

MALI - Drought

(Please note: This disaster, declared near the close of FY 84, was still active at the time of publication.)

Date: June 1984-May 1985

Location: Sahelian and Sudanese zones, particularly the regions of Gao, Timbouctou, Segou, Mopti, and Kayes

No. Dead: Not reported

No. Affected: 1,500,000

Damage: FAO estimated the net cereal deficit to be 481,000 MT.

The Disaster

Much of Mali lies in the Sahara Desert or in the dry Sahelian zone and is therefore very susceptible to the vagaries of rainfall. Both 1982 and 1983 saw insufficient rainfall in the Sahel, which particularly affected the Gao and Timbouctou regions. When the rains failed again in 1984, the food shortage situation became disastrous, not only in Gao, Timbouctou 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, much of the normally sedentary population had to migrate in search of water.

Medecins Sans Frontieres, a French private voluntary agency, reported serious nutritional deficiencies in the affected areas. In a survey taken of children younger than five years old, the following percentages were found to be below 80% of normal weight-height ratios: Timbouctou: 18-52%; Gourma Rharous (along the Niger River, east of Timbouctou): 27-70%; Dire (southern Gao): 12-47%; Niafunke (northern Mopti): 7-18%; and Goundam (southern Gao): 15-38%.

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 only 202,000 MT of food aid (because of logistical and management constraints) were endorsed by the GRM, and its requests for emergency food have followed the recommendations.

The GRM has tried to schedule food aid deliveries in the most efficient manner while the Office des Produits Agricoles du Mali (OPAM), the Government's agricultural office, has been charged with distributing much of the food aid.

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 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. (This figure is not included in the total here as it is noted under the section Disaster Relief in FY 1984 - "Special Appropriation for Inland Transport.")

USAID's strategy to alleviate the disaster includes both the sale and free distribution of P.L. 480 Title II food grains. Sales help meet the national cereal requirement during a time of shortage as well as provide the counterpart funds necessary to transport other commodities for free distribution in rural areas. Free distribution will play an increasingly important role throughout FY 85 in preserving the rural structure of the country and averting widespread famine.

To implement this strategy, USAID and the Malian drought relief commission (CNAVS) decided on a management plan for 15,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II commodities already allocated to Mali. Of the 15,000 MT, 5,000 MT of rice will be sold through OPAM's eight outlets in the region of Mopti. Net proceeds will be placed in a joint GRM-USAID bank account and will be used to pay for free distribution of 10,000 MT of

corn and cornmeal. All free distribution will be handled by three private voluntary organizations which already have experience in Mali. (These three are Stromme Memorial Foundation, the Baptist Mission, and Norwegian Church Aid. For more information, see below.) The cost of these commodities is \$3,769,800 and the ocean freight comes to \$3,100,000.

In addition to these commodities, USAID also donated the following amounts of Title II food during FY 84: 10,000 MT of corn to WFP (the cost of the food was \$1,527,800 while the ocean freight came to \$1,100,000); 5,000 MT of cornmeal and 5,000 MT of rice to the GRM (commodity cost \$2,702,900, ocean freight \$1,969,000); and 4,860 MT of corn to the African-American Labor Center (commodity cost \$742,500, freight cost \$1,069,200).

Besides the 15,000 MT donated to the GRM, USAID is also providing 300 MT of non-fat dry milk, 550 MT of rice, and 100 MT of vegetable oil to LORCS in FY 85. The cost of the food is \$309,300 and ocean freight is \$209,000.

Much of sub-Saharan Africa, particularly the Sahel zone, is in deep crisis, rivalling the devastating drought of the early 1970s. Many international donors are mounting 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 is planning to send a two-person team to assess the extent of the emergency in Mali and to determine the most appropriate and effective U.S. response. Their report will enable OFDA to decide on what further aid should be given to Mali in FY 85.

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| Total OFDA assistance (FY 84)..... | \$25,000 |
| Total Food for Peace assistance (FY 84)..... | \$9,111,400 |
| Total USG assistance (FY 84)..... | \$9,136,400 |
| Total Food for Peace assistance (FY 85)..... | \$7,388,100 |
| TOTAL (as of January 1985) | \$16,524,500 |

Assistance Provided by U.S. Private Voluntary Agencies

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

Baptist Mission - distributed Title II corn in FY 84 and will distribute 3,000 MT of Title II corn in the dryland area of Mopti.

CARE - made surveys of drought-stricken areas.

World Vision International - distributed 90 MT of rice in Kayes and the Niolo du Sahel area, and will provide food aid and transport to Kayes, Kolokani, and Gao (in Gao, working with LORCS), worth \$496,500.

TOTAL \$496,500

Assistance Provided by the International Community

International Organizations

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 Medecins Sans Frontieres for a health program; and provided 13,500 MT of cereals and inland transportation, worth \$4,914,700.

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

LORCS - 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; 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 who has been coordinating relief efforts; made an urgent appeal for 400,000 tons of seeds; distributed 5,000 MT of grain and contributed \$9,000 towards this \$90,000 operation.

UNICEF - organized two medical teams for Gao and Timbouctou.

U.N. Sahelian Office - installed 50 pumps.

WFP - distributed more than 100,000 MT of food.

WHO - conducted a health program in the drought zones.

Governments

China, Peoples Republic - 2,000 MT of rice.

Denmark - \$90,407 in cash through UNDRO.

France - 7,000 MT of maize.

Netherlands - 4,000 MT of rice and 2,000 MT of yellow corn, valued at \$1,500,000.

Norway - food and medicines worth \$464,100.

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

Private Voluntary Organizations

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

Medecins Sans Frontieres - conducted nutritional surveys and health programs.

Norwegian Church Aid - will distribute 1,500 MT of U.S. Title II corn to nomads through its relief and development project based in Gossi.

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

Stromme Memorial Foundation (Norwegian PVO) - worked with Baptist Mission in FY 84 to distribute food; will distribute 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; will provide mechanics, drivers, logisticians, nutritionists, and five four-wheel drive trucks for the relief effort.

TOTAL \$10,308,874