



SAHEL – FOOD INSECURITY AND COMPLEX EMERGENCY

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Humanitarian agencies continue to negotiate for full access to northern Mali to ensure aid reaches populations in need. On May 16, the Ansar Dine militant group allowed a humanitarian convoy carrying food and medical assistance to reach Tombouctou city, according to international media. In addition, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) reported that 31.5 metric tons of emergency food assistance—sufficient to benefit approximately 7,800 conflict-affected individuals—recently arrived in Gao, Kidal, and Tombouctou regions in northern Mali.
- In May, members of USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) Sahel Assessment Team completed rapid assessments in several food-insecure regions in Chad, where the team met with community members, local officials, and U.N. and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners to identify humanitarian needs. USAID/OFDA staff also assessed needs in drought-affected southern Mauritania, including Mbera refugee camp—where more than 61,000 Malian refugees reside—and surrounding host communities.
- USAID/OFDA recently conducted a rapid needs assessment in The Gambia, where poor rains have led to decreased crop production and rising food prices are further affecting household food security. On May 8, U.S. Ambassador Pamela White declared a disaster due to food insecurity in The Gambia.
- To allow WFP sufficient flexibility to respond to needs across the Sahel, USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) recently granted WFP the ability to borrow or loan resources from its authorized Title II programs, including food commodities and associated costs, to meet emerging needs in the region.
- USAID/OFDA recently committed approximately \$5.4 million to improve food security, increase communities’ access to safe drinking water and sanitation services, enhance the logistical capacity of the humanitarian community, and support the prevention, treatment, and management of acute malnutrition in countries across the Sahel. In May, USAID/FFP sent additional staff to the Sahel to further support a robust response to the food insecurity and nutrition crisis in the region.

HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012¹

USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Sahel	\$26,976,615
USAID/FFP Assistance to the Sahel	\$182,070,117
State/PRM ² Assistance to the Sahel	\$9,500,000 ³
Total USAID and State Assistance to the Sahel	\$218,546,732

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 U.S. Government (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 U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (State/PRM)

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.

Chad

- Members of USAID/OFDA's Sahel Assessment Team recently assessed humanitarian needs in Chad's drought-affected Sahel band, including areas of Batha, Guéra, Hadjer-Lamis, Kanem, Ouaddaï, and Sila regions, where a delay in the onset of the rains in 2011 and an erratic distribution of rainfall, in addition to large-scale invasions of crop pests in Guéra Region, contributed to poor harvests.
- Humanitarian organizations in Chad report that populations face limited access to food resulting from high food prices in larger markets and decreased food availability in smaller markets. Many NGOs are utilizing a combination of food distributions and cash-based responses to address needs among affected populations.
- The USAID/OFDA team observed that many health facilities and neighboring villages in Chad had no water source or latrines. Poor hygiene practices and limited water and sanitation infrastructure are contributing factors to health and nutrition issues, including the spread of waterborne disease, in Chad. NGO staff operating malnutrition treatment programs report that malnutrition cases have been increasing in both quantity and severity since March.
- To promote improved health and nutrition, USAID/OFDA is providing \$1 million to the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to support local health facilities in Guéra Region—one of the most food-insecure areas of Chad—with essential medicine, medical supplies, and therapeutic foods to treat acute malnutrition. IRC, with USAID/OFDA funding, will train local health staff on the integrated management of acute malnutrition and promote improved nutrition through community-based nutrition education.
- USAID/OFDA is providing more than \$900,000 to Solidarités to improve food security and increase access to safe drinking water and sanitation services in Chad's Batha Region, while helping affected communities build resilience through long-term capacity building. To address food insecurity, the USAID/OFDA-funded project will provide seeds and tools to farmers, support market gardening associations that help participants increase household revenue and diversify diets, and train community members on hygiene and improved nutrition. Through Solidarités, USAID/OFDA will also rehabilitate boreholes and build long-term capacity by establishing water resource management committees.

Mali

- The food security and nutrition crisis in Mali is affecting approximately 3.5 million people, including 1.8 million who face severe food insecurity and an estimated 560,000 children under five years of age experiencing severe or moderate acute malnutrition, according to the U.N.
- Conflict in Mali's northern regions compounds the complex emergency, with nearly 147,000 people reportedly displaced within the country. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has identified two sites near Segou town in central Mali capable of hosting a large number of families. The U.N. also continues efforts to establish an operational hub in Mopti Region to support humanitarian activities in northern Mali, with WFP augmenting storage capacity in Kayes and Mopti regions.
- In response to nutrition needs in Mali, USAID/OFDA is providing \$750,000 to the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) to support an integrated nutrition response that strengthens the coordination between UNICEF, other U.N. agencies, local officials, and NGO partners. Activities will improve community-based management of acute malnutrition, introduce positive infant and child feeding practices, and treat common childhood diseases through complementary treatments and increased access to safe drinking water.
- USAID staff are closely tracking the evolving situation in Mali and evaluating additional response options for identified humanitarian needs in both the north and the south, in coordination with relief agencies, other donors, and USG counterparts. To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP have provided \$26.5 million to support humanitarian coordination and for direct food assistance, relief supplies, and food security activities.

Mauritania

- In early May, USAID/OFDA Sahel Assessment Team members met with U.N. and NGO partners in Mauritania's capital of Nouakchott to discuss the dual emergencies of food insecurity and the influx of Malian refugees, as well as assess humanitarian needs in southern and eastern Mauritania—the most drought-affected areas of the country.
- During the assessment trip, USAID/OFDA staff visited Mbera refugee camp and neighboring villages in eastern Mauritania, where the influx of refugees has strained already limited local resources due to ongoing drought and food insecurity. As of May 14, more than 61,000 refugees had arrived in Mauritania from Mali, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).
- Humanitarian agencies have provided food, shelter materials, health services, and safe drinking water to refugee populations in Mbera camp, as well as treatment for children with acute malnutrition. To meet anticipated food

needs among the refugee population, USAID/FFP partner WFP has pre-positioned food in Bassikounou town—the staging area for Mbera camp—to ensure food availability during the upcoming rainy season. However, logistical challenges associated with the remote location of Mbera camp have hampered the humanitarian response.

- To improve humanitarian agencies' ability to transport staff and provide relief assistance to populations in remote or insecure locations, USAID/OFDA is providing \$250,000 to WFP for the U.N. Humanitarian Air Service in Mauritania. The funding will provide reliable air service for use by the humanitarian community to help respond to needs among drought- and conflict-affected populations.

Niger

- High cereal prices and mediocre 2011 crop production will likely result in Crisis—Integrated Phase Classification 3—levels of food insecurity in areas of Niger's Filingué, Ouallam, Tillabéri, and Téra departments between July and September, according to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET). Although FEWS NET reports that national food availability is sufficient to meet demand, grain prices remain 20 to 30 percent above prices at the same time last year.
- To reduce households' vulnerability to food insecurity in Niger, USAID/OFDA recently provided a total of nearly \$2 million to the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and CLUSA International—the National Cooperative Business Association's Cooperative League of the United States of America—for activities to improve food security. With USAID/OFDA funding, FAO will improve agricultural production through the distribution of seeds, as well as strengthen farmers' capacities and build resilience through trainings and technical assistance. Through CLUSA International, USAID/OFDA will improve crop production and market access for vulnerable households in Tahoua and Tillabéri regions. In addition, the CLUSA International project will help bolster household nutrition by training community members on improved agricultural practices and the use of locally grown vegetables and moringa, a fast-growing plant with nutritious leaves.
- USAID/OFDA is also providing more than \$650,000 to Plan USA to improve the prevention, treatment, and management of acute malnutrition among vulnerable children in Niger's Dosso and Tillabéri regions. Through Plan USA, USAID/OFDA will build local health care capacity by training health workers in the screening and referral of nutrition cases, with a focus on children under five years of age and pregnant and lactating women.

The Gambia

- In early May, USAID/OFDA Sahel Assessment Team members traveled to food-insecure areas of The Gambia, noting that some families have already depleted their household food stocks, triggering the start of the lean season two to three months earlier than normal. In addition, high food prices have prevented families from accessing goods in local markets. Many farmers also lack seeds needed for the upcoming planting season, limiting the possibility of a successful harvest in 2012.
- In response to food insecurity in The Gambia, USAID/OFDA recently provided \$50,000 through NGO Forum for African Women Educationalist Gambia Chapter (FAWEGAM) to support affected communities through activities to improve agricultural production and food security.

Other Humanitarian Assistance

- In response to increased needs resulting from the more than 188,000 Malian refugees who have crossed into neighboring countries between mid-January and mid-May, UNHCR is revising its response plan and funding requirements. To date in FY 2012, State/PRM has provided \$9.5 million for protection and humanitarian assistance for individuals in the region affected by the conflict in Mali.
- The U.N. Humanitarian Country Team in Niger has revised the 2012 Consolidated Appeal for humanitarian funding from \$229 million to \$451 million to reflect ongoing humanitarian needs resulting from high levels of food insecurity and the influx of Malian refugees to food-insecure areas of Niger. In FY 2012 to date, the USG has provided \$55.6 million in humanitarian assistance to Niger.
- On May 16, the U.N. released a funding appeal for Mauritania that requests more than \$94 million to support 700,000 food-insecure people in Mauritania and up to 70,000 Malian refugees during the remainder of 2012. To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP have provided \$11.6 million to support agriculture and food security, nutrition, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions in Mauritania.
- On May 16, the U.N. released a \$126 million funding appeal for Burkina Faso to support the needs of more than two million food-insecure people and 100,000 refugees. To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP have provided more than \$8 million in humanitarian assistance to Burkina Faso.

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

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO²			
Action Contre la Faim (ACF)	Nutrition	East Region	\$942,252
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$400,000
Plan USA	Nutrition	North Region	\$423,530
UNICEF	Nutrition	Countrywide	\$500,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012			\$2,265,782
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO			
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Boucle de Mouhoun, Center North, Center West, East, North, and Sahel Regions	\$6,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012			\$6,000,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012			\$8,265,782

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Countrywide	\$500,000
International Organization for Migration	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Chad	\$50,000
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
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Eastern Chad	\$300,000
UNICEF	Nutrition	Batha, Barh el Gazel, Hadjer-Lamis, Guéra, Kanem, and Lac Regions	\$700,000
World Concern Development Organization	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			\$4,511,334
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
Catholic Relief Services (CRS)	Food Vouchers	Ouaddaï and Wadi Fira Regions	\$4,504,047
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$78,000,000
WFP	Locally and Regionally Procured (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			\$104,672,609

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI			
Mali Red Cross	Logistics and Relief Commodities	Tombouctou Region	\$50,000

FAO	Agriculture and Food Security, Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management, Nutrition	Countrywide	\$400,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
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			\$3,949,665
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI			
Africare	Title II Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition	Mali	\$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
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012			\$22,607,542
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012			\$26,557,207

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 City	\$3,000,000
World Vision	Food Vouchers	Assaba Region	\$2,000,000
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Assaba, Brakna, Gorgol, Guidhimakha, Hodh el Gharbi, and Hodh el Chargui Regions	\$5,000,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012			\$10,000,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2012			\$11,600,000

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER			
ACTED	ERMS	Tillabéri Region	\$594,935
Africare	Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition	Agadez and Tahoua Regions	\$1,250,183
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

Lutheran World Relief	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
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
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			\$12,366,331
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER			
Counterpart International (CPI)	Title II Agriculture and Food Security, Nutrition	Niger	\$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 USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012			\$55,667,631
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL			
Counterpart International	Agriculture and Food Security	Matam Region	\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL IN FY 2012			\$50,000
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO THE GAMBIA			
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	The Gambia	\$500,000
FAWEGAM	Agriculture and Food Security	The Gambia	\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL IN FY 2012			\$550,000
WEST AFRICA REGIONAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE²			
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			\$1,683,503

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

TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN 2012	
TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING	\$26,976,615
TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING	\$182,070,117
TOTAL STATE/PRM FUNDING	\$9,500,000
TOTAL USG HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN 2012	\$218,546,732

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 May 18, 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.