

FACT SHEET #9, FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2012

JUNE 1, 2012

SAHEL - FOOD INSECURITY AND COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- In April, already above-average cereal prices increased across key markets in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Niger, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Cereal price increases, compounded by the Malian conflict, will likely negatively impact food access among vulnerable communities throughout the Sahel region from now until the start of the harvest season in October.
- In response to ongoing food insecurity in the Sahel, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) recently provided more than \$7.2 million in assistance to food-insecure populations in the region. The total includes support for regional-wide programs, as well as activities in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Niger, that seek to improve food security, nutritional status, and livelihoods opportunities for vulnerable families, while building coordination and capacity in local and national institutions. To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$34 million in humanitarian assistance to the Sahel.
- In addition, the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM) recently provided an additional \$1.35 million for refugee assistance in the Sahel. The total includes \$1.1 million to support health, water, sanitation, and education activities for Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger through the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF). State/PRM is also providing \$250,000 to the U.N World Food Program (WFP) to support the U.N. Humanitarian Air Service in Mauritania to offer reliable air transport to humanitarian organizations responding to the needs of refugees and drought-affected populations.
- To date in FY 2012, the U.S. Government (USG) has provided more than \$227 million in humanitarian assistance in response to food insecurity and acute malnutrition in the Sahel and humanitarian needs resulting from the conflict in northern Mali.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012 ¹	
USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Sahel	\$34,244,692
USAID/FFP ² Assistance to the Sahel	\$182,070,117
State/PRM Assistance to the Sahel	\$10,850,000 ³
Total USAID and State Assistance to the Sahel	\$227,164,809

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 18 million people in the Sahel are at risk of food insecurity, 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, The Gambia, 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 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.

Regional

- On May 17, WFP launched a regional emergency operation to provide food and nutrition assistance for a projected 255,000 Malian refugees in Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger, as well as an estimated 300,000 internally displaced persons in Mali, between June and December. The regional operation aims to augment targeted food distributions and supplementary feeding activities as these countries enter the lean season, a period during which vulnerable, displaced households will likely face reduced access to food.
- USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP representatives recently visited the port of Dakar, Senegal, to observe the offloading of 6,000 metric tons (MT) of rice, provided by USAID/FFP to WFP for distribution to vulnerable Malian households. The ship transporting the rice to Dakar had previously delivered more than 3,200 MT of USAID/FFP-provided rice for WFP distribution to Mauritania, in addition to 9,200 MT of rice subsequently transported to Ghana for onward distribution to food-insecure populations in Niger.
- USAID/OFDA recently contributed more than \$400,000 to support the Cash Learning Partnership, implemented
 through Action Against Hunger (AAH/US). Of the total, nearly \$100,000 will support activities that increase relief
 agencies' capacity to design and implement cash-based programs in West Africa through enhanced coordination and
 strengthened information sharing. In Niger, the project will facilitate training sessions and workshops to disseminate
 guidance and tools on effective cash transfer and voucher programs for humanitarian actors in the country.
- USAID/OFDA also provided \$500,000 to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to improve food security and nutrition analysis, expand information sharing, support regional food security working groups, and promote disaster risk reduction programs in the West Africa Region.

Burkina Faso

USAID/OFDA is providing nearly \$1 million to Helen Keller International (HKI) to improve the coverage and
quality of community-based acute malnutrition treatment in Burkina Faso's Passoré Province through training for
health center staff and community health workers. HKI's program aims to increase routine nutrition screenings,
referrals to health and nutrition centers, and follow-up visits for acutely malnourished children in approximately 125
villages. To continue building community sustainability and household-level food security in Gourma Province,
USAID/OFDA is also supporting technical assistance and monitoring for a homestead gardening program that trains
women in home gardening techniques and nutritional education to continue the production of nutritious fruits and
vegetables independently.

Cameroon

- In mid-May, a member of USAID/OFDA's Sahel Assessment Team visited Logone-et-Chari and Diamaré departments in Far North Region—Cameroon's most food-insecure region—to assess food security needs. In evaluated areas, some farmers reported that the 2011 harvest yielded only one-quarter to one-third of normal production, driving vulnerable families to sell small animals to purchase food, which reduces household assets and may negatively impact future food security. While the region as a whole produced cereal surpluses during each of the past three years, many farmers sold their harvests to Nigerian and Chadian buyers, reducing local cereal availability and triggering local price increases. The resultant high cereal prices have limited the ability of vulnerable households in parts of Far North Region to access food.
- A USAID/OFDA WASH advisor met with representatives from the Government of Cameroon (GoC), U.N. agencies, and humanitarian organizations in Yaoundé, Cameroon's capital, to discuss the dual challenges of acute malnutrition and endemic cholera—both critical health problems in the country's northern regions, according to the GoC Ministry of Health. GoC officials report widespread instances of cholera in the North and Far North regions since 2010, primarily due to inadequate water infrastructure.
- Approximately 3,000 improved water points, such as boreholes and protected shallow wells, exist in Far North
 Region, where each serves approximately 1,750 people. Preferred coverage is 250 people per water point, according
 to GoC officials. Of the total improved water points in the region, approximately one-third require rehabilitation.
 However, the region has a number of unimproved shallow wells, which could significantly improve the safe water
 supply for residents, if protected.
- In Far North Region, approximately 12.4 percent of all children under five years of age are acutely malnourished, according to a December 2011 Standardized Monitoring and Assessment of Relief and Transitions (SMART) nutrition survey. Nearly 3 percent of children under five years of age are experiencing severe acute malnutrition. Nutrition centers in Far North Region frequently face a limited availability of supplementary and therapeutic feeding supplies, primarily due to disruptions in transporting supplies by road from Cameroon's main port in Douala City,

southern Cameroon, to the north. Where possible, local health staff conduct active screening for acute malnutrition; however, a shortage of transport and other resources often hinders outreach efforts.

Chad

- USAID/OFDA Sahel team members conducted assessments among affected populations in northern Chad, where poor harvests have contributed to high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition. UNICEF estimates that more than 127,000 children in Chad will require treatment for severe acute malnutrition in 2012.
- In response, USAID/OFDA recently provided nearly \$1 million to Action Contre la Faim (ACF) for nutrition activities in Bahr el Ghazal Region to strengthen community-level capacity to address malnutrition in one of Chad's more food-insecure regions. USAID/OFDA-supported activities will strengthen prevention, detection, and treatment of severe acute malnutrition among children under five years of age through training and monitoring of local health workers, benefiting nearly 10,000 children. To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA has provided more than \$5.5 million in humanitarian assistance to Chad; of the total, nearly \$3.3 million supports nutrition activities in food-insecure areas.

Mali

- The large number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in Mali's rural and urban areas—currently estimated at 145,000 people—has added pressure to existing water points and led to deteriorating water and sanitation services, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Relief agencies report an increase in the incidence of diarrheal diseases and malaria as a result. OCHA also notes a lack of medical specialists in areas affected by the conflict, including parts of Mopti, Gao, Kidal, and Tombouctou regions, where access to health services and replenishment of medical supplies remain significant needs.
- While food security will likely improve for local populations with the start of the September harvest, people displaced
 from and within northern Mali will continue to experience increased acute food insecurity due to disruptions to
 traditional livelihoods, according to FEWS NET. Affected populations in Mali may experience Emergency—
 Integrated Phase Classification 4—level food insecurity due to ongoing conflict, severe and persistent cereal market
 disruptions, and security constraints that hinder the delivery of humanitarian assistance, FEWS NET reports.
- To address the urgent humanitarian needs of IDPs from northern Mali, USAID/OFDA is providing more than \$770,000 to the International Organization for Migration (IOM) for the distribution of emergency relief supplies and shelter to nearly 25,000 IDPs, as well as transportation assistance for individuals departing the northern regions. IOM will also monitor population movements to determine the location of vulnerable, displaced families in Mali, allowing the humanitarian community to assess needs and provide targeted assistance.
- Through Oxfam/Great Britain (Oxfam/GB), USAID/OFDA is also providing more than \$1.5 million in cash transfers and vouchers to help an estimated 21,000 food-insecure individuals in the southwestern Kayes Region meet critical needs.

Niger

- A member of the USAID/OFDA Sahel Assessment Team recently traveled to Niger's Tillabéri Region—one of the most food-insecure areas of the country—to visit a USAID/OFDA-supported emergency agriculture and livelihoods program, implemented by Catholic Relief Services (CRS). Community members reported poor harvests in 2011, noting that most crops yielded an average of only 20 kg of cereals for the entire year. The majority of villagers coped with small harvest yields by participating in cash-for-work projects, conducting gardening activities, or migrating to other countries or domestic urban centers in search of work. Some people, particularly those unable to find work, are reportedly borrowing heavily to purchase food, agricultural inputs, and other essential goods.
- Relief agencies active in Niger report that markets are functioning well this year, supported by adequate trade with Nigeria. One some organizations are providing vouchers that allow families to purchase goods in nearby markets, reflecting confidence that beneficiaries will be able to access food locally.
- USAID/OFDA recently provided \$1.6 million to HKI to increase national health center capacity for the prevention and treatment of acute malnutrition in Niger's Diffa, Dosso, and Zinder regions. Through the training and supervision of local health workers and volunteers, USAID/OFDA will help expand nutrition screenings and activities to reach as many as 42,700 children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women in affected areas. To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$14 million in humanitarian assistance to Niger.

Other Humanitarian Assistance

- On May 30, the Government of Australia announced a donation of more than \$9.7 million to WFP to respond to food needs throughout the region. In addition, the Government of Norway (GoN) pledged more than \$6.6 million to assist vulnerable families in the Sahel. The funding, which augments an earlier GoN donation of nearly \$23.9 million, includes a contribution to the U.N. Central Emergency Response Fund.
- The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, an agency established by the Government of Kuwait, recently donated \$4 million to support agriculture and food security programs in Chad.

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

Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
	USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA	FASO ²	
Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	Nutrition	East Region	\$942,252
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	North Region	\$423,530
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA	ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012		\$3,265,759
	USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA F	ASO	
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Boucle de Mouhoun, Center North, Center West, East, North, and Sahel Regions	\$6,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP AS	SISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012		\$6,000,000
TOTAL USAID HUMAN	NITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY	2012	\$9,265,759

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD			
ACF	Nutrition	Bahr el Ghazal Region	\$991,474
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$500,000
IOM	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Chad	\$50,000
International Rescue Committee (IRC)	Health, Nutrition	Guéra Region	\$1,000,000
Solidarités	Agriculture and Food Security, Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS), Nutrition, WASH	Batha Region	\$914,333
ОСНА	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Eastern Chad	\$300,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Batha, Bahr el Ghazal, Hadjer-Lamis, Guéra, Kanem, and Lac Regions	\$700,000
World Concern Development Organization (WCDO)	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	Ouaddaï Region	\$547,001
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012			\$5,502,808
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD			
Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development (ACTED)	Food Vouchers	Sahelian Belt	\$2,767,228

Africare	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Chad	\$4,890,000
CRS	Food Vouchers	Ouaddaï and Wadi Fira Regions	\$4,504,047
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$78,000,000
WFP	LRP Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012		\$100,161,275	
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012		\$105,664,083	

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$400,000
ЮМ	Health, Logistics and Relief Commodities, Protection	Gao, Kidal, and Tombouctou Regions	\$773,745
Mali Red Cross	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Tombouctou Region	\$50,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Oxfam/GB	ERMS	Kayes Region	\$1,503,666
Save the Children/U.S. (SC/US)	Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition	Kayes Region	\$999,665
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$750,000
World Vision	ERMS; Natural and Technological Risks	Koulikoro Region	\$750,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA	ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012		\$6,227,076
	USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI		
Africare	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Countrywide	\$2,048,700
CRS	Food Vouchers	Mopti Region	\$2,226,023
CRS	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Mopti Region	\$3,331,629
WFP	Cash Transfers, LRP Emergency Food Assistance	Gao, Kayes, Koulikoro, Mopti, and Tombouctou Regions	\$5,001,190
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Mali	\$10,000,000
	Title II Emergency Food Assistance SISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012	Mali	\$10,000,000 \$22,607,542

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Southern Mauritania	\$800,000
UNICEF	Nutrition, WASH	Countrywide	\$550,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$250,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012		\$1,600,000	
	USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA		
WFP	Cash Transfers	Assaba, Brakna, Gorgol, and Guidhimakha Regions; Nouakchott	\$3,000,000

TOTAL USAID HUMA	NITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 20	12	\$11,600,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASS	SISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012		\$10,000,000
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Assaba, Brakna, Gorgol, Guidhimakha, Hodh el Gharbi, and Hodh el Chargui Regions	\$5,000,000

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER			
ACTED	ERMS	Tillabéri Region	\$594,935
Africare	Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition	Agadez and Tahoua Regions	\$1,250,183
The National Cooperative The Business Association's Cooperative League of the United States of America (CLUSA)	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS, Nutrition	Tahoua and Tillabéri Regions	\$998,664
CRS	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS	Tillabéri Region	\$996,831
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$1,100,000
НКІ	Nutrition	Diffa, Dosso, Zinder regions	\$1,600,000
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	\$1,120,715
Mercy Corps	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	Agadez Region	\$800,000
ОСНА	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 Tillaberi Regions	\$655,673
SC/US	ERMS, Nutrition	Maradi and Zinder Regions	\$1,281,027
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Countrywide	\$500,000
Vétérinaires Sans Frontières/Belgium	Agriculture and Food Security, ERMS	Tillabéri Region	\$716,811
	Program Support Costs	Countrywide	\$2,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA	ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012		\$14,766,331
	USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER		
Counterpart International	Title II Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$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	Countrywide	\$22,500,000
WFP	Cash Transfers; LRP Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012			\$43,301,300
TOTAL U	TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012		

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL					
Counterpart International	Counterpart International Agriculture and Food Security Matam Region				
TOTAL USAID/OFDA A	SSISTANCE TO SENEGAL IN FY 2012		\$50,000		

	USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO THE GAMBIA		
Forum for African Women Educationalist Gambia Chapter (FAWEGAM)	Agriculture and Food Security	The Gambia	\$50,000
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	The Gambia	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA A	SSISTANCE TO THE GAMBIA IN FY 2012		\$550,000
	WEST AFRICA REGIONAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE ²		
AAH/US	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	West Africa	\$99,215
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	West Africa	\$500,000
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	\$184,503
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2012			\$2,282,718

	WEST AFRICA REGIONAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE		
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Emergency Relief Supplies	Mali, Niger	\$2,500,000
UNICEF	Education, Health, WASH Services for IDPs	Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger	\$1,100,000
UNHCR	Refugee Assistance	Burkina Faso, Mauritania, and Niger	\$7,000,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Mauritania	\$250,000
TOTAL STATE/PRM ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2012		\$10,850,000	

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN FY 2012	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING \$34,244,69	
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING	\$182,070,117
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING	
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN FY 2012	\$227,164,809

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 June 1, 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.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID website at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/