



# SAHEL – FOOD INSECURITY AND COMPLEX EMERGENCY

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On April 6, representatives from the National Committee for the Return of Democracy and the Restoration of the State—the junta that seized power in late March—and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) signed an agreement outlining steps to return the Malian government to constitutional order. The agreement enabled ECOWAS member states to lift sanctions placed on Mali following the coup. On April 8, Malian President Amadou Toumani Toure resigned as part of the transition agreement, and Parliament speaker Diocounda Traore assumed the interim presidency on April 12.
- Insecurity persists in northern Mali, where the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad and other armed groups seized three regional capitals—Gao, Kidal, and Tombouctou—during late March and early April. Several humanitarian organizations have reduced or suspended activities in northern Mali, where ongoing insecurity continues to limit humanitarian access to populations in need.
- Violence in northern Mali continues to displace people to neighboring countries—primarily Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger—while others remain internally displaced in Mali. As of April 11, conflict had displaced approximately 248,000 people, including at least 107,000 within northern Mali and approximately 141,000 refugees who had crossed to neighboring countries, according to humanitarian agencies. As a result of the increased pressure that refugees are placing on host communities in Mauritania, U.S. Ambassador Jo Ellen Powell declared a complex emergency disaster for eastern Mauritania on April 12.
- Uneven and erratic rainfall across Senegal in 2011, a short planting season, and lack of access to agricultural inputs have negatively affected agricultural production, and consequently, increased food prices. The Government of Senegal estimated in mid-March that more than 1.4 million people faced food insecurity countrywide. On April 12, U.S. Ambassador Lewis Lukens declared a disaster for food insecurity in Senegal.
- In response to ongoing food insecurity in the Sahel and conflict-related displacement, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) is augmenting staff in the region to assess conditions and response options. USAID/OFDA recently committed more than \$2.3 million to provide seeds, tools, and training to enhance agriculture production, support increased income-generating opportunities, and improve coordination to respond to food security and nutrition needs in the region. USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) is expediting the shipment of commodities to the region, as well as moving pre-positioned food to enable humanitarian agencies to respond to urgent needs.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 <sup>1</sup>	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Sahel	\$11,694,248
USAID/FFP Assistance to the Sahel	\$181,070,117
State/PRM <sup>2</sup> Assistance to the Sahel	\$9,500,000 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total USAID and State Assistance to the Sahel</b>	<b>\$202,264,365</b>

## 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.

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

<sup>3</sup> 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.

- 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 (WHO) emergency threshold level of 15 percent.
- On October 17, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Mark M. Boulware redeclared a disaster in Chad due to the ongoing complex emergency, which includes food insecurity among its contributing factors.
- On December 8, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Jo Ellen Powell declared a disaster due to the effects of food insecurity in Mauritania. On April 12, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Jo Ellen Powell declared a second disaster in Mauritania due to the impact of Malian refugees on host community populations in already severely food insecure areas of Mauritania.
- On December 20, 2011, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Lucy K. Abbott issued a disaster declaration due to the effects of food insecurity in Niger.
- On January 26, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Mary Beth Leonard declared a disaster in Mali due to the effects of food insecurity. On March 12, 2012, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Peter Barlerin declared another disaster in Mali due to the complex emergency resulting from conflict-related displacement.
- On April 12, 2012, U.S. Ambassador Lewis Lukens declared a disaster in Senegal due to the effects of food insecurity.

### **Food Security and Nutrition**

- Early and increased demand for cereals due to influxes of displaced populations, high production costs, and delayed harvests across the Sahel resulted in abnormally high cereal prices during the October-to-December 2011 harvest season. Market assessments indicate that local cereal prices remained relatively stable but consistently high—approximately 20 percent above average—in West Africa during February, as traders provided consistent supplies to markets, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET).
- Chad's northern Guera Region reached Crisis—Integrated Phase Classification 3—in March, according to FEWS NET. Grain prices remain high across Chad, and FEWS NET expects the lean season to run from April to September, instead of June to September, as is typically the case. FEWS NET anticipates pockets of Niger—including Diffa, Tahoua, and Tillabéri regions—will reach Crisis levels between April and June, while areas of southern and southeastern Mauritania had already reached Crisis levels in February.
- Acute malnutrition remains a concern across the Sahel, with an estimated 1 million children under five years of age residing in the region at risk of severe acute malnutrition (SAM), according to humanitarian agencies. In Chad, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that approximately 127,000 children under five years of age in Chad's Sahel region will face SAM in 2012. Action Against Hunger reports that in Kanem Region in western Chad, therapeutic centers received approximately 2,000 children in one month—more than three times the number of admissions during the same month in 2011.
- The recent instability in Mali is expected to have negative impacts on food insecurity. FEWS NET anticipates that the number of people experiencing Crisis-level food insecurity between April and September will likely increase as a result of people fleeing violence in the northern regions of Gao, Kidal, and Tombouctou. The insecurity has limited people's access to food and basic goods, and relief agencies remain concerned that the ongoing violence in northern Mali will continue to negatively affect the food security and nutrition situation.

### *U.S. Government (USG) Response*

- In an effort to mitigate the effects of food insecurity and meet nutrition-related needs, USAID/OFDA has contributed \$500,000 to support UNICEF's regional nutrition programming and response coordination efforts throughout the Sahelian countries. Activities include conducting annual nutritional surveys and training additional local health personnel in the management of acute malnutrition. In addition, USAID/OFDA has contributed \$500,000 to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) to support the office's efforts to coordinate the humanitarian response to food insecurity in the Sahel.
- To address food insecurity among vulnerable, rural populations in the conflict- and drought-affected Goz Beïda area of eastern Chad, USAID/OFDA recently committed nearly \$550,000 to World Concern Development Organization (WCDO) to improve agricultural production and promote economic recovery. The program helps beneficiaries—including both host community members and IDP returnees—increase harvests through the distribution of tools and improved seeds and supports women's savings groups to help expand income-generating opportunities.
- To meet needs in Mali, USAID/OFDA recently provided approximately \$750,000 to World Vision to support vulnerable, food-insecure communities in the Koulikoro Region, where many families have depleted household food supplies due to low agricultural production. The program is providing cash-for-work (CFW) opportunities to assist

approximately 5,700 people to generate income during the lean season. CFW projects are rehabilitating critical community assets, such as clearing waterways used for agricultural irrigation.

- In response to needs resulting from food insecurity in Senegal, USAID/OFDA is providing \$50,000 to Counterpart International (CPI) to provide key agricultural inputs to increase productivity during the upcoming June-to-September rainy season.
- To respond to the food security crisis in the Sahel, USAID/FFP, with the assistance of USAID's transportation office, initiated expedited procurement and shipping to assure the delivery of more than 50,000 metric tons (MT) of much-needed sorghum and rice to Sahelian countries in May, June, and July 2012—the height of the critical lean season. This, in addition to providing more than 10,000 MT of bulgur, vegetable oil, peas, and lentils in pre-positioned goods, will help respond to urgent food needs.

## **Security and Population Movement**

### *Mali*

- WFP reports that armed groups and looters seized an estimated 2,000 MT of food in Gao, Kidal, and Tombouctou following the capture of the regional capitals by rebel groups. USAID/FFP partners report that all USAID-funded Title II commodities—approximately 1,700 MT—remain intact in Mali, including in northern regions controlled by armed groups.

### *Mauritania*

- The inflow of nearly 50,000 refugees from Mali to Mauritania between mid-January and April 10 has strained host community assets in Mbera, an area with already limited resources due to ongoing drought and food insecurity. Refugee inflows have strained water supplies and increased food prices in local markets and competition for limited animal fodder.

### *Niger*

- As of March 30, the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) had relocated more than 2,600 Malian refugees from Chingodiar, a site near the insecure Niger–Mali border, to the Abala camp, a site farther from the border that can accommodate up to 10,000 people. Humanitarian organizations had registered nearly 5,000 people at Abala camp as of April 10. As of April 11, more than 29,000 Malians had sought refuge in Niger.

### *USG Response*

- In response to increased needs among host community members in Mauritania, USAID/OFDA is providing \$50,000 through UNICEF to address the immediate water and sanitation needs of the Mbera population.
- To date in FY 2012, State/PRM has provided \$9.5 million to support protection and assistance to displaced Malians in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger, as well as for the relocation of refugees from insecure border areas to more secure locations.

## **Other Humanitarian Assistance**

- The U.N. Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF) recently provided nearly \$4 million in assistance to six U.N. agencies to respond to the growing pressure placed on local resources by refugee inflows to Burkina Faso. Of the total, UNHCR received \$2.2 million to provide relief supplies and protection assistance, including emergency documentation support, to approximately 10,000 refugees. WFP received \$900,000 to provide emergency food assistance to an estimated 32,000 refugees and vulnerable host community members. UNICEF will utilize \$384,000 to provide health care services and safe drinking water to affected populations. With \$300,000, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) plans to help vulnerable households maintain livestock health. WHO and the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) received the remainder for health-related interventions.
- As of April 11, the European Commission had allocated approximately €287 million—or \$378 million—to respond to emergency food and nutrition needs in the Sahel through both humanitarian and development funding. The funding targets the needs of 6.3 million people in the region.
- On April 8, the Government of Morocco announced plans to dispatch 14 tons of food to help Malian refugees in Niger meet emergency needs.

**FY 2012 USG ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL<sup>1</sup>**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO<sup>2</sup></b>			
UNICEF	Nutrition	Burkina Faso	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO</b>			
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Burkina Faso	\$5,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$5,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$5,500,000</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD</b>			
IOM	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Chad	\$50,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Chad	\$300,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Chad	\$700,000
WCDO	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	Chad	\$549,026
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Chad	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$2,099,026</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD</b>			
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	LRP Emergency Food Assistance	Chad	\$10,000,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$100,161,275</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$102,260,301</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$1,200,000</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$22,607,542</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$23,807,542</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA</b>			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Mauritania	\$400,000
UNICEF	Nutrition; WASH	Mauritania	\$550,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$950,000</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$10,000,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$10,950,000</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$5,281,335</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$43,301,300</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$48,582,635</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL</b>			
CPI	Agriculture and Food Security	Senegal	\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$50,000</b>

<b>WEST AFRICA REGIONAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE</b>			
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Info 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
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$1,613,887</b>

<b>WEST AFRICA REGIONAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE</b>			
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Mauritania, Niger, Burkina Faso	\$7,000,000
International Committee of the Red Cross	Emergency Relief Supplies	Mali, Niger	\$2,500,000
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$9,500,000</b>

<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN 2012</b>	
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>	<b>\$11,694,248</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>	<b>\$181,070,117</b>
<b>TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING</b>	<b>\$9,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN 2012</b>	<b>\$202,264,365</b>

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of April 13, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.  
Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).