



SAHEL – FOOD INSECURITY AND COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- In response to above-average international grain prices triggered in part by drought in the United States and Russia, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) warned of increased prices during the height of the lean season in the Sahel, which corresponds with the onset of annual rains and Ramadan, the Muslim holiday observed in July and August this year. To counter increasing regional food prices, the governments of Mali and Niger reduced or eliminated taxes on basic imported food items to prevent further aggravation to food security in the region, according to international media.
- With the current rains, farmers have commenced planting activities. While the rains have improved general water availability, they also threaten to increase locust populations in agricultural areas of Chad, Mali, and Niger. In addition, the rains increase the likelihood of floods and a potential spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera, which is endemic to West African countries.
- USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) is providing nearly \$5 million for additional health, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities in regions of Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.
- To address the humanitarian needs of Malian refugees displaced by ongoing insecurity in northern Mali, the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) is providing more than \$3.6 million to six non-governmental organizations (NGOs) assisting refugees in Mali’s neighboring countries.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 ¹	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Sahel	\$63,492,431
USAID/FFP ² Assistance to the Sahel	\$264,021,217
State/PRM Assistance to the Sahel	\$34,479,783 ³
Total USAID and State Assistance to the Sahel	\$361,993,431

Context

- Earlier this year, the U.N. estimated that nearly 19 million people in the Sahel were at risk of food insecurity in 2012, of which 8 million people would likely face severe food insecurity and require emergency food assistance, according to national government and U.N. data.
- In FY 2012, the U.S. Government (USG) is responding to disaster declarations in Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, The Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal.

Regional

- Additional desert locusts will likely hatch throughout the Sahel in the coming weeks, according to FAO. The presence of locusts threatens agricultural production and livelihoods, particularly in Chad, Mali, and Niger. FAO and national government locust survey teams have confirmed the presence of locusts in Algeria, Chad, Mauritania, and Niger, and ground teams have treated approximately 1,200 hectares of land in Niger.

Burkina Faso

- In late July, with funding in part from USAID/FFP, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) distributed approximately 1,840 metric tons (MT) of food to more than 69,400 Malian refugees residing in northern Burkina Faso. In total, WFP assistance is supporting more than 1.1 million people countrywide.

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 in the region affected by the conflict in Mali. This figure does not include other State/PRM-funded assistance provided to refugees, conflict-affected people, and returning migrants across the rest of West Africa

- With the recent surge in Malian refugees in Burkina Faso—currently estimated at 108,000 people, compared to 56,000 in May—and the scale of resulting humanitarian needs, WFP has reported a shortage of resources. WFP reportedly retains food commodities sufficient to feed 60,000 refugees through September, although the organization estimates that at least 77,000 refugees will require food aid during this period. In FY 2012, USAID/FFP is providing more than \$6.8 million in U.S. food commodities for distribution to vulnerable populations in Burkina Faso.

Cameroon

- Drought and inconsistent rainfall in 2011 led to decreased agricultural production in Cameroon, particularly in North and Far North regions, where the prevalence of acute malnutrition among children under five years of age exceeds the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) critical threshold level of 10 percent. The recent arrival of seasonal rains has left northern Cameroon at risk of developing cholera and other waterborne disease outbreaks, which would likely exacerbate the nutrition status of children under five years of age.
- To combat acute malnutrition in Cameroon, USAID/OFDA is providing \$1 million to the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF) for nutrition and WASH activities in the north. The program aims to expand coverage of acute malnutrition treatment programs and provide health facilities with essential medicines, equipment, and supplies. To reduce the spread of cholera, which can worsen acute malnutrition, USAID/OFDA is also supporting UNICEF’s efforts to increase the availability of safe drinking water and improve sanitation conditions and hygiene practices in affected areas.

Chad

- As of July 31, rains during the current agricultural season in Chad had exceeded average rainfall amounts, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). The increase in rainfall has improved the availability of water and pastureland in agro-pastoral areas that produce rain-fed cereals. Farmers have also cultivated an above-average quantity of land this planting season due to relief agency- and government-sponsored seed distributions, as well as the Government of Chad’s tractor lending program offered to rural farmers.
- Since August 2, approximately 540 MT of sorghum funded by USAID/FFP have arrived in the capital city of N’Djamena for WFP distribution. An additional convoy of trucks transporting food commodities is scheduled to arrive in the coming days.
- In nine of 11 regions in Chad’s Sahel band, the prevalence of global acute malnutrition (GAM) in children under five years of age has surpassed 15 percent and exceeded the WHO emergency threshold, according to a Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) survey conducted by UNICEF from May to June. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an additional \$1 million through UNICEF to reduce acute malnutrition by training community health workers in early identification, referral, and management of acute malnutrition, providing therapeutic foods to children, and supporting more nutritional surveys to monitor progress in target areas.

Mali

- On August 10, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) began food distributions in Kidal Region, northern Mali, with plans to reach approximately 36,000 people. In July, ICRC distributed food commodities to 120,000 people in Gao and Tombouctou regions.
- Using USAID/FFP funding, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) continued to conduct food distributions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and host families in Mopti Region, recently providing more than 65 MT of food to at least 3,600 individuals. USAID/FFP partner the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED) also continued food distributions for the approximately 12,000 IDPs residing in Bamako.
- USAID/OFDA recently committed an additional \$1 million to UNICEF to support an integrated response program that provides trainings on updated community-based management of acute malnutrition protocols, introduces positive infant and child feeding practices, and treats common childhood diseases through increased access to safe drinking water and other strategies. USAID/OFDA is also supporting UNICEF to provide WASH interventions.
- USAID/OFDA is providing more than \$1.1 million to Helen Keller International (HKI) to improve the community management of acute malnutrition in southern Mali. Through HKI, USAID/OFDA will train health workers and community volunteers in the detection, referral, and treatment of acute malnutrition in children under five years of age in Koulikoro and Sikasso regions. By strengthening local capacity, the program seeks to ameliorate the nutritional status of up to 45,000 children.

Mauritania

- The Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has postponed the opening of the previously announced second refugee camp in Aghor, Mauritania, located 17 km from Mbera camp, until refugee registration is completed. With a decrease in the number of new refugee arrivals—averaging less than 350 people daily in July following a spike to nearly 2,000 people per day in June—and a possible revision to reported Mbera camp population figures, UNHCR plans to reassess the need for a second camp in the coming weeks.
- In Mbera camp, multiple relief agencies continue efforts to increase access to water and sanitation services. NGOs Solidarités and Oxfam are working to construct boreholes, establish water distribution networks, and install latrines. In addition, UNHCR and Oxfam have constructed nearly 1,000 showers to accommodate refugees in the camp.
- In July, WFP provided USAID/FFP-funded in-kind food assistance to approximately 90,000 refugees in Mbera camp. In addition, between April and June, World Vision distributed USAID/FFP-funded food vouchers to approximately 4,070 vulnerable households in Kankossa Department, Assaba Region.
- With an additional \$250,000 in support to UNICEF, USAID/OFDA is reducing the prevalence of acute malnutrition in Mauritania through health worker training in the management of childhood illnesses and the improvement of family care practices. USAID/OFDA funding also ensures the provision of nutrition supplements to children under two years of age during the lean season.

Niger

- USAID/OFDA is providing \$600,000 to Première Urgence to enhance the management of acute malnutrition in the capital city of Niamey. Through Première Urgence, USAID/OFDA support will rehabilitate three health centers and provide necessary medical equipment, while staff will receive training in the detection and treatment of acute malnutrition. The program endeavors to increase health center capacity, seeking to reach nearly 23,000 children under five years of age with nutrition support.

USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO²			
Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	Nutrition	East Region	\$926,997
Africare	Agriculture and Food Security	Sahel Region	\$1,000,000
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS)	North Region	\$1,332,329
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$400,000
HKI	Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	North Region	\$999,977
Plan USA	Nutrition	Central North Region	\$423,530
Save the Children, U.S. (SC/US)	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Nutrition	Central North Region	\$992,867
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012			\$6,575,700
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO³			
ACDI/VOCA ⁴	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Center North	\$8,000,000
CRS	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Center North and East Regions	\$8,000,000
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Boucle de Mouhoun, Center North, Center West, East, North, and Sahel Regions	\$6,832,600
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012			\$22,832,600
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012			\$29,408,300

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CAMEROON			
UNICEF	Nutrition; WASH	Northern Cameroon	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012			\$1,000,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CAMEROON			
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Far North Region	\$1,008,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CAMEROON IN FY 2012			\$1,008,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CAMEROON IN FY 2012			\$2,008,000

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD			
ACF	Nutrition	Bahr el Ghazal Region	\$991,474
ACTED	Agriculture and Food Security; Natural and Technological Risks; WASH	Batha and Sila regions	\$1,100,000
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Ouadaï and Wadi Fira Regions	\$624,664
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$500,000
International Medical Corps (IMC)	Health; Nutrition	Lac Region	\$600,000
International Organization for Migration (IOM)	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Countrywide	\$50,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health; Nutrition	Guéra Region	\$951,473
Merlin	Health; Nutrition	Hadjer-Lamis Region	\$1,292,474
U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Eastern Chad	\$300,000
Première Urgence	Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Ouadaï Region	\$600,000
Solidarités	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Nutrition; WASH	Batha Region	\$914,333
UNICEF	Nutrition	Batha, Bahr el Ghazal, Hadjer-Lamis, Guéra, Kanem, and Lac Regions	\$1,700,000
World Concern Development Organization (WCDO)	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Ouadaï Region	\$547,001
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012			\$10,671,419
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD			
ACTED	Food Vouchers	Sahelian Belt	\$2,767,228
Africare	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$6,000,000
CRS	Food Vouchers	Ouadaï and Wadi Fira Regions	\$4,504,047
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance; Locally and Regionally Procured (LRP) Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$88,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012			\$101,271,275
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012			\$111,942,694

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI			
Action Against Hunger/U.S. (AAH/USA)	ERMS	Kayes Region	\$559,974
ACDI/VOCA	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks	Mopti Region	\$1,044,819
ACTED	ERMS; Logistics and Relief Commodities; WASH	Bamako Capital District	\$1,248,809
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$400,000
HKI	Nutrition	Koulikoro and Sikasso Regions	\$1,157,998
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Oxfam/GB	ERMS	Kayes Region	\$1,503,666
SC/US	Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Kayes Region	\$999,665
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,750,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$500,000
World Vision	ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks	Koulikoro Region	\$1,260,211
Multiple partners	Agriculture and Food Security; Health; Logistics and Relief Commodities; Protection; WASH	Gao, Kidal, and Tombouctou Regions	\$3,668,899
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012			\$15,094,041
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI			
Africare	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$2,500,000
CRS	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Gao and Mopti Regions	\$2,500,000
CRS	Food Vouchers; Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Mopti Region	\$5,557,652
WFP	Cash Transfers; LRP Emergency Food Assistance	Gao, Kayes, Koulikoro, Mopti, and Tombouctou Regions	\$5,001,190
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$13,643,800
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012			\$29,202,642
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012			\$44,296,683

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA			
AAH/USA	ERMS; Nutrition	Guidimaka Region	\$1,384,119
Counterpart International (CPI)	ERMS; Nutrition	Assaba and Hodh El Gharbi Regions	\$524,089
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Southern Mauritania	\$800,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$500,000
UNICEF	Nutrition; WASH	Countrywide	\$800,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$750,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012			\$4,758,208
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA			
CPI	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Assaba, Gorgol, Guidimaka, and Hodh El Gharbi Regions	\$5,000,000

WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Assaba, Brakna, Gorgol, Guidhimakha, Hodh el Gharbi, and Hodh el Chargui Regions	\$5,000,000
WFP	Cash Transfers	Assaba, Brakna, Gorgol, and Guidhimakha Regions; Nouakchott	\$3,000,000
World Vision	Food Vouchers	Assaba Region	\$2,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012			\$15,000,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012			\$19,758,208

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER			
ACTED	ERMS	Tillabéri Region	\$594,935
Africare	Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Agadez and Tahoua Regions	\$1,250,183
CLUSA ⁵	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Nutrition	Tahoua and Tillabéri Regions	\$998,664
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Tillabéri Region	\$1,492,959
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$1,100,000
HKI	Nutrition	Diffa, Dosso, Zinder Regions	\$1,600,000
Humedica	Nutrition	Tillabéri Region	\$631,498
Lutheran World Relief (LWR)	Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Tahoua Region	\$599,492
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks	Tillabéri Region	\$1,625,428
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Agadez Region	\$800,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$350,000
Oxfam/GB	ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks	Tahoua and Tillabéri Regions	\$1,200,000
Plan USA	Nutrition	Dosso and Tillabéri Regions	\$655,673
Première Urgence	Health; Nutrition	Niamey	\$600,000
SC/US	ERMS; Nutrition	Maradi and Zinder Regions	\$1,281,027
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Vétérinaires Sans Frontières/Belgium (VSF)	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Tillabéri Region	\$716,811
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$500,000
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$2,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012			\$16,998,670
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER			
CPI	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Diffa and Zinder Regions	\$3,801,300
Mercy Corps	Cash Transfers	Tillabéri Region	\$4,000,000
UNICEF	Cash Transfers; Local Procurement of Nutritional Products	Tahoua Region; Countrywide	\$3,000,000
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance; Cash Transfers; LRP Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$67,053,200
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012			\$77,854,500
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012			\$94,853,170

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL			
CECI ⁶	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Matam and St. Louis Regions	\$401,105
CPI	Agriculture and Food Security	Matam Region	\$50,000
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks	Sédhiou and Ziguinchor Regions	\$972,891
USAID/Senegal	ERMS	Bakel, Kedougou, and Matam Regions	\$600,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL IN FY 2012			\$2,023,996
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL			
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,796,400
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL IN FY 2012			\$2,796,400
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL IN FY 2012			\$4,820,396

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO THE GAMBIA			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	The Gambia	\$500,000
FAWEGAM ⁷	Agriculture and Food Security	The Gambia	\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO THE GAMBIA IN FY 2012			\$550,000

SAHEL REGIONAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
AAH/USA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Regional	\$99,215
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Regional	\$2,500,000
IFRC ⁸	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Regional	\$527,825
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Regional	\$500,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Regional	\$500,000
WFP	Market Analysis and Vulnerability Studies	Regional	\$199,000
WFP	Nutrition	Regional	\$300,000
WFP	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Regional	\$1,000,000
	Program Support Costs	Regional	\$194,357
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SAHEL REGIONAL IN FY 2012			\$5,820,397

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Regional	\$14,055,800
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2012			\$14,055,800

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE			
ICRC	Emergency Relief Supplies	Mali, Niger	\$2,500,000
Multiple NGO partners	Education; Food; Health; Livelihoods; Protection; Shelter; WASH Assistance for Refugees	Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger	\$3,629,783
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger	\$27,000,000

UNICEF	Education; Health; WASH Services for Refugees	Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger	\$1,100,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Mauritania	\$250,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2012			\$34,479,783

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN FY 2012	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING	\$63,492,431
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING	\$264,021,217
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING	\$34,479,783
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN FY 2012	\$361,993,431

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

² USAID/OFDA funding represents committed or anticipated amounts as of August 17, 2012.

³ USAID/FFP funding reflects the estimated value of direct food assistance.

⁴ Agricultural Cooperative Development International/Volunteers in Cooperative Assistance (ACDI/VOCA)

⁵ The National Cooperative Business Association's Cooperative League of the United States of America (CLUSA)

⁶ Center for International Studies and Cooperation (CECI)

⁷ Forum for African Women Educationalist Gambia Chapter (FAWEGAM)

⁸ International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

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.