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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 #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

August 16, 2005

### **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 2.65 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 Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) to Sahelian West Africa on August 3, 2005. USAID/DART staff include a public health and nutrition specialist, a water and sanitation specialist, a food aid officer, and an information officer. Additional USAID/DART members already in the region include regional advisors for North and West Africa, a development officer, and a USAID-funded Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) representative. On August 11, USAID activated a Response Management Team (RMT) in Washington, D.C. to assist the USAID/DART.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Affected population – Niger</b>	2,650,000	Government of Niger, August 12, 2005
<b>Affected population – Mali</b>	1,000,000	WFP <sup>1</sup> , August 5, 2005
<b>Affected population – Mauritania</b>	600,000	WFP, August 5, 2005
<b>Affected population – Burkina Faso</b>	500,000	WFP, August 5, 2005
<b>Total Affected Population</b>	<b>4,750,000</b>	

**Total FY 2005 USAID Assistance to Niger, Mali, Mauritania, and Burkina Faso .....\$81,368,963**

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

- According to FEWS NET, recent assessments 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*

- 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.
- In November 2004, the Government of Niger (GON) reported increased food needs through the National Early Warning System and requested 78,000 metric tons (MT) of food assistance. In February 2005, WFP launched an appeal for 6,562 MT in support of the GON’s efforts. From June to August 2005, WFP raised its targets for food from 7,730 to 67,009 MT, thereby aligning its number of targeted beneficiaries with the GON’s November estimate of 2.6 million. WFP plans a second distribution in September 2005 for 1.7 million people.
- According to the USAID/DART, Médecins sans Frontières/France (MSF/F) is currently running 27 outpatient therapeutic programs and 5 stabilization centers in Tahoua and Maradi regions. In the last week of July, MSF/F reported 1,467 new cases of malnutrition in the feeding programs. As of the end of July 2005, 763 children were being treated in stabilization centers and 4,000 were receiving treatment in outpatient therapeutic programs. A majority of the malnutrition cases with complications are marasmus with very rare cases of kwashiorkor. According to MSF/F, access to and the quality of health care remain problematic.

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

*Mali*

- USAID/DART members recently traveled to Tissit and Kidal to conduct assessments. Initial assessments by Action Contre la Faim (ACF) north of Kidal indicated 40 to 45 cases of moderate to severe (borderline) malnutrition and 5 cases of severe malnutrition. ACF is providing malnourished children in feeding centers a supplemental ration every two weeks consisting of a mixture of maize meal, oil and sugar. This is being supplemented with a 30 kg bag of millet and 1 liter of oil for the families. Reassessments conducted by ACF during the second distribution showed that the 45 cases had improved significantly and were no longer at risk.
- The USAID/DART is working with implementing partners to develop standard assessment methodology to ensure that information about the humanitarian situation is consistent. The USAID/DART is coordinating with ACF on market surveys and analysis and is tracking animal movements, population movements, and commodity prices. ACF has preliminary baseline information on the markets and has brought in a geographic information systems (GIS) team to track information week by week.

*Burkina Faso*

- According to the U.N., more than 500,000 people will require food assistance in FY 2005 because of below-normal rainfall levels last year. Citizens of Burkina Faso are implementing lean season coping mechanisms, such as migrating in search of food. However, international monitoring and humanitarian agencies remain cautiously optimistic about food security in Burkina Faso because rainfall this year has been early and consistent.
- On August 8, the Government of Burkina Faso (GOBF) announced that it had distributed 33,000 MT of food to the provinces most affected by last year's light rains, and that the food security situation had now stabilized.

*Mauritania*

- According to WFP, approximately 600,000 people have been affected by locust infestations and the related poor harvests during the 2004/2005 growing season.
- The rainy season is underway in the agricultural areas, allowing cultivation to begin. However, some agricultural households are having difficulty securing seeds, which may preclude farmers from taking advantage of the recent rains.

**USAID ASSISTANCE**

*Regional*

- 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 supported 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. In Mali, 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 \$13.5 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 \$37 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 nearly \$16.5 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 nearly \$14.5 million to various programs in Mauritania. USAID activities in Mauritania predominantly 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.

**USAID ASSISTANCE TO NIGER**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
CRS	Food Security/Agriculture	Tillaberi and Zinder	\$494,513
FAO	Food Security/Agriculture	Countrywide	\$50,000
UNICEF	Airlifts of 251 MT of fortified food for emergency nutrition programs	Countrywide	\$543,826
World Vision	Nutrition	Maradi and Zinder	\$1,087,711
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$2,176,050</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
	CILSS Support <sup>2</sup>		\$283,334
<b>TOTAL USAID/AFR</b>			<b>\$949,334</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2005</b>			<b>\$13,415,384</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 16, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> The Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in Sahelian Africa (CILSS). USAID's contribution for each country, funded through the WARP program, is obtained by dividing the total contribution to CILSS by the nine member countries.

**USAID ASSISTANCE TO MALI**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE<sup>1</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		\$1,723,000
	Education		\$5,755,000
	Democracy and Governance		\$1,447,000
	Health		\$15,705,000
	Agriculture/Environment		\$11,044,000
	Democracy and Human Rights Fund		\$70,000
	Special Self-Help Fund		\$77,000
	CILSS Support <sup>2</sup>		\$283,334
<b>TOTAL USAID/AFR</b>			<b>\$36,104,334</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2005</b>			<b>\$37,034,334</b>

<sup>1</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>2</sup> The Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in Sahelian Africa (CILSS). USAID's contribution for each country, funded through the WARP program, is obtained by dividing the total contribution to CILSS by the nine member countries.

**USAID ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA**

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
DFS	Locust Response		\$177,777
World Vision	Supplementary and Therapeutic Feeding		\$50,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$227,777</b>
<b>USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE</b>			
World Vision and the Doulos Community	15,080 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Development Food Assistance	Nouakchott	\$5,079,600
WFP	16,240 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Brakna, Gorgol, Tagant, Assaba, and Hodh El Gharbi regions	\$8,671,700
<b>TOTAL USAID/FFP</b>			<b>\$13,751,300</b>
<b>USAID/AFR ASSISTANCE</b>			
	Democracy and Human Rights Fund		\$80,000
	Special Self-Help Fund		\$87,000
	CILSS Support <sup>2</sup>		\$283,334
<b>TOTAL USAID/AFR</b>			<b>\$450,334</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2005</b>			<b>\$14,429,411</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 16, 2005.

<sup>2</sup> The Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in Sahelian Africa (CILSS). USAID's contribution for each country, funded through the WARP program, is obtained by dividing the total contribution to CILSS by the nine member countries.

**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
	CILSS Support <sup>2</sup>		\$283,334
	Economic Support Fund <sup>3</sup>		\$463,000
<b>TOTAL USAID/AFR</b>			<b>\$919,834</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2005</b>			<b>\$16,489,834</b>

<sup>2</sup> The Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in Sahelian Africa (CILSS). USAID's contribution for each country, funded through the WARP program, is obtained by dividing the total contribution to CILSS by the nine member countries.

<sup>3</sup> Pending clearance of the Congressional Notification (CN) on August 18, 2005.

<b>TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO, MALI, MAURITANIA, AND NIGER IN FY 2005</b>	<b>\$81,368,963</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. A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for response efforts in Sahelian West Africa can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org). Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Sahelian West Africa may be available at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.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, 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 on making donations and volunteering 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
  - InterAction: [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org) – “Guide to Appropriate Giving”
- Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.org](http://www.reliefweb.org).