



# SAHEL – FOOD INSECURITY

## KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- On February 15, leaders from the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), and the U.N. Development Program, as well as donor governments, including USAID and the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, gathered for a meeting at the WFP headquarters in Rome to discuss growing humanitarian needs in the Sahel.<sup>1</sup> The group issued a joint statement noting the need for urgent, targeted action to address food security and nutrition needs and support programs that strengthen resiliency and address the root causes of the food insecurity crisis.
- Last week, during a visit to Niger and Burkina Faso, Assistant Administrator for USAID’s Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (AA/DCHA) Nancy Lindborg—accompanied by staff from USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) and USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP)—met with government officials, beneficiaries in affected communities, U.S. Embassy staff, and USAID partners. AA/DCHA Lindborg visited villages where USAID is already working through targeted programs, such as a veterinary program to support livestock and a cash transfer program to mitigate the impact of the crisis and promote resiliency.
- Exacerbating the food security situation, population displacement continues to increase in the Sahel as a result of conflict in northern Mali between the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA)—a Tuareg opposition group—and the Malian armed forces. As of March 1, approximately 69,800 people had been displaced within Mali, while an additional 74,380 individuals had fled to neighboring countries, according to the U.N.
- This week, USAID/OFDA provided more than \$2.1 million to help improve crop production and provide short-term income opportunities to vulnerable agro-pastoralists and pastoralists in western Niger. To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP have provided more than \$44 million in humanitarian assistance to support more than 2.5 million people across the Sahel region. In addition, USAID provided \$197 million in FY 2011 to support humanitarian programs, many of which are still ongoing. USAID humanitarian funding complements long-term efforts to alleviate poverty and improve resilience to food insecurity.

### HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2012<sup>2</sup>

USAID/OFDA Assistance to the Sahel	\$8,484,357
USAID/FFP Assistance to the Sahel	\$36,391,300
<b>Total USAID Assistance to the Sahel</b>	<b>\$44,875,657</b>

### HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED IN FY 2011

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

## Context

- The causes of hunger and malnutrition in the Sahel 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 West Africa’s Sahel region, where many vulnerable families are still recovering from the 2009–2010 food crisis.
- Between 7 and 12 million people in the Sahel are at risk of needing additional assistance in 2012 due to food insecurity, according to a consensus among humanitarian agencies. Regional surpluses in coast countries may

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

<sup>2</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

alleviate food deficits; however, cereal prices remain high, rendering food access difficult for the most vulnerable families.

- 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**

- Recent food security assessments conducted by national government agencies in Chad and Mauritania found that nearly one-fourth of Mauritanian households—approximately 700,000 people—are experiencing difficulty meeting food needs. In Chad's Sahelian belt, more than 3.5 million people—approximately 28 percent of the population—are at risk of food insecurity, according to WFP.
- As conflict-affected Malians continue to arrive in already drought-stricken and food-insecure areas, particularly in southern Mauritania, relief agencies are responding to the increased food needs of both refugees and host communities, while assessing the longer-term impact on the food security in the region.
- USAID/OFDA recently provided nearly \$1 million to restore livelihoods and increase the resilience of more than 63,000 people in Niger's Tillabéri Region, one of the most chronically food-insecure areas in the Sahel, through Catholic Relief Services (CRS). To improve crop production, USAID/OFDA is supporting seed fairs for the distribution of improved seeds to vulnerable farming households in the region. The program also seeks to increase families' purchasing power through cash-for-work activities that provide short-term, income-generating opportunities and rehabilitate public infrastructure.
- With more than \$1.1 million to Mercy Corps, USAID/OFDA is safeguarding livestock from the effects of drought in Tillabéri Region, where the majority of the population relies on animals for their livelihoods. The program provides animal feed to vulnerable households through the provision of cash vouchers, while teaching techniques to improve the harvest and storage of animal fodder. Of the 5,000 beneficiaries targeted by this program, approximately 1,500 individuals are working to rehabilitate degraded grazing land through cash-for-work activities.
- To date in FY 2012, USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP have provided approximately \$40 million for the distribution of emergency food assistance, agriculture and food security, and economic recovery-focused programs in the Sahel.

### **Security and Population Movement**

- Due to continuing insecurity in Mali, an estimated 69,800 internally displaced persons (IDPs) were residing in Gao, Kidal, and Tombouctou regions, as of March 1. Of those who fled to adjacent countries, approximately 19,000 crossed to Niger, with an estimated 31,234 in Mauritania, and 19,200 in Burkina Faso, according to the U.N. Of those displaced to Niger, approximately 2,450 are Nigerien.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), U.N. agencies, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) continue to provide basic relief supplies and food assistance to conflict-affected people in northern Mali, as additional individuals displaced by the fighting are identified. ICRC is also preparing a larger response to address food, water, and shelter needs resulting from both conflict-related displacement and food insecurity in eastern and northern Mali.
- In response to the growing refugee population in Niger, ICRC, the Red Cross Society of Niger, and the Government of Niger distributed basic food items to displaced Malians, while the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has provided blankets and plastic sheeting.
- UNHCR has provided food assistance to 20,000 people in Mauritania and has relocated more than 2,600 refugees to Mbera camp—a pre-existing site 34 miles from the Mali–Mauritania border that is currently undergoing improvements to accommodate additional refugees. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are providing emergency relief commodities and water, sanitation, and hygiene services in Mbera camp and other areas hosting refugees.
- The Government of Burkina Faso (GoBF) and humanitarian agencies, such as UNHCR and WFP, are providing humanitarian assistance, including food and safe drinking water, to Malian refugees in Burkina Faso. WFP has established nearly 800 food distribution points in northern Burkina Faso, where the majority of refugees are

staying. Since February 10, GoBF has provided emergency relief supplies to approximately 4,000 refugees, according to international media.

**Other Humanitarian Assistance**

- On February 17, the Economic Community of West African States approved a contribution of \$3 million for emergency response activities in the Sahel.
- The following week, the Canadian International Development Agency announced approximately \$41 million in planned funding for the Sahel through pledged support to WFP, UNICEF, ICRC, and several NGOs.

**FY 2012 USAID ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL<sup>1</sup>**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO<sup>2</sup></b>			
UNICEF	Nutrition	Burkina Faso	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$500,000</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD</b>			
UNICEF	Nutrition	Chad	\$700,000
OCHA	Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management	Chad	\$300,000
WFP	Humanitarian Air Service	Chad	\$500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$1,500,000</b>

<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD</b>			
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Chad	\$18,000,000
Africare	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Chad	\$4,890,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$22,890,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$24,390,000</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI</b>			
U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agriculture and Food Security	Mali	\$400,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$400,000</b>

<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI</b>			
CRS	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Mali	\$2,200,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$2,200,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$2,600,000</b>

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

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$4,684,357</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER</b>			
CPI	Title II Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Niger	\$3,801,300
WFP	Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Niger	\$7,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$11,301,300</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$15,985,657</b>

<b>WEST AFRICA REGIONAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
WFP	Market Analysis and Vulnerability Studies	West Africa	\$200,000
WFP	Nutrition	West Africa	\$300,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2012</b>			<b>\$500,000</b>

<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN 2012</b>			
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA FUNDING</b>			<b>\$8,484,357</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP FUNDING</b>			<b>\$36,391,300</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL IN 2012</b>			<b>\$44,875,657</b>

**FY 2011 USAID AND ASSISTANCE TO THE SAHEL<sup>1</sup>**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO<sup>2</sup></b>			
Action Contre La Faim (ACF), FAO, Helen Keller International, UNICEF	Agriculture and Food Security; Health; Nutrition	Burkina Faso	\$3,080,085
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$3,080,085</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO<sup>3</sup></b>			
ACDI/VOCA, CRS	Agriculture and Food Security; Health; Nutrition	Burkina Faso	\$11,651,700
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$11,651,700</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$14,731,785</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$6,340,897</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$89,563,400</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO CHAD IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$95,904,297</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI</b>			
Action Against Hunger/U.S. (AAH/US), HKI	Economic Recovery and Market Systems (ERMS); Nutrition	Mali	\$907,511
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$907,511</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI</b>			
Africare, CRS	Agriculture and Food Security; Health; Nutrition	Mali	\$10,069,400
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$10,069,400</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$10,976,911</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA</b>			
FAO, World Vision/U.S.	Agriculture and Food Security; Nutrition	Mauritania	\$936,203
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$936,203</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA</b>			
CPI	Agriculture and Food Security; Health; Nutrition	Mauritania	\$5,057,600
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$5,057,600</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$5,993,803</b>

<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER</b>			
AAH/US, Concern, CRS, FAO, HKI, Humedica, Mercy Corps, OCHA, Oxfam/Great Britain, Save the Children/U.K. (SC/UK), UNICEF, WFP, World Vision	Agriculture and Food Security; ERMS; Humanitarian Air Service; Humanitarian Coordination and Information Management; Nutrition	Niger	\$13,658,943
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$13,658,943</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER</b>			
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
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$54,478,700</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$68,137,643</b>

<b>WEST AFRICA REGIONAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
FAO, UNICEF, WFP	Food Security and Market Analysis; Nutrition	West Africa	\$1,421,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$1,421,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO AFRICA REGIONAL IN FY 2011</b>			<b>\$1,421,000</b>

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

<sup>1</sup> Year of funding indicates the date of commitment or obligation, not appropriation, of funds.

<sup>2</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of March 1, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.cidi.org) or +1.202.821.1999.  
Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).