

Advancing resilience and sustainability in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

GCCED Fragile States Portfolio 2026

Mali — Climate Security in the Sahel

Snapshot: Population ~23 million | GDP per capita ~US\$1,000 | Fragility context: Fragile and conflict-affected | Region: Sahel

Integrated Context

Mali's climate profile is defined by rainfall variability, desertification, and chronic insecurity across the Sahel. In northern and central regions, degraded rangelands, declining soil fertility, and unstable rainfall patterns are placing mounting pressure on farming and pastoral systems. These environmental stresses overlap with conflict, displacement, and weak public administration, making climate adaptation inseparable from peacebuilding and service resilience. Climate pressures can intensify local grievance and mobility pressures where access to land, pasture, and water is contested. A practical resilience strategy therefore requires localized programming that combines ecosystem restoration, pastoral support, livelihood diversification, and conflict-sensitive service delivery. Climate security is not an abstract concept in Mali; it is a daily development and governance challenge.

Key Climate and Environmental Challenges

- Erratic rainfall and drought
- Desert expansion and rangeland loss
- Water stress in insecure areas
- Weak adaptation service reach

GCCED Engagement Priorities

- Climate-security policy analysis
- Dryland restoration and agroecology
- Pastoral resilience and mobility support
- Decentralized resource governance

Strategic Note

Mali needs climate interventions that reduce environmental stress while strengthening local stability, livelihoods, and conflict-sensitive governance systems.

SDG Alignment: 2 • 6 • 13 • 15 • 16