



SAHEL – FOOD INSECURITY AND COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- As early warning signs of the food insecurity crisis in the Sahel emerged, USAID’s Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/DCHA) mobilized resources to provide targeted assistance to populations in need. Early analysis of the food security situation through on-the-ground assessments and close coordination with partner organizations enabled USAID/DCHA to undertake early, direct action. In October 2011, USAID/DCHA identified food security needs and began allocating funds to partners operating in the region.
- To reinforce USAID/DCHA’s understanding of evolving food insecurity and humanitarian needs in the Sahel, staff from USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) recently traveled to Burkina Faso to conduct rapid livelihoods needs assessments and to meet with USAID partners in drought-affected areas.
- USAID/DCHA’s response to the situation in the Sahel in FY 2012 builds on ongoing activities to increase food security, strengthen livelihoods, and address acute malnutrition across the region. To date in FY 2012, USAID/DCHA has provided nearly \$193 million to support targeted activities that improve food security, treat acute malnutrition, enhance livelihoods, and build long-term resilience. USAID/DCHA is working with other U.S. Government (USG) counterparts—including the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)—to ensure a coordinated response in the region.
- On April 17, U.N. Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos appointed David Gressly to serve as the U.N. Regional Humanitarian Coordinator (RHC) for the Sahel for a period of six months. In addition to regional coordination and collaboration with country-level U.N. teams, RHC Gressly will work with development actors to bridge the gap between emergency response and long-term activities.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Sahel	\$11,694,248
USAID/FFP ² Assistance to the Sahel	\$181,070,117
State/PRM Assistance to the Sahel	\$9,500,000 ³
Total USAID and State Assistance to the Sahel	\$202,264,365

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 15 million people in the Sahel are at risk of food security, 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 in the region, with some localized areas exceeding the U.N. World Health Organization emergency threshold level of 15 percent.
- In FY 2012, the USG is responding to disaster declarations in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal.

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

² USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)

³ This figure reflects only State/PRM funding for protection and humanitarian assistance for individuals affected by the conflict between Government of Mali armed forces and Tuareg opposition groups. This figure does not include other State/PRM-funded assistance provided to refugees, conflict-affected people, and returning migrants across West Africa.

Regional Food Security

- Members of the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA)—a group of key food security actors in West Africa, including representatives from West African states, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and local, regional, and international organizations—met in mid-April to discuss the current food security and nutrition situation in the Sahel. In addition to concern over high food prices and continued high levels of malnutrition across the region, participants noted that violence in northern Mali has disrupted food supplies and limited humanitarian activities. Members recommended increased food security responses at the national and regional levels and support for long-term strategies and actions to build local capacity and resilience.
- Agricultural production in the Sahel and West Africa, including coastal countries, decreased 9 percent during the 2011/2012 agricultural season compared to the 2010/2011 season, but increased by 5 percent over the five-year average, according to RPCA analysis. However, cereal production in Sahelian countries decreased compared to both 2010/2011 production and the five-year average. In particular, 2011/2012 cereal production levels for Burkina Faso, Chad, The Gambia, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal were 20 to 56 percent below 2010/2011 levels.
- As part of USAID/DCHA's strategy to support activities that enable early warning and response, in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$200,000 through the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to provide timely, reliable food security market data and analysis—shared with partners and key government agencies—to more effectively target food security and nutrition programs throughout affected areas in the Sahel.

Burkina Faso

- In mid-April, USAID/OFDA staff assessed livelihoods needs in drought-affected areas of Burkina Faso. The team visited provinces in North and Central North regions, where they met with local community members—including farmers, vendors, and traders—to identify remaining humanitarian needs. USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP currently support agriculture and nutrition activities, as well as emergency food assistance, in Burkina Faso and will use forthcoming assessment recommendations to further tailor targeted assistance and build resilience in the country and the Sahel region.
- On April 16, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies launched a \$4.3 million emergency appeal to support an estimated 20,000 food-insecure households in Burkina Faso. The appeal will support immediate interventions to increase populations' access to food, including providing vouchers redeemable for food in the local market to people who have depleted household food stocks.

Mali

- Humanitarian access remains limited in northern Mali, where armed groups seized three regional capitals—Gao, Kidal, and Tombouctou—during late March and early April. The international humanitarian community has called for immediate access to northern areas to deliver relief assistance to affected populations.
- The violence in northern Mali has led to increasing displacement, with approximately 279,000 people displaced within Mali and as refugees to neighboring countries as of April 20, according to humanitarian agencies. Refugees fleeing to neighboring countries are arriving in already food-insecure areas, straining limited local resources.
- NGOs that remain in northern Mali have gathered information on the protection situation, noting reports of child recruitment into armed groups and gender-based violence. The Protection Cluster—the coordinating body for protection issues in Mali—has developed a protection strategy and distributed it to cluster members, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).
- On April 12, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delivered medicine and other essential supplies, including fuel, to the hospital in Gao town, northern Mali, to help resume patient care in an area where insecurity has limited humanitarian access. The hospital was previously unable to provide basic services due to limited staff and heavy looting of supplies weeks earlier. ICRC also supplied 20,000 liters of fuel to the Gao power station to help maintain the population's water supply.

Mauritania

- More than 56,000 Malian refugees had arrived in Mauritania as of April 16, with the majority of refugees residing in Mbera camp, located approximately 50 km from the Mali–Mauritania border. As of April 12, the rate of new refugees from northern Mali had increased from an estimated 300-400 people per day prior to April 1—the day the regional capital Tombouctou fell to rebels—to 600-700 people per day after its fall, according to the U.N. On April 17, approximately 1,500 refugees arrived in Mauritania from Mali, with the majority of families fleeing from Tombouctou region, according to Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

- Humanitarian agencies have distributed relief supplies—including water containers, shelter materials, blankets, soap, and cooking sets—to refugees in Mauritania, and MSF is providing health care services and treating refugees for malnutrition. Relief agencies remain concerned about limited water and sanitation services available to refugees in Mbera camp.
- The influx of refugees has increased pressure on the limited resources of the local population in Mbera. In response, USAID/OFDA recently supported the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) to address the immediate water and sanitation needs of the local community.

Niger

- In drought-affected areas of eastern and western Niger, between 70 and 100 percent of people may deplete household food stocks before the upcoming October harvest, according to a recent field study conducted by USAID/OFDA partner Mercy Corps and other NGOs.
- In late March, Mercy Corps began implementing a USAID/OFDA-funded cash-for-work (CFW) program to provide vulnerable families with the funds to access basic goods available in many local markets in the drought-affected Tillabéri Region of western Niger. The CFW activities allow women to generate income while helping to rehabilitate local agricultural land, providing a dual benefit of improved land for future planting and immediate income for women to purchase food for their families during the lean season. The USAID/OFDA-funded program complements USAID/FFP’s cash transfer activities conducted through Mercy Corps that enable families to purchase food locally. Together, USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP have provided more than \$5 million to Mercy Corps in FY 2012 for activities to improve food security among affected populations in Niger.

Other Humanitarian Assistance

- In response to high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition in Chad, the U.N. Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) recently allocated nearly \$8 million to eight U.N. agencies. Of the total, UNICEF received \$2.8 million to strengthen acute malnutrition interventions and water and sanitation activities. With \$1.2 million, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) will provide protection and nutrition activities for displaced persons and vulnerable host communities. The CERF dispersed \$1.2 million to WFP to support the distribution of emergency food assistance, benefiting 125,000 food-insecure people. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) received \$1.2 million to improve agricultural activity by distributing tools and seeds to vulnerable households. The remaining CERF funds will support health and economic recovery interventions through the U.N. Development Program, the Joint U.N. Program on HIV/AIDS, and the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA).

FY 2012 USG ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL¹

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO²			
UNICEF	Nutrition	Burkina Faso	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012			\$500,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO			
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Burkina Faso	\$5,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012			\$5,000,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012			\$5,500,000

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

International Organization for Migration	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Chad	\$50,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Chad	\$300,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Chad	\$700,000

World Concern Development Organization	Agriculture and Food Security; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)	Chad	\$549,026
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Chad	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012			\$2,099,026
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD			
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Food Vouchers	Chad	\$2,767,228
Africare	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Chad	\$4,890,000
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Food Vouchers	Chad	\$4,504,047
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Chad	\$78,000,000
WFP	Locally and Regionally Procured (LRP) Emergency Food Assistance	Chad	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012			\$100,161,275
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012			\$102,260,301

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI			
Mali Red Cross	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Mali	\$50,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Mali	\$400,000
World Vision	ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks	Mali	\$750,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012			\$1,200,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI			
Africare	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Mali	\$2,048,700
CRS	Food Vouchers	Mali	\$2,226,023
CRS	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Mali	\$3,331,629
WFP	Cash Transfers; LRP Emergency Food Assistance	Mali	\$5,001,190
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Mali	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012			\$22,607,542
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012			\$23,807,542

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Mauritania	\$400,000
UNICEF	Nutrition; WASH	Mauritania	\$550,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012			\$950,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA			
WFP	Cash Transfers	Mauritania	\$3,000,000
World Vision	Food Vouchers	Mauritania	\$2,000,000
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Mauritania	\$5,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012			\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012			\$10,950,000

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER			
ACTED	ERMS	Niger	\$594,935
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Niger	\$996,831
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks	Niger	\$1,120,715
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Niger	\$350,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Niger	\$1,000,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Niger	\$500,000
Vétérinaires Sans Frontières/Belgium	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Niger	\$716,811
	Program Support Costs	Niger	\$2,043
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012			\$5,281,335
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER			
Counterpart International (CPI)	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Niger	\$3,801,300
Mercy Corps	Cash Transfers	Niger	\$4,000,000
UNICEF	Cash Transfers; Local Procurement of Nutritional Products	Niger	\$3,000,000
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Niger	\$22,500,000
WFP	Cash Transfers; LRP Emergency Food Assistance	Niger	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012			\$43,301,300
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012			\$48,582,635
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL			
CPI	Agriculture and Food Security	Senegal	\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL IN FY 2012			\$50,000
WEST AFRICA REGIONAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE			
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	West Africa	\$500,000
WFP	Market Analysis and Vulnerability Studies	West Africa	\$199,000
WFP	Nutrition	West Africa	\$300,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	West Africa	\$500,000
	Program Support Costs	West Africa	\$114,887
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2012			\$1,613,887
WEST AFRICA REGIONAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso	\$7,000,000
ICRC	Emergency Relief Supplies	Mali, Niger	\$2,500,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2012			\$9,500,000

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN 2012	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING	\$11,694,248
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² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 20, 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.