

**United Nations Trust Fund
for Human Security**

Mali

Digital Innovation for Sustainable Healthcare and Social Protection in Mali

Background information

Mali faces significant challenges in health and social protection, compounded by over a decade of conflict and instability. Insecurity, inadequate medical equipment, and a shortage of qualified healthcare personnel limit access to quality care, particularly for rural populations, pregnant women, children, and the elderly. Health insurance coverage remains low, leaving informal workers and low-income groups especially vulnerable. Insufficient digital health infrastructure further hampers disease surveillance and service delivery, while restricted access to reproductive, obstetric, and mental health services increases risks for women, children, and internally displaced persons. Social protection programmes, including social security systems and cash transfer initiatives, are limited in reach, leaving many without a safety net. Addressing these interconnected challenges requires integrated, multisectoral solutions to strengthen health systems, expand social protection, and ensure no one is left behind.

Goals and objectives

The programme seeks to improve access to sustainable healthcare and social safety nets for vulnerable populations in targeted areas. To achieve this, it will (i) contribute to the development of telemedicine infrastructure enabling the provision of effective and secure teleconsultation services for populations in the targeted communities; (ii) establish social safety nets for the most vulnerable people in collaboration with the government; and (iii) strengthen outreach on the added value of the human security approach in tackling these challenges.



DURATION

February 2025 — January 2027



UN IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES
UNDP, WHO



OTHER KEY PARTNERS

Ministry of Health and Social Development, National Agency for Telehealth and Medical Informatics, National Federation of Community Health Associations, Network of Women for Environmental Development, academia, private sector



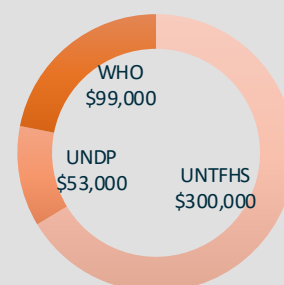
BENEFICIARIES

>100,000 individuals directly and large parts on the population, especially the most vulnerable, indirectly



TOTAL BUDGET
US\$ 452,000

POOLING OF RESOURCES



Beneficiaries

Over 100,000 people will directly benefit from improved health services and enhanced social safety nets in the Koulikoro, Sikasso and Ségou regions. In addition, 100 trained healthcare professionals will benefit from various training courses on telehealth technologies in different fields. Indirectly, the programme will reach large parts of the population through targeted efforts to address the health and social needs of the most marginalized and vulnerable populations, including women, youth and children.

Applying the Human Security approach

In the context of multiple vulnerabilities and prolonged instability, the human security approach offers a powerful tool to address the interconnected challenges faced by vulnerable populations in Mali. By prioritizing individual well-being across multiple areas, it can ensure that interventions are comprehensive, tailored, and capable of empowering communities, reducing inequalities, and fostering long-term resilience.

A critical strength of the programme is simultaneously enhancing economic and social security while addressing health challenges. By promoting income-generating activities in agro-pastoral and market gardening sectors, it builds the economic resilience of individuals and communities. This is particularly impactful in vulnerable regions of Mali, where marginalized groups often face compounding risks from health crises and economic instability. For example, community participation in decision-making processes ensures that interventions are locally relevant while enhancing beneficiaries' sense of ownership.

The programme's community-driven and participatory approach ensures inclusivity, targeting regions with high levels of vulnerability. By leveraging innovative tools like telemedicine and addressing barriers to healthcare access, it prioritizes the needs of the most marginalized populations, including women, children, and persons with disabilities. For example, the establishment of telehealth services not only improves access to specialized healthcare but also creates opportunities for ongoing medical education for healthcare workers in underserved areas. This dual approach ensures both immediate assistance and long-term capacity-building within the community.

Finally, the programme's multisectoral and localized approach amplifies its impact by addressing interconnected challenges in health, economic stability, and community resilience. Through partnerships with local stakeholders, such as community health associations and women's and youth groups, the programme ensures interventions are tailored to the unique needs of Mali's communities. The integration of a localized data collection system allows for ongoing feedback from beneficiaries, enabling adaptive and responsive decision-making. These efforts, combined with active collaboration among UN agencies, government ministries, and civil society, ensure a holistic response that addresses immediate risks and strengthens the foundations for sustainable development and human security in Mali.



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