



SAHEL – FOOD INSECURITY AND COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Following the deployment of a humanitarian assessment team to the Sahel in mid-April, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) is addressing additional humanitarian needs identified by the team with programs in sectors including nutrition, economic recovery, and agriculture and food security. In addition, USAID/OFDA is addressing conflict-related emergency needs in Mali and host community needs in countries receiving Malian refugees.
- Drought and inconsistent rainfall has led to decreased agricultural production in Cameroon, with a current estimated cereal shortfall of nearly 50,000 metric tons (MT), according to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP). Food shortages are particularly severe in Cameroon’s North and Far North regions, where the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under five years of age exceeds the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) critical threshold level of 10 percent. On June 7, U.S. Ambassador Robert P. Jackson declared a disaster for food insecurity in Cameroon.
- In response to ongoing food insecurity in the Sahel, USAID/OFDA and USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) recently committed more than \$88 million in assistance to food-insecure populations in the Sahel. The new funding includes \$82 million provided by USAID/FFP and \$6 million provided by USAID/OFDA to support non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and U.N. agencies for activities that address agriculture, food security, livestock, and nutrition needs while strengthening community resilience in the region.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 ¹	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Sahel	\$40,280,794
USAID/FFP Assistance to the Sahel	\$264,021,217
State/PRM ² Assistance to the Sahel	\$10,850,000 ³
Total USAID and State Assistance to the Sahel	\$315,152,011

Context

- The causes of hunger and malnutrition in West Africa’s Sahel Region are deeply rooted and multifaceted. Chronic underdevelopment and multiple droughts in recent years have left the population vulnerable, even to small shocks. Below-average rainfall and crop production shortages in 2011 have resulted in reduced food and livestock fodder availability in parts of the Sahel, where many vulnerable families are still recovering from the 2009/2010 food crisis.
- More than 19 million people in the Sahel are at risk of food insecurity, of which 8 million people currently face severe food insecurity and may require emergency food assistance in 2012, according to national government and U.N. data.
- Global acute malnutrition levels are consistently between 10 and 15 percent across the region, with some localized areas exceeding the WHO emergency threshold level of 15 percent.
- In FY 2012, the U.S. Government (USG) is responding to disaster declarations in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal.

Regional

- A group of adult desert locusts from southeast Algeria arrived near Arlit town in northern Niger in late May, with additional swarms of adult locusts arriving in northern Niger and possibly in northern Mali at the beginning of June, the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) reports. Swarms of locusts will likely concentrate in agricultural

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

³ This figure reflects only State/PRM funding for protection and humanitarian assistance for individuals in the region affected by the conflict in Mali. This figure does not include other State/PRM-funded assistance provided to refugees, conflict-affected people, and returning migrants across the rest of West Africa.

areas that recently received rain. The timing of the swarms coincides with the summer cropping season and may result in crop destruction and limited harvests, exacerbating food insecurity in affected areas.

- USAID/FFP has contributed more than \$14 million to WFP's regional emergency operation to meet urgent food needs among populations affected by conflict in Mali. The funding will provide food for internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Mali's Gao and Tombouctou regions and Malian refugees in Goudebo and Ingani camps in Burkina Faso, Mbera camp in Mauritania, and Ouallam and Mangaize camps in Niger.
- To date in FY 2012, State/PRM has provided more than \$10.8 million in assistance for Malian refugees and other conflict-affected individuals in the Sahel.

Burkina Faso

- Grain availability in Burkina Faso's southwest and west crop-producing areas was below seasonal averages during April and May, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Increased grain prices in these cropping areas—the traditional grain suppliers for northern parts of the country—and reduced availability in markets led to changes in trader behavior. In the country's northern regions, poor 2011 harvests and the large Malian refugee population have led to an increased demand for grain, while demand from wholesalers in Mali has also increased, further affecting the food security situation in Burkina Faso, FEWS NET reports.
- USAID/OFDA recently provided \$1 million to Africare 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. Through Africare, USAID/OFDA will distribute animal feed to vulnerable households, increase access to veterinary services, build technical capacity through trainings for local pastoralists, and rehabilitate water sources. The USAID/OFDA-funded activities contribute to the recovery of affected communities by building resilience, while helping mitigate conflict related to competition for scarce natural resources.
- USAID/OFDA recently committed nearly \$1 million to Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US) to train and support local Burkinabe health workers in the prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition in Bam Province, Central-North Region. Through SC/US, USAID/OFDA is providing temporary employment to food-insecure households through cash-for-work activities that provide immediate income while enhancing community agricultural and water infrastructure.

Cameroon

- High food prices and limited food availability may result in food insecurity among up to 400,000 people in northern Cameroon, according WFP. During a mid-May USAID/OFDA assessment mission, staff noted chronic food production deficits in the Logone-et-Chari Division of Far North Region and an urgent need to address acute malnutrition in affected areas.
- To address immediate food security needs in Cameroon, USAID/FFP recently committed \$1 million to WFP to provide food for vulnerable women and children.

Chad

- In response to the high prevalence of acute malnutrition in Chad, USAID/OFDA recently provided nearly \$1.3 million to Merlin to expand and enhance health and nutrition activities in Hadjer-Lamis Region. USAID/OFDA-supported activities aim to reduce malnutrition-related mortality and morbidity, with a focus on children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women. The program improves community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) and prevents and treats common communicable diseases that worsen the nutrition status of affected individuals.
- USAID/OFDA recently committed more than \$600,000 to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to improve food security in eastern Chad, where poor rainfall has led to reduced harvests and strained household food stocks. Through CRS, USAID/OFDA is providing seeds to help farmers increase agricultural production and improving households' access to credit through savings and loans groups. By increasing savings and access to credit, participants are able to rebuild livelihoods and strengthen community resilience to external shocks.

Mali

- New food security assessments indicate that up to 4.6 million people may face food insecurity in Mali, including approximately 3 million people in the country's southern regions and an estimated 1.6 million people in parts of Mopti Region and the conflict-affected regions of Gao, Kidal, and Tombouctou, the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports.

- With the start of the growing season in June, the continued armed occupation of northern Mali and resulting instability may result in decreased agricultural production due to destroyed farm equipment and seed supplies and the large-scale departure of laborers and overseers, according to FEWS NET. A shortfall in crop production may also reduce the availability of grain in local markets by October.
- Household food reserves in Mali's northern Gao, Kidal, and Tombouctou regions are nearly depleted due to looting in April and the lack of food replenishment resulting from restricted access of food suppliers. IDPs and poor households in parts of Gao Region are most affected by ongoing conflict due to limited access to markets and continued exposure to banditry, FEWS NET reports.
- While market supplies of grain—such as millet, sorghum, and rice—are sufficient to meet demand in Kayes, Koulikoro, Ségou, and Sikasso regions, millet and sorghum prices are nearly twice the five-year average, according to FEWS NET. High food prices during the October 2011 harvest—when grain prices are normally least expensive—prevented community management committees from restocking community-level reserves, forcing many families to later purchase food on the market at increased prices. As a result, many vulnerable households may require humanitarian assistance to purchase locally available food.
- As of June 4, USAID/FFP partner CRS had completed six food voucher fairs in Mopti Region—where an estimated 32,000 displaced people reside—reaching approximately 7,500 food-insecure households, according to OCHA. Food vouchers enable vulnerable families to exchange voucher credits for food available in local markets.
- As of June 4, WFP and its partners had distributed food to nearly 118,000 people in Kayes, Koulikoro, and Mopti regions, according to OCHA. On June 6, WFP began a cash transfer program that provides sufficient money for a five-member family to purchase a one-month supply of food. The program targets 45,000 beneficiaries in Kayes and Koulikoro regions.
- An estimated 175,000 children under five years of age are at risk of severe acute malnutrition in Mali in 2012, with up to 220,000 children at risk in a worst-case scenario, according to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF). In response to nutrition needs, UNICEF recently trained 42 members of a joint government-NGO task force on hygiene promotion and preventing waterborne diseases as part of a new CMAM protocol in the country. To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA has provided \$750,000 to UNICEF to support trainings on the updated CMAM protocols, introduce positive infant and child feeding practices, and treat common childhood diseases through increased access to safe drinking water in Mali.

Mauritania

- The arrival of Malian refugees in eastern Mauritania has increased market vendor competition, contributing to reduced household earnings among people who sell firewood, charcoal, and straw in the local market, and consequently weakening host community members' ability to purchase food during the lean season. Following significant food price increases in February and March—likely triggered by increased demand from Malian refugees—prices in affected areas have not drastically risen and food availability has improved. FEWS NET reports that increased humanitarian assistance, government-subsidized programs, and lower pastoralist demand have stabilized prices.
- To help the humanitarian community reach vulnerable populations in eastern Mauritania, USAID/OFDA recently committed \$500,000 to WFP for the rehabilitation of an airstrip in Bassikounou—the staging point for Mbera refugee camp—which will substantially increase humanitarian access and reduce travel time to the camp, previously a five-hour car trip from the nearest functioning airstrip.

Niger

- Households in Niger's Filingué, Ouallam, Tera, and Tillabéri departments are facing Crisis—Integrated Phase Classification 3—levels of food insecurity, with no improvements expected until September, due to increased grain prices in local markets that prevent some families from purchasing sufficient food to meet needs, according to FEWS NET. In addition, the poor harvest in these areas has limited the availability of high-quality seeds that farmers use for planting.
- USAID/OFDA recently provided more than \$630,000 to the NGO Humedica to improve nutrition and strengthen the capacity of local health staff in Niger's Tillabéri Region. Through Humedica, USAID/OFDA is training health workers and providing nutrition education, while helping the community treat and manage acute malnutrition. Through these activities, USAID/OFDA is improving the quality and coverage of community-based acute malnutrition services and information gathering and analysis. To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA has committed

more than \$5 million to improve nutrition among vulnerable populations and enhance community capacity to respond to acute malnutrition in Niger.

- USAID/FFP is providing \$20 million to WFP for the regional purchase of nearly 20,000 MT of sorghum from the Government of Nigeria. WFP plans to distribute the sorghum to food-insecure families in Niger.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO²			
Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	Nutrition	East Region	\$926,997
Africare	Agriculture and Food Security	Sahel Region	\$1,000,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$400,000
Helen Keller International (HKI)	Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	North Region	\$999,977
Plan USA	Nutrition	Central North Region	\$423,530
SC/US	Agriculture and Food Security; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Nutrition	Central North Region	\$992,867
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012			\$5,243,371
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO			
ACDI/VOCA	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Center North	\$8,000,000
CRS	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Center North and East Regions	\$8,000,000
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Boucle de Mouhoun, Center North, Center West, East, North, and Sahel Regions	\$6,832,600
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012			\$22,832,600
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012			\$28,075,971

USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CAMEROON			
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Far North Region	\$1,008,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CAMEROON IN FY 2012			\$1,008,000

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD			
ACF	Nutrition	Bahr el Ghazal Region	\$991,474
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$500,000
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Ouadaï and Wadi Fira Regions	\$624,664
IOM	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Chad	\$50,000
International Rescue Committee	Health; Nutrition	Guéra Region	\$1,000,000

Merlin	Health; Nutrition	Hadjer-Lamis Region	\$1,292,474
Solidarités	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Nutrition; WASH	Batha Region	\$914,333
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Eastern Chad	\$300,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Batha, Bahr el Ghazal, Hadjer-Lamis, Guéra, Kanem, and Lac Regions	\$700,000
World Concern Development Organization	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Ouaddaï Region	\$547,001
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012			\$7,419,946
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD			
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Food Vouchers	Sahelian Belt	\$2,767,228
Africare	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Chad	\$6,000,000
CRS	Food Vouchers	Ouaddaï and Wadi Fira Regions	\$4,504,047
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$78,000,000
WFP	LRP Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012			\$101,271,275
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012			\$108,691,221

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$400,000
IOM	Health; Logistics and Relief Commodities; Protection	Gao, Kidal, and Tombouctou Regions	\$773,745
Mali Red Cross	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Tombouctou Region	\$50,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Oxfam/GB	ERMS	Kayes Region	\$1,503,666
Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US)	Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Kayes Region	\$999,665
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$750,000
World Vision	ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks	Koulikoro Region	\$750,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012			\$6,227,076
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI			
Africare	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
CRS	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Gao and Mopti Regions	\$2,500,000
CRS	Food Vouchers	Mopti Region	\$2,226,023
CRS	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Mopti Region	\$3,331,629

WFP	Cash Transfers; LRP Emergency Food Assistance	Gao, Kayes, Koulikoro, Mopti, and Tombouctou Regions	\$5,001,190
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Mali	\$13,643,800
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012			\$29,202,642
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012			\$35,429,718

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Southern Mauritania	\$800,000
UNICEF	Nutrition; WASH	Countrywide	\$550,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Eastern Mauritania	\$500,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$250,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012			\$2,100,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA			
Counterpart International (CPI)	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Assaba, Gorgol, Guidimaka, and Hodh El Gharbi Regions	\$5,000,000
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Assaba, Brakna, Gorgol, Guidhimakha, Hodh el Gharbi, and Hodh el Chargui Regions	\$5,000,000
WFP	Cash Transfers	Assaba, Brakna, Gorgol, and Guidhimakha Regions; Nouakchott	\$3,000,000
World Vision	Food Vouchers	Assaba Region	\$2,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012			\$15,000,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012			\$17,100,000

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER			
ACTED	ERMS	Tillabéri Region	\$594,935
Africare	Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Agadez and Tahoua Regions	\$1,250,183
The National Cooperative The Business Association's Cooperative League of the United States of America (CLUSA)	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Nutrition	Tahoua and Tillabéri Regions	\$998,664
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Tillabéri Region	\$996,831
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$1,100,000
HKI	Nutrition	Diffa, Dosso, Zinder Regions	\$1,600,000
Humedica	Nutrition	Tillabéri Region	\$631,498

Lutheran World Relief	Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Tahoua Region	\$599,492
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks	Tillabéri Region	\$1,120,715
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Agadez Region	\$800,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$350,000
Oxfam/GB	ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks	Tahoua and Tillabéri Regions	\$1,200,000
Plan USA	Nutrition	Dosso and Tillabéri Regions	\$655,673
SC/US	ERMS; Nutrition	Maradi and Zinder Regions	\$1,281,027
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$500,000
Vétérinaires Sans Frontières/Belgium	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Tillabéri Region	\$716,811
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$2,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012			\$15,397,829
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER			
CPI	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Diffa and Zinder Regions	\$3,801,300
Mercy Corps	Cash Transfers	Tillabéri Region	\$4,000,000
UNICEF	Cash Transfers; Local Procurement of Nutritional Products	Tahoua Region; Countrywide	\$3,000,000
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$37,053,200
WFP	Cash Transfers; LRP Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$30,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012			\$77,854,500
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012			\$93,252,329

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL			
CPI	Agriculture and Food Security	Matam Region	\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL IN FY 2012			\$50,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL			
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,796,400
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL IN FY 2012			\$2,796,400
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL IN FY 2012			\$2,846,400

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO THE GAMBIA			
Forum for African Women Educationalist Gambia Chapter (FAWEGAM)	Agriculture and Food Security	The Gambia	\$50,000

FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	The Gambia	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO THE GAMBIA IN FY 2012			\$550,000

SAHEL REGIONAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
Action Against Hunger	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Regional	\$99,215
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Regional	\$500,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Regional	\$500,000
WFP	Market Analysis and Vulnerability Studies	Regional	\$199,000
WFP	Nutrition	Regional	\$300,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Regional	\$1,000,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Regional	\$500,000
	Program Support Costs	Regional	\$194,357
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SAHEL REGIONAL IN FY 2012			\$3,292,572

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Regional	\$14,055,800
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2012			\$14,055,800

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
International Committee of the Red Cross	Emergency Relief Supplies	Mali, Niger	\$2,500,000
UNICEF	Education; Health; WASH Services for Refugees	Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger	\$1,100,000
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger	\$7,000,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Mauritania	\$250,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2012			\$10,850,000

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN FY 2012	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING	\$40,280,794
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING	\$264,021,217
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING	\$10,850,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN FY 2012	\$315,152,011

¹ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of June 15, 2012.

³ Estimated value of food assistance.

PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for response efforts in the Sahel can be found at www.interaction.org.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, and warehouse space); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or +1.202.821.1999.
Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.