

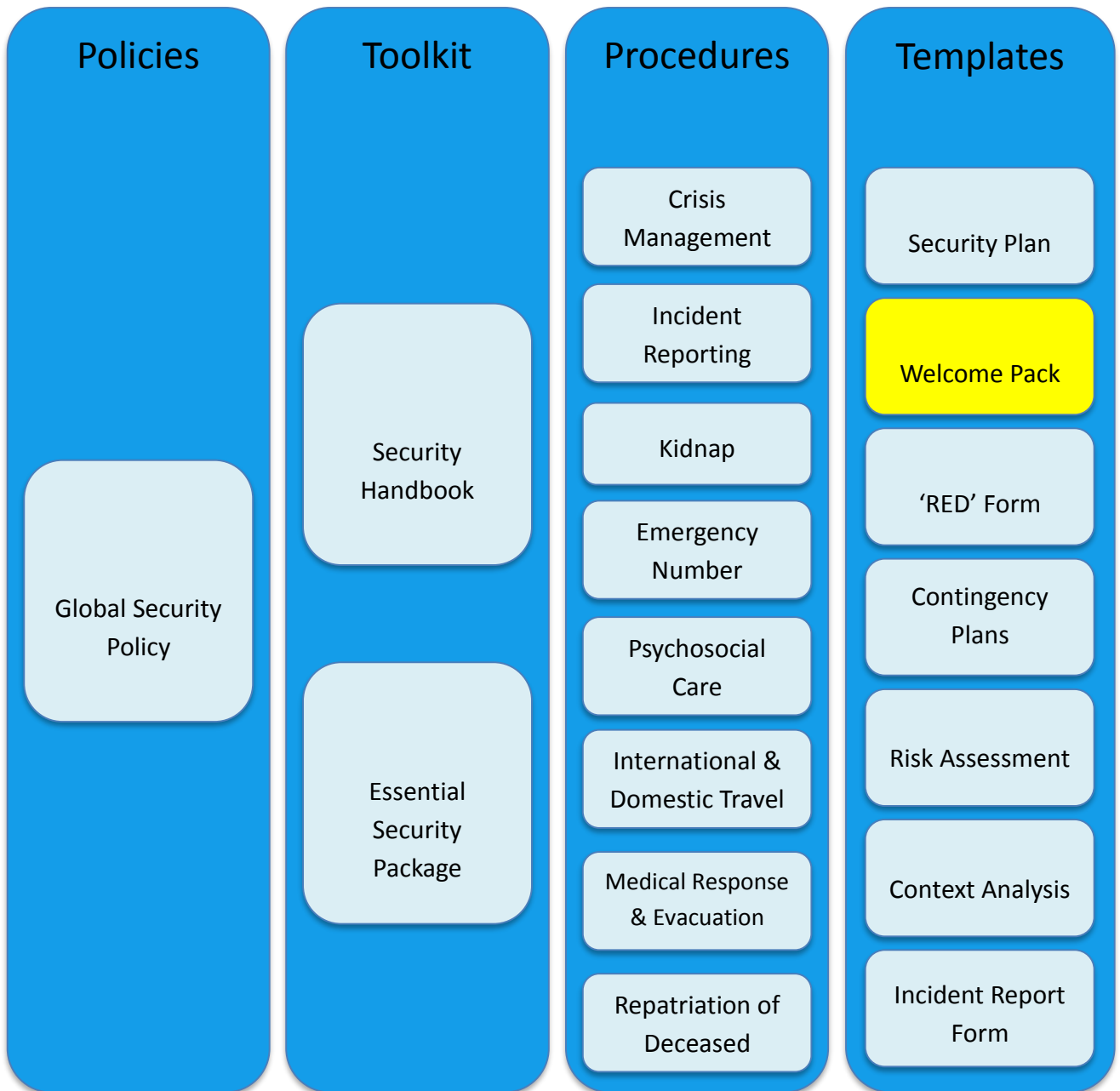


## **WaterAid Mali Visitors' Welcome Pack**

<b>Scope</b>	<b>Regional People Management Framework</b>
<b>Introduction</b>	<p>The nature of WaterAid's work necessitates working in volatile and sometimes violent environments. At times this presents a threat to the security and well-being of our staff; an issue the organisation takes very seriously.</p> <p>A Country Welcome Pack provides staff and visitors with a broad overview of the environment in which they are working or travelling to including essential security information good to know prior to visiting. It describes other factors that may not be included in a security plan such as currency information, cultural norms, local considerations, sensitivities, etc.</p>
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>The aim of this document is to inform short-term visitors of useful information that is important for their visit. Your welcome pack should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a brief summary of the country including safety and security</li> <li>• Provide information on cultural practices</li> <li>• Provide information regarding airports and accommodation</li> <li>• Provide useful hints and tips regarding dress, communications, electricity, currency, eating out, getting around, health and climate.</li> <li>• Contain a short declaration to be signed by the visitor after the In-Country security briefing, whereby acknowledging that s/he is informed and understand the risks (informed consent).</li> <li>• To satisfy one of the requirements of WA's duty of care.</li> </ul> <p>Preferably visitors should be able to access this – or receive by mail – prior to departing for your country as a Pre-Departure brief.</p>
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<b>First Revision</b>	

## GLOBAL SECURITY FRAMEWORK

This document is part of the Global Security Framework that consists of policies, a toolkit, procedures and a template pack, as illustrated below.



# Welcome to Mali/Bienvenue au Mali



## INTRODUCTION

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WaterAid Mali is often hosting international visitors from member offices, donors and supporters. The aim of this Welcome Pack is to inform short-term visitors of useful information that is important for their visit. It is updated regularly to reflect current security situation in Mali, and will also provide some useful information that visitors should know before starting their journey. The document serves as a Pre-Departure Brief and will be supplemented by a verbal security briefing upon arrival to Mali.

### Country Summary

Mali, officially known as the Republic of Mali, a vast country between the Sahara and the Sahel, is a land of civilizations in the heart of West Africa. The mixing of various nationalities and the peaceful coexistence of Islam, Christianity and traditional religions have developed a tolerant people and a secular State, open to the world and resolutely committed to the construction of the African Union.

Surface area: 1,241,192 km<sup>2</sup>

Capital: Bamako

Population: 17,99 millions (2016)

GDP per capita: 188 940 F CFA

National Currency: (CFA Franc)

Average growth rate: about 5%

Languages: French (official language), Bambara, Malinke, Fulani, Songhai, Tamachek, Minianka, Senufo, Bobo, Arabic etc.

Religions: Muslim 80%, Christian 10%, traditional religions 10%,

Political system: Republic, multiparty system

President of Republic: Ibrahim Boubacar Kéïta.

Parliament: One House of 147 seats, Parliament was renewed following democratic and transparent elections.

### Entry Requirements

- **Passport & Visa:** West Africa nationals are not subject to entry visa to Mali. Nationals of other countries should apply for an entry visa to Mali. . Please check your own visa requirements before travel. Although not advisable, visas may be obtained at the airport in Bamako or at some of the land borders. Vaccination against yellow fever is also required before entry. Travellers may obtain additional information at the nearest overseas Malian embassy or consulate. The Executive Assistant at WaterAid Mali will contact them to help them get their visas.
- **Climate:** From subtropical to arid; a very hot dry season (March to June), a rainy season, wet and temperate (June to October) and a cold and dry season (November to February).
- **Transport from the airport and back to the airport:** Your transportation from the airport to the Hotel will be provided by the Country Programme and the hotel shuttle.
- **Telecommunications:** The country code for Mali is (223) for international communications. For national communications, you have the choice between two operators SOTELMA / MALITEL and Orange Mali.



- **Hotel Rooms:** Hotel rooms are basic but clean in nature, with air conditioner and hot & cold water. Laundry service is usually available. A TV set is also available with international channels such as CNN, BBC, France24, and TV5. Mali operates a 220 volts AC electricity system. United Kingdom and United States plugs/sockets are not used in Mali. You are advised to bring a universal plug/socket adaptor if you would like to use electrical appliances and computers from your home country in Mali.

**Accommodation and meeting:** You will stay at **LAICO L'Amitie Bamako** and the meeting will be held there. It's located in the center of Bamako.



- **Currency and banking:** The currency used in Mali is CFA. 1 Euro (EUR) = 655.957 CFA Franc BCEAO (XOF). If you want to buy currency, you can do so at currency exchange offices or at banks. Avoid buying currency with individuals sitting in front of banks. Major credit cards can be used only in four and five star hotels, and a few restaurants. If necessary, WaterAid Mali may help you buy currency
- **Health:** Before your departure, check with your doctor and take out a contract with an insurance company to cover your medical expenses and repatriation. Medical facilities in Mali are limited, especially outside of the capital, Bamako but it is relatively easy to stay healthy by practicing normal hygienic and sanitary measures, and using common sense. There are several rules you should observe; from the day you arrive until your departure:
  - Water supplies in Mali are in general good but do not drink water from the well; drink only boiled water, hot tea or coffee or bottled drinks,
  - Do not brush your teeth with untreated water; ask for a bottle of safe water or soda water,
  - Do not use ice cubes unless you are certain they were made from safe water. All bigger hotels and restaurants use safe water
  - Eat only freshly cooked and hot food; at least early in your stay, avoid raw salads,
  - Please, do not buy food or drink sold by street vendors.
  - Wash your hands before touching any food or eating.
  - As Mali, at times, is very hot (37 to 43 degrees C) drink a lot of water to avoid dehydration;
  - Always take a first aid, a mosquito net and anti-malaria products with you when traveling in the bush;

- **Security:** Security wise, the South is quiet as opposed to the Northern regions remain fragile and vulnerable to armed conflicts especially in Kidal, Gao and Tombouctou, terrorist attacks in Gao and Kidal but also focused rocket fires, Imported Explosive Devices -IED and criminality on roads in the North. In Bamako, the security situation is marked by petty crime and sporadic social events.

It is recommended that foreigners be vigilant. It is therefore necessary to fully comply with security measures and observe the following security instructions:

- Always Wait for WaterAid Mali's driver to arrive at the reception before leaving your room,
- Limit travel outside of Bamako and large cities, avoid areas with heavy traffic of expatriates,
- Comply vehicle control at the entrance of hotels,
- Always bring your passport with you,
- Do not stay out beyond 22 hours,
- Always go out in group if possible or with another person,
- Do not wear badge with WaterAid or International NGO logo (T-Shirt, effigies, or any symbol or allusion to the Organization, etc.)
- When in public, don't display your cash, jewels and valuables
- Avoid big crowds and events like demonstrations.

## **Safety & Security**

Mali is a developing country in western Africa. The official language is French. The capital is Bamako. The north is controlled by Tuareg/Islamists and the south by the government of Mali. Since 1916 the Tuareg have been fighting for the three northern regions (Timbuktu, Gao, and Kidal) to become an independent state which they call Azawad, an area larger than France. There were four unsuccessful rebellions 1916 and 2007. The fifth rebellion started in January 2012. The Tuareg had now formed themselves into an organisation named the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA). The Ansar Dine is a group of militant Islamists who wish to impose Sharia law in Azawad. They were in alliance with the MNLA. The government's handling of the 2012 rebellion was criticised by many elements in Mali including junior army officers who ousted the government on March 22, 2012.

Now, the overall situation in Bamako and the programme areas is safe but is little bit volatile since a democratic power has not been put in place. However, the insecurity changes on a daily basis, all approved travel into Mali should be checked at least 24 hours prior to departure with the CD/ designated person.

The Security Risk is Medium with High risk in North East including Kidal, Gao and Timbuktu. In Bamako, the security situation is marked by petty crime and sporadic social events. Travel is forbidden in the northern part of the Country especially for Expatriate staff.

## **Sensitive areas in Bamako and Security Instructions**

Visitors have to avoid proximity with following sites:

- **Militaries sites:** all check points – Police, Army, Gendarmerie headquarters

- **Western embassies:** (France – USA – Canada...)
- **Bars/Restaurants/Restaurants/Night clubs:** where we can notice a strong presence of expatriates, where we can buy and drink alcohol, beer – where we can find prostitution (Patisserie Amandine – Bamako By Night – Night club Ibiza – Rue princesse – Blabla...)
- No formal curfew in Bamako, but expatriates must be careful during movements at night
- Despite isolated cases of banditry, Bamako is safer than most cities in Africa, Europe and in America, but the “common sense” rules, naturally used in your home country also apply here. Do not flaunt wealth, or carry large amounts of jewellery or cash. Be careful when taking a motorbike during the night. Cars and motorbikes parked without supervision might be stripped of lights, windscreen wipers, mirrors and other loose parts. In most streets, however, guarded parking is available at a small fee and is available outside major hotels and restaurants free of charge.

## Some tourist attractions in Bamako

Currently safer visiting places are the National Park, the National Museum and the house of artisans.

## Key Contacts

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Hervé SAMBIENI	Security Focal Point	Tel: 00223 78 89 17 88 <a href="mailto:HerveSambieni@wateraid.org">HerveSambieni@wateraid.org</a>
Police – Gendarmerie – National Guard		
Police	17 or 112	00223 80 00 11 14
Civil defence	18	
Gendarmerie	80 00 11 15	
National Guard	80 00 11 25	
Medical emergency		
Pasteur Polyclinic	00223 2029 1010	
Polyclinic of Bamako	00223 2028 0517	
Fire brigade company	18	80 00 12 01