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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

## ***Niger – Food Insecurity and Malnutrition***

Fact Sheet #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2010

September 29, 2010

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated July 14, 2010.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- In response to increasing food insecurity and deteriorating childhood nutrition, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) launched an Emergency Operation (EMOP) for Niger on August 1 that aims to provide emergency food assistance to approximately 7.9 million food-insecure people. In August, WFP delivered more than 40,000 metric tons (MT) of emergency food assistance to nearly 3.9 million beneficiaries. In September to date, WFP has delivered more than 25,000 MT of emergency food assistance. To date, donors have provided approximately \$151.3 million, or 71 percent, of the total \$213 million requested for the EMOP.
- In late July and August, heavy rainfall caused flooding in Tillabéri, Tahoua, Maradi, Agadez, Niamey, and Zinder regions. Floods had affected more than 226,000 people as of September 3, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Floods also damaged more than 5,400 hectares of crops, mainly in Agadez Region.
- USAID/OFDA-funded programs are responding to acute malnutrition among children under five years of age through community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM) and the procurement of ready-to-use therapeutic and supplementary foods and essential medicines. USAID/OFDA has also emphasized economic recovery and livelihood interventions, such as cash-for-work (CFW) and cash transfer programs designed to increase the purchasing power of food-insecure households in pastoral and agricultural areas.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Severely Food-Insecure Population</b>	3.3 million	GoN <sup>1</sup> , U.N. Agencies, and FEWS NET <sup>2</sup> – May 2010
<b>Moderately Food-Insecure Population</b>	3.8 million	GoN, U.N. Agencies, and FEWS NET – May 2010

### **FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

<b>USAID/OFDA Assistance to Niger</b> .....	<b>\$20,956,308</b>
<b>USAID/FFP<sup>3</sup> Assistance to Niger</b> .....	<b>\$79,535,000</b>
<b>Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to Niger</b> .....	<b>\$100,491,308</b>

### **CONTEXT**

- Since September 2009, residents of agro-pastoral and pastoral regions have experienced increasing food insecurity and rising acute malnutrition rates as a result of failed 2009 harvests and the second consecutive year of poor pasture conditions for livestock. Beginning in November 2009, USAID/OFDA responded to the food security situation through emergency interventions supporting food security, nutrition, agriculture, and economic recovery and market systems.
- On January 14, 2010, U.S. Ambassador Bernadette M. Allen declared a disaster due to the effects of food insecurity in Niger. In FY 2010, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$20.9 million to help meet the needs of affected populations in Niger.
- The 2010 USAID/OFDA-funded nationwide Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) Nutritional Survey—conducted by the GoN and the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) between May 24 and June 16—found a nationwide global acute malnutrition (GAM) rate of 16.7 percent, which is above the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold level of 15 percent, and also represents a 35 percent increase from the 2009 SMART survey rate of 12.3 percent countrywide.

<sup>1</sup> Government of Niger (GoN)

<sup>2</sup> USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET)

<sup>3</sup> USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

### ***Health and Nutrition***

- According to FEWS NET, acute malnutrition rates will likely continue to rise until the October harvest due to continued food security deterioration and related health conditions. A rise in acute malnutrition is often witnessed during the lean season. The acute malnutrition caseload will soon likely decline in pastoral areas due to livestock grazing conditions that started to improve in late July. Improved livestock quality should lead to increased milk production, which should augment children's diets and contribute to improved nutrition rates among children under five years of age. Diffa and Maradi regions continue to experience the highest GAM rates at 22.1 and 19.7 percent, respectively, according to the most recent SMART survey. A second SMART survey will be conducted from mid-October to November 2010.
- According to UNICEF, 11,874 children with severe acute malnutrition (SAM), with and without complications, were admitted to malnutrition treatment centers in the week of August 23 through August 29. In 2010, more than 217,000 children suffering from SAM had been admitted to malnutrition centers as of September 5, compared to a total of 161,854 reported cases between January and November 2009.
- According to WHO, the number of malaria cases in Niger continues to increase in 2010 compared to the 2009 caseload. As of August 28, WHO reported approximately 1.4 million cases of malaria, compared to approximately 880,000 reported cases by the same date in 2009. Since malaria can disproportionately affect malnourished children, a countrywide increase in malaria cases and the peak of the lean season have led to a rise in the number of SAM admissions, mainly in Zinder, Maradi, and Tahoua regions. UNICEF also attributes the rise in admissions rates to improved service coverage and active screenings.
- USAID/OFDA-funded programs are assisting Niger's most vulnerable populations through targeted nutrition interventions. For instance, USAID/OFDA grantee Helen Keller International (HKI) CMAM activities focus on prevention, screening, and treatment for approximately 364,000 children under the age of five suffering from acute malnutrition in Diffa, Dosso, and Zinder regions. In addition, USAID/OFDA grantee World Vision (WV) is targeting approximately 27,800 children under the age of five suffering from acute malnutrition through CMAM activities in Maradi and Tillabéri regions, two regions experiencing high GAM rates.

### ***Agriculture and Food Security***

- According to the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), the start of the harvest season in neighboring coastal countries that export to Niger and favorable Niger crop prospects have led to a stabilization in cereal prices as of early September, though prices remain high. Wholesale millet prices in Niamey markets remained 61 percent higher in August 2010 than August 2007, the start of the global food price crisis.
- Poorer households continue to suffer from insufficient food access due to high food prices and limited income, according to FEWS NET. In addition, many households have incurred debts that must be repaid following the October harvest, with some reports claiming that farmers will have to pay off as much as 3 months' worth of harvest immediately.
- In response to food insecurity in Niger during FY 2010, USAID/FFP provided more than 47,000 MT of emergency food assistance, valued at approximately \$52.7 million, to benefit affected populations throughout Niger. In addition, USAID/FFP provided approximately \$26.8 million in Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) grants for the local procurement of food, as well as a food voucher program, in affected areas. These contributions were in addition to the USAID/FFP annual non-emergency food security program implemented through USAID/FFP grantees, valued at approximately \$15 million.

### ***Livelihoods***

- Food insecurity in pastoral areas remains a concern due to the deterioration in the principal means of subsistence for pastoralists, mainly raising livestock and the sale of livestock products, according to FEWS NET. Poor livestock conditions and water shortages continue to hinder sufficient income generation for pastoralists. Many poorer households are adopting negative coping strategies, including selling breeding animals or working as shepherds away from their own livestock, in order to provide sufficient amounts of food to their families. In addition, many households have lost entire herds.
- According to FEWS NET, at least 20 percent of Niger's pastoral population had lost approximately 80 to 100 percent of its livestock as of September 21. The GoN reports that losses have been concentrated among particularly vulnerable pastoral households. FEWS NET attributes the large losses to the sale of livestock at poor terms of trade in order to supplement household food needs, food deficits for livestock leading to starvation, and heavy rains that killed livestock during July and August. According to FEWS NET, particularly vulnerable households—including households that have gone into debt, have not been able to plant crops, or have lost livestock—will likely continue to require humanitarian assistance in the coming months, even after the October harvest, to avoid worsening food insecurity and acute malnutrition.

- USAID/OFDA-funded seed fairs, implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS) between May and June 2010, in Dosso, Maradi, Tillabéri, and Zinder regions, benefitted more than 22,800 affected individuals. Other USAID/OFDA grantees have also implemented various CFW programs and cash transfer programs, including a WFP and CRS-implemented program in Ouallam Department, Tillabéri Region, which provides temporary employment for up to 38,500 affected individuals.

### USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER

FY 2010			
<i>Grantee</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
Concern	Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Nutrition	Tahoua Region	\$863,610
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security	Dosso, Maradi, Tillabéri, and Zinder regions	\$998,367
HKI	Nutrition	Diffa, Zinder, and Dosso Regions	\$1,846,719
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)	Nutrition	Dosso, Niamey, and Zinder Regions	\$600,000
Mercy Corps	Economic Recovery and Market Systems; Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene	Agadez Region	\$1,077,830
Mercy Corps	Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Niamey Region	\$995,552
Mercy Corps	Local Food Procurement and Distribution	Tillabéri Region	\$626,541
Oxfam/Great Britain (Oxfam/GB)	Agriculture and Food Security; Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Maradi and Tillabéri Regions	\$2,268,300
Save the Children/UK (SC/UK)	Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Maradi Region	\$2,812,282
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Zinder and Tahoua Regions	\$500,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Affected Areas	\$200,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Affected Areas	\$4,171,819
WFP	U.N. Humanitarian Air Service	Affected Areas	\$700,000
WFP	Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Tillabéri Region	\$886,602
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Affected Areas	\$700,000
WV	Nutrition	Maradi and Tillabéri Regions	\$999,993
Vétérinaires Sans Frontières/Belgium (VSF/B)	Agriculture and Food Security; Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Tillabéri Region	\$708,693
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$20,956,308</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
Counterpart International (CPI)	2,310 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Diffa and Zinder Regions	\$2,808,200
CRS, CARE, HKI	8,060 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$8,526,800
CRS	EFSP for Food Vouchers	Tillabéri Region	\$4,400,000
Mercy Corps	EFSP for Local Procurement and Vouchers	Tillabéri Region	\$4,800,000
WFP	EFSP for Local and Regional Procurement of Cereals	Affected Areas	\$17,600,000

WFP	36,640 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$41,400,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$79,535,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2010</b>			<b>\$100,491,308</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 29, 2010.

<sup>2</sup> Estimated value of food assistance.

<b>FY 2010 HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO DATE</b>	
<b>USAID/OFDA</b>	<b>\$20,956,308</b>
<b>USAID/FFP</b>	<b>\$79,535,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER</b>	<b>\$100,491,308</b>

**PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Niger may be available at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int). 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:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/)