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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 #3, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

August 23, 2005

Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 19, 2005.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		SOURCE
Affected population – Niger	2,700,000	Government of Niger, August 19, 2005
Affected population – Mali	1,000,000	WFP ¹ , August 5, 2005
Affected population – Mauritania	600,000	WFP, August 5, 2005
Affected population – Burkina Faso	500,000	WFP, August 5, 2005
Total Affected Population²	4,800,000	

Total FY 2005 USAID Assistance to Niger, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Sahel Regional Locust Response..... \$133,892,006

CURRENT SITUATION

Regional Update

- The Assistant Administrator of USAID’s Bureau of Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (USAID/DCHA), Michael Hess, is currently on a 10-day trip to Niger and Mali to visit USAID-funded projects in affected areas and conduct humanitarian assessments with USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) representatives in the field.

Niger Update

- U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan arrived in Niger on August 23 to begin a two-day visit. According to international media reports, Secretary General Annan will visit a feeding center and a hospital in Zinder and meet with President Mamadou Tandja and representatives from the U.N. and other humanitarian organizations.
- From August 19 to 21, Assistant Administrator Hess traveled with the USAID/DART to Tahoua Region. In the village of Kalfou Dabagui, the delegation observed CARE’s distribution of food assistance provided by the Government of Niger (GON). All 462 households in the village were eligible to receive this food assistance, consisting of 50 kg of rice for households of 4 or fewer people and 100 kg of rice for households with 5 or more people. U.N. World Food Program (WFP) food commodities are expected to arrive in one to two weeks. According to the mayor and village chiefs, households in Kalfou Dabagui lost on average approximately 60 percent of their livestock. However, the village mayor noted that crop and grazing conditions will likely be good this season if the rains continue until September.
- On August 20, Assistant Administrator Hess and the USAID/DART traveled to Akoubounou, Tahoua Region, a semi-nomadic and pastoralist village of the Touareg ethnic group. The delegation met with the village mayor and court of Touareg tribal chiefs, who represent approximately 25,000 people. According to the representatives interviewed, the tribes have lost a high percentage of livestock since last year, with some households losing their entire herds. The hardest hit animals were cattle and sheep. The representatives indicated that the only assistance received to date is the GON’s subsidized sale of cereals; however, food distributions from WFP are expected. The Touareg representatives stated that their assistance priorities include water, livestock recovery, and agriculture.
- From August 12 to 18, the USAID/DART traveled to Zinder and Diffa regions in southeastern Niger to conduct assessments. Based on interviews and first-hand observations, the team concluded that a number of factors, including the ability to pay for potable water, food, and health care; and the impact of malaria, poor hygiene, and local weaning practices, contributed to elevated child malnutrition and mortality in rural areas.
- The USAID/DART reported that water and sanitation deficiencies they observed are the status quo in villages they visited. The team noted an absence of famine indicators and a lack of evidence of an acute malnutrition crisis, emphasizing that at present, most households are eating two to three meals per day. Most pastoralist and agro-pastoralist households in the region have depleted livestock holdings, due either to death or liquidation of their stocks in 2005. However, pastoralists reported an excellent evolution of pasture and a strong recovery of all animals. Animal prices have also recovered in the past month. Pastoralists with camels told the USAID/DART that they were able to sell their animals at good prices in Libya.

¹ U.N. World Food Program

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

- According to WFP, a bridge located in Guene, Benin, 15 km from the Niger border, washed out on August 11, delaying the transport of more than 7,000 metric tons (MT) of WFP food assistance. WFP has rerouted 4,000 MT of assistance through Burkina Faso. According to the USAID/DART, Médecins sans Frontières reported that the problems with the bridge are delaying the arrival of therapeutic feeding foods in Niger. WFP reported that the Government of Benin is constructing a dirt bypass route scheduled to be functional by August 25.

Mali Update

- In discussions with several national, regional, and local authorities, the USAID/DART determined that the Government of Mali (GOM) appears to be in agreement at all levels that while the food security situation is a cause for concern, with the exception of some households, no food crisis or catastrophe exists in Mali at the moment. According to the USAID/DART, food security in Mali remains critically dependent on rainfall in the coming weeks. A number of areas have not received good rains for the past two weeks. If two or three more decent rains fall, pastoralists and animals will likely manage; if the rains fail, coping mechanisms will be further eroded, and the lean season will begin earlier next year.
- The USAID/DART reported that the rainy season in many areas of the north of Mali began in the first part of June 2005, earlier than average. The rains stopped suddenly one month later, and the grasses that recently started growing began drying out. Pastoralists in some hard-hit areas, particularly in Kidal Region, began migrating southward very early in the lean season to the last pasture reserves. These conditions put added stress on communities with already depleted resources. In the past week, however, the rains have reappeared and continue to fall, albeit sporadically in some areas, giving a measure of relief to a precarious situation.
- On August 18, the USAID/DART conducted an informal survey of grain prices among pastoralists in the Goundam area. Animal prices are significantly devalued due to animals' poor health and deflated market conditions. The USAID/DART reported that market prices for grains are substantially high—double or triple the usual price in some areas—compared to normal years. The terms of trade used by nomadic populations to exchange animals for grain have deteriorated markedly.
- GOM and village leaders who met with the USAID/DART agreed that certain communities require support during the current lean season. Typically, the lean season lasts two to three months, from August to October. In some areas, however, the lean season began in November 2004, and for others in April 2005. For this reason, coping mechanisms are being exhausted and many government leaders reported that farmers are consuming seeds and taking on large amounts of debt and some pastoralists were migrating to reserve pastures.

Burkina Faso Update

- According to the USAID/DART, USAID implementing partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) reported that although recent rainfall has rendered some agricultural plots more lush, the crop outcome is still in the balance. Since rainfall is variable and it is still early in the crop development, it is not yet possible to predict an outcome. The Ministry of Agriculture informed the USAID/DART that a crop projection will be carried out in September as is normally done. Early cessation of rainfall, could lead to yield loss and greater food needs in the months to come.
- According to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), Burkina Faso is not experiencing a generalized food crisis, although there are pockets of concern for food insecurity. In the 2004/2005 growing season, a surplus of approximately 435,000 MT of grain was produced. The 2003/2004 growing season was a record year for production, with a surplus of approximately 997,000 MT of grain. Evaluations performed in February, April, and June 2005 by U.N. agencies and FEWS NET indicated that existing food security problems are associated with access to and availability of food in the most affected areas. In such areas, an increase in grain prices and decrease in livestock prices have led to a deterioration of the terms of trade of livestock for food.
- FEWS NET reported that in Burkina Faso, a rise in child malnutrition often occurs during the lean period before the harvest. A June 2005 assessment identified the malnutrition rate among children at approximately 17 percent, comparable to the malnutrition rate of other years in Burkina Faso. FEWS NET reported that malnutrition is a concern in all regions of the country, with some areas more seriously affected than others. FEWS NET reported that its analysis did not establish a direct correlation between the level of agricultural production and malnutrition rates in the country.

Mauritania Update

- WFP reported that the August 3 coup did not significantly disrupt commodity distributions. According to FEWS NET, food security levels have stabilized and improved in areas that have received WFP commodities. However, food insecurity is increasing in areas that have not received significant rains. Where rains have fallen, the terms of trade have improved for pastoralists. According to WFP, as of mid-August, the agro-pastoral regions of Mauritania have received above-average rainfall, benefiting agricultural and pastoral activities. The onset of rains, however, as slowed distributions in southern Mauritania. In addition, seasonal flooding has cut off parts of Maghama, Mabout, Markeol, and Kankossa districts from WFP warehouses. Because of fuel shortages in Tidjikja, food distributions in parts of the Tagant region have slowed.

- Since it began distributing emergency commodities in April 2005, WFP has distributed approximately 18,600 MT of food to more than 400,000 beneficiaries in the regions of Brakna, Gorgol, Tagant, Assaba, and Hodh El Gharbi. WFP and its implementing partners have continued food distributions in spite of recent rains.
- WFP reported that it is funding a food distribution to 16,000 children and nursing mothers in more than 200 WFP-supported feeding centers. When school resumes with the start of the academic year in October, school feeding activities will resume. WHO plans to reach an additional 17,000 beneficiaries through its school feeding activities compared with the previous academic year.

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, Senegal, 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 nearly \$14 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 and Senegal, USAID supported locust prevention and response activities, including an aerial spraying campaign.

Niger

- USAID has provided nearly \$19 million in assistance to Niger to date in FY 2005. These funds have supported food security and agriculture projects, emergency and development food assistance, and airlifts of fortified food for emergency nutrition programs. USAID assistance funds programs focused on human rights, community-based development, child survival and health, and youth. USAID also provided 12,230 MT of development food assistance and 7,860 MT of emergency food assistance to Niger in FY 2005.

Mali

- To date in FY 2005, USAID has provided more than \$39 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 approximately \$18 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.

Senegal

- To date in FY 2005, USAID has provided nearly \$31 million to Senegal. USAID activities in Senegal focus largely on the sectors of health, economic growth, agriculture, and education. USAID provided 4,390 MT of development food assistance to Senegal in FY 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 poverty and 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 2.7 million people affected.

In Burkina Faso, Mali, and Mauritania, more than two million people are affected, and the situation in these countries warrants close monitoring.

- Regional assessments have used the word “affected” to impart that this population was impacted in some way by either locust infestation or the early cessation of rains. Affected populations have varying levels of humanitarian needs. Some may require food distributions, while others may require little or no assistance of any kind. 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.
- 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.
- 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>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE³			
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
CDC	Nutritional Survey	Countrywide	\$16,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,283,521
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
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	7,860 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$5,800,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$13,190,000
USAID/AFR ASSISTANCE			
	Youth Programs		\$500,000
	Democracy and Human Rights Fund		\$92,000
	Special Self-Help		\$74,000
	Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Initiative		\$1,050,000
	WARP Support		\$732,000
TOTAL USAID/AFR			\$2,448,000
TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO NIGER IN FY 2005			\$18,921,521

³ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 23, 2005.

USAID ASSISTANCE TO MALI

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE⁴			
Africare	1,710 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Development Food Assistance	Timbuktu Region	\$930,000
WFP	1,000 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$667,100
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$1,597,100
USAID/AFR ASSISTANCE			
	Economic Growth ⁵		\$1,723,000
	Education		\$5,755,000
	Democracy and Governance		\$1,447,000
	Health		\$15,705,000
	Agriculture/Environment ⁵		\$11,044,000
	Democracy and Human Rights Fund		\$70,000
	Special Self-Help Fund		\$77,000
	Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Initiative		\$725,000
	WARP Support		\$1,389,000
TOTAL USAID/AFR			\$37,935,000
TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO MALI IN FY 2005			\$39,532,100

⁴For 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).

⁵This total includes funding for the locust response.

USAID ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE⁶			
DFS	Locust Response		\$177,777
World Vision	Supplementary Feeding Program		\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$227,777
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
World Vision and the Doulos Community	19,330 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Development Food Assistance	Nouakchott	\$6,579,600
WFP	16,240 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Brakna, Gorgol, Tagant, Assaba, and Hodh El Gharbi	\$8,671,700
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$15,251,300
USAID/AFR ASSISTANCE			
	Democracy and Human Rights Fund		\$80,000
	Special Self-Help Fund		\$87,000
	Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Initiative		\$250,000
	WARP Support		\$459,000
TOTAL USAID/AFR			\$876,000
TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA IN FY 2005			\$16,355,077

⁶USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 23, 2005.

USAID ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
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
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$15,570,000
USAID/AFR ASSISTANCE			
	Democracy and Human Rights Fund		\$69,500
	Special Self-Help fund		\$104,000
	WARP Support		\$1,628,000
	Economic Support Fund		\$463,000
TOTAL USAID/AFR			\$2,264,500
TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO IN FY 2005			\$17,834,500

USAID ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE			
Counterpart International	4,390 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Development Food Assistance	Countrywide	\$2,268,700
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$2,268,700
USAID/AFR ASSISTANCE			
	Economic Growth ⁷		\$2,474,810
	Basic Education		\$2,927,000
	Democracy and Governance		\$1,655,000
	Health		\$14,775,000
	Agriculture/Environment ⁷		\$5,188,000
	Human Rights		\$500,000
	Democracy and Human Rights Fund		\$70,500
	Special Self-Help Fund		\$80,000
	Trans-Sahara Counter-Terrorism Initiative		\$175,000
	WARP Support		\$803,000
TOTAL USAID/AFR			\$28,648,310
TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL IN FY 2005			\$30,917,010

⁷ This total includes funding for the locust response.

USAID REGIONAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCUST RESPONSE

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE⁸			
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
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$7,331,798
USAID/AFR ASSISTANCE⁹			
USAID/WARP	Locust Response	Regional	\$1,500,000
TOTAL USAID/AFR			\$1,500,000
USAID/ANE ASSISTANCE			
Gov. of Morocco	Locust Response	Morocco	\$1,500,000
TOTAL USAID/ANE			\$1,500,000
TOTAL USAID REGIONAL ASSISTANCE TO LOCUST RESPONSE IN FY 2005			\$10,331,798

⁸ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 23, 2005.

⁹ In addition, USAID/AFR provided \$1 million to Mali and \$2.5 million to Senegal for locust response, which is reflected in the “USAID Assistance to Mali” and “USAID Assistance to Senegal” charts.

TOTAL USAID ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER, AND SAHEL LOCUST RESPONSE IN FY 2005	\$133,892,006
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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 – 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 – Keyword: Donations
 - The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.