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DISASTER RISK REDUCTION – WEST AFRICA

OVERVIEW

Many of the 21 countries[1] in the West Africa region face recurrent complex emergencies, frequent food insecurity, sustained prevalence of acute malnutrition, cyclical drought, seasonal floods, and disease outbreaks, resulting in significant challenges to at-risk populations. Many cities in the region have rapidly expanded, often in areas prone to floods, landslides, and other natural hazards, causing urban growth to outpace the capacity of local authorities to respond to disasters. Conflict also scatters populations, triggering large-scale displacement that multiplies the vulnerabilities of those forcibly uprooted, who often lack access to resources, employment, and basic services.

USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) not only responds to disasters, but also funds disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs to build the capacity of communities to prepare for and respond to emergencies. USAID/OFDA's DRR activities in West Africa during FY 2012 sought to reduce the risks and effects of acute malnutrition, food insecurity, displacement, and epidemics through programs that decrease household fragility and increase resilience to future shocks by addressing the root causes of recurrent emergencies in the region. During FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided more than $52 million for DRR projects throughout West Africa, including programs that integrate DRR with disaster response.

FY 2012 DRR FUNDING IN WEST AFRICA	
Stand-Alone DRR Programs in West Africa *(see pages 1-3)*	$461,684
Programs that Integrate DRR with Disaster Response[2] *(see page 3-12)*	$51,730,748
TOTAL DRR Funding in West Africa	**$52,192,432**

STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS IN WEST AFRICA

In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA's West Africa team provided more than $460,000 for stand-alone DRR initiatives that improve preparedness and aim to mitigate and prevent the worst impacts of disasters. USAID/OFDA provided additional funding for regional and global stand-alone programs that include activities in West Africa to strengthen disaster preparedness and response. At the regional and country levels, USAID/OFDA and implementing partners engaged communities, national and local governments, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop effective strategies—tailored to the needs of at-risk populations—to reduce the risk of disasters. These programs all reflected USAID/OFDA's commitment to support capacity development; strengthen linkages among risk identification, monitoring, early warning, and early action; and expand partnerships and joint programming. Analysis of existing capacities and social, economic, and environmental trends guided programs. When possible, USAID/OFDA programs addressed underlying causes of recurrent disasters, including environmental degradation, rapid urban growth, and climate change.

Global and Region-Wide Programs Active in West Africa[3]

- Water Study in Liberia: In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA—in partnership with USAID'S Global Health Bureau—provided $75,000 to pilot a new field product to test for fecal contamination within water supplies. The study seeks to determine if this new field test is accurate and simple enough for untrained staff in the field to utilize. If successful, this product will streamline testing for fecal contamination in water and produce information that can be used to better tailor water and sanitation interventions.

[1] The West Africa region encompasses Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.
[2] The figure reported represents the integrated DRR–response portion of larger disaster response programs.
[3] Funding figures for global and regional initiatives represent program totals, including USAID/OFDA funding for activities implemented both within and outside West Africa.

- Views from the Frontline: To increase the ability of global civil society groups to collaborate on strategic DRR policy and practices, USAID/OFDA continued to support "Views from the Frontline" (VFL), an initiative of the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction, through FY 2012 assistance to Tearfund. A participatory action research project designed to bring in the voices and concerns of vulnerable people, VFL strengthens links between local, national, regional, and international civil society organizations in 70 countries, including West African nations.

West Africa Regional Programs

- Using Food Fortification to Reduce Micronutrient Deficiencies in Senegal and Mauritania: Through Helen Keller International (HKI), USAID/OFDA has supported national food fortification programs in Senegal and Mauritania since FY 2009. The addition of essential micronutrients to food staples, such as wheat flour and cooking oil, ensures that vulnerable individuals have access to adequate quantities of vitamin A, iron, and zinc in their diets, as the majority of people will continue to consume staple items even during times of crisis. HKI also utilizes a public–private partnership model that involves business owners, government entities, and NGOs, thereby building local capacity to continue food fortification activities and to prevent future incidents of malnutrition relating to micronutrient deficiencies. USAID/OFDA has provided nearly $1.9 million to support these activities during the project's nearly four-year duration.

- Cross-Border Cholera Preparedness and Prevention: With prior fiscal year funding, USAID/OFDA supported U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) regional cholera preparedness activities in Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria in FY 2011. Through a study of past years' epidemics, UNICEF researched the underlying causes of cholera in the Lake Chad basin to better target, prevent, and control outbreaks. Research findings allowed regional actors to develop an operational plan for cholera preparedness and response that included trained water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) response teams and pre-positioned supplies in high-risk areas. This program ended in April 2012.

- Food Security and Market Analysis in West Africa: Following the 2009/2010 food insecurity crisis, USAID/OFDA supported the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to conduct a post-crisis market assessment to measure the impact of food insecurity on livelihoods in the West Africa region, including Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, and The Gambia. In tandem with this effort, WFP enhanced its regional market analyses to evaluate the post-crisis availability of goods. In total, USAID/OFDA provided more than $757,000 for program activities, which concluded in May 2012.

Country-Specific Programs

Burkina Faso

- Enhanced Homestead Food Production for Improved Food Security and Nutrition: Since FY 2009, USAID/OFDA has supported a three-year HKI project to improve household-level food security and the nutritional status of children and mothers in East Region, Burkina Faso. Using a training-of-trainers model, the project instructs staff from the Burkinabe agriculture and health departments, who in turn help train female village leaders and community health workers in home gardening techniques and nutritional education, respectively—benefiting as many as 14,000 people. The improvements to food security brought about by increased access to vegetables in the home gardens positively impact nutritional status of children and pregnant and lactating women in the community. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided more than $1.7 million for the project.

- Strengthening the Skills of Local Health Workers: With prior fiscal year funding from USAID/OFDA, HKI continued to improve systematic screenings and quality of care for malnourished children in Burkina Faso by expanding programming in East Region. The program—completed in July 2012—sought to strengthen approximately 600 community health workers' skills and understanding of preventive nutrition activities through training and on-the-job coaching, as well as the organization of district-level health staff meetings.

Chad

- Capacity-Building Support to Vulnerable Populations in Batha and Sila Regions: To help communities in Batha and Sila regions prepare for future emergencies, USAID/OFDA provided more than $130,000 to the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development. (ACTED) to develop local disaster and risk reduction systems. The program also offers training in disaster preparedness, mitigation, and management at the village level.

Guinea

- Accelerating Vitamin and Mineral Fortification: With more than $330,000 from USAID/OFDA, HKI is addressing micronutrient deficiencies among women and children in Guinea. In the face of increased food prices, the project trains health instructors regarding the value of basic fortified foods and promotes efforts to better identify and label fortified foods available in local markets. USAID/OFDA aims to ensure that the majority of women and children in urban areas have access to vitamin-A-fortified cooking oil and micronutrient-fortified wheat flour by mid-2013.

- Improving Nutritional Early Warning Systems: Through previous fiscal year funding to partner HKI, USAID/OFDA supported efforts to enhance Guinea's nutrition early warning system at the community, regional, and national levels. By building the capacity of organizations to improve household food and nutrition security surveillance, the program aimed to increase nutrition surveillance in areas with a high prevalence of acute malnutrition and train government officials and NGOs on methodology and tools for data collection. This program concluded in May 2012.

- Cholera Preparedness Capacity Building: USAID/OFDA provided assistance in FY 2011 to Action Against Hunger/U.S. (AAH/USA) to enhance institutional and NGO capacity to prepare for a cholera epidemic and to conduct disaster mitigation trainings and contingency planning. USAID/OFDA also supported the improvement of water and sanitation conditions in public areas through community-based sanitation initiatives, including hygiene promotion and water treatment kit distributions, to benefit approximately 60,000 people. This program concluded in September 2012.

Mali

- Disaster Preparedness for Pastoral Households: To reinforce local early warning systems among vulnerable pastoralist populations in northeastern Mali, USAID/OFDA provided support to AAH/USA in FY 2011 for training courses in disaster preparedness, mitigation, and management, including workshops to update and develop community food security plans.

PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE

In addition to stand-alone DRR programs implemented to prevent or mitigate the effects of hazards in the region, USAID/OFDA integrated preparedness and mitigation into disaster response, early recovery, and transition programs. These initiatives, which were in accordance with regional DRR strategies, incorporated risk reduction objectives into a broad range of sectoral interventions to increase the resilience of communities to future shocks. In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA sought to prevent and treat acute malnutrition, improve food security, and strengthen livelihoods throughout West Africa.

West Africa Regional Programs

- Improving Regional Food Security Coordination: Through $500,000 to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), USAID/OFDA is improving food security and nutrition analysis, expanding information sharing, supporting regional food security working groups, and promoting DRR programs in the West Africa region.

- Enhanced Coordination and Nutrition Program Implementation: With $500,000, USAID/OFDA supports UNICEF's regional nutrition programming, capacity building, and response coordination throughout the Sahelian countries. Activities include conducting annual nutritional surveys and training additional local health personnel in the management of acute malnutrition.

- Cultivating Food Security and Market Analysis: USAID/OFDA provided nearly $200,000 to WFP for a food security market analysis to provide reliable and timely data that WFP and partners can use to tailor food security and nutrition programs more effectively. Information on food insecurity severity and locations guides targeted programming, including cash-based activities and emergency food assistance, throughout affected areas in the Sahel. USAID/OFDA previously supported a post-crisis market assessment to measure the impact of the 2009/2010 food insecurity crisis in the West Africa region. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided $636,700 for program activities.

- Strengthening the Sahel Emergency Nutrition Response: In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided $300,000 to support the work of the WFP regional nutrition unit, which provides blanket and targeted supplementary feedings, as well as caretaker rations, to improve the nutritional status of vulnerable children in affected areas of the Sahel.

- Acute Malnutrition and Food Insecurity Risk Management: With FY 2011 funding, USAID/OFDA provided assistance through FAO for regional food insecurity risk management programs in West Africa, including designing, promoting, and providing training in nutrition activities to strengthen the resilience of affected populations and reduce the negative impact of food and nutrition crises in the region. This program concluded in March 2012.

- Strengthening Regional Response to Nutrition Emergencies: USAID/OFDA sought to increase and reinforce nutrition coordination mechanisms and communication among humanitarian partners in West Africa through support to the UNICEF West Africa Regional Office in FY 2011. To help the international community better track changes in people's nutritional status, USAID/OFDA funding supported annual nationwide Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) Nutritional surveys to determine the prevalence of acute malnutrition in the region. This program concluded in December 2011.

Country-Specific Programs

Burkina Faso

- Strengthening National Response for Acute Malnutrition: In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided nearly $930,000 to Action Contre la Faim (ACF) to build national response capacity and improve the coverage and quality of acute malnutrition management by training health workers in Gnagna Province, East Region, on the screening, referral, and treatment of children with acute malnutrition. The project is expected to benefit more than 18,000 children.

- Rapid Assistance to Pastoralists: Through $1 million to Africare, USAID/OFDA aimed to protect and support the livelihoods of vulnerable pastoralists in Burkina Faso's Sahel Region, a key livestock-production zone severely affected by below-average rainfall in 2011. With USAID/OFDA support, Africare distributed animal feed to participating households and sought to increase access to veterinary services, build technical capacity through trainings for local pastoralists, and rehabilitate water sources. The activities contributed to the recovery of affected communities by building resilience among affected populations, while helping mitigate conflict related to competition for scarce natural resources.

- Seed Vouchers, Cash Grants and Loan Groups in Yatenga: USAID/OFDA provided more than $1.3 million to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to assist food-insecure populations in Burkina Faso's North Region. By providing cash grants to vulnerable households, USAID/OFDA sought to increase access to basic goods during the 2012 lean season. The project also established seed voucher fairs to increase farmers' access to improved, certified seeds and creates community-level savings and lending groups that allow villagers to borrow small amounts of capital often needed to initiate income-generating activities.

- Reducing Urban Households' Vulnerability to Food Insecurity: With $300,000, USAID/OFDA is supporting FAO efforts to reduce urban households' vulnerability to food insecurity by improving agricultural production through distribution of high-quality seeds, as well as strengthening farmers' capacities and building resilience through trainings on home gardening, vegetable production, and related nutritional benefits of diet diversification.

- Mitigating Malnutrition with CMAM and Enhanced Homestead Food Production: Nearly $1 million in USAID/OFDA funding to HKI has supported the coverage and quality of community-based acute malnutrition (CMAM) treatment in Passoré Province, North Region, through training for health center staff and community health workers. HKI's program aims to increase routine nutrition screenings, referrals to health and nutrition centers, and follow-up visits for acutely malnourished children in approximately 125 villages. To continue building community sustainability and household-level food security in East Region's Gourma Province, the program also supports a homestead gardening program that trains women in home gardening techniques and nutritional education to continue the production of nutritious fruits and vegetables independently.

- Improving Nutritional and Health Status in Central North Region: USAID/OFDA supports Plan USA's efforts to increase local acute malnutrition response capacity by training health personnel at 12 acute malnutrition treatment centers in Burkina Faso's Central North Region on the screening, referral, and treatment of malnourished children. With the more than $420,000 from USAID/OFDA, Plan USA also utilizes community outreach workers to promote breastfeeding, hygienic preparation of food, and other positive practices that prevent acute malnutrition.

- Emergency Response and Resiliency for Vulnerable Individuals in Burkina Faso: Through more than $992,000 to Save the Children-U.S. (SC/US), USAID/OFDA supports an integrated approach that combats acute malnutrition in Bam Province, Central North Region, while increasing communities' ability to withstand future shocks with agricultural interventions. The USAID/OFDA-funded program provides temporary employment opportunities that improve conditions for agricultural productivity, instructs smallholder farmers in agricultural and livestock techniques, and trains local health personnel and community health workers on the prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition.

- Preventing and Treating Moderate and Severe Acute Malnutrition: USAID/OFDA has worked to improve health staff capacity in Burkina Faso, subsequently increasing communities' capabilities to reach children under the age of five suffering from severe acute malnutrition (SAM). With $500,000 in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA supported UNICEF to train community health workers in the management of acute malnutrition and to ensure the uninterrupted provision of therapeutic food. USAID/OFDA also provided $1.6 million to UNICEF in FY 2011 for these activities.

- Improving the Management of Acute Malnutrition: USAID/OFDA sought to strengthen the capacity of communities to manage acute malnutrition in the East Region of Burkina Faso through FY 2011 funding to ACF. The program provided training to health staff in the management of severe and moderate acute malnutrition through outpatient treatment centers. Through ACF, USAID/OFDA support facilitated the integration of nutrition activities into regional and district health structures. USAID/OFDA provided more than $850,000 by the program's conclusion in November 2011.

- Food Security Monitoring and Assistance to Vulnerable Farmers: In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided support to FAO for food security monitoring and emergency assistance programs in Burkina Faso. The program, designed to strengthen government structures and provide relevant emergency food security information to decision-makers and the international community, concluded in March 2012. USAID/OFDA funding also supported vegetable production and income-generating activities for more than 600 farming families to reduce vulnerability to acute malnutrition.

Chad

- Strengthening Malnutrition Response in Bahr el Ghazal: With more than $990,000 to ACF, USAID/OFDA is supporting nutrition activities that will strengthen prevention, detection, and treatment of SAM among children under five through training and monitoring of local health workers. The program is benefiting nearly 10,000 children in Moussoro Department, Bahr el Ghazal Region, one of Chad's more food-insecure regions.

- Agricultural Support to Vulnerable Population in Batha Region: To continue responding to food security needs of vulnerable populations in Batha Region, USAID/OFDA provided an additional $493,000 to ACTED to continue activities initiated in FY 2009. The program benefits food-insecure rural populations through the creation of community gardens equipped with wells and the provision of tools and seeds. Participants also have the opportunity to generate income through cash-for-work activities, which include digging channels and building irrigation systems.

- Eastern Chad Horticulture Program: In eastern Chad, where populations rely on agriculture for their livelihoods, USAID/OFDA continued efforts to boost the rainy season agricultural production of 5,000 people through more than $620,000 to CRS. Building on a previous USAID/OFDA-funded program to improve the food security of internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees, and communities hosting Sudanese refugees, the program distributed seeds. In addition, CRS supplied cash vouchers to 2,000 individuals to exchange for seeds and tools at local seed fairs. To complement the dissemination of goods, participants received trainings on soil preparation and harvest conservation.

- Emergency Assistance to Drought-Affected Populations: With $500,000, USAID/OFDA supports FAO to provide assistance to drought-affected populations in Chad. Activities include the distribution of cereal and vegetables seeds to households participating in garden agriculture and the provision of animal feed to vulnerable households with livestock, particularly targeting women-headed households. In coordination with WFP activities, and through the provision of technical training for beneficiary households, USAID/OFDA is improving the resilience and food security of Chadian families.

- Health Care for Conflict Affected IDPs and Host Population: USAID/OFDA provided $600,000 to International Medical Corps (IMC) to support health services and nutrition activities in Chad. The support extends an existing USAID/OFDA-funded IMC project to increase access to primary health care services for IDPs and host community members in Sila Region in the east through both mobile and stationary health care units, while establishing a community-based management of acute malnutrition program in a health district of Lake Region, western Chad.

- Improving Health and Nutrition Systems in Guera Region: Through $1 million to International Rescue Committee (IRC), USAID/OFDA supports local health facilities in Guéra Region—one of the most food-insecure areas of Chad—with essential medicine, medical supplies, and therapeutic foods to treat acute malnutrition. The USAID/OFDA-funded project also strives to train local health staff on the integrated management of acute malnutrition and promote community-based nutrition education.

- Provision of Integrated Emergency Nutrition and Basic Health Services: USAID/OFDA is supporting Merlin's work in Hadjer-Lamis Region, western Chad, with nearly $1.3 million. In coordination with local health facilities, Merlin aims to reduce the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under the age of five by raising awareness of proper nutrition and hygiene practices among mothers and other caretakers, as well as improving families' access to primary health care to prevent and treat common communicable diseases that aggravate nutritional status. In addition, Merlin plans to strengthen existing nutrition programs, such as supplementary feeding programs, and support health facilities to increase active screening of acute malnutrition. The project is expected to benefit nearly 50,000 children.

- Emergency Food Security and Nutrition Assistance for Vulnerable Populations: Through $600,000 to Première Urgence, USAID/OFDA is increasing community-level access to malnutrition treatment services in eastern Chad by establishing three supplementary feeding centers and three outpatient care sites in Assoungha Department, Ouaddaï Region. The project is also mobilizing nearly 180 community health volunteers—trained previously with USAID/OFDA support—to disseminate messages on good nutrition practices and conduct screenings for malnutrition at the village level. In addition, the program aims to provide seeds and promote improved agricultural production and storage techniques, as well as to protect livestock assets with vaccinations. These activities are expected to assist as many as 78,000 food-insecure individuals, mainly children and women.

- Addressing Food Insecurity and Water and Sanitation Needs: Through Solidarités, USAID/OFDA is improving food security and increasing access to safe drinking water and sanitation services in Chad's Batha Region, while helping affected communities build resilience. To address food insecurity, nearly $915,000 from USAID/OFDA provides seeds and tools to farmers, supports market gardening associations that help participants increase household revenue and diversify diets, and trains community members on food hygiene and improved nutrition. The program also aims to rehabilitate boreholes and build long-term community capacity by instituting water resource management committees.

- Emergency Nutrition and Child Survival in Chad's Sahelian Belt: With $1.7 million in support to UNICEF, USAID/OFDA seeks to reduce acute malnutrition among Chadian children by training community health workers in early identification, referral, and management of SAM. The program also provides therapeutic foods to children under the age of two and supports nutritional surveys to monitor progress in target areas. USAID/OFDA also supports WASH activities to help improve hygiene conditions and reduce the prevalence of diseases that may exacerbate acute malnutrition.

- Support for Returnees and Host Populations: Through World Concern Development Organization (WCDO), USAID/OFDA is providing $547,000 to support food security and agricultural activities, as well as economic recovery interventions, for IDPs in eastern Chad. By offering training and agricultural inputs, USAID/OFDA is increasing crop production in drought-affected communities near Goz Beida town. The project also helps improve women's access to productive assets by supporting the establishment of savings and credit groups.

- Assisting IDPs to Rebuild Resources: In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA supported efforts to foster self-sufficiency among IDPs in Chad through WCDO and its ongoing Strengthening Lives in Chad project. Through savings and loan activities and a cash-for-work program, WCDO sought to enable IDPs to meet basic food needs and start rebuilding their asset base. WCDO also worked with returnees, IDPs, and host communities to facilitate both dry and rainy season agriculture by providing seeds, animal traction devices, and training on sack gardening until the program's conclusion in March 2012.

Côte d'Ivoire

- Providing Agriculture and Livelihoods Opportunities to Displaced and Returnee Families: In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided $700,000 to FAO to improve food security and livelihoods opportunities in Dix-Huit Montagnes Region, western Côte d'Ivoire. USAID/OFDA supports the distribution of seeds, tools, and other agricultural inputs to farmers of upland rice, lowland rice, and maize, who were unable to plant during the previous rainy season due to displacement and insecurity. In addition, FAO initiated a seed system security assessment to better understand agricultural issues in western Côte d'Ivoire.

- Restoring Livelihoods to Farming Families: Through $1.3 million to Première Urgence, USAID/OFDA is assisting 17,000 vulnerable returnees in Moyen-Cavally Region, western Côte d'Ivoire, with agricultural and livelihoods support. Première Urgence is distributing crop and vegetable seeds, as well as tools and other inputs, to help farmers who recently returned home following the end of widespread violence. In addition, USAID/OFDA-supported cash grants allow households to cover expenses associated with reestablishing their livelihoods, including the cost of renting land, purchasing livestock, and replenishing basic items.

- Helping Rebuild Agricultural Production: To enable farming families to purchase seeds and tools for planting season, USAID/OFDA provided more than $1.2 million to Solidarités for activities in western Côte d'Ivoire. The program distributes monthly cash grants to households during the 2012 lean season, allowing farmers—many of whom recently returned to their homes—to restart the crop cycle and rebuild assets and stocks.

The Gambia

- Improving Access to Agricultural Inputs: To address a critical shortage of groundnut, rice, and other seeds in The Gambia, USAID/OFDA provided $500,000 to FAO for the procurement and distribution of such seeds to households in the most affected areas of the country. By ensuring that smallholder farmers had access to seeds during the planting season, USAID/OFDA helped ensure that as many as 28,000 people could harvest in 2012.

Liberia

- Seeds and Training to Boost Agriculture in Host Communities: In FY 2012, USAID/OFDA provided more than $650,000 through CRS to increase the resilience of communities hosting Ivorian refugees in Liberia's Maryland and River Gee counties. With improved seeds, tool distributions, and pest control, USAID/OFDA is increasing cassava production to boost food security. Beneficiaries are also receiving training on techniques to enhance agricultural production.

- Supporting Survivors of Gender-Based Violence: Through implementing partner Equip Liberia, USAID/OFDA provided nearly $470,000 to increase community-based organizations' capacity to prevent gender-based violence (GBV) and to improve comprehensive services for GBV survivors in areas of eastern Liberia hosting large refugee populations. Equip is providing psychosocial support to survivors and strengthening the capacity of health facilities to respond to GBV cases. In addition, USAID/OFDA supports activities that assist justice and legal aid services to help survivors with legal advice, transportation, and case follow-up.

- Identifying Needs and Vulnerabilities in Liberia: As many Liberian host families depleted household food stocks to help support the Ivorian refugees living with them, USAID/OFDA provided $400,000 to FAO to improve food security in eastern Liberia. Joining with other organizations, FAO is conducting food security and vulnerability assessments to better understand cross-border markets and coordination, increase information sharing, and identify priority areas requiring humanitarian intervention. The program will also provide agricultural inputs for 1,500 households, offer farmers training and technical support, and pilot innovative assistance activities.

Mali

- Livelihoods Recovery for Pastoral Households: Following the outbreak of hostilities that forced the suspension of programming in northeastern Mali in 2012, USAID/OFDA provided more than $150,000 to AAH/USA to redirect activities in support of vulnerable households in Kita District, Kayes Region. USAID/OFDA supported the distribution of cash transfers that permitted families to cover basic needs and access essential services such as health care during the 2012 lean season. In total, USAID/OFDA has provided more than $570,000 to support these efforts.

- Response, Recovery and Resiliency in Mali: USAID/OFDA contributed more than $1 million to Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA) to assist vulnerable households in central Mali's Mopti Region. The program provided cash transfers and temporary employment opportunities to improve households' access to cash to address their basic needs during the lean season in 2012. ACDI/VOCA also distributed high-yield, drought-resistant seeds and fodder vouchers in support of households' agricultural and livestock-raising activities. In addition, the project aims to strengthen communities' longer-term food security and disaster management capacity through trainings in local production of improved seeds, preparation of livestock for sale in markets, and village-level early warning and disaster risk reduction.

- Emergency Relief to Vulnerable Populations in Bamako: Many IDPs in Mali reside in urban environments with host families, some of whom may lack the resources necessary to support the displaced. In response, USAID/OFDA is providing more than $750,000 to ACTED to reduce the strain on IDPs and host communities in the capital city of Bamako through cash transfers that enable families to purchase goods available in local markets.

- Improving Food Security for Vulnerable Families: To address food insecurity throughout Mali, USAID/OFDA is helping smallholder farmers increase agricultural productivity and improve nutrition while strengthening national coordination of food security and nutrition interventions with $300,000 in support to FAO. Activities include trainings on dietary diversification, vegetable production, and storage techniques for up to 25,000 farmers.

- Empowering Communities to Respond to Malnutrition: USAID/OFDA provided nearly $1.2 million to HKI to build community health capacity by training more than 330 health workers and 900 volunteers in Koulikoro Region and 520 health workers and nearly 2,000 volunteers in Sikasso Region to identify and treat children suffering from acute malnutrition. The program enables health staff and community volunteers to deliver community-based management of acute malnutrition services and improve caregiver knowledge of best nutrition practices.

- Cash Transfers and Vouchers for Food-Insecure Households: Through Oxfam/Great Britain (Oxfam/GB), USAID/OFDA is providing more than $1.5 million in cash transfers and vouchers to help more than 21,000 vulnerable individuals in Kayes Region meet critical needs.

- Food Security and Nutrition Support in Kayes Region: With nearly $1 million, USAID/OFDA is supporting the efforts of SC/US to provide cash vouchers to improve farmers' access to seeds and trainings on livestock and home gardening activities to strengthen vulnerable households' livelihoods and food security in Kayes Region. SC/US is also working to build malnutrition identification and treatment capacity in the national health system.

- Integrated Response to Nutrition Crisis in Mali: In response to the critically high prevalence of malnutrition in Mali, USAID/OFDA provided nearly $1.8 million to UNICEF's integrated response program to provide trainings for community health staff on updated CMAM protocols, introduce positive infant and child feeding practices, and treat common childhood diseases through increased access to safe drinking water and other WASH strategies.

- Kolokani Assistance Program: Through $750,000 to World Vision, USAID/OFDA supports economic recovery in Mali's Koulikoro Region, where many families have depleted household food supplies due to low agricultural production in 2011. The program offers two-month, cash-for-work opportunities for approximately 5,700 individuals, allowing participants to generate income during the 2012 lean season and rehabilitate community assets, such as clearing waterways that are critical to agricultural irrigation. Following the conclusion of these activities, participants will also receive a cash transfer that enables them to purchase basic items while focusing on necessary farming activities to prepare for the agricultural season in late 2012.

- Strengthening Community-Based Treatment of Acute Malnutrition: With FY 2011 funding, USAID/OFDA bolstered the prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition by supporting detection, referral, and follow-up through HKI. CMAM programs in six health districts of Koulikouro Region strengthened community-to-health center referral systems to improve treatment coverage and recovery rates, thereby better preparing communities to respond to future instances of acute malnutrition. This program ended in June 2012.

Mauritania

- Supporting Livelihoods and Improving Nutrition Status: USAID/OFDA is supporting AAH/USA to improve children's nutritional status and provide household funds allowing farmers to focus on planting crops during the agricultural season through nearly $1.4 million in funding. With the distribution of cash transfers, AAH/USA aims to help up to 17,000 vulnerable individuals in Guidimaka Region meet basic needs and develop income-generating opportunities. The program will also strengthen nutrition management structures by training health workers, providing basic equipment, and conducting nutrition screenings.

- Improving Community Hygiene Practices: USAID/OFDA provided more than $524,000 to Counterpart International (CPI) to help reduce the spread of waterborne diseases by increasing access to safe drinking water and promoting improved community hygiene practices in Mauritania's drought-affected Assaba and Hodh el Gharbi regions. CPI is also providing temporary employment activities—such as enhancing agricultural drainage and protecting village water points—that help vulnerable households generate income while improving community assets.

- Strengthening Agriculture and Livelihoods in Southern Mauritania: USAID/OFDA is contributing an additional $800,000 to the improvement of food security in southern Mauritania through FAO, whose activities strengthen humanitarian coordination and reinforce emergency livestock assessments, thereby supporting the government and humanitarian services in emergency response and DRR. FAO also plans to promote the planting of fruit trees and drought-resistant tubers in household or community gardens as a way to diversify diets and increase marketable produce. In response to reported seed shortages in the country, FAO worked to procure and distribute local seeds for sorghum, maize, and black eyed peas to vulnerable populations before the planting season. In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided $500,000 for these activities.

- Supporting Acute Malnutrition Management Capacities: With $750,000 to UNICEF, USAID/OFDA is reducing the prevalence of acute malnutrition in Mauritania through health worker training in the management of childhood illnesses and the promotion of family care practices that emphasize the role of breastfeeding and other positive practices in reducing acute malnutrition. USAID/OFDA support also ensures the provision of nutrition supplements to children under two years of age during the 2012 lean season.

- Community Mobilization Against Hunger and Acute Malnutrition: USAID/OFDA is addressing food insecurity for more than 36,000 people in Mauritania through previous fiscal year funding to World Vision. By supporting CMAM interventions and developing community-based nutrition surveys, the program develops the capacity of targeted communities and encourages prevention measures to build resilience and reduce global acute malnutrition rates.

Niger

- Responding to Worsening Economic Conditions through Cash-Based Assistance: To prevent a further deterioration of food security in western Niger, USAID/OFDA, in partnership with ACTED, provided nearly $595,000 to support a cash transfer program that supplied as many as 9,450 vulnerable individuals with the funds to access food and basic goods available in many local markets, including seeds and farming tools for the late 2012 cultivation season.

- Emergency Response in Pastoralist Zones: USAID/OFDA is supporting Africare's efforts to improve livestock health in Niger's Agadez and Tahoua regions with more than $1.2 million. The program targets small herders, strengthening livestock and providing support for government animal vaccination campaigns, allowing pastoralists to maintain healthier livestock for sale or consumption. USAID/OFDA is also supporting the treatment of malnourished children by building the capacity of community health centers and volunteers through trainings in the screening, referral, and treatment of children under the age of five with SAM.

- Improving Food Security with Moringa: In response to ongoing food insecurity, USAID/OFDA is providing nearly $1 million to the National Cooperative Business Association's CLUSA International (NCBA/CLUSA) program to improve crop production and market access for vulnerable households in Tahoua and Tillabéri regions. In addition, USAID/OFDA is helping bolster household nutrition by training community members on improved agricultural practices and the use of locally grown vegetables and moringa, a fast-growing tree with nutritious leaves.

- Emergency Agriculture Recovery and Livelihoods Interventions (EARLI): With nearly $1.5 million to CRS, USAID/OFDA is restoring livelihoods and increasing the resilience of more than 63,000 people in Tillabéri Region—one of the most food-insecure areas in the Sahel. Through the program, USAID/OFDA supports seed fairs that increase beneficiary access to improved seeds, training in agricultural production techniques, and cash-for-work activities that increase purchasing power for vulnerable families while rehabilitating degraded communal lands.

- Improving Agricultural Production in Niger: With $1.1 million from USAID/OFDA, FAO is improving agricultural production through the distribution of seeds, as well as strengthening farmers' capacities and building resilience through trainings and technical assistance.

- Increasing Malnutrition Treatment Capacity: Through HKI, USAID/OFDA is helping to increase national health center capacity for the prevention and treatment of global acute malnutrition in Niger's Diffa, Dosso, and Zinder regions. With $1.6 million to support the training and supervision of local health workers and volunteers, USAID/OFDA is helping expand nutrition screenings and activities to reach as many as 42,700 people—children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women—in affected areas.

- Management of Moderate and Acute Severe Malnutrition: In response to the 2012 food insecurity and nutrition crisis in Niger, USAID/OFDA continued support to Humedica's efforts to build upon an existing program, which has worked to increase the capacity of local health staff to detect and treat acute malnutrition in Kollo District, Tillabéri Region. Through more than $630,000, Humedica aims to expand training coverage to an additional five health centers, as well as increase health and nutrition instruction for community health workers. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided more than $1.1 million to support these activities.

- Improving Agricultural Production and Land Management: To provide vulnerable Nigerien households with access to cash to meet short-term food needs, USAID/OFDA is providing nearly $600,000 for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) activities that offer temporary employment opportunities while improving agricultural production and land management. Participants earn wages for constructing soil and water conservation structures on community-held land and planting trees to reduce soil erosion. Farmers also receive training on improved agricultural techniques for rain-fed and off-season crops, as well as information regarding improved nutrition awareness and child-feeding practices.

- Rehabilitating Land and Public Infrastructure: USAID/OFDA supports the protection of livestock and short-term income opportunities for vulnerable agro-pastoralists and pastoralists in Tillabéri Region, western Niger, through more than $1.6 million to Mercy Corps. The program provides animal feed to vulnerable households through the distribution of cash vouchers, while teaching techniques to improve the harvest and storage of animal fodder. Cash vouchers allow vulnerable households to meet food and other basic needs during the lean season, thus reducing the likelihood of pastoralists selling animal assets to purchase food and enabling agro-pastoralists to tend their own fields instead of searching for work on other farms to earn money for food.

- Livelihoods Assistance to Tchirozerine Department: Through Mercy Corps, USAID/OFDA is providing $800,000 for cash transfers and temporary employment opportunities to vulnerable households in Tchirozerine Department, Agadez Region, to improve their ability to purchase food and other essential goods. The project is also enhancing farmers' access to agricultural inputs and training in improved agricultural techniques, as well as the formation of savings and lending groups.

- Response to Food Crisis Among Pastoralist and Agro-pastoralist Communities: In support of pastoralist and agro-pastoralist communities in Tillabéri and Tahoua regions, USAID/OFDA is providing $1.2 million to Oxfam/GB for economic recovery and DRR activities that will help prevent vulnerable households from adopting negative coping

strategies. Through a combination of temporary employment opportunities and direct cash transfers, the program allows food-insecure people to protect productive assets. The project also builds local capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters by supporting existing early warning systems and strengthening community-based management of water resources.

- Community-based Management of Acute Malnutrition: Through more than $650,000 to Plan USA, USAID/OFDA is improving the prevention, treatment, and management of acute malnutrition among vulnerable children in Dosso and Tillabéri regions. The USAID/OFDA-funded project will build local health care capacity by training health workers in the screening and referral of malnutrition cases, with a focus on children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women.

- Enhancing the Management of Acute Malnutrition in Niamey: USAID/OFDA is supporting Première Urgence with $600,000 to enhance the management of acute malnutrition in the capital city of Niamey. Through Première Urgence, USAID/OFDA support is rehabilitating three health centers and providing necessary medical equipment, while staff will receive training in the detection and treatment of acute malnutrition. The program endeavors to increase health center capacity, seeking to reach nearly 23,000 children under five years of age with nutrition support.

- Preventing Malnutrition Through Asset Base Maintenance: USAID/OFDA is assisting households affected by food insecurity in Zinder and Maradi regions through nearly $1.3 million to partner SC/US. The program aims to reduce acute malnutrition levels among children under five years of age by strengthening local health networks and supporting community-based health services. The USAID/OFDA-funded program includes cash-transfer activities that provide an immediate income source to food-insecure households during the 2012 lean season while also helping to improve or rehabilitate local water infrastructure, such as dams and local water systems, to improve water retention.

- Improving Access to Care and Quality of Acute Malnutrition Management: USAID/OFDA is continuing to strengthen the monitoring, management, and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in Niger through $1 million to UNICEF. To optimize the use of blanket feeding for children under the age of two, USAID/OFDA funding supports the procurement and distribution of supplementary therapeutic foods and medications for malnourished children. To increase children's access to quality care, USAID/OFDA funding also supports health screenings and treatment of those affected by SAM.

- Emergency Assistance to Vulnerable Pastoral Households: To protect the livelihoods of pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in Tillabéri Region, USAID/OFDA is supporting cash-based assistance and livestock health through more than $715,000 to Vétérinaires Sans Frontières (VSF). For vulnerable households without livestock, 800 women—particularly pregnant women, those with children under five years of age, those with malnourished children, and female heads of household—will receive monthly cash transfers for four months to enable the purchase of basic goods. Through cash-for-work activities, additional participants will generate income while restoring degraded pastoral lands to increase pasture for animals. The project also aims to strengthen national animal vaccination schemes in order to prevent animal loss during the lean season.

- Integrating DRR into Food Insecurity Response: With FY 2011 support to Mercy Corps, USAID/OFDA supported the rehabilitation of wells, improved fodder harvest techniques and storage, and launched nutritional information campaigns to combat food insecurity and acute malnutrition. The program also supported children's nutritional status monitoring, vaccination campaigns, and nutritional training sessions to help agro-pastoralists and pastoralists successfully manage environmental and conflict-related risks through land rehabilitation, herd management, and stronger early warning systems. This program concluded in April 2012.

- Building Resilience Against Future Shocks: USAID/OFDA provided funding to Save the Children/U.K. (SC/UK) in FY 2011 to manage an innovative agricultural credit program to improve household food security and resilience against future shocks for approximately 21,000 vulnerable people. The program established credit on agricultural stocks placed in community granaries, allowing farmers to invest credit received in income-generating activities to limit debt beyond the program's end in June 2012.

Senegal

- Livelihoods Support to Food Insecure Populations: USAID/OFDA is supporting agricultural activities and cash transfers for nearly 16,000 vulnerable people in Matam and Saint-Louis regions, northern Senegal, with more than $300,000 to the Center for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI). Through CECI, USAID/OFDA is providing vouchers for agricultural inputs to households affected by food insecurity, particularly female-headed households and households with elderly members, and training program participants in vegetable gardening and improved cultivation techniques.

- Project for Resilience, Engagement, Preparedness and Risk Elimination (PREPARE): USAID/OFDA provided more than $970,000 to CRS to improve food security for vulnerable households in the Casamance area of southern Senegal. In order to increase community food production, CRS is providing training on conservation agriculture techniques and supporting cash-for-work activities that help restore and regenerate farmland through the rehabilitation of saltwater retention dykes, which prevent saltwater from encroaching on crops and increase the quantity of usable farmland. USAID/OFDA-supported activities also help communities prepare for future food security emergencies by improving food and seed storage, protecting food for future consumption and potential market sales. In addition, CRS is distributing vouchers that vulnerable families can redeem for vegetable seeds, agricultural tools, and seed storage containers.

USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN WEST AFRICA IN FY 2012[4]

USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN WEST AFRICA					
Country	**Program**	**Activity**	**Partner**	**Subtotal**	**Total**
Chad	Capacity-Building Support to Vulnerable Populations	Natural and Technological Risks	ACTED	$130,373	$130,373
Guinea	Accelerating Vitamin and Mineral Fortification	Nutrition	HKI	$331,311	$331,311
TOTAL USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN WEST AFRICA					**$461,684**
USAID/OFDA PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE IN WEST AFRICA[5]					
Country	**Program**	**Activity**	**Partner**	**Subtotal**	**Total**
Burkina Faso	Food Insecurity Response	Nutrition	ACF	$926,997	$6,475,700
		Agriculture and Food Security	Africare	$1,000,000	
		Agriculture and Food Security; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)	CRS	$1,332,329	
		Agriculture and Food Security	FAO	$300,000	
		Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	HKI	$999,977	
		Nutrition	Plan USA	$423,530	
		Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Nutrition	SC/US	$992,867	
		Nutrition	UNICEF	$500,000	
Chad	Complex Emergency Response	Nutrition	ACF	$991,474	$9,215,068
		Agriculture and Food Security	ACTED	$493,649	
		Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	CRS	$624,664	
		Agriculture and Food Security	FAO	$500,000	
		Health; Nutrition	IMC	$600,000	
		Health; Nutrition	IRC	$951,473	
		Health; Nutrition	Merlin	$1,292,474	
		Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Première Urgence	$600,000	
		Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Nutrition; WASH	Solidarités	$914,333	
		Nutrition; WASH	UNICEF	$1,700,000	
		Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	WCDO	$547,001	
Côte d'Ivoire	Complex Emergency Response	Agriculture and Food Security	FAO	$700,000	$3,228,329
		Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Première Urgence	$1,300,000	
		ERMS	Solidarités	$1,228,329	
The Gambia	Food Insecurity Response	Agriculture and Food Security	FAO	$500,000	$500,000
Liberia	Complex Emergency Response	Agriculture and Food Security	CRS	$654,875	$1,523,996
		Protection	Equip Liberia	$469,121	
		Agriculture and Food Security	FAO	$400,000	

Mali	Complex Emergency Response	ERMS	AAH/USA	$150,027	$8,409,203
		Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks	ACDI/VOCA	$1,044,819	
		ERMS	ACTED	$753,028	
		Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	FAO	$300,000	
		Nutrition	HKI	$1,157,998	
		ERMS	Oxfam/GB	$1,503,666	
		Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	SC/US	$999,665	
		Nutrition	UNICEF	$1,750,000	
		ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks	World Vision	$750,000	
Mauritania	Complex Emergency Response	ERMS; Nutrition	AAH/USA	$1,384,119	$3,458,208
		ERMS; WASH	CPI	$524,089	
		Agriculture and Food Security	FAO	$800,000	
		Nutrition	UNICEF	$750,000	
Niger	Food Insecurity Response	ERMS	ACTED	$594,935	$16,145,281
		Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Africare	$1,250,183	
		Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Nutrition	CLUSA	$998,664	
		Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	CRS	$1,492,959	
		Agriculture and Food Security	FAO	$1,100,000	
		Nutrition	HKI	$1,600,000	
		Nutrition	Humedica	$631,498	
		Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	LWR	$599,492	
		Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Mercy Corps	$1,624,039	
		Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Mercy Corps	$800,000	
		ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks	Oxfam/GB	$1,200,000	
		Nutrition	Plan USA	$655,673	
		Health; Nutrition	Première Urgence	$600,000	
		ERMS; Nutrition	SC/US	$1,281,027	
		Nutrition	UNICEF	$1,000,000	
		Agriculture and Food Security	VSF	$716,811	
Senegal	Food Insecurity Response	Agriculture and Food Security	CECI	$303,072	$1,275,963
		Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks	CRS	$972,891	
West Africa	Regional Response	Agriculture and Food Security	FAO	$500,000	$1,499,000
		Nutrition	UNICEF	$500,000	
		Humanitarian Studies, Analysis, or Applications	WFP	$199,000	
		Nutrition	WFP	$300,000	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA INTEGRATED DRR FUNDING IN WEST AFRICA					**$51,730,748**
TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN WEST AFRICA IN FY 2012					**$52,192,432**

[4] Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

[5] The figure reported represents the integrated DRR–response portion of larger disaster response programs.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/working-crises-and-conflict/disaster-risk-reduction