

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Emergency Humanitarian Response in the regions of Gao, Timbuktu and Mopti

PROJECT GOAL

To improve food security and nutrition for the populations living in the Gao, Timbuktu and Mopti regions of Mali.

Conflict-induced displacement has contributed to worsening food security in northern and central Mali. With more than 330,000 internally displaced people (IDP) mostly concentrated in the regions of Mopti, Timbuktu, Gao, Ménaka, and Kidal, existing resource scarcity has been exacerbated. In January 2024, acute malnutrition rates were at emergency levels across Mopti (8.9%) and Gao (15.3%). Families in Timbuktu were also affected by severe acute malnutrition (2.3%).

Moreover, agricultural production dropped in these regions due to insecurity, damage caused by seed-eating birds, and limited access to fertilizers. Market access disruptions, including blockades, also caused reductions in commercial flows, resulting in shortages and significant price hikes for staples.

These emergencies have been occurring during a decade-long humanitarian crisis in Mali marked by armed conflicts, political insecurity, and recurring climate-related disasters (including floods and drought). In its Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) for Mali, OCHA reported that the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Mali increased by more than 9.3% in 2023.

With generous support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Lutheran World Relief partnered with fellow Corus organization CGA Technologies and local partners ADENORD and the Federation of Unions of Cooperative Societies (FUSC) to address immediate food and longer-term food security needs by providing fortified flour to malnourished children, food vouchers for

families to purchase additional food, nutrition and safe hygiene promotion for mothers, and seeds for farmers to plant and save for future planting seasons.

The project also leveraged USAID MOMENTUM Integrated Health Resilience, an ongoing USAID project in Mali that is strengthening capacity of health facilities to deliver life-saving care to mothers and children in crisis settings, integrating emergency supplemental food with therapeutic feeding.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE RESULTS

- **2,382 families of children with moderate or severe acute malnutrition** received vouchers to purchase beans, milk, sugar, oil, rice, millet, rice, and vegetable seeds in local markets in Timbuktu and Gao.
- **2,704 families of children with moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)** in Gao and Timbuktu have fortified flour for complementary feeding.
- **3,510 families of children with MAM** in Gao and Timbuktu were supplied with water purification tablets and hand-washing kits.
- **11 women-led cooperatives, totaling 1,144 members**, received vegetable seeds (potatoes, carrots, onions, peppers, tomatoes, okra and cabbage).
- **1,926 rice farmers** received 5,000 kg of off-season rice seed and 14,100 kg of seasonal rice seed.



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The Corus Effect

Lutheran World Relief leads rural economic development programming at Corus International, an organization that unites an array of world-class nonprofits and businesses, each with specialized expertise. Our reach and capabilities are amplified by the other global leaders in our Corus family, including IMA World Health, CGA Technologies and Ground Up Investing. Together, we bring the multi-dimensional, holistic solutions needed to truly achieve lasting change.