

MALI

2023 IFRC network country plan

Funding Requirement **CHF 19.8M**

Appeal number **MAAML002**

In support of the Mali Red Cross



11

National Society branches



218

National Society staff



8,000

National Society volunteers

People to be reached



350,000

Ongoing emergency operations



26,000

Climate and environment



1.1M

Disasters and crises



175,000

Health and wellbeing



14,000

Migration and displacement



34,000

Values, power and inclusion

IFRC network multiyear focus

Emergency response

- Food insecurity

Longer term needs

- Protracted displacement
- Disaster risk management • Livelihoods • Health
- Water, sanitation and hygiene
- Climate change adaptation

Capacity development

- Internal systems strengthening
 - Digital transformation
 - Resource mobilization

Key country data

Population **20.9M**

INFORM Severity rating **very high**

Long-term Climate Risk Index **121**

Human Development Index rank **186**

Population below poverty level **41.9%**

Hazards



Food insecurity



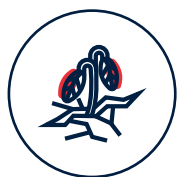
Conflict



Population movement



Floods



Drought

Funding requirements

Total 19.8M* CHF

Through the IFRC

9.6M CHF

Through Participating National Societies

10.2M CHF

IFRC Breakdown

5M CHF

Ongoing emergency operations

Longer term needs

594,000 CHF

Climate and environment

1.5M CHF

Disasters and crises

1.6M CHF

Health and wellbeing

227,000 CHF

Migration and displacement

379,000 CHF

Values, power and inclusion

260,000 CHF

Enabling local actors

**These figures reflect a reduction from the initial funding requirements included in the 2023 Global Plan*

Ongoing emergencies

MDRML016

Mali Hunger Crisis

Folded under MGR60001 Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal

Participating National Societies

Belgium Red Cross

British Red Cross

Canadian Red Cross

Danish Red Cross

Luxembourg Red Cross

The Netherlands Red Cross

Qatar Red Crescent

Spanish Red Cross



NATIONAL SOCIETY PROFILE

The Mali Red Cross is a non-profit humanitarian organization, founded in 1965 and recognized as a public utility by the Government of the Republic of Mali in the same year. The National Society works under the direction of the Ministry of Public Health and is recognized as the only national auxiliary to the public authorities. It was admitted as a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) in 1969.

The Mali Red Cross implements humanitarian and development actions throughout the country, carried out in accordance with the seven Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The National Society has representation in the 11 regional capitals, including Bamako, Gao, Kayes, Kidal, Koulikoro, Ménaka, Mopti, Ségou, Sikasso, Taoudéni and Timbuktu. It has approximately 200 staff and 8,000 community volunteers across the country.

The high-level priorities of the Mali Red Cross are to:

- Strengthen its health and nutrition services, including community health, maternal and child health, malnutrition control, and surveillance and response to epidemics
- Strengthen its crisis and disaster preparedness and management system
- Strengthen the security and resilience of communities living in vulnerable areas through support in the construction of sustainable shelters
- Improve access to water and promote improved sanitation and hygiene
- Enhance the resilience of vulnerable people by strengthening livelihoods and addressing food insecurity

- Take into account the climate and environmental crises in the implementation of programmes
- Take into account the needs of displaced populations (migrants, internally displaced persons, refugees, returnees)
- Integrate protection, gender and inclusion in the implementation of programmes
- Systematically include community engagement and accountability in the implementation of projects and programmes
- Promote the fundamental principles and humanitarian values, taking into account the current economic and socio-political issues

The Mali Red Cross strives to focus on people most in need, which includes vulnerable households, people affected by disasters and emergencies, and migrants, refugees and internally displaced people. It gives a particular focus to people with specific vulnerabilities, such as children and young people who are vulnerable or at risk, women and women's groups, and people with disabilities.

The Mali Red Cross relies on its decentralized structure with operational regional committees and a network of qualified volunteers to assist communities, including those in difficult to access areas due to the conflict in Mali and logistical constraints. Security remains a challenge and the National Society is not immune to incidents, experiencing major incidents in 2022, with two cases of staff deaths. The Mali Red Cross places great emphasis on reinforcing the security and safety of its staff and volunteers for safe humanitarian access and safe interventions for the most vulnerable populations.

IFRC NETWORK ACTION IN 2023

Joint situational analysis

Mali covers an area of 1,240,190 km², 51% of which is desert or semi-desert. It is subject to random, irregular and insufficient rainfall. The country faces several threats related to the consequences of climate change. These include floods, pollution and quasi-cyclical droughts with adverse consequences on the health of the population.

The population of Mali is estimated at 21.5 million (UNFPA) in 2022. It is predominantly rural (84% of the population) and is characterized by a young population (more than 48% of the population are under 15 years old), and the slight predominance of males (50.19% men). Beyond this youthful face, it is also characterized by its high economic growth rate, around 3.1% in 2021

(World Bank), mainly driven by agriculture. However, the outlook for 2022 was not expected to be good, and Mali is expected to return to recession, mainly due to sanctions for much of 2022. It is also characterized by its unequal population distribution throughout the country (average density is 16.79 inhabitants/km²), and with a population growth of 3.36%. This high population growth is based, in particular, on high fertility (the fertility rate is 5.5 in 2022), making Mali the country with the second highest fertility in the world.

In Mali, agriculture is the main source of employment and income, with 60% of the active population involved in agriculture, and contributing 30% of economic growth. The gross domestic product remains dominated by agriculture (30%) and the informal sector. The performance of the agricultural sector is highly volatile due to its high exposure to climate change. Only 4% of is used for agriculture and livestock, or about 4.7 million hectares. The northern Sudanian zone and the southern Sahelian zone, which cover about 17 million hectares, have a fairly high fertility potential. In recent years, Mali has suffered many droughts. Due to the increasing overexploitation of natural resources (land, water, biodiversity), the populations engaged in these activities are particularly vulnerable, leading to the accentuation of desertification, poverty and food insecurity. Floods and droughts are annual events that result in the loss of life and property, and are the main risks in the country. In addition to these main risks, extreme climatic events (torrential rains, rising surface water levels, storms) are increasingly violent and frequent, leading to the drying up of rivers, the appearance of many disease vectors, including malaria, and the displacement of populations.

Administratively, Mali has 11 regions, 19 urban communes and 684 rural communes. Local authorities (circles, regions, municipalities) are autonomous entities with their own legal personality, powers and resources. They are managed by bodies elected in accordance with the principles of free administration. As entities, the regions and the municipalities are operational, and regional councils, city and municipal councils are in place.

Recent years have been marked by an exacerbation of violence in the north, and intercommunal conflicts in the centre (in Segou and Mopti regions). This has led to

a significant deterioration in the security and humanitarian context. The persistence of insecurity in these areas has led to population displacement and increased humanitarian access constraints, in a complex emergency environment characterized by an insufficient, and sometimes total lack of, infrastructure and basic social services. In 2019, the scale of the crisis was further accentuated with the widespread expansion of violence and insecurity throughout the centre of the country, with a transnational dimension in the Liptako Gourma area. Populations are exposed to increasing crime, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and the presence of extremely violent armed groups and community-based conflicts. The deterioration of the security situation prevents the population of the affected areas from having access to quality basic social services and has a very great impact on income-generating activities, due to threats, intimidation and abuses by armed groups, preventing populations from freely carrying out socio-economic activities.

The security situation in the central Sahel (Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali) has accelerated forced displacement, both within the country and to neighbouring countries. The security situation, particularly in the tri-border regions, is exacerbating the already alarming levels of food insecurity in some areas. More than 5.8 million people are uprooted across the Sahel, and most arrive in communities with already limited resources. The number of forcibly displaced people in the central Sahel increased by 30% between 2020 and 2021, totaling two million internally displaced people and 132,000 refugees. In Mali, more than 400,000 people are internally displaced, an increase of 30% compared to 2021. Many internally displaced persons have also been forced to flee several times, further exacerbating their vulnerability, with numerous threats at national borders.

In the coming decades, the expected increase in the number of extreme weather events, as well as the high rate of growth of the Malian population, is likely to contribute to an increase in the number of people leaving rural areas to more than 130,000 per year by 2040, 10 times more than during the 2000s (Dimitri Defrance, Esther Delesalle and Flore Gubert, 2020).

Ongoing emergency response

For real-time information on emergencies, see IFRC GO page [Mali](#)

- Appeal number: [MDRML016](#) - Mali Hunger Crisis, folded under [MGR60001](#) Africa Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal
- Appeal launch date: 7 July 2022
- Appeal end date: 31 December 2023
- People affected: 1.2 M
- People to be assisted: 350,000

The Mali Red Cross has been responding to the food security crisis in the country through an IFRC Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) allocation since July 2022. Multiple Famine Early Warning Systems Networks (FEWS NET) publications were forecasting a deterioration of the food security situation and the risk of famine up to September 2022. The Harmonized Framework forecast for June August 2023, stated that 1,236,406 people were predicted to be in phase 3 and in need of emergency support in order to mitigate the risk of falling into the critical phase and acute hunger. The World Food Programme's Market Monitoring/Food Price Developments also revealed higher prices for all cereals in June 2022 compared to the previous year and the five-year average. Added to this is a variation in the prices of basic food products (excluding cereals) between June and July 2022.

As a result of the deteriorating situation, Mali is now one of the priority countries supported by the IFRC's regional [Africa Hunger Crisis](#) Emergency Appeal. Launched in October 2022, this Appeal scales up the IFRC's immediate and life-saving response to the food insecurity crisis currently affecting the region. Country prioritization is based on a multi-variate analysis, which includes the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) and focuses on those communities experiencing a crisis or worse level of acute food insecurity (IPC phase 3). Details of the geographic areas covered will be provided in each country plan of action. See the 'Disasters and crises' section for more information on food insecurity in Mali.

At a time of intense global humanitarian need and competing demands, sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing one of the most alarming food crises in decades. Approximately 146 million people – a figure approaching half the population of the United States – are suffering

from acute food insecurity and require urgent humanitarian assistance.

Hunger is one of the most undignified sufferings of humanity and has severe repercussions on African communities who face multiple shocks, compromising their lives, livelihoods and prospects. Driven by a combination of insecurity and armed conflict, extreme weather events, climate variability and negative macroeconomic conditions, the food crisis is distinct in its magnitude and geographic scope. As such, it requires an exceptional effort by all concerned institutions and states to address the causes.

Short description of the emergency operational strategy

Supported by the IFRC, African and other participating National Societies have developed an emergency response with an emphasis on meeting the urgent food, nutrition, and water, sanitation and hygiene needs of the most vulnerable people affected by the food crisis. It also aims to protect people's livelihoods while laying the foundations for building resilience.

The four operational pillars are defined as follows:

- **Cash transfers for safety nets and safeguarding livelihoods:** improve food access and maintain consumption levels through the scale-up of emergency food assistance, primarily through cash transfers to poor households experiencing acute food insecurity
- **Health and nutrition:** provide nutrition surveillance, education and health promotion
- **Water, sanitation and hygiene:** provide safe water directly, rehabilitate water supply infrastructure, provide in-kind water treatment and storage products, and enable cash or voucher assistance
- **Cross-cutting sectors, protection and prevention:** implement community engagement and accountability, and protection, gender and inclusion initiatives. These are critical and transversal components that ensure operations value all community members as equal partners with diverse needs, priorities and preferences

The National Society plays an important role in enabling and facilitating access to the services and goods provided by the Government and other actors. Targeted groups are acutely food-insecure households struggling to meet their basic needs. In-country geographic

targeting of affected regions and smaller administrative units is based on the IPC's Cadre Harmonisé data and other recognized references. When this is completed, households are targeted based on food security and economic criteria agreed upon by the community or, ideally, developed jointly with them.

Within these food-insecure and poor households, targeting can be further refined by identifying social categories. Protection, gender and inclusion considerations are incorporated into the targeting process to provide an understanding and response to individuals and groups based on their specific risks, needs and concerns.

Longer-term strategy

The Hunger Crisis Emergency Appeal, part of the IFRC Pan-African Zero Hunger Initiative, informs the longer-term food security and livelihood plans of National Societies in Africa. The Appeal takes a holistic approach, combining rapid support for food security and livelihoods with its long-term strategy of working towards zero hunger and sustainable development.

The regional Emergency Appeal focuses on responding to the immediate needs of the people affected, and its approach facilitates the transition to longer-term programming. Upon completion of the Appeal, the IFRC and the National Society will continue their long-term work through the Zero Hunger Initiative programming. This will be integrated into the Mali Red Cross country plan 2024.

Strategic priorities

Climate and environmental crises

Mali's diverse and varied geography means that it is exposed to a wide range of environmental risks (hydrometeorological and geophysical) that are directly impacted and exacerbated by climate change, and in all regions of the country. Indeed, every year, Mali faces challenges related to climate and environmental crises, such as droughts, floods and high winds, leading to food insecurity, malnutrition, displacement and epidemics. Poor economic development, insufficient arable land and poverty make Mali particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change.¹

Climatic hazards, particularly droughts, are one of the main factors in the food and nutrition crisis in Mali. The impact of climate change on water supply and agriculture is expected to increase the risk of malnutrition and hunger in Mali. Declining agricultural production, especially during droughts, will exacerbate food insecurity and malnutrition (Nagarajan, 2020). The regions affected by droughts are mainly Kayes, Koulikoro, Mopti, Ségou, Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal, and can affect about two million people, although this number can be considerably higher during years of severe drought.

The biggest floods usually occur due to intense rains from July to October. According to the Directorate General of Civil Protection, the biggest floods have occurred fifteen times in the last 30 years, each time

affecting between 10,000 and more than 45,000 people (PreventionWeb, 2014). The main exposed areas are the regions of Timbuktu, Gao, Mopti, Ségou, Kayes, Koulikoro and Sikasso (CGES, 2011), but also Bamako. In rural areas, flooding is also exacerbated by deforestation, and poor agricultural practices lead to soil erosion and siltation. Beyond the immediate causes mentioned above, certain structural and underlying causes contribute to aggravating this climatic phenomenon. The structural causes include the following: land degradation, silting up of rivers, insufficient drainage systems, non-compliance with urban plans, lack of sanitation plans and poor compliance with the regulations in force in the country. As for the underlying causes, they are essentially the low awareness and knowledge of the population, poverty and lack of awareness of risks. According to some analyses, floods are among the most frequent disasters in Mali and the resulting population displacement is one of the most visible examples of displacement linked to natural hazards. Every year, around 75,000 people are affected by floods, but data and profiling of people affected by natural hazard displacement are not systematically collected.

Recurrent flooding increases the risk of waterborne diseases due to increased water stagnation, water contamination, and damage to hygiene and sanitation infrastructure in the country (Zamudio, 2016). Flooding also exacerbates widespread pathogens and pathogenic

1 The analysis for this section has been supported by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre: <https://www.climatecentre.org/>

contamination of shallow aquifers (due to inadequate sanitation systems), which are the main source of drinking water in Mali (USAID, 2021). In addition, droughts reduce the amount of water available for hygiene and sanitation, increasing the risk of disease transmission. The challenge of low coverage of drinking water and sanitation services in the country (with additional risks of contamination due to flooding and water shortages during dry seasons) is likely to increase the risk of diarrheal diseases (Nagarajan, 2020; USAID, 2018).

Heat-related mortality is expected to increase as temperatures rise (Tomalka et al., 2020). Higher temperatures are expected to lengthen the transmission season and increase the geographic reach of diseases such as meningitis and malaria (Zamudio, 2016). Meningitis is particularly a problem in southern Mali, mainly in the dry season. Meningitis is expected to increase as the warmer, drier climate increases dust and moisture (USAID, 2018). In contrast, malaria infections are expected to decrease as temperatures exceed the thermal threshold of Anopheles mosquitoes (USAID, 2018). However, in southern Mali, the risk of malaria will increase due to the high frequency of flooding (Tomalka et al., 2020).

Climate impacts can also affect mental health, especially when it comes to the trauma associated with the loss of crops and other climate-sensitive sources of income and livelihoods (Hallegatte et al., 2016).

Two-thirds of Mali's territory is desert, and the desert is advancing about 7 kilometres per year, according to estimates, causing the reduction of vegetation cover, the decline in soil productivity, the silting up of rivers, environmental migrations and conflicts over natural resources. Fighting desertification in the Sahel, and in Mali in particular, has become a major challenge to secure people's habitats and protect biodiversity.

Main actions and areas of support

The Mali Red Cross is part of the IFRC [Global Climate Resilience Programme](#), which aims to foster an unprecedented scale-up in locally-led climate-smart disaster risk reduction and adaptation efforts to prevent and reduce climate-related disaster impacts, and build community-level climate resilience. The programme aims to support 500 million people in 100 of the most climate vulnerable countries, focusing on the least supported and marginalized communities. This holistic, multi-year programmatic approach consists of four operational pillars: (1) scaling up climate-smart disaster risk reduction, anticipatory action and preparedness; (2) reducing the public health impacts of climate change;

(3) addressing climate displacement; and (4) enabling climate-resilient livelihoods and ecosystem services.

The focus of the Mali Red Cross and IFRC network will be on reducing the current and future humanitarian impacts of climate and environmental crises and helping people adapt and thrive. This means that climate change adaptation and mitigation are at the heart of our collective agenda, integrating climate risk management into all programmes, operations and advocacy, including nature-based solutions and risk management by developing early warning mechanisms at community level. It will be important to link humanitarian action with development (the NEXUS approach), to build community resilience. In 2023, a focus will also be placed on climate-smart programming.

The Mali Red Cross will contribute to combating climate change and environmental degradation through the planting and maintenance of trees at the national level (green wall), as Mali suffers from desertification and land degradation due to adverse weather conditions and poor land use practices. This is aligned with the IFRC Pan African initiative on Tree Planting and Care and also contributes to the initiation of "Greening Africa" in Mali.

As part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between DG ECHO and IFRC, and with support from the Danish Red Cross, Luxembourg Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross, the Mali Red Cross will assess the impact of its humanitarian projects on the environment. Based on this assessment, using the Green Response Quick Guide, the National Society will adapt its programmes to reduce environmental impact in all its interventions.

Communities and stakeholders working in collaboration with the Mali Red Cross will also be trained on specific actions related to climate change mitigation, with the aim of establishing awareness and good practices that ensure that climate change mitigation measures remain suitable and sustainable. This will include adaptation of agricultural techniques including tree planting and better water management that will allow the development of market gardening. An important component will be the inclusion of women and, in particular, young women, so that they can cope with climate impacts and their needs are taken into account. For example, they can be trained in techniques and knowledge in the field of agroforestry.

Disasters and crises

Ranked 11th out of 191 countries by the Inform Risk Index 2022 (DRMKC, 2022), Mali is one of the highest risk countries in the world.

Over the years, Mali has experienced a history of repeated disasters, often causing deaths and population movements within and outside the country. These disasters have always had a negative impact on the economy and have created tensions between the local population and the various waves of displaced persons and refugees. Private sector investment and service delivery by a weak public sector, as well as the lack of resources to meet growing needs in the health, water, sanitation, education, food security, livelihoods, shelter and protection sectors, have continued to affect the needs of vulnerable people. As communities are not fully aware of the multi-hazards and other climate-related risks, and which are different from one region to another, they are not able to adopt coping mechanisms and other adequate techniques to protect themselves and enhance their resilience.

Mali faces major security problems, especially in the three-border area. With regards to food security, it is estimated that at least 200,000 people are neglected by humanitarian services due to access problems. Access remains very complex, especially at borders, where non-state military groups operate.

Food security and household livelihoods in Mali deteriorated severely in 2022, due to the combination of several factors: the deterioration of the security situation leading to forced displacement, a deterioration of livelihoods and economic conditions, the persistent socio-economic impacts of COVID-19 (especially on cross-border exchanges and migrant remittances), and soaring food prices. The security situation in the country makes it difficult to access locality-specific data and makes it very difficult for actors to respond to the growing and widespread food and nutrition crisis in the country. According to available data, the most affected areas are concentrated in the regions of Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao, which are inaccessible and difficult to access due to insecurity, and Koulikoro and Ségou, where access for humanitarian actors is somewhat more manageable.

The humanitarian needs in Mali are not only due to specific shocks or events, but also stem to a large extent from the conditions of underdevelopment in the country, so that in many cases they are independent of the occurrence of a shock.

Main actions and areas of support

The Mali Red Cross, with a strong presence across the country, has access to the entire territory because of the respect it commands when it provides humanitarian aid through its network of community volunteers. It

responds to the multiple disasters and crises affecting the country, and it has gradually improved its overall position and strategy, related to its disaster risk reduction capacity and new initiatives. The National Society has strengthened its disaster preparedness units and is receiving increasing support from Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners to strengthen emergency response mechanisms.

The Mali Red Cross aligns itself with the priorities of the Government and the United Nations, which prioritizes assistance for early recovery and resilience of shock-affected populations, with three specific objectives:

- Provide coordinated, gender-sensitive and life-saving food and agricultural assistance
- Strengthen the capacity of households to withstand shocks in crisis-affected areas and protect their livelihoods
- Strengthen the collection, analysis and management of information on interventions in humanitarian response areas and accountability mechanisms

The Mali Red Cross is currently responding to the food crisis in Mali, the most serious in recent years (see ongoing emergency operations section). The response plan is aligned with the IFRC Pan African Zero Hunger initiative, which aims to fight famine. Through the response, and more generally, the National Society promotes agroforestry (planting trees with agricultural crops), contributing to the Government's "Greening Africa" programme.

In 2023 and beyond, the Mali Red Cross will focus on preparedness to respond to shocks and building community resilience to risks. This includes [early warning, early action and anticipatory action](#) to mitigate the risks of multi-hazards negatively affecting the lives, livelihoods, homes and living conditions of vulnerable communities and the most disadvantaged and hard-to-reach. To reduce the impact of natural hazards, the Mali Red Cross implements preparatory actions such as the pre-positioning of equipment, the development of contingency plans and the training of volunteers. The National Society has good experience with forecast-based financing and has successfully implemented its first [Early Action Protocol](#) for floods in 2022.

Disaster preparedness is a priority of the Mali Red Cross and is aligned with the IFRC Pan-African Red Ready initiative. In 2023, the National Society's national and regional disaster response teams will be reinforced with the necessary skills and tools, including pre-positioning

stocks based on disaster profiles across the country. Disaster response units at the community level will be strengthened through better training and accompaniment of volunteers. In 2024 and beyond, [vulnerability and capacity assessments](#) will be carried out to address key risks affecting communities.

The Pilot Programmatic Partnership between DG ECHO and IFRC, with support from the Danish Red Cross, Luxemburg Red Cross and Spanish Red Cross, will help the Mali Red Cross provide an effective and tailored local response to communities in need, while increasing the reach, quality and impact of its activities. To improve the quality, impact and cost-effectiveness of actions and ensure a people-centred approach, emphasis will be placed on the seamless integration of cash and voucher assistance as a key modality of humanitarian assistance, and on the integration of risk communication, community engagement and accountability to ensure that communities are active partners at all stages of the humanitarian aid cycle. The programme will adopt innovative approaches and scale up anticipatory action, ensuring a faster and more dignified approach to humanitarian response, by anticipating the onset and trajectory of crises and protecting affected communities with tailored and contextual support, as well as taking into account climate and environmental considerations.

As part of its auxiliary role, the Mali Red Cross will ensure active participation at all levels of the coordination mechanisms, and advocacy for effective disaster management, based on a clear understanding of disaster profiles and capacities.

Health and wellbeing

The health system in Mali is characterized by low health coverage, unequal access to health care and low coverage of health indicators of the goals and standards set by WHO. In Mali, there were 2,343 health structures in 2018. The ratio of health professionals at the national level is 6 per 10,000 inhabitants, which is still well below the WHO standard of 23 per 10,000 inhabitants. The proportion of the population with access to care in 2018 was 57% within a 5 km radius, and 86% within a 15 km radius. Mali's humanitarian profile reveals a combination of factors, particularly the displacement of populations in areas of increased insecurity following the activism of non-state armed groups, with its corollary of the inaccessibility of health services for vulnerable populations, including pregnant women and children.

In 2018, the most frequent pathologies were: malaria with 32% of cases of all pathologies followed by acute

respiratory infections (10%), and presumed infectious diarrhea, excluding cholera (3%). In children of 0-11 months, low acute respiratory infections are the leading illnesses, followed by malaria and diarrheal diseases, excluding cholera. The prenatal consultation attendance index at the national level remained almost stationary between 2017 and 2018 (2.2 to 2.3). The postnatal consultation rate was 43% in 2018 compared to 40% in 2017. The highest rate was observed in Bamako (69.5%) and the lowest in Taoudéni (4.7%). The proportion of caesarean sections out of all deliveries in health facilities increased slightly from 4.9% in 2017 to 5.4% in 2018; the district of Bamako recorded the highest proportion (11.1%) and the lowest was Kidal (2.7%). The fertility rate of 5.5 children per woman (UNFPA, 2022) reflects the prevalence of child marriage (EDESCN 2017), leading to, among other things, a high prevalence of obstetric fistula. 5.4% of women marry before the age of 18 and 15% are married before the age of 15. Added to this is the low use (18%) of modern contraception (UNFPA, 2022).

The number of basic emergency obstetric care facility structures (SONUB) increased from 388 in 2017 to 457 in 2018, whilst the number of comprehensive emergency obstetric care facility structures (SONUC) remained the same, at 89 in 2017 and 2018. At the national level, the SONUC/SONUB ratio is 1:5 in 2018, which is below WHO standards (1 SONUC to 4 SONUB). Regarding the SONUC/population ratio, the country is at one SONUB structure for 220,217 inhabitants and one SONUC structure for 42,887 inhabitants.

The morbidity rate increased from 23.4% in 2014 to 25.5% in 2017 (EMOP). Mali, like most countries in sub-Saharan Africa, lists malaria as the leading cause of mortality and morbidity. Malaria affects all regions, and the number of cases was 2,666,266 in 2020 (843,961 severe cases and 1,708 deaths) and 3,240,130 in 2021, an increase of nearly 22%. Congenital diseases are also a leading cause of death, and case numbers have increased from 2019.

Mali is also prone to recurrent epidemics that occur cyclically and seasonally, including measles, meningitis and cholera. This is caused by its socio-environmental and geographical context, aggravated by climate change. Insufficient access to drinking water and hygiene and sanitation services were the root cause of a cholera epidemic during the first quarter of 2022. The COVID-19 pandemic has been at the forefront of the health situation since the declaration of the first case on 24 March 2020 in Bamako. Over the past two years, the introduction and administration of effective vaccines has allowed a return to normalcy, but national immunization

coverage is below targets, mainly attributed to vaccine hesitancy stemming from various myths and beliefs.

The nutritional situation in Mali remains worrying. Acute malnutrition (wasting) affects at least 10 to 15% of children. More than 26% of children are affected by chronic malnutrition (stunting). Approximately 300,000 children aged 6 to 59 months were exposed to severe acute malnutrition in 2022, a 48% increase in cases compared to the previous year (Food Security Cluster, Mali, August 2022). According to the 2022 SMART nutrition survey, there is a persistence of global acute malnutrition of around 10% at the national level and the nutritional situation remains particularly worrying in the central and northern regions, with prevalence of global acute malnutrition exceeding or approaching the alert threshold of 10%, as defined by WHO, and sometimes very close to or exceeding the emergency threshold of 15%. The usual deterioration of the nutritional situation is observed because of the difficulties of access to food during the lean season, particularly for poor households, due to the early depletion of food stocks, the decline in income and the use of negative adaptation strategies to reduce the quality, volume or even number of meals. The deterioration is more marked in areas of insecurity, especially for displaced households where access to basic social services and nutrition programmes remains limited. Screening and nutritional care programmes continue with the support of partners. Anaemia affects 79% of children under five according to World Bank data in 2019, and 59% of women of reproductive age. Infant mortality in Mali is 54 per 1,000.

Access to drinking water and basic hygiene and sanitation services in Mali remains low, particularly in rural areas where more than 60% of the country's population lives. Less than 70% of households have access to basic drinking water services in rural areas, 61% have limited handwashing facilities (without availability of soap or water), and 14% have basic facilities (with soap and water). About 69% of households use drinking water from improved sources. The majority (95%) of households in urban areas obtain drinking water from an improved source, and just over half of households (55%) use improved sanitation facilities.

The Malian Government is working to provide the best possible health care for the entire Malian population in general, and for women and children, in particular, through universal access to quality health care at all levels of the health pyramid. The strategies adopted by the State aim to:

- Reduce maternal, neonatal, infant and child morbidity and mortality
- Reduce morbidity and mortality related to communicable and non-communicable diseases (including cardiovascular diseases and diabetes), lifestyles and working conditions
- Strengthen the fight against HIV/AIDS
- Increase the supply and use of quality health services provided by qualified human resources equitably distributed throughout the country

Main actions and areas of support

Mali Red Cross contributes to the reduction of health risks in focus areas mainly through community-based surveillance and health promotion. Community engagement and accountability will be a key strategy to provide health information for communicable disease prevention among targeted communities. The Mali Red Cross seeks to further develop its network of branches and volunteers to support the authorities in early detection, contact tracing, social mobilization and community engagement to control infections. The Mali Red Cross will also continue its activities in the field of water and sanitation, nutrition, including income-generating activities for communities, basic community health, sexual and reproductive health, as well as in the prevention of respiratory diseases, epidemic preparedness and prevention of genital mutilation.

The National Society with its partners has prioritized for 2023, 2024 and 2025 the following:

- Replication of successful community-based health and first aid approaches and interventions
- Reproductive health, epidemic preparedness, prevention of respiratory diseases
- Prevention of genital mutilation
- Eye health
- Nutrition
- Capturing best practices from successful water, sanitation and hygiene projects, and use them as a springboard to scale up water, sanitation and hygiene programming

The Mali Red Cross will support the management of acute malnutrition by: (1) capacity building of volunteers from community health workers and health structures, (2) screening and referral of malnourished children to health centres, (3) organization of mass screening campaigns for malnutrition among children under five years

of age, and pregnant women and lactating women, and promotion of healthy nutritional practices.

The Mali Red Cross will continue to contribute to the reduction of malaria, the prevention of acute diarrhea, through epidemic prevention and control, and through approaches such as community-based surveillance, and community based health and first aid. It will continue to contribute to ensuring access to safe drinking water and sanitation for communities, including through the following: (1) rehabilitation and/or construction of water points, (2) construction of latrines, and (3) provision of water and hygiene kits.

The fight against COVID-19 will be reinforced through a continent-wide initiative between the IFRC and Africa Centres for Diseases Control and Prevention (CDC) to invest in building resilient public health security infrastructure in Africa. Under the USD 39 million Saving Lives and Livelihoods initiative funded by Mastercard Foundation, the IFRC and African National Societies are building a programme that aims to ensure that 60% of African people are vaccinated against COVID-19. The partnership between the Mastercard Foundation and Africa CDC will support the procurement and delivery of tens of millions of COVID-19 vaccines and hasten economic recovery on the continent. Under this programme, the Mali Red Cross will deliver critical risk communication and community engagement activities to vulnerable communities, in support of COVID-19 vaccine uptake. Other programme partners will provide procurement and logistics services to a central warehouse (UNICEF), in-country logistics (World Food Programme), managing COVID-19 vaccination centres (Amref Health Africa and GHSS) and safety surveillance (Akros).

The Mali Red Cross will continue to provide much-needed support for vaccine roll-out at the community level with the collaboration of Mali's health services and other stakeholders in the sector, including through the Africa CDC programme. Volunteers will engage with communities through community information centres, interactive radio and television sessions, and door-to-door campaigns. The National Society's contribution to accelerating immunization is well recognized by the Government and partners.

Migration and displacement

In 2022, Mali experienced serious difficulties not only in terms of population movement, but also in terms of growing insecurity. Due to the combination of all the above factors, the manifestations of the migratory

phenomenon in Mali are multidimensional in that they cover all facets of migration, namely:

- migration within national borders
- migration of Malians to the countries of the sub-region, to the Maghreb countries or to countries beyond the oceans (countries of Europe, Americas and Asia)
- migration of refugees fleeing insecurity in neighbouring countries and seeking asylum in Mali
- return migration (returned or returnees) from Mali from host countries

Mali is facing a large number of internal displacements, mainly in the regions of Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao. Currently, there are more than 400,000 refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons in Mali. It should be noted that during 2022, there was a gradual increase in internal flows compared to cross-border flows, with a more or less stable level of peaks observed since April 2021. The Sahel has welcomed more than 850,000 refugees from Mali.

The issue of shelter is a huge challenge because the living conditions of displaced populations remain precarious. 56% of internally displaced persons live in spontaneous sites made of tarpaulin and straw shelters, and some are sometimes homeless. About 90% of internally displaced persons are hosted in host families or gather in informal sites, thus impacting heavily the resilience of internally displaced persons and their host communities. The regional dimension of the crisis, which is reflected in population movements on both sides of the borders, as well as the multiplication of so-called mixed situations (the presence on the same site of internally displaced persons, returning internally displaced persons, refugees, and returnees), adds a degree of complexity.

Migration varies in scale in different regions of Mali. It is less pronounced in the northern regions compared to the southern regions, and there is a growing feminization of migration, with associated risks and vulnerabilities for women migrants. Internal migration is more directed towards cities, and especially involves more young people, aged 15 – 24. It is a rural exodus motivated in general by the search for economic opportunities. The cities are also transit points for migrants wishing to undertake international migration.

Main actions and areas of support

The Mali Red Cross is part of the IFRC three-year [Global Route Based Migration Programme](#), which aims to improve the safety and dignity of people on the move

along deadly and dangerous land and sea-based migration routes across Africa, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa. The programme aims to support 4.7 million people on the move and people in host communities annually through three operational pillars: (1) improving access to assistance and protection, including through humanitarian service points; (2) strengthening National Society capacities; and (3) local to global humanitarian diplomacy.

To cope with the growing migration phenomenon, the Mali Red Cross developed a migration strategy 2021-2025, with the support of the IFRC network. The overall objective of the Mali Red Cross is to help reduce abuses and alleviate the suffering of migrants through a range of humanitarian actions, strengthening the resilience of migrants and the communities in which they find themselves, and advocating for their rights. The specific objectives are:

- Preventing suffering and reducing vulnerabilities
- Saving lives and meeting the basic needs of migrants
- Building resilience and promoting safe living conditions
- Promoting the ideals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and a culture of peace, non-violence and social cohesion

The Mali Red Cross pays specific attention to internal displacement and to the issue of returns. A Red Cross Red Crescent Movement position on returns has been put in place in Mali, aligned to the Movement's Fundamental Principles. Internally displaced persons are mainly in the centre regions (Mopti and Ségou). The Mali Red Cross, with the support of Movement partners, continues to intervene in these regions in order to provide assistance to migrants and internally displaced persons.

To achieve this, the Mali Red Cross, with the support of its partners, will redouble its efforts to strengthen its capacities, particularly in the areas of psychosocial support, legal assistance and restoring family links, to provide appropriate humanitarian services to migrants, displaced persons and persons affected by migration and displacement (including returns), in coordination with relevant local and international actors.

In 2023, key support from the IFRC will include identification and capturing of best practices at the regional level and sharing experiences with other regions involved in migration activities, while revising the IFRC

African Regional Migration Strategy based on the experience gained in working with migrants in Africa. The IFRC will provide support to the National Societies to influence decision-makers at local, national and international levels to ensure greater awareness, assistance and protection of migrants in strategic planning and policy development, and to continue to raise awareness to enable the scaling up of assistance, protection and behaviour change activities carried out by African National Societies in countries of origin, transit and/or destination.

Values, power and inclusion

In Mali, the main violations of rights are reported as violations of the right to life, liberty, property and physical integrity. In 2021, the actions of the non-state armed groups became more destructive, and civilians became the most affected. The conflict situation increases the risks for civilian populations, including killings, cattle rustling, physical and psychological violence, early marriage, forced abduction and recruitment, various forms of gender-based violence (sexual assault, rape, survival sex), and denial of access to resources and land rights for women.

The gender inequality index, which reflects the very large gender disparity in the areas of reproductive health, education and access to employment, was 0.678 in Mali, ranking it 157 out of 160 countries in the world. In Mali, 45% of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical or sexual violence. Between 2006 and 2018, the proportion of women aged 15-49 who had experienced physical violence increased from 32% to 43%. The risk of stigmatization and socio-cultural constraints pose strong limits to the denunciation of gender-based violence. However, according to statistical reports from NGOs working in the area of gender-based violence, from January to December 2021, 9,540 cases of gender-based violence were reported, and the main incidents included rape (31%). Girls under the age of 18 remain the most vulnerable to gender-based violence incidents. Indeed, 98% of survivors are women, 51% of whom are girls under the age of 18. Males account for 2% of cases, with 1.28% of cases involving boys under 18 years of age. According to reported data, 3% to 11% of survivors of sexual and physical violence report having experienced similar incidents in the past.

The number of displaced people has increased by more than 30% compared to 2020. More than three million people are in need of protection; consisting of 282,089 internally displaced persons, 249,852 refugees, 30,839

returnees and 552,238 in host populations. Women account for 51%, men 49%, children 55%, the elderly 3%, and persons with disabilities 4%. The factors of vulnerability of displaced people are the duration of displacement, but also age, gender and disability, as well as the separation of families which generate restoring family links needs.

Restricted access to education for children results in a high proportion of child brides. Early marriage is a structural problem in Mali, and marriage is seen as a means to provide security for a girl or a source of income for a family.

For non-displaced persons, poverty remains a key factor of vulnerability. In addition, local communities host displaced people, which can have a negative impact on living conditions in households (overcrowding, increased risk of disease transmission, conflict, and risk of gender-based violence). Women and girls face a multitude of challenges, ranging from lack of decision-making to lack of access to services.

The population in Mali also faces the presence of explosive devices that target the defence and security forces, but mainly affect civilians. The prevalence of physical disabilities due to the effect of these explosive devices is high, and which reinforces the need for more accessible protection services.

Humanitarian actors have constraints related to security, which limit their access to populations in need, and determine the rare presence of protection services and their possibility of receiving referrals. Access options differ depending on the area of intervention, but in general, humanitarian interventions remain possible.

To better protect Mali's most vulnerable populations, particularly women, a number of regulatory and legislative measures have been adopted:

- The Constitution of 25 February 1992, which guarantees the protection of the rights of women and children
- The adoption of the new Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure in 2017

- Law No. 2012-023 of 12 July 2012 on the fight against trafficking in persons and similar practices
- Draft law on the prevention, punishment and management of gender-based violence
- Draft law on child protection
- Circular letter No. 0554/MJ-SG of 12 October 2012 on measures for the legal management of cases of abuses following the crisis in northern Mali

Main actions and areas of support

With the support of Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners, the Mali Red Cross ensures that its staff and volunteers are trained to adopt an inclusive approach in its programming, and that protection, gender and inclusion is included in all its programmes.

The Mali Red Cross ensures a particular focus on the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence among the people it serves, particularly during cash and food distributions. In 2023, the Mali Red Cross, with support of Movement partners, will continue to ensure that individuals at risk or survivors of sexual and gender-based violence are supported with increased capacity to prevent, respond to and mitigate sexual and gender-based violence risks, through the coordinated development of programming standards and tools.

The Mali Red Cross will also work with the IFRC to further mainstream protection, gender and inclusion through a range of different trainings, the creation of relevant policies, and the implementation of actions focused on women, people with disabilities and young people, for social cohesion and stability.

The Mali Red Cross will also continue to promote positive change for humanity, based on humanitarian values and principles. It will work with the IFRC and network partners in the areas of adult education, and in strengthening its capacities to reach more local branches and increase awareness and action through the powerful role of youth and engagement with the education community, and ensuring meaningful efforts for more inclusive work dynamics.

Enabling local action

The Mali Red Cross is committed to pursue its institutional strengthening and carried out the self-assessment part of the Organizational Capacity Assessment and Certification (OCAC) process in 2011. The self-assessment part of the OCAC process is intended to capture the strengths and weaknesses of National Societies as a whole in relation to a wide range of organizational capacities. The Mali Red Cross is also committed to the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) process, and is at the action and accountability phase. The PER approach is a continuous and flexible process that enables National Societies to assess, measure and analyse the strengths and gaps of its preparedness and response mechanism, and ultimately take necessary action to improve it.

Efforts have been undertaken in previous years, such as through a grant from the IFRC Capacity Building Fund, and with the support of the IFRC, in different areas. The National Society's leadership has recognized that several aspects of its organization are weak and require additional support, in particular in the areas of strategic planning, resource mobilization, management of volunteers, financial management and audit, human resources management and policy creation, digital transformation, and planning, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The IFRC network is committed to support the development of Mali Red Cross, as per the priorities it sets for itself.

Engaged

The Mali Red Cross will increase its visibility and public trust through communications and public advocacy. It will strengthen its auxiliary role with local and national partners and will further engage in coordination within the Movement and with other organizations.

The National Society intends to strengthen the capacities of its staff, and will move to a stage of complete digitization in order to improve efficiency. It will provide local and regional structures with computer equipment and digitalization through good speed internet connections, and will equip all its decentralized structures with fleet, information technology and a broadband connection to facilitate their access to information, and for the establishment of an effective reporting system.

Accountable

The Mali Red Cross strives to create the right conditions to increase partnerships in order to reach more people in need, being a partner of choice that is effective, accountable and functioning well. It seeks to set up a resource mobilization unit and strategy to help mobilize resources for its core and programme costs, and to strengthen its finance management system.

In 2022, Mali Red Cross established an integrity line and strengthened its procedures regarding good conduct. In 2023, it will further build its capacity on integrity. A strategy and action plan will be developed to mitigate the risks of fraud and corruption, and of sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse.

With IFRC support, the National Society will develop a robust monitoring and reporting mechanism for its country plan, as a mechanism for accountability to partners.

Trusted

In 2022, the Mali Red Cross, in collaboration with Movement partners, set up a committee to review its statutes before its next General Assembly. Work will continue in this area until the next General Assembly, planned for the end of 2023.

The Mali Red Cross will seek to increase engagement with all its district chapters, and ensure all branches are able to carry out actions in areas such as emergency response and health promotion. With the support of the IFRC network, it will promote the development of branches, such as through income generating activities.

Within the framework of income generating activities, it plans to set up a working group, with the support of a consultant, to identify strategic investments that will allow the Mali Red Cross to ensure its proper functioning, fully play its auxiliary role, and be less dependent on external funds. The Mali Red Cross will explore the increase of its fleet capacity, to enable it to intervene faster in the event of crises. The National Society is part of the localization alliance programme, which includes leadership and good governance, branch development, finance development and financial sustainability.

The Mali Red Cross has a network of about 8,000 volunteers. However, it faces challenges relating to volunteer retention and capacity strengthening. Training is a priority focus of the National Society and is supported by Movement partners. The objective is to strengthen

the training of volunteers, in order to have volunteers specialized in different sectors. The Mali Red Cross will set up a volunteer database, in order to update its data, and the data protection component will be strengthened in 2023.

THE IFRC NETWORK

The IFRC

The IFRC supports the Mali Red Cross from its country cluster delegation in Niamey, which covers Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali and Niger. The IFRC has legal status in Mali, and its support to the Mali Red Cross centres on strategic and operational coordination, National Society development, and humanitarian diplomacy, including reinforcing its auxiliary role. The IFRC also supports accountability as a cross-cutting theme.

The IFRC will continue to play a representation, advocacy and coordination role with the Mali Red Cross and IFRC member National Societies. The IFRC provides programmatic support in all strategic priorities and supports members by providing services to members. The IFRC also provides technical, financial, material and human resources support for the development and implementation of the National Society's various projects and programmes.

In recent years, the IFRC has supported the Mali Red Cross through a number of Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) [operations](#) in relation to floods and food insecurity. The Mali Red Cross has developed an [Early Action Protocol](#) for floods which was activated in early September 2022. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IFRC, through its [Global Emergency Appeal](#), has supported the National Society in its COVID-19 response. The Mali Red Cross is also part of the Community Pandemic Preparedness Programme (CP3), coordinated by the IFRC and funded by USAID.

IFRC membership coordination

The IFRC coordination involves working with member National Societies to assess the humanitarian context, humanitarian situations and needs; agreeing common priorities; co-developing common strategies to address issues such as obtaining greater humanitarian access, acceptance and space; mobilizing funding and other resources; clarifying consistent public messaging; and monitoring progress. This also means ensuring that strategies and programmes in support of people in

need incorporate clarity of humanitarian action, of links with development assistance, and of efforts to reinforce National Societies in their respective countries, including through their auxiliary role.









The Mali Red Cross is part of the global [Pilot Programmatic Partnership](#) between DG ECHO and IFRC, benefitting from the support of Danish Red Cross (lead EU National Society), Spanish Red Cross and Luxembourg Red Cross, for the implementation of activities in the areas of disaster risk management, epidemic and pandemic preparedness and response, humanitarian assistance and protection to people on the move, cash and voucher assistance, and risk communication, community engagement and accountability.

The partnership meets the realities of extended crises with longer-term predictable funding, facilitating actions and processes with greater impact. It leverages IFRC's global network and unique access to people and communities, and it helps to fulfil the ambitions of the European Union as the biggest donor for international aid in the world.

The Mali Red Cross collaborates with a number of participating National Societies, including the Belgian Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross, the Luxembourg Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Qatar Red Crescent and the Spanish Red Cross, which are all present in Mali:

The Belgian Red Cross (French community) resumed its collaboration with the Mali Red Cross in December 2009. The purpose of the partnership is to strengthen Mali Red Cross and provide humanitarian response. One of the principles of cooperation is alignment with the Mali Red Cross strategy, with projects and programmes that meet the priorities and needs of the Mali Red Cross. Since the beginning of the collaboration, the Belgian Red Cross and Mali Red Cross, while working in close collaboration with the technical services of the State and communities, have implemented several projects in the

Participating National Society Support - Bilateral

Name of Partner NS	Funding Requirements	Climate	Disasters and crises	Health and wellbeing	Migration	Values, power and inclusion	Engaged	Accountable	Trusted
Belgian Red Cross	CHF 0.79M								
Danish Red Cross	CHF 7.10M								

Total

7.89M

fields of health, nutrition, community resilience, agricultural production, promotion of income-generating activities, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian assistance. To date, two projects are underway: (1) in the Mopti region through multisectoral assistance to internally displaced persons and host communities, and (2) in the Koulikoro region with a focus on strengthening the resilience capacities of communities to cope with crises and disasters. However, on a temporary basis, the Belgian Red Cross also intervenes in other regions of the country, in agreement with the Mali Red Cross, in case of need.

The Canadian Red Cross, present in Mali since 2012, with funding from the Government of Canada, supports the efforts of the Mali Red Cross and the Ministry of Health, particularly in the field of health. From 2012 to 2020, it supported the implementation of projects including Improving Maternal, Newborn and Child Health in Mali, whose objectives were to provide health services to rural communities, paying particular attention to maternal, newborn and child health. The project reached the health districts of the regions of Koulikoro (Dioila, Koulikoro, Kolokani, Banamba and Nara) and Sikasso (Sikasso). Between 2020 and 2021, the Canadian Red Cross supported the efforts of the Mali Red Cross and the Government in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, by strengthening the capacities of health workers and community actors and by making personal protective equipment available in its two regions of intervention. Since 2021, a new project entitled "Adolescent Girls' Health in Mali" has been implemented and is expected to contribute to improving the reproductive sexual health and rights of adolescent girls in the districts of Fana, Ouélessébougou and Kati.

The Danish Red Cross initiated cooperation entitled "Hope in the desert" with the Mali Red Cross in the 80s,

following the droughts in the Sahel, with an environmental education project. This project was stopped in 2001, but their cooperation resumed in 2006, through institutional support from the IFRC. In 2007, bilateral cooperation was re-initiated with the presence of delegates. Over the years, the Danish Red Cross has supported strengthening the capacities of Mali Red Cross through support in the management and implementation of projects, and support in long-term organizational and technical development. The main support sectors are focused on: 1) timely humanitarian response to victims of disasters and conflicts, 2) forecast based action and disaster preparedness and resilience (climate change), and 3) non-communicable diseases, mental health and psychosocial support, protection and social cohesion, emergency assistance to migrants, internally displaced persons and host communities in the Gao regions, Timbuktu, Kidal, Mopti, Bamako, Ménaka and Segou, and institutional support.

The Danish Red Cross is currently working in all the regions mentioned above supporting projects related to the protection of vulnerable populations in distress (internally displaced persons and migrants), the strengthening of mental health care and psychosocial support, the improvement of basic services, and the increase of resilience of the most vulnerable. The Danish Red Cross works closely with the IFRC Reference Centre for Psychosocial Support, and, since 2019, the Danish Red Cross has been working to support the establishment of a psychosocial department in Mali Red Cross. The Danish Red Cross has made mental health and psychosocial support a main strategic focus, also related to migration, for the coming years.

Luxembourg Red Cross: since 2014, the Luxembourg Red Cross and Mali Red Cross have been implementing interventions focused on the provision of emergency

shelter, rehabilitation or reconstruction of shelters for displaced, returned, returnee and refugee populations, integrating host communities with various strategic and financial partners in the Timbuktu region, and recently in the Ségou, Mopti and Gao regions, through DG ECHO funds, as part of the Pilot Programmatic Partnership programme in Mali.

The projects implemented make it possible to cover the needs of all segments of the population affected by the conflict: returnees, internally displaced persons, internally displaced returnees, and host populations affected by the crisis. These projects consist of different areas of intervention: the rehabilitation of shelters through traditional means, and the pre-positioning of emergency shelters. Finally, to ensure social cohesion in communities suffering from high demographic pressure due to the arrival of people, the rehabilitation of basic infrastructure such as boreholes and classrooms. Water, sanitation and hygiene in schools and communities are an integral part of these projects.

The Netherlands Red Cross and the Mali Red Cross have been engaged in a long-term partnership focused on supporting resilience initiatives since 2015. The Netherlands Red Cross and the Mali Red Cross work in several areas such as risk and disaster preparedness at the institutional level, with support for the operationalization of the Emergency Operations Centre, as well as in the Kayes region, in the areas of food security, livelihoods and health.

Currently the Netherlands Red Cross, with a permanent operational presence in the Kayes branch, supports the

implementation of a climate change resilience project and a maternal health project in the Kayes Circle. The short-term objective is to provide support for water, sanitation and hygiene activities in the same areas, always in accordance with the Mali Red Cross's strategic plan. However, on a temporary basis, the Netherlands Red Cross intervenes in other regions, in agreement with the Mali Red Cross, if needed.

The Qatar Red Crescent collaborates with the Mali Red Cross in the field of health and water, sanitation and hygiene, and National Society Development.

The Spanish Red Cross and the Mali Red Cross have been engaged in a lasting partnership since 2000, focused on supporting initiatives in the fields of health, environmental protection and improvement of living environments, social protection and cohesion, and in the field of food security and livelihoods. The main regions of intervention are Kayes, Sikasso, Timbuktu and Ségou.

Currently the Spanish Red Cross, with a permanent operational presence in the branches of Segou and Timbuktu, supports the implementation of protection projects (protection gender and inclusion and prevention of gender-based violence), disaster management; and food security and livelihoods, in line with the Mali Red Cross Strategic Plan.

In addition, it is also important to mention that the **British Red Cross**, although not present in the country, funds programmes that cover early action protocols, resilience, protection and migration.

Movement coordination

The Mali Red Cross works closely with Red Cross Red Crescent Movement partners and holds regular coordination meetings with the IFRC, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and participating National Societies, to align action and support. There are two coordination bodies: the Movement Coordination Platform (Mali Red Cross, IFRC and ICRC), and the operational committee, with the participation of participating National Societies present in the country.

This collaboration is framed by a Movement Coordination Agreement signed between the Mali Red Cross, the ICRC and the IFRC, and the participating National Societies in the country have adhered to it. This agreement defines

the roles and responsibilities, as well as the conditions for coordinating the implementation of the coordination system between the Movement's actors in Mali, and with this, a security framework is also part of it, in the annex of the agreement. This is carried out in line with the Strengthening Movement Coordination and Cooperation (SMCC) principles, and the newly adopted [Seville Agreement 2.0](#).

The ICRC, through its country office in Bamako, supports the Mali Red Cross, particularly in terms of communications, strengthening branches, restoring family links and providing safe access.

Coordination with other actors

The Mali Red Cross supports the Government in the implementation of its humanitarian aid and development policies and strategies. Thus, the strategic plan of the National Society 2021-2025 is aligned with the Government's Economic and Social Development Plan.

The Mali Red Cross works closely with the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and Disaster Management and is a member of the National Coordination Forum in Disaster Management. The Ministry is mandated to manage disasters and similar emergencies through the following key functions:

- Prepare national disaster plans to prevent and mitigate the consequences of disasters
- Establish, evaluate and update national disaster plans
- Ensure the establishment of adequate facilities for technical training and the establishment of educational programmes to ensure public awareness
- Establish early warning systems, and the general preparation of its staff and the general public
- Ensure that appropriate and adequate facilities are available for the provision of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction after any disaster. This includes local and international support for disaster relief, and emergency services and reconstruction.

However, their aspirations are hampered by the lack of resources to carry out these tasks.

At the external level, Mali Red Cross is participating in several clusters: Shelter, Protection, Health, and Food Security. In addition, Mali Red Cross is an active member of the national cash working group.

The National Society and the IFRC also work with United Nations agencies, including WHO, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, OCHA, UNFPA and IOM, through the implementation of actions, thus contributing to the realization of humanitarian intervention plans in Mali. External partnerships are governed by the guidelines on external partnerships in the Sahel region for components of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. The objective of these guidelines is to define a common position of Movement partners responding to humanitarian needs in the Sahel region, by agreeing on the coherent and realistic limits of partnerships that Movement components can lead and develop with external humanitarian actors.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- [IFRC Global Plan and Country Plans](#)
- [Subscribe for updates](#)
- [Donor response](#) on IFRC website
- [Live Disaster Response Emergency Fund \(DREF\)](#) data
- Operational information: [IFRC GO platform](#)
- National Society data: [IFRC Federation-wide Databank and Reporting System](#)



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