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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 #4, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

August 26, 2005

Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 23, 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 for 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. On August 26, Assistant Administrator Hess and the USAID/DART traveled to Gao Region in northeastern of Mali.
- The U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported on August 26 that 31,259 cholera cases and 517 deaths have been recorded in Burkina Faso, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal to date in 2005. Cholera is endemic to West Africa and cases are expected at this time of year; however, WHO reported that there has been an “unusually high incidence” of cholera this year. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) announced plans to hold a meeting in Dakar, Senegal the week of August 29, to assess the scope of the outbreak and response to date, and to agree on priority actions to enhance future responses.
- The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) reported on August 25 that low numbers of scattered solitarious adult locusts have been found in Mauritania, Mali, and Niger, and reports of limited locust breeding have come from Mauritania. Ground surveys supplemented by helicopters are underway in the Sahel to detect the first signs of an increase in the locust population. However, locust control operations in these countries have not been needed this growing season.

Niger Update

- On August 23, Assistant Administrator Hess traveled with the USAID/DART to Tillaberi Region, where the Government of Niger (GON) reports that 823,000 people are vulnerable. As a result of locust infestation and drought in 2004, the region suffered a 131,000 metric ton (MT) cereal deficit, approximately 57 percent of the national cereal deficit. Regional government representatives stated that the region had not suffered a large number of animal losses since many animals moved to better pasture in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Benin.
- The governor of Tillaberi Region reported that the 2005 rainy season has been satisfactory to date, and that 26 out of 30 meteorological posts throughout the region have recorded rain surpluses compared to 2004. According to a government crop production assessment, production is expected to reach 96 percent of optimal levels in areas planted if rains are favorable and continue until September 30, while production levels will be 82 percent if rains stop on September 15. The government crop assessment found that 217 out of 1,661 villages in the region were at risk for food insecurity as of July 31.
- Assistant Administrator Hess and the USAID/DART also visited Dessa, Tillaberi Region, a village that benefited from a USAID-funded seed fair program. In the Tillaberi and Ouallam departments, USAID implementing partner Catholic Relief Services (CRS) conducted seed fairs in June 2005 during which 10,000 households received their preferred choice of seeds to plant during the 2005 agricultural season. Women beneficiaries planted cash crops, such as sesame and okra, in fields close to their homes, while men worked the families’ plots of millet, sorghum, and beans.

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 WHO and the GON Ministry of Health, 125 cases of cholera, with 15 deaths—representing a case-fatality rate of 12 percent—were reported in the Bouza Department of Tahoua Region from July 13 to August 24. A WHO mission assessed the area and delivered antibiotics and oral rehydration salts to treat the most severe cases. WHO has distributed cholera kits that provide treatment for up to 100 patients to treat severe cholera cases in the 8 regions of Niger.
- WHO reported that a 6-day workshop for doctors and nurses on managing severe malnutrition began in Tillaberi on August 22. The workshop is the first in a series of similar training courses jointly implemented by WHO and the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF).
- WFP reported that a meeting was held in Niamey on August 22 to implement WFP’s monitoring and evaluation plan for the first round of general food distributions. A post-distribution monitoring (PDM) exercise will be conducted using focus group methodology. On August 29, WFP will hold a training for all food aid monitors and program assistants on how to administer the PDM questionnaire.
- WFP has appealed for \$57.6 million through the Niger Emergency Operation (EMOP). To date, WFP has received \$28 million in contributions, or approximately 49 percent of the appeal. Due to anticipated shortages of pulses for the 2 rounds of general distributions in August and September, WFP may reduce the pulses ration from 15 to 10 kg in the September round of general distributions.

Mali Update

- On August 22, the USAID/DART met with the governor of Gao Region. The governor noted that patchy and localized rains in the mainly pastoral region had contributed to poor livestock conditions by bringing many herds together in concentrated areas, resulting in significant overgrazing. There were also reports of high animal mortality. In addition, in the small agricultural area of Ansango, grain-eating birds reportedly destroyed many crops this year.
- The USAID/DART traveled to Djebok in Gao Region to observe the weekly livestock market on August 22. The animals appeared healthy, and relatively inexpensive wheat flour and rice were available from Algerian traders who had traveled to the market to purchase livestock. As the USAID/DART has seen and heard repeatedly, a significant number of livestock died this year, animal prices were low, and cereal prices were high. The price for goats was half the normal price for this time of year, and cattle prices were down by 33 percent.
- On August 23, the USAID/DART traveled to N’Tillit, approximately 130 km south of the town of Gao, and met with local officials and community members. The situation in N’Tillit has improved significantly with the recent rains. The area along the road was thick with pasture and full of large pools of water, far better than conditions encountered in other parts of the affected regions. N’Tillit was the first community the USAID/DART encountered in which residents stated that 2004—with the locust emergency and only 56 mm of rain—was considerably worse than 2005 with 196 mm of rain to date. The animals around N’Tillit appeared healthy, but residents noted that more than 50 percent of their animals, mainly cattle and sheep, had died earlier in the year. As encountered virtually everywhere in Mali’s affected regions, livestock prices were reported as approximately half of normal, and grain prices approximately double, diminishing the terms of trade between livestock and grain.
- From August 18 to 20, the USAID/DART assessed food security conditions throughout Timbuktu Region, visiting the districts of Timbuktu, Goundam, and Gourma Rharous. Failed rains and the locust emergency of 2004 decimated agricultural production and pasture conditions. As a result, terms of trade to exchange animals for grain became less favorable, making the purchase of grains extremely expensive for pastoralists. In this region, the USAID/DART observed hundreds of animal carcasses and received reports that areas lost of up to 70 percent of their herds. Local leaders in Timbuktu Region agreed that while the present situation does not amount to famine and is not as bad as the 1984/1985 drought, real needs are present.

Burkina Faso Update

- According to the USAID/DART, the Government of Burkina Faso’s (GOBF) cereal distributions to the northern provinces have reduced the national security stock to the minimum allowable level of between 11,000 and 12,000 MT. The GOBF cannot access these reserves without declaring an emergency. The GOBF aims to maintain a cereals reserve of 35,000 MT to ensure a sufficient amount for every resident for one month.
- According to WFP, from November 2004 to September/October 2005, the GOBF, WFP, and NGOs will have distributed or sold at subsidized prices approximately 35,500 MT of cereals. The GOBF sold 14,000 MT of cereals at subsidized prices and distributed 500 MT from the national security stocks; WFP and NGOs will have distributed 12,000 MT; and WFP’s development program will have distributed 9,000 MT to affected areas through food-for-work and school feeding programs. These interventions are to a large extent an expansion of existing programs and have lessened the severity of the localized food crisis.

Mauritania Update

- The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reported on August 23 that a good start to the rainy season, coupled with the effects of emergency aid programs, has notably reduced food insecurity in agro-pastoral and rain-fed crop zones in Mauritania. Within these zones, however, pockets of extreme food security exist in Bassikounou Moughataa, located in southwest Mauritania, and Aftout, west of the agro-pastoral

zone. Both WFP and Médecins Sans Frontières/Belgium have observed high malnutrition rates, which FEWS NET has noted are linked to reduced food access because of extreme poverty, a break in trade with Mali because of heavy rainfall in the border zone with Mali, and delays in the delivery of assistance.

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 such organizations as the West African Economic and Monetary Union, the Economic Community of West African States, and the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (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 community-based development, child survival and health, youth, and human rights. USAID has 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 has 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 has 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 has 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 2 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 steady improvement. Prospects for crop harvests in Niger and the rest of the Sahel 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 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 26, 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 26, 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 26, 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.