

International Rescue Committee Mali: Strategy Action Plan



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IRC2020 GLOBAL STRATEGY OVERVIEW

The International Rescue Committee’s (IRC) mission is to help the world’s most vulnerable people survive, recover, and gain control of their future. The aim of the IRC’s global strategy, IRC2020 (see right), is to make measurable improvements in health, safety, education, economic wellbeing, and decision-making power. Therefore, the IRC has made investments to design more effective programs, use resources more efficiently, reach more people more quickly and better respond to beneficiaries’ needs.



MALI OVERVIEW

Like other countries in the Sahel, Mali is challenged by extreme weather, extensive population movement into and from neighboring countries, and persistent instability.

Droughts and flash flooding have resulted in poor crop harvests, food insecurity, and malnutrition. Furthermore, recent epidemic outbreaks exposed the population to preventable diseases, like cholera, meningitis, and measles.

Ongoing conflicts in northern Mali result in population movements and restrictions on humanitarian activity. Increasing extremist activity and drug and weapons trafficking have further destabilized the country, hindering the state’s ability to protect from harm and provide basic services.

Conflict and a protracted food crisis, compounded by poverty and weak institutional capacity, has created tremendous need across

Mali. Women are particularly disadvantaged. Harmful traditional practices impede the power women and girls have over their bodies, right to move, access to basic services, and ability to seize economic opportunities.

The IRC’s new strategy for Mali illustrates its commitment to improving the health, education, and economic well-being of crisis-affected people in Mali.

IRC'S STRATEGIC PROGRAMMING

From now until the end of 2020, the IRC's new strategy in Mali will prioritize improving health, education, and economic wellbeing (see Figure 1), specifically targeting internally displaced people, returnees from Niger and Burkina Faso, rural host communities, and marginalized communities.

Across all areas of intervention, the IRC will promote access to education and economic wellbeing. The IRC will work towards minimizing and mitigating barriers that hinder access, such as high fees, distance to facilities, lack of safety, and discrimination.

Education and accelerated learning programs will be implemented in northern areas, where there are significant disruptions in education service delivery due to conflict. The IRC will train school staff and provide quality assurance services through regular curriculum inspections.

To sustain the provision of services in regions known

to have significantly high malnutrition rates, the IRC will support public health systems. Programming will be focused on helping communities cope with recurrent food shortages, asset losses, and poor harvests as a result of recurrent climate conditions and conflict. To ensure quality healthcare, leadership and supervisors will be supported, and capacity building provided to health staff.

Finally, the IRC will work to improve community resilience by ensuring basic needs are met. Unconditional cash transfers will be provided, as well as community resilience programs to reduce asset loss from recurrent food shortages and instability.

The IRC's commitment to gender equality strives for equal outcomes for women and girls, and men and boys. To narrow the gender gap, the IRC will incorporate gender-focused programming into all activities.

Figure 1: Priority Outcomes and Future Programs

	Priority Outcomes in Mali	Future Programs
EDUCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Girls and boys enroll in and attend safe, functioning and responsive education services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Provide education and accelerated learning services in conflict settings > Ensure quality education through training of school staff and regular curriculum inspections
HEALTH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Children are protected from and treated for malnutrition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Support public health systems to sustain provision of healthcare services > Ensure quality primary and secondary health care through capacity building of public health structures' staff
ECONOMIC WELLBEING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > People meet basic needs and avoid negative coping strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Reduce asset loss through community resilience development > Provide unconditional cash transfer > Reduce youth and women's vulnerability to violence by strengthening access to and control over economic and social resources

COMMITMENTS FOR IMPACT

In order to maximize impact and achieve the priority outcomes, the IRC in Mali is making new investments to improve program effectiveness, reach more people, be more responsive to beneficiaries and partners, and react more quickly when crisis strikes. The IRC made the following commitments to strengthen programming and improve the lives of the people it serves in Mali.

Figure 2: Commitments to Ensure Impact



Effectiveness

- > Ensure all programs are evidence based and evidence generating
- > Strengthen monitoring and evaluation systems to better inform decision-making



Scale and Reach

- > Work with a network of partners to serve more communities and increase the number of people reached
- > Expand the IRC's presence by establishing an office in Gao



Responsiveness

- > Establish two dedicated hotlines to receive and respond to beneficiaries' questions, suggestions, concerns, and feedback
- > Ensure that 35% of managers and 50% of the IRC's staff are women, to ensure teams reflect the communities served



Speed & Timeliness

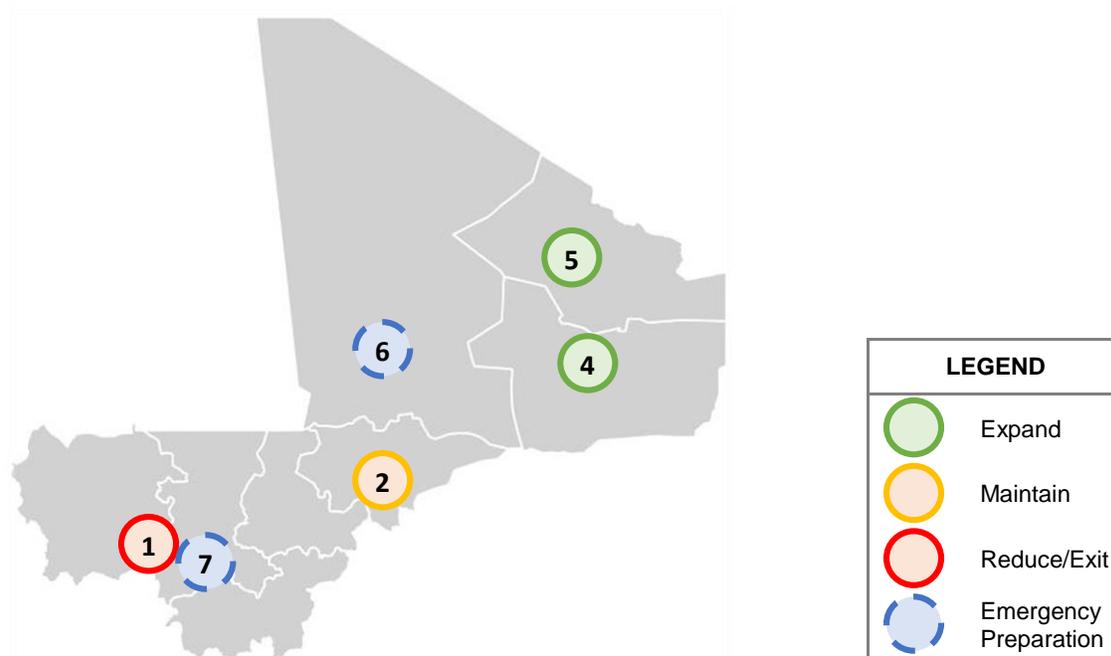
- > Establish an emergency response team to respond to crises throughout the country
- > Partner with donors and suppliers to prepare standby emergency intervention stocks and establish emergency response procedures



IRC'S STRATEGIC PRESENCE

From now until the end of 2020, the IRC will maintain, expand, and reduce its presence in sites across Mali, while also establishing emergency response capacity, based on an analysis of where the greatest need is and where the IRC can create the biggest impact.

Figure 3: The IRC's Geographic Transitions in Mali



Location	Geographic Transition
1 Koulikoro	Gradually scale down emergency nutrition interventions, due to strong state capacity, while maintaining emergency response capability
2 Mopti	Continue to respond to the needs of displaced people and returnees from Burkina Faso and Niger, while maintaining emergency response capacity
4 Gao	Establish a coordination and emergency response office in Gao and Kidal regions, while working through local partners to expand the IRC's reach in Bourem, Ansongo, and Menaka
5 Kidal	Build partnerships with local organizations to support chronically underserved populations with little or no access to basic services
6 Timbuktu	Monitor displacement and humanitarian needs to identify and be prepared for an emergency response
7 Bamako	Monitor needs, particularly regarding epidemics, flooding, and population displacement, to identify and be prepared for an emergency response



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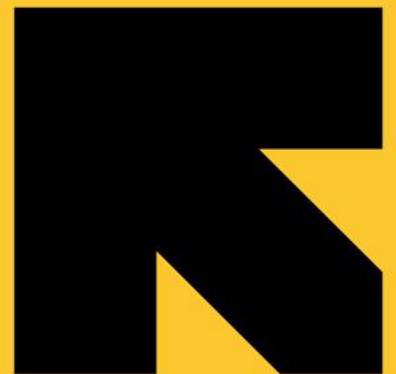
The IRC in Mali



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[Rescue.org/where/Mali](https://www.rescue.org/where/Mali)



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