



# USAID MALI

## MULTI-SECTORAL NUTRITION STRATEGY

**CONTEXT:** Nutrition issues in Mali remain a major underlying cause of morbidity and mortality. Although progress has been made, much work remains. The stunting and wasting rates of children under five years old decreased from 38% to 27% and from 13% to 9% respectively between the 2013 and 2018 (DHIS). The primary causes of undernutrition are a lack of dietary diversity, poor infant and young children feeding practices, micronutrient deficiencies, and a lack of nutrition services. More than 64% of all newborns begin breastfeeding immediately, but only 40% are exclusively breastfed for six months and only 9% of children 6–23 months receive a minimum acceptable diet.

Mali's National Multisectoral Nutrition Plan (2021-2025) guides donor investments in the country. The plan aims to ensure the rights of the Malian population to adequate food as foundational to individual well-being and national sustainable development.

Under the national plan and USAID/Mali's Multi-Sectoral Nutrition Strategy, USAID supports the implementation of a package of nutrition interventions across the country through the 1,000-day approach (from the onset of pregnancy until a child's 2nd birthday.) Multisectoral nutrition activities are coordinated across the offices of Health, Agriculture & Economic Growth and Humanitarian Assistance.

**HEALTH SECTOR:** Nutrition is central to the 5-year USAID/Mali Health Strategy (2018-2023), which seeks to achieve sustained improvements in health and facilitate Mali's achievement of its sustainable development goals. The strategy includes support for maternal, infant, and young child feeding and nutrition-related best practices through comprehensive social and behavior change strategies; nutrition-sensitive agriculture activities such as the promotion of household gardens which increase access to and consumption of diversified and quality nutrient rich foods; improved use of maternal and child nutrition services, including essential nutrition actions such as micronutrient supplementation (vitamin A to children under five and iron and folic acid for pregnant women); deworming; and community-based integrated management of acute malnutrition.

In Sikasso, Segou and Mopti, USAID Keneya Nieta (2020-2025) increases demand for and use of health (including nutrition) services and improves adoption of health-seeking behaviors in the household, focusing on financial planning and saving for health, and improving community oversight of and engagement with local health services. USAID Keneya Sinsi Wale (2020-2025) strengthens the health system and increases citizen participation in management, performance and accountability of the health system.

In Tombouctou and Gao, Momentum Integrated Health Resilience (2021-2025) increases health system ability to absorb, adapt to and recover from shocks, improving equitable access to and use of primary health care essential services, increasing accountability of district and other local governance structures, and improving cross-sectoral collaboration.

In Bamako and other urban centers (Kayes, Koulikoro, Sikasso, Segou, Mopti), Momentum Private Healthcare Delivery (2021-2025) expands awareness of, access to and use of private sector health information, services, and products for integrated maternal and child health (including family planning and nutrition) services.

In Kayes and Koulikoro, the USAID NPI (New Partnerships Initiative) Expand/Child Survival (2021-2024) builds the capacity of local organizations to deliver a targeted, limited package of primary health services - maternal, child and newborn health services - including malaria, nutrition and family planning through existing primary health care facilities and community health workers.

**AGRICULTURE & ECONOMIC GROWTH SECTORS :** The U.S. Government selected Mali as one of twelve Feed the Future target countries for focused investment under the U.S. Government Global Food Security Strategy. Due to the country's security situation, Mali's Feed the Future Initiative focuses on 113 communes in Sikasso, Mopti, and Tombouctou, and two communes in Segou. The strategy includes strategic investments in strengthening targeted value chains, addressing high levels of malnutrition and low dietary diversity, improving the enabling environment for agricultural trade and investment, working on behavior and practices related to nutritional feeding and building capacity among farmers, the private sector, civil society, and public institutions to help reduce poverty and stunting in children under five.

In Sikasso, Mopti and Tombouctou, Feed the Future Mali Sènè Yiriwa (2021-2026) focuses on technologies that improve productivity, environmental sustainability, and consumption of nutritious food on farms and at household level. Feed the Future Mali Sugu Yiriwa (2021-2026) strengthens market systems to sustainably improve household incomes and nutritional status.

**HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE:** In Mali, USAID works with the UN World Food Program (WFP) to respond to urgent emergency food needs through general food distributions, blanket and targeted supplementary feeding programs and food-for-assets activities. USAID also facilitates WFP's local and regional purchase of food and delivery of food vouchers to stimulate local production and markets. Through UNICEF, USAID provides ready-to-use therapeutic food to treat severely malnourished children throughout the country. In Mopti, Timbuktu, and Gao, USAID Resilience and Food Security Activity (RFSA)/Albarka (2020-2025) improves food security and resilience of communities in conflict-affected areas, strengthening local systems and community participation