

Poverty & Equity Brief

Africa Western & Central

Mali

April 2023

Poverty is high in Mali with 42.1 percent of people living below the national poverty line in 2018, equivalent to nearly 8.4 million poor. At the same time, 14.8 percent of people are living below the US\$2.15 a day international poverty line. This rate is expected to have increased significantly during the period 2018-2022, to reach 19.1 percent in 2022, after a 4.3 percentage point increase over the period. This is equivalent to nearly 4.3 million extreme poor, over 90 percent of whom are located in rural areas, and an increase of 1.4 million extreme poor over the period.

The COVID-19 crisis rolled back the reduction in the poverty achieved in 2019, due to a combination of emergency health measures, precautionary behaviors by firms and consumers, and a pandemic-driven slowdown in global economic activity that resulted in widespread job losses and a sharp decline in labor income. Since 2020, the economic crisis linked to the country's political instability, a drought in 2021, and the adverse effect of the Ukraine war has led to low growth and high inflation.

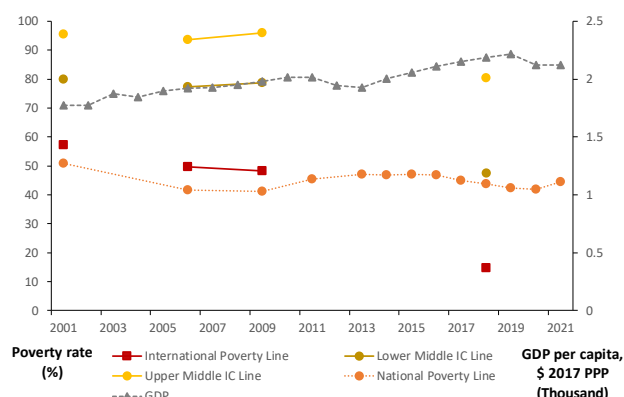
Inflation surged in 2021 and continued to increase in 2022. The household consumer price index in Mali increased by 9.7 percent in 2022. Price increases have been high, particularly in food and transport, because of weak domestic food production and a rise in global food and energy prices due to the war in Ukraine. Agricultural output fell sharply in 2021 on account of rainfall deficits and interrupted field work due to insecurity. While agricultural growth has recovered somewhat in 2022, it has been insufficient to overcome the impact of inflation. As a result, extreme poverty in rural areas is expected to have increased from 20.3 in 2021 to 24.5 percent in 2022 measured by the international poverty line. Significant spatial disparities are also expected in 2022, with a poverty rate ranging from almost null in Kidal and Bamako (less than 0.4 percent) to around 35.0 percent in the Sikasso and Mopti region.

Low agricultural growth and high food inflation is expected to have affected the relative income of poorest households especially hard, leading to an increase in inequality, as measured by the Gini index, of nearly one point during the 2019-2022 period to reach 34 in 2022.

| POVERTY | Number of Poor (million) | Rate (%) | Period |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|
| National Poverty Line | 9.0 | 44.6 | 2021 |
| International Poverty Line 438.5 in CFA franc (2018) or US\$2.15 (2017 PPP) per day per capita | 2.9 | 14.8 | 2018 |
| Lower Middle Income Class Poverty Line 744.4 in CFA franc (2018) or US\$3.65 (2017 PPP) per day per capita | 9.5 | 47.5 | 2018 |
| Upper Middle Income Class Poverty Line 1397 in CFA franc (2018) or US\$6.85 (2017 PPP) per day per capita | 16.0 | 80.5 | 2018 |
| Multidimensional Poverty Measure | | 43.7 | 2018 |
| SHARED PROSPERITY | | | |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita of the bottom 40 percent | | 2.49 | 2006-2009 |
| INEQUALITY | | | |
| Gini Index | | 36.1 | 2018 |
| Shared Prosperity Premium = Growth of the bottom 40 - Average Growth | | 3.98 | 2006-2009 |
| GROWTH | | | |
| Annualized GDP per capita growth | | 0.99 | 2006-2009 |
| Annualized Consumption Growth per capita from Household Survey | | -1.49 | 2006-2009 |
| MEDIAN INCOME | | | |
| Growth of the annual median income/consumption per capita | | 0.62 | 2006-2009 |

Sources: WDI for GDP, National Statistical Offices for national poverty rates, PIP as of April 2023, and Global Monitoring Database for the rest.

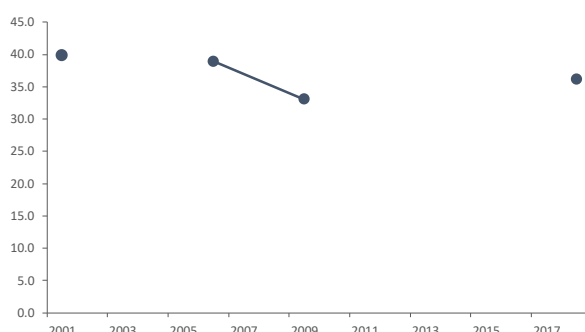
POVERTY HEADCOUNT RATE, 2001-2021



Source: World Bank using EHCVM/SSAPOV/GMD

INEQUALITY TRENDS, 2001-2018

Gini Index



Source: World Bank using EHCVM/SSAPOV/GMD

KEY INDICATORS

| Distribution among groups: 2018 | International Poverty Line (%) | | Relative group (%) | |
|---|--------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------|
| | Non-Poor | Poor | Bottom 40 | Top 60 |
| Urban population | 97 | 3 | 12 | 88 |
| Rural population | 81 | 19 | 50 | 50 |
| Males | 85 | 15 | 41 | 59 |
| Females | 85 | 15 | 39 | 61 |
| 0 to 14 years old | 83 | 17 | 45 | 55 |
| 15 to 64 years old | 88 | 12 | 34 | 66 |
| 65 and older | 86 | 14 | 40 | 60 |
| Without education (16+) | 84 | 16 | 44 | 56 |
| Primary education (16+) | 92 | 8 | 28 | 72 |
| Secondary education (16+) | 97 | 3 | 12 | 88 |
| Tertiary/post-secondary education (16+) | 100 | N/A* | N/A* | 98 |

Source: World Bank using EHCVM/SSAPOV/GMD

Notes: N/A missing value, N/A* value removed due to less than 30 observations

| Multidimensional Poverty Measures: 2018 | (% of population) |
|--|-------------------|
| Monetary poverty (Consumption) | |
| Daily consumption less than US\$2.15 per person | 14.8 |
| Education | |
| At least one school-aged child is not enrolled in school | 28.2 |
| No adult has completed primary education | 66.6 |
| Access to basic infrastructure | |
| No access to limited-standard drinking water | 23.8 |
| No access to limited-standard sanitation | 51.9 |
| No access to electricity | 23.9 |

Source: World Bank using EHCVM/SSAPOV/GMD

POVERTY DATA AND METHODOLOGY

Mali has a good track record of producing official and national poverty estimates. The Modular and Permanent Household Survey (EMOP) is carried out annually in four rounds and each round lasts three months of collection. The data collection phase of the first edition took place on April 1, 2011. The information collected (like LSMS-ISA) covers demography, housing, education, health, employment, food security, consumer spending, etc. The welfare estimates are significant at the level of the eight regions, the district of Bamako as well as at the level of the two areas of residence. The EMOP surveys have not been used for international poverty estimations. However, the harmonized WAEMU 2018/19 household survey confirmed its accuracy, even if there are comparability issues with the 2009 ELIM survey. A second harmonized household survey has been completed and results will be available by June 2023. This is also the case for the population census which has been completed in 2022.

Note on new global poverty lines: Poverty data are now expressed in 2017 Purchasing Power Parity (PPP) prices, versus 2011 PPP in previous editions. As price levels across the world evolve, global poverty lines have to be periodically updated to reflect the increase of the value of the lines in nominal terms. The new global poverty lines of \$2.15, \$3.65, and \$6.85 reflect the typical national poverty lines of low-income, lower-middle-income, and upper-middle-income countries in 2017 prices. In addition to reflecting updates in nominal terms, upper-middle-income countries raised the standards by which they determine people to be poor from 2011 to 2017. Hence, the increase in the upper line is larger, and the population that does not meet the new standard is higher in most countries than it was with 2011 PPPs. See pip.worldbank.org.

HARMONIZATION

The numbers presented in this brief are based on the SSAPOV database. SSAPOV is a database of harmonized nationally representative household surveys managed by Sub-Saharan Team for Statistical Development. It contains more than 100 surveys covering 45 out of the 48 countries in the SSA region. The three countries not covered in the database are Eritrea, Equatorial Guinea, and Somalia. Terms of use of the data adhere to agreements with the original data producers.