



DISASTER RISK REDUCTION – WEST AND NORTH AFRICA

OVERVIEW

Many of the 24 countries¹ in the West and North Africa region face recurrent complex emergencies, chronic food insecurity, sustained prevalence of acute malnutrition, cyclical drought, seasonal floods, and disease outbreaks, resulting in significant challenges to at-risk populations. Many cities in the region have rapidly expanded, often in areas prone to floods, landslides, and other natural hazards, causing urban growth to outpace the capacity of local authorities to respond to disasters. Conflict also frequently scatters populations, triggering large-scale displacement that multiplies the vulnerabilities of those forcibly uprooted, who often lack access to resources, employment, and basic services.

USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) not only responds to disasters, but also funds disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs to build the capacity of communities to prepare for and respond to emergencies. USAID/OFDA’s DRR activities in West and North Africa during FY 2011 sought to strengthen community-based management of acute malnutrition (CMAM), increase the resiliency of vulnerable populations through training and capacity building, and reduce the occurrence and impact of disease outbreaks. During FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$8.2 million for DRR projects throughout West and North Africa, including programs that integrate DRR with disaster response.

FY 2011 DRR FUNDING IN WEST AND NORTH AFRICA

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Stand-Alone DRR Programs in West and North Africa <i>(see pages 1-3)</i> | \$2,104,798 |
| Programs that Integrate DRR with Disaster Response ² <i>(see page 3-5)</i> | \$6,149,441 |
| TOTAL DRR Funding in West and North Africa | \$8,254,239 |

STAND-ALONE DRR PROGRAMS IN WEST AND NORTH AFRICA

In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA’s West and North Africa team provided more than \$2.1 million for stand-alone DRR initiatives that advance a goal of improving preparedness and mitigating and preventing the worst impacts of disasters. USAID/OFDA provided additional funding for regional and global stand-alone programs that include activities in West and North Africa to strengthen disaster preparedness and response. At the regional and country levels, USAID/OFDA and implementing partners engaged communities, national and local governments, international and regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to develop effective strategies—tailored to the needs of at-risk populations—to reduce the risk of disasters. These programs all reflected USAID/OFDA’s commitment to support capacity development; strengthen linkages between risk identification, monitoring, early warning, and early action; and expand partnerships and joint programming. Analysis of existing capacities and social, economic, and environmental trends guided programs. When possible, USAID/OFDA programs addressed underlying causes of recurrent disasters, including environmental degradation, rapid urban growth, and climate change.

Global and Region-Wide Programs Active in West and North Africa³

- **Cash Response Capacity-Building:** USAID/OFDA provided Horn Relief with more than \$350,000 for the Cash Response Capacity Building II Project, which aims to enhance the ability of humanitarian actors in Africa to plan and implement effective cash-based interventions. Program activities include trainings for local NGOs on effective cash transfer programming in West, North, and East Africa, which can be used to quickly increase household access to goods and services in the event of a disaster.

¹ The West and North Africa region encompasses Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Côte d’Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, and Tunisia.

² The figure reported represents the integrated DRR–response portion of larger disaster response programs.

³ Funding figures for global and regional initiatives represent program totals, including USAID/OFDA funding for activities implemented both within and outside West and North Africa.

- Linking Climate Change Adaptation and DRR: With more than \$80,000 from USAID/OFDA, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), on behalf of the Emergency Capacity Building Project Consortium comprising six NGOs, is developing a quick and concise DRR and climate change adaptation (CCA) guide and training package to fill the gap in existing DRR-CCA resources. The instructional tools will serve both development and humanitarian response professionals worldwide, as well as government bodies responsible for DRR and emergency response. The guide will fill gaps in existing resources and explain the essentials of DRR and climate change adaptation. In addition, the guide will include suggestions for integrating the two concepts and will help to advance DRR practices as a means to protect development gains, while increasing community resilience to natural hazards. In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA funding for the global program totaled more than \$80,000, a portion of which was allocated to field study and test in Niger.
- Views from the Frontline: To increase the ability of global civil society groups to collaborate on strategic DRR policy and practices, in FY 2011, USAID/OFDA supported the Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction's "Views from the Frontline" (VFL) project through \$760,000 in assistance to Tearfund. A participatory action research project designed to bring the voices and concerns of vulnerable people into DRR policy and practice, VFL strengthens links between local, national, regional, and international civil society organizations. In FY 2011, VFL extended its geographical coverage to 70 countries, including West and North Africa nations.

West Africa Regional Programs

- Cross-Border Cholera Preparedness and Prevention: With \$300,000, USAID/OFDA is supporting regional cholera preparedness activities in Cameroon, Niger, and Nigeria in FY 2011 through the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF). Through a study of past years' epidemics, UNICEF is researching the underlying causes of cholera in the Lake Chad basin to better target, prevent, and control outbreaks. Research findings allow regional actors to develop an operational plan for cholera preparedness and response that includes trained water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) response teams and pre-positioned supplies in high-risk areas.
- Food Security and Market Analysis in West Africa: In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$320,000 to the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) to conduct a post-crisis market assessment to measure the impact of the 2009/2010 food insecurity crisis in the West Africa region, including Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal, and the Gambia in an effort to understand the resulting livelihoods impact. In tandem with this effort, WFP is enhancing regional market analyses. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided \$437,700 for program activities.
- Integrating the Surveillance, Treatment, and Prevention of Childhood Acute Malnutrition: USAID/OFDA funding from prior fiscal years supports Helen Keller International (HKI) to develop models for prevention and treatment of malnutrition in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. The project establishes effective intervention models for three levels, including district-level integrated health programs, national-level support of policy and health system capacity-strengthening and region-level coordination and policy development. To integrate prevention and treatment efforts into existing local health systems, the models use the CMAM approach to screen and treat acutely malnourished children. Since 2006, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$4.9 million for program activities. The program concludes in November 2011.

Country-Specific Programs

Burkina Faso

- Strengthening the Skills of Local Health Workers: With more than \$650,000 from USAID/OFDA, HKI continued to improve systematic screenings and quality of care for malnourished children in Burkina Faso. The program sought to strengthen approximately 600 community health workers' skills and understanding of preventive nutrition activities through training and on-the-job coaching, as well as the organization of district-level health staff meetings.

Guinea

- Cholera Preparedness Capacity Building: USAID/OFDA provided more than \$450,000 in FY 2011 to Action Against Hunger/U.S. (AAH/USA) to enhance institutional and NGOs' capacity to prepare for a cholera epidemic and to conduct disaster mitigation trainings and updated contingency planning. USAID/OFDA also supports the improvement of water and sanitation conditions in public areas through community-based sanitation initiatives, including hygiene promotion and water treatment kit distributions, to benefit approximately 60,000 people.

- Enhancing the Nutrition Early Warning System: In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$300,000 to HKI to enhance the nutrition and food security surveillance system in Guinea, resulting in more timely information for the Government of Guinea, donors, and humanitarian agencies to identify and respond to acute malnutrition. Through improved data collection and nutrition assessment training for health providers, government workers, and NGO staff, the program strengthens national response capacity and advocates for frequent distribution of nutrition information. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$725,000 for program activities.
- Cholera Preparedness in Guinea: In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA continued to support cholera preparedness efforts implemented by Concern Universal in the Forest Region of Guinea with previous fiscal year funding. The program encouraged coordination between the public health system and humanitarian organizations, focusing on WASH training and capacity building for local organizations. This program ended in November 2010.

Liberia

- Reducing GBV and Supporting Survivors: With funding from USAID/OFDA prior to FY 2011, Equip Liberia continued to support community-based protection committees—comprising community leaders, women, and children—to raise Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness in local villages still suffering from the effects of the 1999–2003 civil war and post-war resettlement difficulties. USAID/OFDA funding also increased GBV survivors’ access to medical treatment through support for clinics, health centers, and community health workers. This program concluded in March 2011.

Mali

- Disaster Preparedness for Pastoral Households: To reinforce local early warning systems, USAID/OFDA provided nearly \$90,000 to AAH/USA for training courses in disaster preparedness, mitigation, and management, including workshops to update and develop community food security plans, to benefit vulnerable pastoralist populations in northeastern Mali.

Niger

- Managing Moderate Acute Malnutrition: USAID/OFDA is continuing to strengthen the management and treatment of moderate acute malnutrition in Niger through prior fiscal year assistance to UNICEF. To optimize the use of blanket feeding for children under the age of two, USAID/OFDA funding supports the procurement of supplementary foods and medications for the treatment of up to 30,000 children.

PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE

In addition to stand-alone DRR programs implemented to prevent or mitigate the effects of hazards in the region, USAID/OFDA integrated preparedness and mitigation into disaster response, early recovery, and transition programs. These initiatives, which were in accordance with regional DRR strategies, incorporated risk reduction objectives into a broad range of sectoral interventions to increase the resilience of communities to future shocks. In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA sought to enhance acute malnutrition management, improve food security monitoring, and strengthen livelihoods throughout West and North Africa.

West Africa Regional Programs

- Acute Malnutrition and Food Insecurity Risk Management: USAID/OFDA provided \$250,000 in FY 2011 through the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for regional food insecurity risk management programs in West Africa, including designing, promoting, and providing training in nutrition security activities to strengthen the resilience of affected populations and reduce the negative impact of food and nutrition crises in the region.
- Strengthening Regional Response to Nutrition Emergencies: USAID/OFDA is increasing and reinforcing nutrition coordination mechanisms and communication among humanitarian partners in West Africa through the support of approximately \$850,000 to the UNICEF West Africa Regional Office in FY 2011. To prevent and prepare for acute malnutrition, USAID/OFDA funding supports nationwide Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) Nutritional surveys conducted to determine the prevalence of acute malnutrition in the region. The program also offers training sessions and circulates information about acute malnutrition to affected populations.

Burkina Faso

- Improving the Management of Acute Malnutrition: USAID/OFDA is strengthening the capacity of communities to manage acute malnutrition in the East Region of Burkina Faso through nearly \$500,000 in FY 2011 funding support to Action Contre la Faim (ACF). The program provides training to health staff in the management of severe and moderate acute malnutrition through outpatient treatment centers. Through ACF, USAID/OFDA funds facilitate the integration of nutrition activities into regional and district health structures. To date, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$850,000 for program activities.
- Food Security Monitoring and Assistance to Vulnerable Farmers: In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided \$330,000 to FAO for food security monitoring and emergency assistance programs in Burkina Faso. The program is designed to strengthen government structures and provide relevant emergency food security information to decision-makers and the development community. USAID/OFDA funding also supports vegetable production and income-generating activities for more than 600 farming families to reduce vulnerability to acute malnutrition.
- Scaling Up National Acute Malnutrition Management: In FY 2011, USAID/OFDA provided \$1.6 million to UNICEF to train community health workers in the management of acute malnutrition and to ensure the uninterrupted provision of therapeutic food in Burkina Faso. The program aims to improve health staff capacity, subsequently increasing communities' capabilities to reach 40 percent of children under the age of five suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

Mali

- Livelihoods Recovery for Pastoral Households: Following a protracted lean season in 2010 and the resulting livestock population decline, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$420,000 for the implementation of livelihood recovery programs for pastoralist households in northeastern Mali through AAH/USA. The program aims to strengthen pastoral breeding programs and increase vulnerable households' access to food, water, and pasture through community resource rehabilitation.
- Strengthening Community-Based Treatment of Acute Malnutrition: With nearly \$400,000 in FY 2011 funding, USAID/OFDA is bolstering the prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition by supporting detection, referral, and follow-up through HKI. CMAM programs in six health districts of Koulikouro Region strengthen community-to-health center referral systems to improve treatment coverage and recovery rates and build resilience to malnutrition.

Mauritania

- Improving Food and Nutrition Security: With \$500,000 in FY 2011 funding from USAID/OFDA, FAO provides technical support for agriculture production and income-generating activities to mitigate seasonal peaks of acute malnutrition and livelihood threats. USAID/OFDA-funded FAO interventions support vulnerable populations and enhance coordination and partnerships among key humanitarian actors in nutrition and health sectors in Mauritania.
- Community Mobilization Against Hunger and Acute Malnutrition: USAID/OFDA is reducing vulnerability to disasters through more than \$435,000 provided to World Vision in FY 2011 to address food insecurity for more than 36,000 people in Mauritania. By supporting CMAM interventions and developing community-based nutrition surveys, the program develops the capacity of targeted communities and encourages prevention measures to build resilience and reduce global acute malnutrition rates.

Niger

- Integrating DRR into Food Insecurity Response: Through more than \$700,000 to Mercy Corps, USAID/OFDA supported the rehabilitation of wells, improved fodder harvest techniques and storage, and launched nutrition information campaigns to combat food insecurity and acute malnutrition. The program also supported children's nutritional status monitoring, vaccination campaigns, and nutritional training sessions to help agro-pastoralists and pastoralists successfully manage environmental and conflict-related risks through land rehabilitation, herd management, and stronger early warning systems.

- USAID/OFDA also provided more than \$21,000 to Oxfam/Great Britain (Oxfam/GB) for a conference to educate pastoralists and those working with them on the dangers of and proper prevention and eradication of invasive plant species in pasturelands.
- With more than \$140,000 from USAID/OFDA, Save the Children/U.K. (SC/UK) managed an innovative agricultural credit program to improve household food security and resilience against future shocks for approximately 21,000 vulnerable people. The program establishes credit on agricultural stocks placed in community granaries, allowing farmers to invest credit received in income-generating activities to limit debt.
- Using prior fiscal year USAID/OFDA funding, CRS continued to implement programs through November 2010 to improve access to livelihoods resources and build resilience to future shocks for more than 20,000 households in four regions. The program provided vouchers to increase access to higher quality and more diverse seeds and seed storage containers, as well as education sessions focused on conservation agriculture techniques.
- USAID/OFDA continued to support WFP-managed cash-for-work programs to supplement the incomes of vulnerable people with limited employment opportunities in Tillabéri Region with prior fiscal year funding. This program ended in October 2010.

USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN WEST AND NORTH AFRICA IN FY 2011⁴

| USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN WEST AND NORTH AFRICA | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------|-------------|--------------------|
| Country/Region | Program | Activity | Partner | Subtotal | Total |
| Burkina Faso | Strengthening Local Health Workers | Nutrition | HKI | \$654,330 | \$654,330 |
| Guinea | Cholera Preparedness Capacity Building | Natural and Technological Risks; WASH | AAH/USA | \$451,023 | \$742,180 |
| | Enhancing the Nutrition Early Warning System | Nutrition | HKI | \$291,157 | |
| Mali | Disaster Preparedness for Pastoral Households | Natural and Technological Risks | AAH/USA | \$87,288 | \$87,288 |
| West Africa | Cross-Border Cholera Preparedness | Health; WASH | UNICEF | \$300,000 | \$621,000 |
| | Food Security and Market Analysis | Humanitarian Studies, Analysis, or Applications | WFP | \$321,000 | |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA STAND-ALONE DRR FUNDING IN WEST AND NORTH AFRICA | | | | | \$2,104,798 |
| USAID/OFDA PROGRAMS THAT INTEGRATE DRR WITH DISASTER RESPONSE IN WEST AND NORTH AFRICA ⁵ | | | | | |
| Country/Region | Program | Activity | Partner | Subtotal | Total |
| Burkina Faso | Improving Acute Malnutrition Management | Nutrition | ACF | \$495,755 | \$2,425,755 |
| | Food Security Monitoring and Assistance | Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition | FAO | \$330,000 | |
| | Scaling Up Malnutrition Management | Nutrition | UNICEF | \$1,600,000 | |
| Mali | Livelihoods Recovery for Pastoral Households | Agriculture and Food Security; Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS) | AAH/USA | \$420,956 | \$820,223 |
| | Community-Based Treatment of Acute Malnutrition | Nutrition | HKI | \$399,267 | |

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|---|--|---|--------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Mauritania | Improving Food and Nutrition Security | Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition | FAO | \$500,000 | \$936,203 |
| | Community Mobilization Against Acute Malnutrition | Agriculture and Food Security; Natural and Technological Risks; Nutrition | World Vision | \$436,203 | |
| Niger | Integrating DRR into Food Insecurity Response | Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition | Mercy Corps | \$703,170 | \$867,260 |
| | | Agriculture and Food Security | Oxfam/GB | \$21,515 | |
| | | ERMS | SC/UK | \$142,575 | |
| West Africa | Acute Malnutrition and Food Insecurity Risk Management | Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition | FAO | \$250,000 | \$250,000 |
| | Strengthening Response to Nutrition Emergencies | Nutrition | UNICEF | \$850,000 | \$850,000 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA INTEGRATED FUNDING IN WEST AND NORTH AFRICA | | | | | \$6,149,441 |
| TOTAL USAID/OFDA DRR FUNDING IN WEST AND NORTH AFRICA IN FY 2011 | | | | | \$8,254,239 |

⁴ Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

⁵ The figure reported represents the integrated DRR–response portion of larger disaster response programs.