



## **AFRICA/MALI – More than 3 million suffer food shortage, some 50,000 could starve to death before the end of 2014**

Bamako (Agenzia Fides) – In Mali some 136,000 children are severely undernourished , a pathology which registers high mortality rates, and another 360,000 are moderately undernourished . According to latest reports issued by the United Nation’s Children’s Fund, without adequate food-aid to Mali, some 50,000 children could perish before the end of 2014. To prevent or at least limit this human tragedy, the UN recently launched a new aid plan to distribute doses of concentrated nutritive food able to reanimate an undernourished child rapidly and effectively. The humanitarian plan aims to improve access to basic social services in the sectors of health, schooling, food security and sanitation. The target is to assist the most vulnerable: internally displaced persons, persons in assistance centres and repatriates, and also to limit the food crisis consequences by promoting and supporting local farming . A total 3 million people suffer from food insecurity, mainly in north Mali, because of conflict inside the country and the occupation of this area by outlawed armed groups. Warfare has caused the displacement , inside the country and across neighbouring borders, of more than half a million people, heightening the crisis in central and south Mali. (AP) (26/2/2014 Agenzia Fides)