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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

West Africa – Floods

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2009

September 28, 2009

BACKGROUND AND KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Heavy seasonal rains and associated flooding have killed more than 180 people and affected more than 600,000 others in West Africa since June 2009, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). On September 15, the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) reported that no major communicable disease outbreaks have been recorded in affected countries, but noted increases in malaria and diarrheal disease cases.
- On September 4, USAID/OFDA deployed a senior program officer to Burkina Faso to assess humanitarian needs and monitor relief efforts. USAID/OFDA is providing more than \$1.5 million to Catholic Relief Services (CRS), the U.N. Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) for interventions in agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, and water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), benefiting approximately 125,000 flood-affected individuals.
- From September 22 to 24, representatives from USAID/OFDA and the European Commission’s Humanitarian Aid Office (ECHO) conducted an assessment of flood-affected populations in the city of Agadez, Niger. The assessment team met with U.N. agencies, local Government of Niger (GoN) officials, and non-governmental organization (NGO) staff and visited several relief commodities distribution sites, as well as temporary sites hosting displaced persons.
- USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has granted approval for partners CRS and Africare to direct nearly 743 metric tons (MT) of current USAID/FFP-funded food assistance in Burkina Faso, valued at more than \$750,000, to meet emergency needs of affected populations over a one-month period. USAID/FFP has also granted approval for Africare to redirect 28 MT of food assistance, valued at nearly \$38,000, for flood-affected populations in Niger.

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE		
Country	Estimated Affected Population	Source
Burkina Faso	150,000	OCHA – September 10, 2009
Mauritania	9,000	OCHA – September 10, 2009
Niger	79,129	OCHA – September 21, 2009
Senegal	264,000	OCHA – September 21, 2009

FY 2009 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE

USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Burkina Faso for Floods.....	\$1,524,785
USAID/FFP Humanitarian Assistance to Burkina Faso for Floods.....	\$752,000
USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Mauritania for Floods	\$55,129
USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Niger for Floods	\$50,000
USAID/FFP Humanitarian Assistance to Niger for Floods	\$37,915
USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance to Senegal for Floods.....	\$50,000
Total USAID Humanitarian Assistance to West Africa for Floods.....	\$2,469,829

CURRENT SITUATION

- The USAID-funded Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reported that heavy rains have caused flooding in the western portions of West Africa in recent weeks. FEWS NET indicated that West Africa has experienced a highly variable rainy season to date, with some areas receiving excess rainfall, while others, such as the climatologically wet region along the border between Liberia and Côte d’Ivoire, have been unusually dry.

Burkina Faso

- On September 1, flooding resulting from unusually heavy rain killed at least 8 people and affected approximately 150,000 others in the capital of Ouagadougou, according to OCHA. On September 1, Ouagadougou received approximately 10.5 inches of rain in 12 hours. Approximately 53,000 people remain displaced, according to the Burkina Faso Red Cross Society and the Government of Burkina Faso (GoBF).
- Displaced people sought refuge in schools, churches, mosques, and with host families, while the central hospital was partially closed due to floodwaters. Flooding also destroyed a generator in the city water plant, but city

officials rerouted water from outside the city to meet water supply needs until the plant is repaired. The GoBF National Committee for Emergency and Rehabilitation Assistance (CONASUR) conducted assessments and identified water storage tanks for displaced populations as an immediate humanitarian need.

- A majority of the approximately 53,000 people displaced by floods have been taking shelter in schools. In order to ensure a timely start to the school year on October 1, the GoBF began relocating displaced populations to newly-established temporary sites on September 23.

Mauritania

- Starting in late August, heavy rains resulted in significant flooding in southern Mauritania, particularly affecting Rosso city and surrounding towns and villages. According to media reports, the floods killed at least one person, damaged houses, and led to population displacement.
- Following a joint assessment of affected areas in and around Rosso city, U.S. Embassy and U.N. agency personnel reported that the floods had displaced nearly 10,000 people, representing more than 2,000 families. In response to the flooding, the Government of Mauritania (GoM) deployed teams to relocate affected individuals to temporary camps, provide medical assistance, and begin draining floodwaters. In addition, the GoM distributed emergency relief supplies, including food, potable water, and tents.

Niger

- On September 2, flooding resulting from unusually heavy rain and a dam breach on the Telwa River killed 3 people and affected approximately 79,000 people in the city of Agadez and 3 nearby communes in northern Niger, according to the GoN. Relief agencies are assisting approximately 850 displaced families in temporary sites in Agadez city, while the GoN reported that floods affected approximately 6,500 families, or approximately 42,000 individuals. Flooding also killed approximately 3,650 livestock and damaged or destroyed roads, schools, wells, and agricultural land.
- Assessment teams from the GoN and the U.N. have identified humanitarian needs, including emergency shelter, food, medicine, potable water, emergency relief supplies, and mosquito nets. The GoN has established a National Coordination Committee, which has developed an action plan and requested international donor support to help meet identified needs.

Senegal

- Since mid-August, heavy seasonal rains have flooded several areas in Senegal. In the Pikine suburb of the capital city Dakar, local authorities reported flooding in 17 of 21 neighborhoods in the low-lying Pikine East section, which does not have a functional sewer system, and noted that 24,000 people required immediate assistance.
- The Government of Senegal (GoS) activated the disaster relief plan on August 27 and appealed for assistance from international partners. The GoS provided assistance such as water trucks to affected areas, including Pikine East. However, a combination of continued rainfall, a shallow water table, and poor drainage has made water removal extremely difficult.
- On September 14, a USAID assessment team observed large amounts of standing water affecting houses and public infrastructure in the Pikine suburb, while local health authorities reported that malaria and water-borne diseases were becoming increasing health concerns.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Burkina Faso

- On September 2, U.S. Chargé d'Affaires, a.i., Samuel C. Laeuchli declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods in Burkina Faso. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 to the U.S. Embassy in Ouagadougou for the purchase of water storage units, which CRS distributed at temporary shelters for affected populations. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided emergency relief supplies valued at nearly \$75,000 through a previous grant to UNICEF. To date, USAID/OFDA is providing more than \$1.5 million for interventions in agriculture and food security, economic recovery and market systems, and WASH, benefiting approximately 125,000 flood-affected individuals. USAID/FFP has approved the redirection of approximately 743 MT of food assistance towards emergency operations.
- Since September 4, a USAID/OFDA senior program officer has been stationed in Burkina Faso to assess humanitarian needs and closely monitor relief efforts in conjunction with the U.S. Embassy in Ouagadougou, USAID/West Africa, USAID/FFP, and humanitarian partners.

Mauritania

- On September 9, U.S. Ambassador Mark Boulware declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, USAID/OFDA provided approximately \$25,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Nouakchott to UNICEF for the purchase and installation of 25 latrines in temporary camps for affected individuals, as well as the provision of

hygiene supplies. In addition, USAID/OFDA provided a contribution of approximately \$30,000 in relief commodities through a previous grant to UNICEF.

Niger

- On September 16, U.S. Ambassador Bernadette M. Allen declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods in Niger. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Niamey to Mercy Corps for cash-for-work activities to rehabilitate basic WASH infrastructure and conduct WASH activities in affected areas.
- From September 22 to 24, representatives from USAID/OFDA and ECHO conducted an assessment of flood-affected populations in the city of Agadez, Niger.
- USAID/FFP has granted approval for Africare to redirect 28 MT of food assistance, valued at nearly \$38,000, for flood-affected populations in Niger.

Senegal

- On September 17, U.S. Chargé d' Affaires, a.i., Kevin Mullally declared a disaster due to the effects of the floods. In response, USAID/OFDA provided \$50,000 through USAID/Senegal to CRS for WASH activities and the provision of equipment and supplies for community volunteers responding to flooding.
- The USAID/OFDA regional office in Dakar has continued to monitor the situation in conjunction with USAID/Senegal and humanitarian partners.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO FOR FLOODS IN FY 2009

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CRS	WASH	Ouagadougou	\$50,000
UNICEF	WASH	Ouagadougou	\$74,785
FAO	Agriculture and Food Security	Ouagadougou	\$400,000
WFP	Economic Recovery and Market Systems	Ouagadougou	\$1,000,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$1,524,785
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
CRS and Africare	743 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Ouagadougou	\$752,000
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$752,000
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO BURKINA FASO FOR FLOODS IN FY 2009			\$2,276,785

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 28, 2009.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA FOR FLOODS IN FY 2009

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
UNICEF	WASH	Rosso	\$25,100
UNICEF	WASH	Rosso	\$30,029
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO MAURITANIA FOR FLOODS IN FY 2009			\$55,129

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 28, 2009.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER FOR FLOODS IN FY 2009

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
Mercy Corps	WASH	Affected Areas	\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA			\$50,000
USAID/FFP ASSISTANCE²			
Africare	28 MT of P.L. 480 Title II Emergency Food Assistance	Affected Areas	\$37,915
TOTAL USAID/FFP			\$37,915
TOTAL USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO NIGER FOR FLOODS IN FY 2009			\$87,915

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 28, 2009.

² Estimated value of food assistance.

USAID HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL FOR FLOODS IN FY 2009

<i>Implementing Partner</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Amount</i>
USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE¹			
CRS	WASH	Dakar	\$50,000
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SENEGAL FOR FLOODS IN FY 2009			\$50,000

¹ USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of September 28, 2009.

TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO WEST AFRICA FOR FLOODS IN FY 2009	\$2,469,829
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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 flood response efforts in West Africa can be found at www.interaction.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, and warehouse space); 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.