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PRESS RELEASE

USAID Provides \$3.7 million to Assist with Global Food Security in Senegal

DAKAR, SENEGAL – The U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) is providing more than \$3.7 million in assistance to lower rates of malnutrition and increase food security of families in Senegal.

Of this \$3.7 million, USAID is providing \$2.7 million to improve community-based nutrition efforts and agriculture production in the regions of Ziguinchor, Sedhiou and Kolda in Senegal. The program, implemented by USAID partners Catholic Relief Services and Christian Children’s Fund, will provide community-based nutrition programs for malnourished children; build community awareness for the importance of good nutrition and how to prevent malnutrition; educate farmers on the benefits of improved seed varieties; organize seed fairs that will make improved seed varieties available; and provide microloans to community-based groups.

USAID is also providing \$1.05 million to the United Nations Food & Agricultural Organization (FAO) to provide regional coordination of food security and agriculture efforts. With this funding, FAO will strengthen livelihoods and improve the nutritional status of the most vulnerable households affected by rising food prices.

“USAID’s assistance will help thousands of families struggling to cope with the immediate impacts of the global food and financial crisis on their households,” said Regina Davis, Principal Regional Advisor of USAID/OFDA’s Regional Office for West and North Africa. “These projects will provide viable alternatives to increase self-sufficiency and lower overall malnutrition rates in vulnerable households.”

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for nearly 50 years.

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