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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 #6, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

September 9, 2005

Note: The last fact sheet was dated September 2, 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..... \$134,098,006

CURRENT SITUATION

Niger Update

- The USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) Livelihoods Specialist and Food Aid Officer traveled to Maradi Region from September 5 to 6 to meet with USAID implementing partner World Vision, which has completed the first tranche of the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) food distributions and is preparing for second tranche distributions to begin in one to two weeks. World Vision anticipates completing all general distribution activities prior to the upcoming harvest.
- World Vision is conducting WFP general distribution activities outside of their normal operating areas, which have fared better in response to this year's series of shocks than surrounding communities. Remaining short-, middle-, and long-term needs include support to cereal banks, cash-for-work activities, micro-credit programs, and health and hygiene promotion.
- The USAID/DART Trade and Investment Specialist assessed Niger's role in regional food markets and the role these markets played in the current food and nutrition crisis. Due to poor agricultural production, cereal prices were higher than normal in 2005, reducing households' purchasing power and the availability of imported food in Nigerian markets. The lack of attractive prices and profitable transactions, rather than unofficial export bans imposed by the Government of Burkina Faso, resulted in the negligible movement of agricultural commodities between Burkina Faso and Niger during the past year.
- On September 2, the bypass at the washed-out bridge in Guene, Benin also washed out. This bypass was a key transit point for relief commodities entering Niger from the port of Cotonou. Lines of vehicles several kilometers long formed on both sides of the bridge. On September 8, the temporary bypass was re-opened for heavy trucks, and WFP plans to install a baily bridge within six weeks.
- Partially funded by USAID, the WFP Humanitarian Air Service (HAS) began service on August 29. WFP HAS typically operates flights four days a week between Niamey, Maradi, Zinder, Tahoua, and Agadez. From August 29 to 31, WFP HAS transported 12 passengers and 300 kg of humanitarian cargo.
- The Government of Niger's Ministry of Health (MOH) and the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) continue to closely monitor outbreaks of communicable diseases. The MOH National Health Surveillance System coordinates health reporting and compiles nationwide health data. The data reported, however, may not be representative of health conditions throughout the country. Malaria remains a major cause of morbidity and mortality, with nearly 20,000 cases reported in the first week of September. However, this number is significantly lower than the caseloads of 2003 and 2004.

Mali Update

- The USAID/DART in Mali traveled through Kidal Region from September 5 to 9 to perform an assessment of the food security situation in the area. On September 8, the USAID/DART traveled to Aguelhok to visit a therapeutic feeding program run by Action Contre la Faim (ACF) that is currently serving two severely malnourished children. While in Aguelhok, the USAID/DART met with the town's mayor, who stated that his top priority for Aguelhok is replenishing herds depleted by the recent fodder shortage.

¹ U.N. World Food Program

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

- On September 7, the USAID/DART held meetings in Kidal with WFP and NGOs, including ACF, Norwegian Church Aid (NCA), and several local NGOs. On September 6, the USAID/DART traveled from Kidal town to Abeibara to conduct an assessment.
- From August 26 to 28, the Assistant Administrator of USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, Michael Hess, traveled with the USAID/DART through Bourem district in Gao Region, a structurally poor area that was especially hard hit by the effects of drought and livestock losses this year. On August 27, the delegation stopped at the health center in Hamakouladji where women and children had gathered to receive supplementary rations for malnourished children. The USAID/DART noted that the health center was providing instructions on the proper way to mix the enriched flour, sugar, and oil they received from WFP. Health center staffers stated that in July, 125 children were screened for malnutrition, of whom 5 were severely malnourished, 40 were moderately malnourished, 41 slightly malnourished, and 39 in good nutritional status.
- While in Hamakouladji, USAID/DART representatives discussed a food-for-work (FFW) program, operated in conjunction with WFP, with representatives of the local NGO running the program. This program is structured such that WFP provides the food commodities and the local NGO manages the activities. Through this program, men and women participants build gravity-fed irrigation channels and receive 2.5 to 5 kg of grain per person per day in return. The local NGO reported that the program has grown significantly since its inception.
- On August 26, the USAID/DART met with the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) representative in Mali. In late 2004, the locust emergency combined with drought caused alarm among authorities in the Government of Mali, and media sources began spreading the message that a famine was looming. This negatively impacted market functions and pushed commodity prices higher than ever before. Simultaneously, producers held back reserves, difficulties in Côte D'Ivoire stopped corn imports from entering Mali, and higher purchasing power in neighboring countries caused private regional cereal exporters to sell grains for higher prices abroad. In addition, fuel prices, at all-time highs, increased transportation costs to remote areas. These and other factors contributed to the current situation in Mali.

Burkina Faso Update

- From August 30 to 31, the USAID/DART and a U.S. Embassy representative conducted a field assessment to Thou, Yatenga Province, and Banh, Loroum Province, in the northern region of Burkina Faso. The team noted that food security in Banh was precarious as villagers expect this year's harvest to produce only three months' worth of food. USAID/DART assessments showed that water retention structures, better management of available water, and cereal banks are needed to improve communities' resilience to future food security shocks.
- From August 24 to 27, the USAID/DART conducted a field assessment in Burkina Faso's Northern and Sahel regions. The primary source of income in the provinces visited is agriculture, and secondary sources of income include raising livestock, gardening, and trade. Although the food security situation is not approaching emergency levels, village residents stated that the food situation is much worse now than at the same time last year.
- Inadequate availability of and access to cereals have contributed to the current localized food crisis in Burkina Faso. A report published in October 2004 by the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), FEWS NET, and WFP discusses the factors that curtailed food availability. Significant farm level, commercial, and security cereal stocks were available until August 2004. In the southern and western parts of the country, large amounts of stocks were available, and traders from Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana purchased much of these stocks because regions of both of these countries experienced droughts in 2004. In October 2004, farm level stocks in some regions were low, and prices started to increase more rapidly than is normal prior to the harvest. The poor integration of Burkina Faso's markets and extremely low output in the north were expected to drive down food availability on the national level.
- Access to food also contributed to the current localized food crisis in Burkina Faso. According to the joint assessment report, in the southern part of Burkina Faso in 2004/2005, access to food was expected to be favorable due to existing stocks and a promising harvest. The northern parts of the country, however, experienced rapid price increases beginning in mid-September 2004. At the same time, livestock prices dropped by 50 percent. The report predicted a severe decline in food security in the Sahel Region by December 2004.
- Malnutrition in children under five years of age in Burkina Faso is a complex phenomenon that is not linked to agricultural production. Preliminary results from a meta analysis by WFP, the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the Institute for Research and Development indicate that diet is not the primary cause of malnutrition in Burkina Faso. Factors that are strongly correlated to malnutrition include the mother's education level, poor weaning practices, lack of access to clean drinking water, and precarious health status with frequent malaria and/or diarrheal disease episodes in the two weeks prior to the survey.

Mauritania Update

- From August 29 to September 4, the USAID/DART traveled over 1,500 kilometers in southwestern and southeastern Mauritania, from Nouakchott to Bassikinou. Due to rains that began in July, pastures are green and grazing conditions are good. Rainfall amounts were normal in August. If the rainy season is average or above average, grazing conditions will be very good. The USAID/DART observed numerous camels, goats, and cows,

and they reported that the animals appeared healthy. In parts of Mauritania, the planting season has begun, and sorghum and millet plants are more than one foot high. The area planted is less than normal, however, due to reduced access to seeds.

- On August 27 and 28, the USAID/DART traveled to Rosso, a city in the Trarza Region of southwest Mauritania. In early August, the first rains of the season flooded a portion of Rosso, affecting approximately 10,000 people. City officials, the military, and the National Food Security Commission (CSA) have provided food, water, medical attention, and temporary shelter to affected populations.
- On August 29, FEWS NET reported that approximately 1.8 million people in Mauritania were considered food insecure as a result of locusts and drought in 2004. In mid-August, approximately 500,000 of the 1.2 million people identified as vulnerable were receiving assistance from at least one emergency relief agency. Emergency operations for an additional 700,000 persons have been hampered by recent heavy rainfall that washed out roads and prevented access to affected areas. Serious food security problems persist, in particular among the poor agricultural households of the Aftout, the southeast of the two Hodhs, and the river valley, as well as in the agro-pastoral and pastoral households affected by poor terms of trade and five years of poor agricultural production.

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 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 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 more than \$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 and 1,000 MT of emergency 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.

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 19,330 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.

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.

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 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.
- 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.
- Assistant Administrator Michael Hess traveled to Niger and Mali from August 19 to 28 to visit USAID-funded projects in affected areas and conduct humanitarian assessments with USAID/DART representatives in the field. Assistant Administrator Hess and his delegation reported that fields are green and crops appear abundant and healthy throughout Mali, and that Niger will probably have a good harvest this year. However, Assistant Administrator Hess expressed concern with household debt levels throughout the region due to household borrowing to survive the current lean season and carry-over debt from the lean season in 2004.

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
WFP	Humanitarian Air Passenger Service	Countrywide	\$125,000
CDC	Nutritional Survey	Countrywide	\$97,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$3,489,521
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			\$19,127,521

³ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 9, 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

⁴ 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).

⁵ 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>
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

⁶ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 9, 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 September 9, 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	\$134,098,006
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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.