

MALI - Drought

(Please note: This disaster was declared near the close of FY 84, and remained active throughout FY 85.)

Date: June 1984 - December 1985

Location: Countrywide, particularly the regions of Gao (Region VII), Timbuktu (Region VI), Mopti (Region V), northern Kayes (Region I), and northern Koulikoro (Region II)

No. Dead: Not reported

No. Affected: 1,500,000

The Disaster

Much of Mali lies in the Sahara Desert or in the dry Sahelian zone and is very susceptible to the vagaries of rainfall. Both 1982 and 1983 saw insufficient rainfall in the Sahel, which particularly affected the Gao and Timbuktu regions. When the rains failed again in 1984, the food shortage situation became disastrous, not only in Gao, Timbuktu and Kayes--often affected by drought--but also in Mopti and Segou. In the remote region of Gao, where distances are great and transportation links poor, normally about 49% of the population are nomads, but during this prolonged drought, some of the normally sedentary population had to migrate in search of water. On the other hand, most of the migration in drought-stricken Gao was from the rural areas to encampments either inside cities (where that has been allowed) or on the outskirts of cities. The uprooted population in Gao was estimated at greater than 40,000 in mid-March and at 52,000 in Timbuktu.

In general, the impact of the drought was most severe in the north with conditions improving marginally towards the south. Women and children were most at risk; many nomad and village men left their families to seek work but had not returned by the spring of 1985. Medecins sans frontieres (MSF), a French PVO, reported serious nutritional deficiencies in the

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affected areas. In a survey taken of children younger than five years old, the following regional populations were found to be below 80% of normal weight-height ratios: Timbuktu: 18-52%; Gourma Rharous (along the Niger River, east of Timbuktu): 27-70%; Dire (southern Gao): 12-47%; Niafunke (northern Mopti): 7-18%; and Goundam (southern Gao): 15-38%.

USAID estimated the national food deficit to be 440,000 MT in February 1985. Of this amount, only 210,000 MT were covered by on-farm stocks and commercial imports.

Many Malians have a precarious economic existence in the best of times and several years of insufficient rainfall, coupled with years of deforestation and erosion, pushed the country toward disaster.

Action Taken by the Government of the Republic of Mali (GRM)

In October 1983, the GRM launched an appeal for international aid. It also formed a national commission to aid victims of the drought. The FAO estimate of a 481,000 MT cereal deficit and its recommendation of 202,000 MT of food aid were endorsed by the GRM, and its requests for emergency food followed the recommendations.

The GRM has tried to schedule food aid deliveries in the most efficient manner while all government-to-government food aid is received and accounted for by the Office des Produits Agricoles du Mali (OPAM), the government's agricultural office, was responsible for food aid donated to the GRM. OPAM was charged with selling 10,000 MT of USG-donated rice, the proceeds of which were placed in a joint USAID-GRM bank account and later applied to cover the cercle-to-village-level transport costs of the food for free distribution.

A top priority for rehabilitation was procuring seeds for the 1985 harvest. OPSS, the GRM agency charged with seed supplies, worked with the Canadian government and the Fonds Europeen du Developpement (FED) to purchase the millet, sorghum, and rice seeds. Production within Mali was sufficient to meet seed requirements but it had to be purchased quickly before it was eaten by hungry farmers, as only locally-produced seed varieties are adapted to local conditions.

Finally, Secama, the Malian Catholic society, participated in food distribution to displaced nomads in Gao.

Assistance Provided by the United States Government

On September 13, 1984, Ambassador Ryan declared that the drought had caused a disaster in Mali. His disaster assistance funds were used to provide two grants of \$12,500

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each to UNDRO and to the Coordinating Committee for Emergency Actions (CCAU, a group of non-governmental organizations) for inland grain transport. OFDA gave CCAU an additional \$300,000 and UNDRO \$50,000 from its special \$16 million appropriation for inland food transport.

Much of sub-Saharan Africa, particularly the Sahel zone, was in deep crisis throughout 1984 and 1985, rivalling the devastating drought of the early 1970s. Many international donors mounted a concerted relief effort, partly to prevent famine conditions from arising and partly to deal with the underlying causes of the food shortage. Consequently, in late January 1985, OFDA sent a two-person team for a month to assess the extent of the emergency in Mali and to determine the most appropriate and effective U.S. response. Their report helped OFDA to decide on what further aid should be given to Mali in FY 85.

USAID's strategy to alleviate the disaster included both the sale and free distribution of P.L. 480 Title II food grains. Sales provide the counterpart funds necessary to transport other commodities for free distribution in rural areas as well as help to meet the national cereal requirement during a time of shortage. Free distribution took place in remote rural areas. Therefore, 5,000 MT of the Government-to-Government rice in FY 84 and 5,000 MT of the rice in FY 85 were sold through OPAM's eight outlets in the region of Mopti. Net proceeds were placed in a joint GRM-USAID bank account and used to pay for free distribution of the remainder of the Government-to-Government P.L. 480 food. OPAM assigned the free distribution of the remaining 75,300 MT to several PVOs which had experience in Mali. These included the Stromme Memorial Foundation, the Baptist Mission, Norwegian Church Aid, CARE, MSF, and ASC (a Swiss PVO).

In addition to the Government-to-Government program, USAID also donated Title II and Section 416 commodities for free distribution to LRCS, WFP, and the African-American Labor Center. (For details, see below, "FFP Assistance.")

USAID arranged a barter transfer of Ghanaian maize for Title II rice assigned to Mali and Burkina Faso. Under the contract, 9,202 MT of Title II rice was exchanged for 15,000 MT of Ghanaian white maize, 10,000 MT of which was trans- shipped to Mali (8,000 MT went to WVRO's program in Gao and 2,000 MT went to Nioro).

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Four food monitors were hired by A.I.D.'s Bureau for Food for Peace and Voluntary Assistance for \$140,000 to oversee distribution of Title II food. In addition, the Africa Bureau of A.I.D. funded a Disaster Relief Advisor for a two-year assignment to help manage the entire USG disaster relief effort. This cost \$206,000 and was funded from a special portion of the supplemental funds allocated for operating expenses.

Vice President George Bush visited Mali in March during a trip to Africa. He was accompanied by a DOD C-141 filled with food, medicine, and medical supplies provided by PVOs, private citizens, OFDA, and DOD. The transport of the plane was paid for by OFDA. Vice President Bush also signed three agreements with the GRM finalizing rehabilitation projects.

As mentioned earlier, one of the most severely affected areas of Mali was the remote region of Gao. It was imperative to get food and other relief supplies to this area. The city of Gao is along the Niger River, 1,250 km from Bamako and 600 km from Mopti. During the height of the disaster, the ferry across the Niger River at Gao was frequently out of order. Therefore, OFDA funded a DOD operation to install a 60 MT-capacity raft (U.S. Army M4T6, five float reinforced raft) to carry trucks and supplies across the river until the usual ferry could be repaired. The raft was operated from May 23, 1985 until the end of October. Fifteen people from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers worked closely with Malian engineers to maintain daily crossings.

CARE received a grant from OFDA to handle the logistics of its food program. CARE purchased nine 10-MT four-wheel drive diesel station wagons and eleven 49-cc motorized bicycles, spare parts, and garage tools. CARE handled the distribution of 22,500 MT of the Government-to-Government Title II program.

Finally, OFDA funded a self-help project to rebuild, deepen, and provide a lip and a lid for five wells in isolated Koro cercle in the Mopti region. The funds paid for cement, parts, and well diggers and their transportation. The contributions of the 3,400 villagers involved represented 25-30% of total costs.

Summary of OFDA Assistance

FY 84

Grant to UNDR0 for inland transport (\$50,000 of this amount was from supplemental funds).....\$62,500

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Grant to CCAU for inland transport (\$300,000 of this amount was from supplemental funds).....\$312,500

FY 85

Disaster assessment team visit (January 31 - March 1, 1985).....\$23,193

Cost of DOD airlift of food and medical supplies during Vice President Bush's visit to Mali.....\$64,224

DOD initial survey team of Gao ferry situation (mid-May).....\$5,000

DOD airlift of the Gao raft from West Germany and support costs (from supplemental funds).....\$510,000

Cost of in-country support for DOD Gao raft team (from supplemental funds).....\$300,000

Grant to CARE for logistical support of food program (from supplemental funds).....\$2,154,786

Wells self-help project in Koro cercle in Mopti (from supplemental funds).....\$36,000

FY 86

Grant to Africare for food crop production program (supplemental funds).....\$1,723,000

Summary of FFP Assistance

FY 84

<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>MT</u>	<u>Commodity Cost</u>	<u>Freight Cost</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Gov't.-Gov't. Title II 15,000 MT corn- meal 10,000 MT rice	25,000	\$6,472,700	\$5,069,000	\$11,541,700
WFP Title II 10,000 MT corn	10,000	\$1,527,800	\$1,100,000	\$2,627,800

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<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>MT</u>	<u>Commodity Cost</u>	<u>Freight Cost</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
AALC	4,860	\$742,500	\$1,069,200	\$1,811,700
Title II				
4,860 MT corn				
TOTAL	39,860	\$8,743,000	\$7,238,200	\$15,981,200
 <u>FY 85</u>				
Gov't.-Gov't.	60,300	\$12,917,900	\$15,354,200	\$28,272,100
Title II				
20,000 MT rice				
15,000 MT corn-				
meal				
25,000 MT corn				
300 MT NFDM				
LRCS	5,439	\$1,712,600	\$1,309,000	\$3,021,600
Title II				
405 MT NFDM				
4,872 MT rice				
162 MT vegoil				
LRCS	840	\$546,000	\$239,400	\$785,400
Section 416				
840 MT NFDM				
WFP	360	\$234,000	\$102,600	\$336,000
Section 416				
360 MT NFDM				
TOTAL	66,939	\$15,410,500	\$17,005,200	\$32,415,700
Four food monitors.....				\$140,000
 <u>Summary of USG Assistance</u>				
TOTAL FY 84 OFDA funds.....				\$25,000
TOTAL FY 84 OFDA-administered Supplemental funds.....				\$350,000
TOTAL FY 84 FFP funds.....				\$15,981,200
TOTAL FY 84 USG assistance.....				\$16,356,200
 TOTAL FY 85 OFDA funds.....				\$92,417
TOTAL FY 85 OFDA-administered Supplemental funds.....				\$3,000,786
TOTAL FY 85 FFP funds.....				\$32,555,700
TOTAL FY 85 Special Supplemental for operating expenses.....				\$206,000
TOTAL FY 85 USG assistance.....				\$35,854,903
 TOTAL USG assistance FY 84-85.....				\$52,211,103

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Assistance Provided by U.S. Private Voluntary Agencies

ADRA - provided 4,050 syringes and needles, valued at \$4,800, for Vice President Bush's airlift.

ANRC - gave 1 MT of cream dry milk, valued at \$24,500, for the Vice President's airlift.

African-American Labor Center - handled 4,860 MT of Title II corn provided by the USG in FY 84.

Africare - donated 68,700 doses of measles vaccines, worth \$54,432, and 2.3 MT of high protein bars for the Vice President's airlift.

Baptist Mission - distributed USG Title II corn in FY 84 and distributed 4,000 MT of Title II corn (provided through the Government-to-Government program) in the dryland area of Mopti (Douentza and Koro), Segou (IV), and Koulikoro (II) and in Nioro (IV Region); and provided trucks for inland transport. The Mission purchased two 10-MT four-wheel drive trucks to transport the grain within the country.

CARE - made surveys of drought-stricken areas; distributed food and relief supplies in the VI Region (Niafunke, Timbuktu, Gourma, and Tonka), the V Region (Douentza, Mopti, and Djenne), and the IV Region (Macina and Nioro); and provided 2.3 MT of yellow cornmeal, valued at \$790,000 on the Vice President's airlift.

MAP International - provided 4.5 MT of medical supplies, worth \$13,175, for the Vice President's airlift.

WVRO - distributed 90 MT of rice in Kayes and the Nioro du Sahel area, and provided food aid and transport to Kayes (Region I), Kolokani, and Menaka (in Gao region where WVRO is working with LRCS), worth \$2,448,876.

TOTAL \$3,335,783

Assistance Provided by the International Community

International Organizations

Caritas Internationalis - provided \$1,443,915 in food and other aid.

EEC - donated \$1,200,000 for the local purchase of food and seed and for their transport to the affected regions; gave \$625,005 to MSF for a health program; procured two engines for a river barge at Koulikoro, and provided 23,500 MT of corn, rice, and sorghum with inland transportation, worth \$4,914,700. In May 1985, EEC had expended a total of \$31,480,050 for food aid and relief needs during 1984-85.

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FAO - conducted an assessment of the food shortage situation in December 1983 with WFP.

FED - provided substantial support for rice and millet seed acquisition in surplus areas; and replaced one engine of a 40-MT ferry at Gao.

LRCS - runs the only organized, large-scale feeding program in the Gao region (concentrating in the city of Gao, Menaka, and Ansongo). In early February, LRCS operated 99 feeding centers (with a target of 160) benefiting 57,500 children, each of whom received at least one hot meal (consisting of a mixture of rice, milk, oil, and sugar) per day. Later, it expanded its feeding program to include distribution of raw grains to 40,000 family members. LRCS provided emergency health and nutrition services in Gao and Timbuktu regions. By May 1985, LRCS's nutritional program was assisting 290,000 people. LRCS also provided eight refrigerators and 60 containers to hospitals and health posts; provided medicines and oral rehydration packs for maternal-child health clinics and first aid posts; and appealed for a 10-ton truck, two four-wheel drive Toyotas, a Land Rover, and food.

UNDP - used \$1,085,000 from its emergency funds for hydro-agricultural projects and pumps.

UNDRO - sent evaluation teams in May 1984 and in November 1984; sent a representative to Bamako to coordinate relief efforts; made an urgent appeal for 400,000 MT of seeds; distributed 5,000 MT of grain; and contributed \$9,000.

UNICEF - organized two medical teams for Gao, Timbuktu, and Dire; and UNICEF national offices in Belgium, Japan, and the U.S. contributed \$214,000.

U.N. Sahelian Office - installed 50 pumps.

WFP - distributed more than 100,000 MT of food and contributed 10,000 MT of maize, valued at \$3,480,000.

WHO - conducted a health program in the drought zones.

Governments

Algeria - provided wheat worth \$200,000, and placed three C-130s in Mopti to airlift 2,000 MT of cereal. Operations began June 21 and lasted one month. USG commodities received top priority.

Austria - donated 1,510 MT of rice.

Belgium - bought 2,500 MT of rice on the local market.

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Canada - provided substantial support for rice and millet seed acquisition from surplus areas, and provided 24,194 MT of corn.

China, People's Republic - provided 2,000 MT of rice and 6,000 MT of corn.

Denmark - gave \$90,407 in cash through UNDRO and 1,125 MT of rice.

France - donated 15,000 MT of maize.

Germany, Fed. Rep. - donated 12,000 MT of corn and sorghum, and provided an engine for the Gao ferry.

Italy - contributed \$3,000,000 in FY 84 and \$5,000,000 for cereals and processed foods in FY 85; airlifted commodities from Dakar to Bamako and then from Bamako to outlying areas for one month.

Japan - provided 2,800 MT of rice through WFP, 20,000 blankets, and 24 MT of biscuits.

Korea - Dem. Rep. - gave 1,000 MT of corn through WFP.

Netherlands - provided 5,500 MT of rice and 2,024 MT of yellow corn, valued at \$1,500,000, and \$141,666 in cash.

Norway - donated food and medicines through Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) worth \$803,571, and made a cash contribution to NCA of \$611,111 and one to Stromme Memorial Foundation of \$131,222.

Pakistan - donated rice.

Switzerland - provided \$17,000 to UNDRO for food transport.

Thailand - gave 100 MT of rice.

United Kingdom - donated 1,890 MT of rice.

Yugoslavia - contributed 50 MT of food.

Voluntary Organizations

ASC (Swiss Disaster Relief) - distributed 2,500 MT of USG Title II food in the city of Gao.

Cardinal Leger and His Works (Canada) - contributed \$304,000 in cash.

Caritas Austria - contributed \$90,000 in cash.

Caritas Belgium - contributed \$27,576 in cash, and \$3,960 in kind.

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Caritas Canada - contributed \$418,000 in cash.

Caritas Germany, Fed. Rep. - contributed \$30,870 in cash.

Caritas Korea, Rep. of - contributed \$9,590 in cash.

Caritas Malaysia - contributed \$9,600 in cash.

Caritas Netherlands - contributed \$28,000 in cash, and \$215,827 in kind.

Caritas New Zealand - contributed \$7,204 in cash.

Caritas Singapore - contributed \$10,471 in cash.

Caritas Switzerland - contributed \$397,343 in cash.

Cebemo (Netherlands) - contributed \$114,000 in cash.

Coordinating Committee for Emergency Action - channelled donations to PVOs for inland transport of food.

Denmark Red Cross - donated 125 MT of rice, valued at \$90,909.

Euro-Action Accord (EAA) - provided assistance to uprooted people in the Gourma-Rharous area of Timbuktu (Region VI); managed a dried meat project founded by EEC.

Italy Red Cross - provided 200,000 liters of oil, value not reported.

MSF - conducted nutritional surveys and health programs in Gao and Timbuktu regions; supported health projects for children in Douentza (Region V) and distributed 300 MT of USG NFDN in Douentza and in the towns of Timbuktu, Goudam, and Dire (VI Region). MSF's emergency program cost \$463,000, which was financed by France, Netherlands, Switzerland, the EEC, UNICEF, UNDRO, and Oxfam/U.K.

Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) - operated the major relief effort in Gossi (VI Region). NCA distributed food (including 2,150 MT of USG Title II food) to displaced persons north to Gourma, south to N'Daki (at the Burkina Faso border), west to Hambouri, and east to Doro. NCA reached 4,000 people in the immediate Gossi area and close to 100,000 throughout the entire Gourma plain. Each family of five in NCA's program received 25 kg. of food. NCA also has a fleet of nine vehicles and its staff includes an agronomist, an engineer, a mechanic, and nurses. It maintains a storage capacity of over 1,580 MT and is actively engaged in nutrition and health care intervention.

Oxfam/U.K. - provided \$32,712 for the purchase of maize and rice, and made grants to various PVOs worth \$370,950.

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Stromme Memorial Foundation (Norwegian PVO) - worked with Baptist Mission in FY 84 to distribute food; distributed 2,500 MT of U.S. Title II corn in the inland delta region of Mopti from February to April 1985 and 3,000 MT of Title II corn in May, June, and July; also worked in Niuro (IV Region), Nara (II). and Kayes Region (I); provided mechanics, drivers, logisticians, nutritionists, and five four-wheel drive trucks for the relief effort.

Veterinarians sans frontieres - used meat from cattle purchased for slaughter to prepare dried food in Douentza (Region V).

TOTAL \$49,924,039