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**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)

## ***Sahelian West Africa – Humanitarian Emergency***

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

August 19, 2005

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 16, 2005.*

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Affected population – Niger	2,680,000	Government of Niger, August 15, 2005
Affected population – Mali	1,000,000	WFP <sup>1</sup> , August 5, 2005
Affected population – Mauritania	600,000	WFP, August 5, 2005
Affected population – Burkina Faso	500,000	WFP, August 5, 2005
<b>Total Affected Population<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>4,780,000</b>	

**Total FY 2005 USAID Assistance to Niger, Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso and Sahel Locust Response..... \$99,766,896**

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

#### *Regional Update*

- The Assistant Administrator for USAID’s Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/DCHA), Michael Hess, arrived in Niamey, Niger on August 19, beginning a 10-day trip to Niger and Mali. While in Niger, USAID/DCHA Assistant Administrator Hess will travel with the USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) to the Tahoua and Tillaberi regions to conduct assessments.
- According to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), recent assessments continue to show consistent rainfall and good crop and pasture conditions in most of Niger and almost all of the rest of Sahelian West Africa. The short-term outlook for these conditions is for continued improvement. Prospects for crop harvests in Niger and the rest of Sahelian West Africa are generally good to excellent, with the exception of certain areas in the pastoral zone of the Tillaberi and western Tahoua regions in Niger; these zones had intermittent rains and an extended dry spell this year. Loss of assets or livestock over the past year may result in continued vulnerability for some families beyond the harvest.

#### *Niger Update*

- USAID implementing partners, including Africare, CARE, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Helen Keller International (HKI), and World Vision, have been present in Niger for more than five years working to improve food security, health, and water and sanitation conditions. These nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) have intensified food security activities in their respective areas of interventions since October 2004 with resources from USAID, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), and private donations.
- WFP reported on August 15 that the Government of Niger’s (GON) National Early Warning System raised the number of people needing food assistance, bringing the total affected population to 2.68 million. Designation of “affected population” does not mean that the population requires food assistance, only that they have been in some way impacted by locust infestation or drought. Affected populations have varying levels of need, from complete food distributions to little or no assistance.
- From August 12 to 13, the USAID/DART traveled to Zinder Region to assess the food security and nutrition situation and monitor a USAID-funded World Vision community-based therapeutic care (CTC) program. The program is being implemented at 21 sites, including GON integrated health centers, outpatient therapeutic programs, and supplementary feeding programs. World Vision’s nutrition program provides emergency nutritional supplements to moderately and severely malnourished children. According to the USAID/DART, World Vision is implementing the USAID-funded CTC program outside of WFP food distribution zones. As such, families of children who are severely and moderately malnourished are not receiving WFP food assistance and are therefore sharing the children’s ration. Some families in World Vision’s CTC areas reported using their children’s ration to feed the whole family.
- The USAID/DART reported that since diarrhea affects a large portion of the vulnerable population, water and sanitation issues are among the contributing factors, but not the cause, of high malnutrition. According to the 2004 GON Ministry of Water and Environment report, 58 percent of rural communities have access to potable water from borehole wells, while sanitation coverage is only 5 percent.

<sup>1</sup> U.N. World Food Program

<sup>2</sup> Affected populations may have varying levels of need, from complete food distributions to little or no assistance.

- The USAID/DART reported that WFP began direct free food distributions during the second week of August and plans to conduct a second food distribution in September. According to the USAID/DART, food assistance has not yet arrived in many parts of the country. The USAID/DART has noted concerns with the timing of WFP's second food distribution because of the approaching harvest. The USAID/DART continues to emphasize the need for well-targeted distributions that are based on needs assessments.
- Niger's vulnerability to humanitarian crises is due to several structural and chronic factors, such as poverty, precarious food security, desertification, inadequate provision of water and sanitation services, and meager health care coverage. Combined with these factors, an early end to the rains and the locust infestation in 2004 resulted in levels of malnutrition and mortality that exceed internationally accepted thresholds for emergency conditions in a number of communities in Niger's pastoral and agro-pastoral areas.

#### *Mali Update*

- On August 16, WFP revised its appeal for Mali from \$7.4 to \$13.6 million to feed an additional 175,000 children under the age of 5 through the end of the year in the areas of Gao, Timbuktu, Kidal, Kayes, and Koulikoro. Prior to revising its appeal, WFP was targeting 450,000 people in the most critical areas of the country. WFP noted that it increased its appeal because recent assessments showed that these 175,000 newly-targeted children are at risk of malnutrition.
- On August 17, USAID/DART members met with the Government of Mali's Food Security Commissariat. Commissariat representatives reported that while the food security situation affecting some areas of the country is still precarious, a recovery appears to be developing, particularly as pasture conditions improve in pastoralist areas. In addition, the USAID/DART reported that food distributions in November 2004 and March 2005 authorized by the Food Security Commissariat played a role in averting a large-scale food crisis in the northern regions of Mali.
- Based on preliminary USAID/DART assessments, nutrition and food conditions in Tisset, Gao and Kidal are currently stable, and seasonal rains have begun in many areas of the country. Although pockets of malnutrition exist within areas that are considered the most vulnerable, if rains continue through the end of August, the situation is expected to stabilize. In the interim, the greatest need continues to be food distribution in advance of the harvest.
- While the crop outlook is currently good, the 2004 locust infestation and early cessation of rain negatively affected surplus food stocks, animal fodder and pasture, and animal milk production. If the rains do not continue, crop productivity this coming season will be significantly lower than normal, and animal feed supplies will be quickly exhausted.

#### *Burkina Faso Update*

- International monitoring and humanitarian agencies remain cautiously optimistic about food security as rainfall this year has been early and consistent. Abundant rains since the end of June have helped renew fields and pastures. FEWS NET reports that the situation is improving and the GOBF has responded with food distributions and subsidized sales. Return livestock migrations have begun in some areas.
- According to the USAID/DART, the Burkinabe Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) reports that the primary food security concern in Burkina Faso is not availability, but rather distribution, access, and pricing. Food is available in the country, but it is not being transported to the most affected areas in the north. Instead of transporting commodities over rough roads to sell them in affected areas, traders prefer to sell food stocks in Niamey, Niger, where they can obtain higher prices.
- When food is available in local markets, many residents are still unable to purchase commodities due to high prices. Terms of trade for grains and livestock has caused an 80 percent decrease in purchasing power for poor and middle households. According to FEWS NET, the price of millet and sorghum in affected areas is approximately twice as high as the five year average, but maize prices began to decline at the end of July.

#### *Mauritania Update*

- WFP reported that based on rapid assessment findings, WFP is increasing emergency food distribution in Mauritania by targeting 6,300 people in the Hodh Chargui region, an area previously outside of WFP's operational area. On August 16, WFP began food distributions in Bassikounou and Fassala communes in eastern Mauritania. As part of its 2005 operation, WFP has distributed more than 18,000 metric tons (MT) of food to 400,000 beneficiaries in Mauritania to help vulnerable populations recover from consecutive years of drought.

## **USAID ASSISTANCE**

### *Regional Response*

- The USAID-supported West Africa Regional Program (WARP) handles West African development challenges that are most effectively addressed at a regional level. WARP works closely with USAID missions in the region, including USAID's bilateral missions in Mali and Senegal, and U.S. embassies in countries where USAID does not have a mission. The Sahelian countries benefit from WARP through their membership in the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in Sahelian Africa (CILSS). WARP supports activities in 19 West African countries, including Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. WARP representatives are currently working in the region to develop strategies to control market fluctuation and implement near-term market interventions.

- In response to the 2004/2005 locust infestation, USAID provided more than \$12.8 million to support locust control efforts throughout Sahelian West Africa in FY 2005. Through a grant to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), USAID supported agricultural relief and recovery programs, including the provision of livestock feed support and agricultural inputs for dry season gardening activities, in Niger. USAID provided support to the Government of Mali for combating the locust infestation, providing pesticides, and funding related control activities. In Mauritania, USAID supported locust prevention and response activities, including an aerial spraying campaign.

*Niger*

- USAID has provided approximately \$15 million in assistance to Niger to date in FY 2005. These funds have supported emergency and development food assistance, food security and agriculture projects, and airlifts of fortified food for emergency nutrition programs. USAID assistance also funds programs focused on human rights, community-based development, child survival and health, and youth.

*Mali*

- To date in FY 2005, USAID has provided more than \$38 million in assistance to Mali. In FY 2005, USAID provided 1,710 MT of development food commodities to Mali. Additionally, USAID’s development program in Mali works to expand economic opportunities, particularly for the rural poor; provides high impact health services to improve the health and welfare of women and children; mitigates the spread of HIV/AIDS; improves the quality of basic education; consolidates democracy through support of decentralization; supports human rights; and accelerates overall development by making information more widely accessible.

*Burkina Faso*

- USAID has provided more than \$17.8 million in assistance to date in FY 2005. USAID focuses the majority of its assistance to Burkina Faso on improving food security. In FY 2005, USAID has provided 24,240 MT of development food commodities. USAID also funds programs that support local human rights, community-based development activities, political party development, and technical assistance for elections.

*Mauritania*

- To date in FY 2005, USAID has provided more than \$16 million to various programs in Mauritania. USAID activities in Mauritania primarily focus on improving food security. USAID provided 15,080 MT of development food assistance and 16,240 MT of emergency food assistance to Mauritania in FY 2005. USAID also funded programs addressing human rights and community-based development activities.

**BACKGROUND**

- In 2004, an early end to the rains and desert locust damage to pasture lands adversely affected pasture availability and cereal production in Sahelian West Africa. These events exacerbated existing vulnerabilities and resulted in elevated food insecurity in agro-pastoral and pastoral zones in Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Mauritania. The situation in Niger is considered to be an emergency, with more than 2.68 million people affected. In Burkina Faso, Mali, and Mauritania, more than two million people are food insecure and the situation in these countries warrants close monitoring. USAID recognizes that endemic poverty and underdevelopment are critical factors contributing to the current humanitarian emergency and is committed to addressing these factors through an appropriate combination of USAID development and humanitarian assistance.
- In response to the humanitarian emergency, USAID deployed a USAID/DART to Sahelian West Africa on August 3, 2005. USAID/DART staff include a public health and nutrition specialists, a water and sanitation specialist, food aid officers, and information officers. Additional USAID/DART members already in the region include regional advisors for North and West Africa, a development officer, and a FEWS NET representative. On August 11, USAID activated a Response Management Team (RMT) in Washington, D.C. to assist the USAID/DART.

**USAID ASSISTANCE TO NIGER**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>3</sup></b>			
CRS	Food Security/Agriculture	Tillaberi and Zinder	\$494,513
FAO	Food Security/Agriculture	Countrywide	\$50,000
UNICEF	Airlift of 251 MT of fortified food for emergency nutrition programs	Countrywide	\$543,826
World Vision	Nutrition	Maradi and Zinder	\$1,087,711
Helen Keller International	Nutrition	Diffa	\$1,091,471
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$3,267,521</b>

<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
Consortium including Africare, Catholic Relief Services, CARE, and Helen Keller International	12,230 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Development Food Assistance	Agadez, Dosso, Tahoua, and Zinder	\$7,390,000
WFP	4,320 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,900,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$10,290,000</b>
<b>USAID/AFR ASSISTANCE</b>			
	Youth Programs		\$500,000
	Democracy and Human Rights Fund		\$92,000
	Special Self-Help		\$74,000
	WARP Support		\$732,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/AFR</b>			<b>\$1,398,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2005</b>			<b>\$14,955,521</b>

<sup>3</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 19, 2005.

**USAID ASSISTANCE TO MALI**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>4</sup></b>			
Africare	1,710 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Development Food Assistance	Timbuktu Region	\$930,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$930,000</b>
<b>USAID/AFR ASSISTANCE</b>			
	Economic Growth <sup>5</sup>		\$1,723,000
	Education		\$5,755,000
	Democracy and Governance		\$1,447,000
	Health		\$15,705,000
	Agriculture/Environment <sup>5</sup>		\$11,044,000
	Democracy and Human Rights Fund		\$70,000
	Special Self-Help Fund		\$77,000
	WARP Support		\$1,389,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/AFR</b>			<b>\$37,210,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2005</b>			<b>\$38,140,000</b>

<sup>4</sup> For Reporting purposes, USAID/Mali's P.L. 480 Title II program is combined with the P.L. 480 Title II program in Chad. The implementing partner is responsible for reporting on both Mali and Chad. The referenced figures are therefore not reflected in Mali's Congressional Budget Justification (CBJ).

<sup>5</sup> This total includes funding for the locust response.

**USAID ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>6</sup></b>			
DFS	Locust Response		\$177,777
World Vision	Supplementary Feeding Program		\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$227,777</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
World Vision and the Doulos Community	19,330 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Development Food Assistance	Nouakchott	\$6,479,600
WFP	16,240 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Brakna, Gorgol, Tagant, Assaba, and Hodh El Gharbi	\$8,671,700
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$15,151,300</b>

<b>USAID/AFR ASSISTANCE</b>			
	Democracy and Human Rights Fund		\$80,000
	Special Self-Help Fund		\$87,000
	WARP Support		\$459,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/AFR</b>			<b>\$626,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2005</b>			<b>\$16,005,077</b>

<sup>6</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 19, 2005.

#### USAID ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
Africare, Catholic Relief Services	24,240 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Development Food Assistance	Zondoma province (Africare); all 45 provinces (CRS)	\$15,570,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$15,570,000</b>
<b>USAID/AFR ASSISTANCE</b>			
	Democracy and Human Rights Fund		\$69,500
	Special Self-Help fund		\$104,000
	WARP Support		\$1,628,000
	Economic Support Fund		\$463,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/AFR</b>			<b>\$2,264,500</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2005</b>			<b>\$17,834,500</b>

#### USAID REGIONAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCUST RESPONSE

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>7</sup></b>			
FAO	Locust Response	Chad	\$50,000
AFCAP	Locust Response	Mauritania and Senegal	\$2,555,761
DFS	Locust Response	Mauritania and Senegal	\$3,101,735
Admin	Locust Response	Mauritania and Senegal	\$74,302
USAID/Senegal	Locust Response	Mauritania and Senegal	\$50,000
Gov. of Morocco	Locust Response	Morocco	\$1,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$7,331,798</b>
<b>USAID/AFR ASSISTANCE<sup>8</sup></b>			
USAID/Senegal	Locust Response	Mauritania and Senegal	\$2,500,000
USAID/WARP	Locust Response	Regional	\$1,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/AFR</b>			<b>\$4,000,000</b>
<b>USAID/ANE ASSISTANCE</b>			
Gov. of Morocco	Locust Response	Morocco	\$1,500,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/ANE</b>			<b>\$1,500,000</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID REGIONAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCUST RESPONSE IN FY 2005</b>			<b>\$12,831,798</b>

<sup>7</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 19, 2005.

<sup>8</sup> In addition, USAID/AFR provided \$1 million to Mali for locust response, which is reflected in the "USAID Assistance to Mali" chart.

<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, AND SAHEL LOCUST RESPONSE IN FY 2005</b>			<b>\$99,766,896</b>
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**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. Information on identifying such organizations is available in the “How Can I Help” section of [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Sahel, or by calling The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914.
- 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, warehouse space, etc); 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:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).