

WFP Sahel crisis Response: Overview and Requirements					
Countries	Beneficiaries (million)	Requirements (million US\$)	Funding confirmed (million US\$)	Shortfall (million US\$)	Shortfall (%)
Nutrition and Food Security Interventions					
Burkina Faso	1.17	51.1	25.4	25.7	50%
Cameroon	0.26	22.7	12.8	9.9	44%
Chad	1.52	129.9	134	-	0%
The Gambia	0.21	12.1	7.5	4.6	38%
Mali	1.02	61.9	55.1	6.8	11%
Mauritania	0.57	44.5	30.4	14.1	32%
Niger	4.18	391.1	182.2	208.9	53%
Regional EMOP	0.56	78.9	19.8	59.1	75%
Senegal	0.86	52.2	37.6	14.6	28%
SUB TOTAL	10.3	844.5	504.8	343.8	40.7%
Special Operations					
Chad UNHAS		17.6	12.8	4.7	27%
Mauritania UNHAS		5.0	1.7	3.2	65%
Mauritania Logistics Augmentation		5.0	-	5	100%
Niger / Mali UNHAS		9.0	8	1.0	11%
Regional Logistics Augmentation		6.6	1	5.6	85%
SUB TOTAL		43.2	23.6	19.6	45%
GRAND TOTAL RRF		887.8	528.4	363.4	41%

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