



SAHEL – FOOD INSECURITY AND COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Between April and June, above-average cereal prices, combined with below-average crop production, are expected to result in increased levels of food insecurity in the Sahel.¹ Areas of Mauritania and Niger will likely reach Crisis—Integrated Phase Classification (IPC) 3—and additional areas in the Sahel will increase to Stressed—IPC 2—according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET). In response, USAID is supporting ongoing programs to improve food security and reduce acute malnutrition, while continuing to evaluate additional response options in conjunction with U.S. Government partners.
- As of March 16, fighting in northern Mali between Government of Mali forces and armed combatants affiliated with the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad had displaced more than 93,000 people within northern Mali and caused nearly 86,000 individuals to flee to neighboring countries, according to U.N. agencies. In Mali, the internal displacement is exacerbated by food insecurity, which affects as many as 3.5 million Malians, and has strained limited local resources, including water and sanitation services. On March 12, U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Peter Barlerin declared a disaster due to the complex emergency resulting from the displacement.
- As a result of ongoing insecurity in northern Nigeria related to the Boko Haram militant group, approximately 11,000 people—including 10,000 Nigeriens and 1,000 Chadians—have recently returned to their countries of origin, according to international media.
- In response to displacement caused by insecurity in Mali and northern Nigeria, USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) has provided \$100,000 for the distribution of emergency relief supplies to affected populations in Mali and Chad. To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$8.5 million to meet the humanitarian needs of food-insecure populations in the Sahel.
- USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) recently provided \$30.2 million to increase vulnerable households’ access to food in Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger through emergency food distributions and cash-based assistance.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012²

USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Sahel	\$8,584,357
USAID/FFP Assistance to the Sahel	\$66,591,300
Total USAID Assistance to the Sahel	\$75,175,657

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2011

USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Sahel	\$26,344,639
USAID/FFP Assistance to the Sahel	\$170,820,800
Total USAID Assistance to the Sahel	\$197,165,439

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.
- Between 7 and 12 million people in the Sahel are projected to need assistance in 2012 due to food insecurity, according to humanitarian agencies. Regional surpluses in coastal countries may alleviate food deficits; however, cereal prices remain high, rendering food access difficult for the most vulnerable families.

¹ The Sahel region includes parts of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal.

² Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

- Global acute malnutrition rates are consistently between 10 and 15 percent in the region, with some localized areas exceeding the U.N. World Health Organization’s emergency threshold level of 15 percent.
- On December 8, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Jo Ellen Powell declared a disaster due to the effects of food insecurity in 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. U.S. Ambassador Mary Beth Leonard declared a disaster due to the effects of food insecurity in Mali on January 26, 2012.
- On October 17, 2011, U.S. Ambassador Mark M. Boulware redeclared a disaster due to the ongoing complex emergency in Chad, which includes food insecurity among its contributing factors.

Agriculture and Food Security

- In the Sahelian countries, cereal production in 2011 decreased by between nine and 38 percent, compared to the five-year average, according to the Food Crisis Prevention Network (RPCA).³ Chad and Mauritania experienced the most significant decrease in agricultural production levels. The RPCA reports that only one to three months of food supplies remain in some areas in Chad’s Sahelian belt, which may increase the demand for food and strain markets in southern Chad, where prices are reportedly above-average.
- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reports that some families in Niger’s Tillabéri, Dosso, and Zinder regions have depleted their cereal stocks and are adopting negative coping mechanisms, including early migration and increased consumption of lower quality foods. On the national level, cereal prices remain stable but above last year’s prices. As the demand for cereals continues, prices may further increase in coming months, according to WFP.
- Due to increased food prices in the Sahel, relief agencies are increasingly providing cash-based assistance through cash transfers, vouchers, and temporary employment opportunities, which allow food-insecure populations to access food and other basic needs available from local vendors.
- USAID/FFP recently provided \$4.2 million to increase access to food for communities in Mauritania and Mali affected by food insecurity. Through \$2 million to World Vision in Mauritania and \$2.2 million to Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Mali, USAID/FFP is providing vulnerable households with vouchers that can be exchanged for basic food items at local markets.
- USAID/FFP is also providing \$26 million to U.N. agencies for the distribution of cereals and other basic food commodities, ready-to-use therapeutic food, and individual cash transfers to assist more than 664,500 vulnerable people in food-insecure areas of Niger, Chad, and Mauritania. The funding comprises \$23 million for WFP in Niger, Chad, and Mauritania and \$3 million for the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) in Niger. In total, USAID/FFP is providing more than \$66 million to address food insecurity and acute malnutrition in the Sahel.

Security and Population Movement

Nigeria

- Due to the increasing insecurity in northern Nigeria, approximately 11,000 people have returned to their countries of origin for fear that they may be targeted by Boko Haram violence or the Nigerian military’s efforts to arrest suspected members of the Boko Haram militant group, which orchestrates frequent attacks against police forces and civilians. Approximately 1,000 Chadians—including nearly 560 children—have fled to two returnee settlements in Chad near the Nigerian border, according to the International Organization for Migration (IOM).
- In late February, IOM and Government of Chad officials conducted humanitarian assessments and registered 804 returnees at the two transit sites accommodating Chadians who fled northern Nigeria.
- To assist the displaced Chadians, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 to IOM for emergency relief supplies—including soap, blankets, and hygiene kits—and other humanitarian assistance such as transportation and family reunification support.

Mali

- As conflict continues in northern Mali, the number of people who have fled to nearby countries now totals nearly 86,000 individuals, according to the U.N. Of the total, nearly 23,000 people have fled to Burkina Faso, more than 5,000 to Algeria, nearly 37,000 to Mauritania and nearly 21,000 to Niger as of March 16. The majority of the 93,400 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mali reside in the northern regions of Gao, Kidal, and Tombouctou.

³ RPCA is a collective of humanitarian actors in West Africa, including the Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), WFP, and FEWS NET.

- On March 3, the USAID/Mali mission director, WFP deputy executive director, and 17 U.N. and relief agency representatives visited affected areas in Gao Region to evaluate the humanitarian needs of IDPs.
- In response to identified needs, USAID/OFDA has provided \$50,000 to the Mali Red Cross for the procurement and distribution of emergency relief supplies to IDPs and Malian host communities in Tombouctou Region.

Other Humanitarian Assistance

- The Government of Japan contributed \$6 million to WFP to support food security activities in Chad and Niger.
- On March 9, the African Union Commission announced a contribution of \$500,000 to assist food-insecure communities in the Sahel and reported plans to conduct a humanitarian assessment mission in the region.
- The U.K. Department for International Development (DFID) recently announced £5 million, approximately \$7.8 million, in assistance for vulnerable populations in the Sahel. The total includes funding for WFP, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and Save the Children/U.K. (SC/UK) to provide emergency food assistance and support agriculture and food security, health, nutrition, and water and sanitation activities. DFID previously reported an initial contribution of nearly £6.4 million, or \$10 million, in planned funding for the Sahel.

FY 2012 USAID ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL¹

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO²			
UNICEF	Nutrition	Burkina Faso	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012			\$500,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012			\$500,000

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD			
IOM	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Chad	\$50,000
U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Chad	\$300,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Chad	\$700,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Chad	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012			\$1,550,000

USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD			
Africare	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Chad	\$4,890,000
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Chad	\$18,000,000
WFP	Emergency Food Assistance	Chad	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012			\$32,890,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012			\$34,440,000

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI			
Mali Red Cross	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Mali	\$50,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Mali	\$400,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012			\$450,000

USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI			
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Mali	\$2,200,000
CRS	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Mali	\$2,200,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012			\$4,400,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012			\$4,850,000

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Mauritania	\$400,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Mauritania	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012			\$900,000

USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA			
WFP	Agriculture and Food Security	Mauritania	\$3,000,000
World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security	Mauritania	\$2,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012			\$5,000,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012			\$5,900,000

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER			
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 (VSF)	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Niger	\$716,811
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012			\$4,684,357

USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER			
Counterpart International (CPI)	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Niger	\$3,801,300
UNICEF	Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Niger	\$3,000,000
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Niger	\$7,500,000
WFP	Agriculture and Food Security	Niger	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012			\$24,301,300
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012			\$28,985,657

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
WFP	Market Analysis and Vulnerability Studies	West Africa	\$200,000
WFP	Nutrition	West Africa	\$300,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2012			\$500,000

TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN 2012	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING	\$8,584,357
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING	\$66,591,300
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN 2012	\$75,175,657

FY 2011 USAID AND ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL¹

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO²			
Action Contre La Faim (ACF), FAO, Helen Keller International (HKI), UNICEF	Agriculture and Food Security; Health; Nutrition	Burkina Faso	\$3,080,085
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2011			\$3,080,085
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO³			
ACDI/VOCA, CRS	Agriculture and Food Security; Health; Nutrition	Burkina Faso	\$11,651,700
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2011			\$11,651,700
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2011			\$14,731,785

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD			
ACF, Air Serv International (ASI), CRS, FAO, Première Urgence, OCHA, UNICEF, World Concern Development Organization (WCDO), WFP	Agriculture and Food Security; Humanitarian Air Service; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Nutrition	Chad	\$6,340,897
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2011			\$6,340,897

USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD			
WFP	57,030 metric tons (MT) of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Chad	\$83,494,400
Africare	Agriculture and Food Security; Health; Nutrition	Chad	\$6,069,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2011			\$89,563,400
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2011			\$95,904,297

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI			
Action Against Hunger/U.S. (AAH/US), HKI	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Nutrition	Mali	\$907,511
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2011			\$907,511

USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI			
Africare, CRS	Agriculture and Food Security; Health; Nutrition	Mali	\$10,069,400
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2011			\$10,069,400
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2011			\$10,976,911

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA			
FAO, World Vision/U.S.	Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Mauritania	\$936,203
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2011			\$936,203

USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA			
CPI	Agriculture and Food Security; Health; Nutrition	Mauritania	\$5,057,600
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2011			\$5,057,600
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2011			\$5,993,803

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER			
AAH/US, Concern, CRS, FAO, HKI, Humedica, Mercy Corps, OCHA, Oxfam/Great Britain, SC/UK, UNICEF, WFP, World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Humanitarian Air Service; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Nutrition	Niger	\$13,658,943
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2011			\$13,658,943

USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER			
Africare, CPI, CRS, UNICEF, WFP	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks; Nutrition	Niger	\$20,696,100
CPI	26,480 MT of Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Niger	\$33,782,600
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2011			\$54,478,700
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2011			\$68,137,643

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
FAO, UNICEF, WFP	Food Security and Market Analysis; Nutrition	West Africa	\$1,421,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2011			\$1,421,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2011			\$1,421,000

TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN 2011	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING	\$26,344,639
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING	\$170,820,800
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN 2011	\$197,165,439

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

² USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 16, 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.