

Overview of Food for Peace Office Programs in West Africa

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U.S. Agency for International Development's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) provides grants for food assistance to private voluntary organizations (PVOs) and the UN World Food Program (WFP) under Title II of Public Law 480. In FY 2010, FFP provided more than \$2 billion in resources, including commodity and freight, benefiting people in 50 countries worldwide. FFP provides both emergency food aid (which aims to address food aid needs arising from natural disasters, such as floods or droughts, and complex emergencies often characterized by insecurity and population displacement) and non-emergency food aid (which aims to address the underlying causes of chronic food insecurity).

FFP implements food security enhancing programs in the region through the direct distribution or the sale of food made available by the U.S. government. In FY 2010, FFP allocated close to \$129 million in Title II resources to West Africa, including commodity and freight. Overall, about 60% of the resources was for non-emergencies and 40% were used to address emergency needs in the region.

FFP Non-emergency Programs: Title II PVOs in West Africa use non-emergency food aid for direct distribution and the sale (monetization) of food, using local currency proceeds to implement development activities. Direct distribution can provide a safety net for the neediest through mother and child feeding activities. The proceeds from the sale of U.S food also contribute to improving rural infrastructure such as roads and small dams through Food for Work (FFW) activities and fund programs in the areas of agriculture, education, microfinance and nutrition. During FFP's FY 2006 strategy development process, the following six West African countries were selected as priority countries for Title II non-emergency programming: Burkina Faso, Chad, Liberia, Mauritania, Niger and Sierra Leone. Six other countries (Benin, Cape Verde, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, and Senegal) were dropped from the FFP list. In these countries, Title II non-emergency programs are being closed out, except for Mali where FFP has accepted new five-year development programs in FY 2008. The majority of FY 2010 non-emergency commodities were provided to Niger, Burkina Faso, Sierra Leone, and Liberia and supported activities related to improving household food security, agricultural productivity, and maternal and child health.

FFP Emergency Programs: FFP responds to natural and man-made emergencies that have had a negative impact on West Africans' food availability or access. FFP emergency food aid assistance is provided in all countries in the West African region as needed. In FY 2010, FFP provided over \$53 million in emergency resources to assist vulnerable people in Niger and refugees and internally displaced persons, in Cameroon. Over \$26 million in FY 2010 emergency funds supported three new, innovative Emergency Food Security Programs (EFSP) which provided cash that can be used for local and regional purchase of food and other interventions such as food vouchers and cash transfers.

Selected FFP programs in West Africa

Niger: Currently, three Multi Year Assistance Programs (MYAPs) with an estimated total life-of-activity (LOA) value of about \$71 million cover all regions of Niger with a complex combination of food security, nutrition, land management and maternal and child health activities. About 70% of non-emergency funds support activities relating to improving agricultural productivity and 30% to improving maternal and child health. The three lead PVOs for these MYAPs are: CRS (with CARE and Helen Keller International), Africare and Counterpart International. These three PVOs plan to assist over 500,000 Nigeriens over the next five years.

Mauritania: Ongoing Title II programs in Mauritania benefit children under five years of age, pregnant and lactating women, and persons with HIV/AIDS, as well as small farmers and pastoralists living in the agro-pastoral zone. Activities supported by Title II food aid include but are not limited to: supplementary feeding targeting vulnerable groups in moderate food insecurity; provision of water supply and essential nutrients; and establishment of micro-credit institutions and market gardens. In FY 2010, Mauritania received \$5 million in Title II non-emergency funds.

Selected Partners

Africare, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), CARE, Counterpart International (CPI), USAID Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), World Food Program (WFP).

Click on the following links for details on FFP's mission, procedures, and ongoing assistance efforts: <http://senegal.usaid.gov/> and http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/ffp/wherewework.html

If you need additional information or clarification, please email or contact FFP/R/Dakar via email at zemunegus@usaid.gov or telephone at +221-33-869-6100 (Dakar, Senegal).