

Mali



Mali, in West Africa, is one of the poorest countries in the world. This landlocked, former French colony gained its independence in 1960 but has since suffered rebellions, two coups and a 23 year military dictatorship. From 1992, when the country's first democratically-elected president took power, Mali has remained relatively peaceful.

Two thirds of Mali is covered in desert and this harsh environment is deteriorating further as rainfall is reducing. Just 60% of the population have access to safe water and even less have sanitation. As a result diarrhoea is common and child mortality is very high, with one in five children dying before their fifth birthday.

WaterAid in Mali



WaterAid began work in Mali in 2000 and we now help communities access clean water, improved hygiene and sanitation in five of the country's eight regions as well as the capital city, Bamako. Our work is carried out through seven partner organisations, Local Government Authorities and three networks of civil society organisations. We involve communities in all stages of the projects, from the planning through to building, maintenance and management.

We aim to reach the most vulnerable sections of society in Mali, including older people, women, people with disabilities and those living with HIV/AIDS. In peri-urban areas adapted standpipes have helped these groups access water, and across Mali WaterAid has modified water points and toilets to enable access for disabled people.

Water

In urban areas we help to establish communal tapstands that are linked to the city's main water supplies. Community members pay a small amount to buy their water and this is used to pay for the upkeep of the water points and for the wages

of trained community members who manage them.

In rural areas WaterAid's projects focus on helping communities to deepen and protect hand-dug wells as well as drilling boreholes and fitting them with handpumps to ensure that the water is safe from contamination. We also help communities to rehabilitate broken facilities which can be more cost-effective than building new ones.

Sanitation

A successful approach to promoting sanitation in Mali is through community-led total sanitation – where communities are shown how open defecation spreads disease and contaminates water sources, and how simple

hygiene interventions can overcome this. As a starting point, WaterAid helps communities draw a map of their local area with water points, latrines and open defecation sites marked on. Local people can then identify problems and motivate one another to build latrines until their area is open defecation free.

Signs like this one help spread good hygiene messages.



Hygiene

Hygiene education is carried out in a variety of ways. In many areas hygiene volunteers hold group sessions which they then follow up with house visits to assess if behaviour changes have taken place. We also train people to set up soap making businesses which provide a source of income while promoting good hygiene.

Advocacy

WaterAid is lobbying the Malian Government and decision-makers to invest in water and sanitation and prioritise these essential services in their development plans.

The responsibility for water and sanitation is being decentralised to local governments and while this does have the potential to improve the targeting of new investments and the sustainability of supplies, local governments currently lack

the resources and the technical skills to carry out this crucial role. WaterAid is therefore promoting the Local Millennium Development Goals initiative, whereby targets to halve the proportions of people without water and sanitation by 2015 are brought down to local levels, enabling local action plans to be created.

Maximising our impact is crucial and to do this we work with networks of organisations involved in water and sanitation across Mali and engage high profile ambassadors such as President Tourami Touré and singers Amadou and Mariam who have helped to raise awareness of this vital issue.

By advocating successful approaches we hope they will be adopted nationally so that more of the poorest people in Mali gain access to safe water, improved hygiene and sanitation.

Women often walk long distances to collect water for their families.



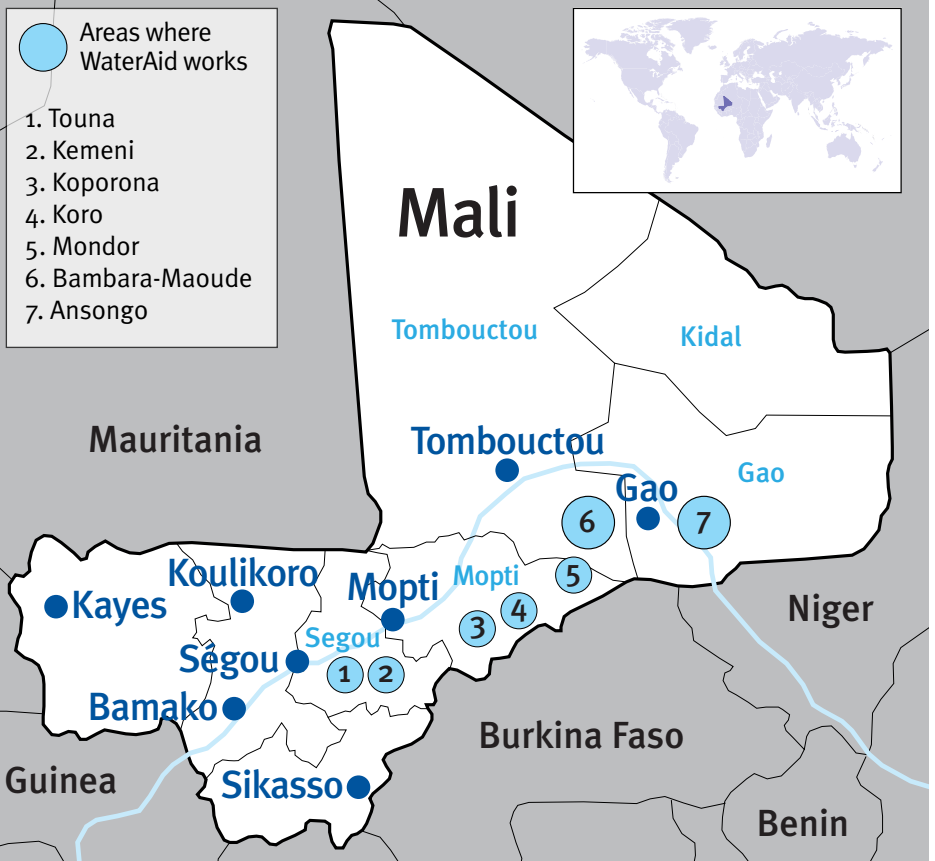
Panos/Dieter Telemans

Mali

Area:	1,241,021km ²
Capital:	Bamako
Other main cities:	Koulikoro, Kayes, Ségou, Tombouctou, Sikasso, Mopti, Gao
Population	12.4m
Infant mortality	119/1,000
Life expectancy	48.1 yrs
Water supply coverage	60%
Sanitation coverage	45%
Below poverty line	63.8%
Human development index	178
Adult literacy	26.2%
Number of children dying from diarrhoeal diseases every year	21,000

Official statistics tend to understate the extent of water and sanitation problems, sometimes by a large factor. There are not sufficient resources available for accurate monitoring of either population or coverage. Varying definitions of water and sanitation coverage are used and national figures mask large regional differences in coverage.

- Areas where WaterAid works
1. Touna
 2. Kemeni
 3. Koporona
 4. Koro
 5. Mondor
 6. Bambara-Maoude
 7. Ansongo



Coverage statistics from the Malian Government's Water and Sanitation Departments state that 71.7% of the population have access to safe water and 21% have access to sanitation.

Sources: Human Development Report 2006/09, World Development Report 2006/09, UNICEF State of the World's Children 2009, WHO World Health Statistics 2009.

Achievements to date:

- We have helped set up a national taskforce to spearhead water and sanitation issues in Mali.
- Rainwater harvesting systems have been promoted to combat water scarcity and changing weather patterns which have made groundwater sources unreliable.
- WaterAid is a founder member of the End Water Poverty campaign. As a result of campaign actions in Mali the President has committed to boosting the water and sanitation sector by creating a Sanitation Policy and a National Water Resource Management Action Plan.

£12 could pay a hygiene educator for a month

£54 could pay to repair a household latrine

£602 could pay to rehabilitate a borehole

£900 could pay for a 'sanimart' to sell replacement latrine parts

£4,000 could pay to construct a well



60 year old **Momo Niare** from Nafadji, Bamako

WaterAid/Daniel O'Leary



“Before the WaterAid project, we spent most of the time going to get water from private taps a long way away. Most of the wells here were dry, or else they were polluted. There was a lot of diarrhoea and malaria, and water was too far away for older people to get to a well – they wouldn't bathe for days. Now there is so much more time for caring for the family and much less sickness.”

Salif Zormé, 60, Ene village, Koro

WaterAid/Layton Thompson



WaterAid helped Salif build a rainwater harvesting tank. Rain is stored through the wet season for the family to use in the dry season. Salif says, “I think that this tank will bring a lot of things and improve the life of my family. Firstly the water from the tank is safe, so will stop diseases caused by dirty water. My children will be healthier and will be able to go to school. I think this water will also make my children more intelligent.”

WaterAid

WaterAid transforms lives by improving access to safe water, hygiene and sanitation in the world's poorest communities.



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