

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: MALI



THE FACTS

- » 72% of households in rural areas in Mali have access to an improved water source within a 30-minute roundtrip walk.
- » 37% of households in rural areas in Mali have access to basic sanitation.
- » Only 9% of households in rural areas in Mali have handwashing stations with soap and water.
- » Progress needs to accelerate to reach SDG 6 and the government's goal of providing clean water and improved sanitation for all by 2030.

— UNICEF and World Health Organization (WHO) Joint Monitoring Programme Report (2020)

About World Vision

World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. World Vision serves all people, regardless of religion, race, ethnicity, or gender. Established in 1950, World Vision's global partnership operates in nearly 100 countries, including implementation countries, along with country offices focused on fundraising and technical support, as well as regional and global teams providing quality assurance. Nearly 40,000 staff members—95% of whom work in their own countries—work in health; education; livelihoods; food security; child protection; economic empowerment; and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) programming.

Global WASH Program

Over the past 35 years, World Vision's work in the WASH sector has grown exponentially. With more than 1,200 WASH technical staff guiding our work in 55 countries, World Vision has emerged as a leader in our global commitment to accelerate universal and equitable access to WASH services under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6. Over the last five years alone, we have reached an estimated 20 million people with clean water and hygiene promotion, as well as 12.5 million people with improved sanitation.

Driven by the vision of transformative WASH for child well-being, World Vision's strategic direction is laid out in our global WASH business plan (2021 to 2025), which outlines World Vision's intent to increase impact in priority countries, including Mali, with an emphasis on reaching the world's most vulnerable. The business plan uses a diversified funding approach, pooling multiple financial streams to accomplish activities and leveraging a flexible revenue base of private funding to raise additional funds.

World Vision's four global WASH business plan goals are:

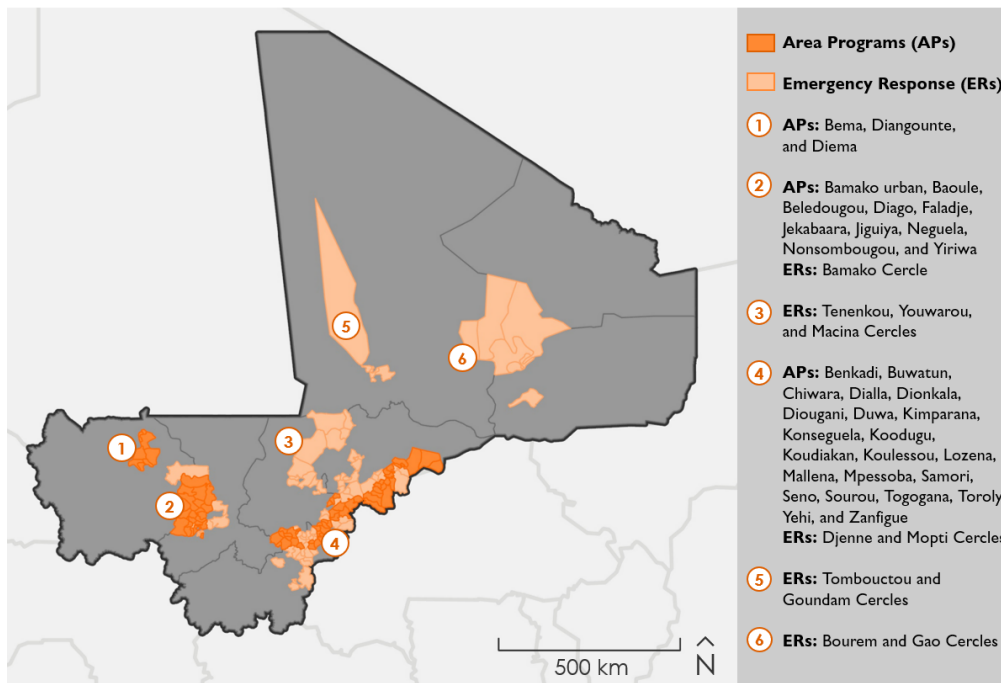
- Accelerating universal and equitable access to WASH services under SDG 6
- Deepening our focus on the most vulnerable, especially in fragile contexts
- Demonstrating sustainable impact
- Leveraging \$1 billion business plan to mobilize financing for WASH services

WASH in Mali

World Vision began working in Mali in 1975, following a significant drought. Emergency response efforts were swiftly followed by development programs addressing the need for improved access to safe water, healthcare, agriculture, and education. Over the past two decades, World Vision has collaborated with the Mali government to assist households, communities, schools, and healthcare facilities (HCFs) with sustainable WASH services.

Today, WVM operates in 34 program areas across the nation, in partnership with decentralized government agencies, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), faith-based organizations, and communities. WVM's multisectoral strategy focuses on catalytic interventions in the sectors of WASH, primary healthcare and nutrition, food security and economic resilience, and primary education. This strategy is realized through an annual national budget of \$29.1 million from local revenue, public and private grants, gift-in-kind donations, and child sponsorship.

Mali WASH Program Areas



The Mali WASH Program is staffed with 52 experts in water supply engineering, water quality, sanitation, behavior change, hydrogeology, and monitoring and evaluation. WVM also has two heavy drill rigs and two lighter PAT drills, as well as a portable water quality lab. The country-wide reach of our WASH program is supported by an \$8 million annual budget. The map above provides an overview of World Vision's geographic footprint for WASH in Mali.

Program Approaches

The following sections describe our core WASH technical approaches in communities, schools, and healthcare facilities (HCFs) in Mali.

Our four prioritized intervention areas consist of:

- Water supply and quality
- Sanitation and hygiene
- Governance and finance
- Water security and resilience

Behavior-change practices and the themes of disability inclusion and gender transformation are integrated across all intervention areas as outlined in the global guidance of World Vision's WASH Core Project Model.

Five year targets (2021-2025) of the Mali WASH Program include providing:

- Safer, more accessible drinking water to 700,000 people
- Improved sanitation facilities for 500,000 people
- Hygiene behavior-change programming to 800,000 people and handwashing facilities for 105,000 households

Water Supply and Quality

Since the inception of World Vision's WASH programming in Mali, bringing life-changing clean water to the marginalized and vulnerable has been central to our mission and organizational identity. This distinctive, unwavering focus has guided WVM as we reached nearly 1.5 million people with improved WASH interventions from 2003 through 2020. World Vision embraces a holistic approach to helping communities advance up the SDG drinking water ladder, supporting targeted investments in new infrastructure while strengthening the systems that sustain water supply and ensure quality.

The Mali WASH Program installs improved water points including drilled wells equipped with hand pumps and tap stands from solar-mechanized water supply systems in communities, schools, and HCFs. We also provide water points in emergency settings such as areas with displaced people that

CAPACITY STATEMENT

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: MALI

PROVEN SUCCESS IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES

The Mali WASH Program has proven success in reaching universal WASH coverage in HCFs in some areas of Mali. For example, from 2017-2020, WVM collaborated with the Mali government, WHO, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to reach universal WASH coverage in all 23 HCFs in Kolokani district. Interventions included provision of solar powered, mechanized piped-water systems to supply running water in patient care rooms and to handwashing stations near latrines, sanitation facilities (including incinerators for safe management of biomedical waste and gender-segregated and disability-inclusive latrines), hygiene and sanitation kits, behavior-change communication, and capacity building.

Results of the final evaluation showed significant improvement in WASH services, waste management, and environmental cleaning from baseline to endline. For example, 100% of community health centers reached the basic water service level at endline, compared to 46% at baseline. Further, implementation of the USAID Clean Clinic approach resulted in 82% of facilities achieving Clean Clinic status, compared to 9% at first inspection a year earlier.

are affected by conflicts, environmental related disasters such as drought and floods, and health emergencies like COVID-19 and cholera outbreaks. Fragile zones in the regions of Gao, Tombouctou, and a large part of Mopti benefit from WASH services through the WVM emergency response program.

Facilitate universal service coverage

With the introduction of the SDGs, WVM has taken collaborative and bold steps with the government of Mali and other development partners to actively work toward achieving the ambitious targets for universal and equitable access to WASH services for all by 2030. In line with this, World Vision will provide significant WASH investment in 10 WVM program areas in the coming years, with a plan to reach 700,000 people with basic drinking water services by 2025. World Vision aims to help achieve universal WASH coverage in four program areas in Kolokani by 2025, and six program areas in Koutiala by 2030.

In alignment with SDG 6, World Vision's universal coverage approach will target communities, schools, and HCFs for full coverage of sustainable WASH services. Special attention will be given to vulnerable people who are mostly affected by the lack of adequate WASH services, including children younger than 5, adolescents, women, people living with disabilities, and internally displaced people. The program will ensure these people are identified and their needs are met.



Oumou, from the village of Manta, was happy to deliver her baby at a healthcare facility with clean water.

Prioritize piped-water systems

Since the launch of SDG 6 WASH standards, WVM has moved away from drilling boreholes equipped with single point-of-use hand pumps. Rather, water systems are constructed and mechanized using solar power to bring water as close to households as possible and to allow for multiple uses of water such as kitchen gardens or water troughs for livestock. From 2016 to 2020, 611 taps were constructed for households from 144 mechanized water systems. Another 181 taps from 34 mechanized water systems were built at HCFs, providing running water to all patient care rooms and handwashing facilities at latrines. Tap stands closer to households significantly benefit hygiene by empowering families to improve cleaning practices and they relieve women and girls of the disproportionate time and burden of water collection.

Develop sustainable management practices

Given sector-wide challenges with the long-term functionality of rural and small-town water supply services, WVM has doubled-down on strengthening management systems. Over the past five years, WVM helped form and train more than 824 WASH committees and trained 1,148 people in repair and maintenance of WASH infrastructure.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: MALI

SOCIAL INCLUSION IN WASH

WASH services in schools and healthcare facilities provided through WVM are designed to enable equitable access for people with disabilities. Water points include an access ramp and seat as well as modified hand pumps. Sanitation facilities are adapted to the needs of the elderly and those living with disabilities by ensuring construction of ramps to the latrine door, wider door openings, and handrails on the walls and toilet seats. In addition, low-cost household technologies and tools for the elderly and people living with disabilities are designed and promoted.

People with disabilities are encouraged to be involved in WASH activities from project design through construction and eventual use, ensuring they have an equal voice when it comes to key decision-making at group and community levels.

In 2015, WVM helped create a WASH management committee federation in Kolokani and Tominian districts through which communities from the entire district are organized to self-fund and support WASH facility functionality monitoring, repair, maintenance, and learnings. The Kolokani WASH committee federation gathers more than 150 committees in regular meetings to share successes, challenges, and mutual support as needed.

Improve water quality outcomes

WVM helps the government provide drinking water that meets WHO and Mali government water quality standards. The WVM WASH program conducts timely routine water quality monitoring and analysis at the water source and household levels. Every new water system is tested and analyzed before it is handed over to the community. WVM also builds the capacity of communes and communities to conduct water quality sampling and testing to ensure long-term water quality. At point-of-use, water quality is improved through community education on water collection, transport, storage, handling, and use.

To ensure the safe handling of drinking water from source to consumption at the household level, the program implemented the Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) approach in 2018. The pilot phase helped identify that water removal practices (such as dipping and scooping) and water transport/storage practices have a high correlation with household water quality. Using the CQI approach, a new water storage container that facilitates safe water storage

and use was designed. The safe storage container is being promoted in new areas for scaleup. In addition, the program is exploring local partnerships to help establish chlorination points at the water source, and in kiosks, households, and schools, particularly in areas of high water contamination. Also, over the last five years, 84,226 households were trained in water treatment techniques.

Sanitation and Hygiene

World Vision embraces a multipronged approach to improving sanitation and hygiene services, simultaneously working to bolster demand for sanitation products through tested and emerging methodologies; identify and fill supply gaps; and engender behavior change through people-centered approaches.

WVM supports the government initiative of Community-Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) to enable community members to improve their sanitation and hygiene practices. This approach has been successful in Mali, as 350 communities were declared ODF and 38,740 household latrines were built, allowing nearly 333,800 people to gain access to basic household sanitation over five years (2016-2020). In addition to CLTS, WVM trains artisans in latrine construction and supports WASH businesses to improve household sanitation. In the last five years, 1,025 masons were trained on latrine construction techniques.

To sustain CLTS results, post-ODF monitoring coupled with Sanitation Marketing is carried out in all ODF-certified communities. Social and commercial marketing approaches are used to increase the offer and demand for improved sanitation facilities. Sanitation Marketing is essential to help community members climb the sanitation ladder by offering essential sanitation products for the construction of better-quality latrines.

Employ behavior-change approaches

Behavior-change messages developed through the Designing for Behavior Change approach are used to promote healthy



Children learn about good sanitation and hygiene practices at a WASH UP! training session in Mali.

GENDER INTEGRATION IN WASH

To address gender inequalities, World Vision’s WASH program ensures the engagement of women, girls, men, and boys in the design, location, and management of facilities so no person or group of people are excluded from enjoying their rights. Specifically, WVM ensures the following:

- Systematic participation of women in decision-making on WASH services provision.
- Minimum requirement that at least 30-50% of all members of WASH committees and water-user associations be female, and 50% of school WASH club members be girls.
- Special support to women’s groups through Savings for Transformation, small-scale irrigation groups, and vegetable gardening to reinforce their economic and managerial capacity so they can access quality WASH services. When women generate income, they invest in WASH services such as paying for water fees and WASH products.
- Design of gender-separated sanitation facilities in schools and HCFs, which include a changing room and education sessions for menstrual hygiene management (MHM) for schoolgirls and use of the IRC WASH MHM toolkit in emergency contexts.

behaviors with community members, particularly mothers, caregivers, and children. Key hygiene practices such as handwashing with soap at critical times; safe water collection, transport, storage, handling, and use; and food hygiene are addressed. Women and caregivers also are empowered to safely manage child feces. From 2016 to 2020, nearly 1.9 million people were reached through behavior-change promotion.

WVM also trained 1,751 faith leaders over the last five years (2016-2020) on sanitation and hygiene messages to share with their congregations and communities. These trained leaders were instrumental in improving latrine coverage and handwashing rates in communities. Faith leaders have significant influence and community members are likely to consider their advice when it comes to changing behaviors and attitudes that have an important impact on community health.

Empower students as community change agents
WVM plans to provide basic sanitation in 155 schools and hygiene training and supplies in 425 schools over the next five years. WVM promotes hygiene in schools by establishing



A woman collects water from a newly designed safe water storage container in Kati, Mali.

school WASH clubs and training students to lead peer-to-peer educational activities such as hygiene and sanitation campaigns. School WASH clubs play an essential role in sustaining school water points, latrines, and handwashing facilities. Children who participate in WASH clubs are empowered as leaders and change agents within their schools, families, and communities. WVM also ensures that WASH clubs include girls and empowers them in WASH decision-making. During the last five years, 300 schools have been supported with improved WASH services, and more than 20,000 schoolchildren have been reached.

WVM also has implemented the Sesame WASH UP! program in schools since 2017. This program plays a key role in educating children on good hygiene and sanitation practices and empowering them to influence their parents and out-of-school children. As of the end of 2020, the WASH UP! program was being implemented in 100 schools with support tools in French, Bambara, and Bomu, and had reached 7,875 schoolchildren.

Governance and Financing

Governments, the private sector, nonprofits, and civil society all need to leverage additional financing for WASH, recognizing that no single WASH actor has the resources to independently achieve the SDGs. With its cross-sector partnerships and collaborations built over the past 46 years, WVM involves community beneficiaries, government, private-sector companies, and NGO partners in the design and

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: MALI-

implementation of appropriate water supply and sanitation options, and in raising additional resources to bridge WASH financing gaps.

Engage at the national level for systemic change

World Vision has prioritized engagement and advocacy with the national government as a critical component of our broader WASH strategy. Through the Sanitation and Water for All (SWA) and TrackFin working groups, WVM collaborates with other WASH partners to influence WASH-sector stakeholders to commit and act toward achieving WASH objectives. SWA and TrackFin are coordination frameworks led respectively by the Minister of Water Resources and the World Bank in Mali. Advocacy under the SWA framework has helped increase national government investments in the WASH sector from 1.57% of the national budget in 2016 to 3.52% in 2019—a 124% increase. Within the TrackFin framework, World Vision collaborates with WaterAid and the National Coalition-International Campaign for Water and Sanitation to help track investments of NGOs and civil society in the WASH sector.

Engage at the district level

Working alongside district or commune governments during the community engagement process supports sustainability, creating connections between communities and the responsible government entities. WVM helps strengthen commune technical capacity in WASH facility planning, management, and monitoring of WASH interventions. WVM also supports their capacity building to continuously improve water quality and water point functionality through the development of water-quality monitoring plans and the integration of mobile technologies for data collection efforts. Achievements include developing a communal WASH planning tool and communal WASH investment plans to reach SDG 6, establishing WASH committees and repair artisan networks, and developing a post-implementation monitoring tool. Three communes have implemented WASH investment plans, and seven more are in the process of developing plans to cover the Kolokani district.

Mobilize communities to advocate for change

WVM uses our hallmark Citizen Voice and Action (CVA) local advocacy model to complement WASH interventions, informing and empowering communities to advocate for improved WASH services with public officials. CVA links communities and key local government stakeholders with the tools, resources, and data on WASH services necessary to improve accountability and transparency on local governance in the WASH sector. WVM employs this approach in most operating areas, enabling citizens to demand the right to safe water and hold local governments accountable.



M'Pella Djourna Diarra shows a papaya grown in her garden with water from a mechanized system.

The model begins by making communities aware of the roles and responsibilities of local government in WASH service provision and then transitions to a scorecard approach, whereby communities evaluate the performance of local government against key service delivery indicators. Communities then use the scorecards to engage public leaders and highlight areas of weak performance. Over the last five years, WVM has helped form and train 102 CVA groups.

Water Security and Resilience

World WVM is working to not only improve access to WASH services, but also to improve the environment in which the program operates to ensure resilience of water resources and sustainability of services. For example, repeated droughts in the Sahel due to climate change are likely to affect aquifer recharge, leading to lower water tables and nonfunctioning wells, especially in areas underlain by basement rocks within our intervention zones located in western and southern Mali. Therefore, aquifer vulnerability studies are conducted to give clearer guidance. To mitigate risks related to drought, all drilled wells are designed to allow the possibility of mechanization to supply more community members and more villages with clean water if the yield is sufficient.

At the national level, the government of Mali has developed a strategy for Integrated Water Resources Management to improve the sustainability of water resources. This is based on watershed management, ecosystem protection, degraded land rehabilitation, and community awareness campaigns. WVM aligns its resilience projects to this strategy and has vast experience in rejuvenating vegetation and soil through Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration as well as in disaster risk reduction, including increasing community awareness of climate risks and developing early warning systems.

WATER, SANITATION, AND HYGIENE: MALI-

Additional interventions and initiatives to improve impact and sustainability include the following:

- Integrating WASH with livelihood and economic development to enhance community members' economic capacity and enable them to afford and sustain quality WASH services. This includes multiple uses of water for market gardening and livestock, and access to loans through Vision Fund and/or Savings for Transformation to carry out income-generating activities.
- Engaging, facilitating, and strengthening the connection among communities, service providers, and technical services to enable and leverage program efforts toward private-sector involvement for the management and repair of WASH facilities and increased sustainability of WASH services.
- Using information and communication technologies, including Viamo and the mWater platform, to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of WASH program interventions. Aspects to be improved include monitoring of WASH interventions (both functionality of facilities and WASH committees), water service payments, and data collection. To solve water service payment issues and secure funds for operation and maintenance, the program is introducing the AQtap water dispenser for mechanized water supply systems to integrate revenue collection through an ATM process.

Partnerships for Effective WASH

Over the years, WVM has built strong partnerships at local, national, and global levels to develop joint efforts that address the WASH challenges in Mali and foster sustainability for WASH investments with the goal of reaching SDG 6. World Vision helps build capacity of government agencies and community-based organizations to improve their ability to implement, monitor, and sustain WASH interventions within their jurisdictions.

WV Mali actively participates in the WASH Cluster at national and regional levels as well as in other sector task forces. As a result of its national-level engagement, WVM has cultivated strong working relationships with the ministries of Water Resources; Sanitation and Environment; Health; and Education, which provide oversight, coordination, and direction to all WASH implementing partners in Mali.



Walle Diallo from Sagabala community collects water at a tap stand from a solar powered, mechanized piped-water system.

At the local level, WVM partners with community-based organizations in the WASH sector to ensure improved WASH in communities. Local partners are deeply involved and empowered to ensure the sustainability of WASH services. WASH activities are implemented in collaboration with organizations and institutions such as the U.N. Refugee Agency (UNHCR), the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UNICEF, WHO, WaterAid, IRC WASH, Save the Children, Plan International, Proctor and Gamble, MSR Global Health, Sesame Workshop, and Grundfos.

WVM also collaborates with international academic institutions such as the UNC. These partnerships have led to innovations and continued research in various programming areas within the WASH sector. For example, WVM works with the University of North Carolina (UNC) to periodically evaluate and assess WASH in Mali for decision-making and program improvements.

