



**SUBJECT:** Amendment No. 04  
USAID/DCHA/FFP Annual Program Statement (APS) No. FFP-13-000001  
International Emergency Food Assistance

**DATE:** January 8, 2015

Consistent with Section III.B of Annual Program Statement FFP-13-000001 (the APS), the purpose of this amendment is to request concept paper submissions for International Disaster Assistance (IDA) funding under the Emergency Food Security Program (EFSP) to address emergency needs in the Sahel. This year there are targeted acute food crises throughout the Sahel that require external assistance. The region will face localized food deficits in 2015 due to erratic rainfall and localized drought in 2014, as well as continued conflict and displacement. In order to have grant awards in place in time to respond to the 2015 lean season, Food for Peace/West Africa (FFP/WA) is requesting concept papers be submitted by **February 6, 2015**. All applications should be submitted electronically through FFP's Management Information System (FFPMIS)<sup>1</sup> no later than 12:00 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (EST) on February 6, 2015, for consideration. FFP will consider applications received after this deadline only after reviewing those submitted on time, if sufficient or adequate responses were not received, and funding continues to be available.

This amendment excludes requests for Ebola and West African countries not listed below under "Geographic Targeting Priorities", which will be handled separately. Following the process outlined in the APS, as previously amended, FFP estimates that the time from submission of a concept paper to award issuance is approximately three months. Organizations with current FFP funding that wish to be considered for an extension should submit under this amendment.

Prioritization will be given to submissions that support both relief and recovery activities focusing on the most vulnerable populations within the proposed geographic target areas as indicated below. It is expected that interventions will target anticipated food needs arising with the upcoming lean season. Applicants are encouraged to provide evidence-based data demonstrating food needs in the proposed geographic target areas.

In both emergency and recovery contexts, FFP programs seek to reinforce the resilience of affected populations. FFP programming contributing to greater resilience includes conditional food distributions, cash transfers or food vouchers tied to asset creation and rehabilitation of community infrastructure, community based disaster risk reduction initiatives, or other activities

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<sup>1</sup> FFPMIS can be accessed at <https://usaid-ffp.entellitrak.com/etk-usaid-ffp-prod/login.request.do?service=%2Fhome.do>. Training and support materials on how to access and use the FFPMIS system can be found at <http://www.fsnnetwork.org/document/food-peace-management-information-system-ffpmis-resources>.

that help to mitigate the impact of shocks and promote recovery. FFP will confer with the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) in evaluating and making a final determination for applications that involve sectors typically funded by OFDA.

Designed to provide adequate time to achieve and measure sustainable change, FFP non-emergency development programs will be the main vehicle for multi-year FFP resilience-building initiatives. However, FFP may issue standalone FFP emergency APS solicitations for multi-year work if unique conditions and partnerships on the ground merit such an approach. This amendment to the APS is not designed to support multi-year awards.

Except as specifically amended herein, all other terms and conditions of the subject APS, as previously amended, remain unchanged and in full force and effect. Accordingly, the subject APS, available at <http://www.usaid.gov/what-we-do/agriculture-and-food-security/food-assistance/programs/emergency-programs>, as previously amended, is hereby further amended as follows:

**Background:**

The West African region is currently experiencing a series of food security shocks that are exacerbating an already challenging environment. Increasing civil conflicts in Nigeria continue to drive many displaced families into neighboring countries of Chad and Niger. The political stalemate in Mali requires continued support for refugees in Mauritania, Niger and Burkina Faso as well as internally displaced persons and vulnerable populations. Refugees and returnees often arrive with significant food and nutrition needs, straining host community resources and necessitating increased external support.

Weather-related shocks continue to plague this region as well, particularly in the Sahel where the upcoming agricultural campaign is predicted to be especially affected for the Senegal River Valley and in parts of Niger and Chad. The main agricultural season this past year (May – August 2014) generally began on time across the region, but moderate rain delays were experienced in western Chad, eastern Niger, and northern Senegal. Rains were also inconsistent and unevenly distributed; some countries experienced a late start to rains, while early rainfall followed by unevenly distributed precipitation affected agro-pastoral areas of Burkina Faso, Chad, and Mali before rains normalized. Insecurity and population displacement have affected the amount of food available in local markets, particularly in southern Chad and southeastern Mauritania, resulting in increased prices and decreased access to food for the most vulnerable.

**Eligible Food Assistance:**

Under this APS amendment, FFP has identified the following mechanisms toward providing the most appropriate and effective emergency food assistance response under this amendment.<sup>2</sup>

- Local procurement
- Regional procurement
- Cash transfers
- Food vouchers

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<sup>2</sup> Under this amendment, FFP is not considering Title II in-kind food assistance.

### **Geographic Targeting Priorities:**

FFP is soliciting Concept Papers under this APS amendment for the following geographic areas and sectors, in five countries:

#### **Chad**

Surrounded by four conflict countries and prone to climatic shocks, Chad will continue to require humanitarian resources in 2015. Cyclical droughts over the past ten years have severely impacted the poorest households' food security and nutrition status, rendering many incapable of rebuilding livelihoods due to lost economic opportunities. Lake Chad and concentrated areas along the Sahel belt are of particular concern for FFP in 2015 due to the combination of poor rains, poor pasture conditions, and the effects of conflict in Northeastern Nigeria. Cultivation and labor activities have been disrupted, and increased marketing costs are predicted to strain food access for the most vulnerable.

FFP will consider concept papers for the Lake Chad and Sahelian belt regions that look closely for opportunities to leverage or complement other existing or planned programs and demonstrate how the proposed short-term emergency interventions are intended to result in improved recovery and resilience.

#### **Mali**

Since early 2012, Mali has experienced an unprecedented, deep and multidimensional crisis with security, historical, geopolitical, institutional and cultural components. The political and security context continues to evolve, and ongoing humanitarian activities in Northern Mali are hampered by a degrading security situation. Outcomes of the crisis have magnified and deepened chronic vulnerability to climatic shocks, thus leading to increasing acute food insecurity and malnutrition in the past two years. Displacement, poor rains and insecurity have confounded traditional coping mechanisms, with the result of prolonged humanitarian assistance needed in places that have traditionally been self-sufficient.

FFP will consider concept papers that target Mopti, Gao, and Timbuktu regions that contribute to the objectives of social cohesion, peace-building and economic recovery, while still addressing the acute food needs of conflict-affected populations. In support of the USAID/Mali Mission's new resilience strategy, FFP will require that its emergency programs funded through this APS amendment participate in joint activity planning with other Mission offices when they overlap with other Mission-funded programs within the Mopti resilience zone.

#### **Mauritania**

Mauritania is a country with high chronic vulnerability to food deficits and acute malnutrition. Droughts and food crises occur cyclically in Mauritania; however, they have become more frequent and of greater magnitude in recent years due to increasing climatic variability. In addition, degradation of natural resources continues to negatively affect the productive capacity of agricultural zones. Due to this particular context, food and nutrition security of rural and urban populations is greatly dependent on the agro-pastoral situation and the fluctuation of global commodity prices. The Cadre Harmonize regional analysis identifies Mauritania as an area of high concern for 2015 due to poor pastoral conditions, severe rainfall deficits, and production estimates predicted to be 30 percent below the 5-year average. FEWS NET predicts an early

lean season in southern Mauritania's breadbasket, reaching IPC 3 levels by March 2015, and potentially IPC 4 levels during the 2015 lean season. Given that vulnerable households did not fully recover their assets lost from previous crises, this year's poor agro-pastoral season will amplify food and nutrition insecurity and vulnerability.

FFP will consider and prioritize applications for Mauritania that target areas with the highest predicted food deficits in 2015, per the Cadre Harmonize and FEWS Net analyses. Concept papers should ensure that food/resource transfers aimed at meeting critical food consumption gaps during the 2015 lean season are linked to activities that will build vulnerable communities' adaptive capacity to withstand future climatic shocks.

### **Niger**

Low economic performance, recurrent natural and man-made emergencies, high fertility rates and a history of bad governance coalesce to make Niger one of the poorest and most vulnerable countries in the world. This year, Niger presents a very mixed agro-pastoral picture, with some areas receiving adequate rainfall while others seeing significant deficits. An overall poor and sporadic distribution of rains points to below-average production, poor livestock outcomes, and an early lean season in 2015 in eastern Niger, particularly for Diffa region and the areas surrounding Lake Chad. Niger's political and economic vulnerabilities are also affected by the conflicts in its biggest neighboring countries. The political stalemate in northern Mali and the ever widening spread of Boko Haram's operations in Nigeria have triggered massive movements of refugees and returnees and have put additional stress on Niger's already weak economy. Population influxes into Diffa have stretched host communities' own coping mechanisms, in an area beset by regular shocks and chronic food insecurity. The conflict has increased demand and prices for food, limited livestock transhumance capability across the border, and exhausted household foodstocks earlier than usual due to the increased population and poor 2014 agricultural season. FFP anticipates an early start to the lean season in 2015, and anticipates needs will continue through 2016 for refugees, returnees and host populations.

Given the poor 2014 agricultural season and the continued influx of displaced persons from Nigeria, FFP will only accept concept papers addressing needs in the southern Diffa region in 2015. FFP will support programs that will fill geographic and technical gaps in refugee, returnee and host community support. Specifically, concept papers must coordinate with other U.S. Government and international activities – in particular with World Food Program, the International Committee for the Red Cross, and the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department – to complement or fill gaps in programming. FFP awardees are therefore required to demonstrate how the package of activities they are proposing will help reduce the recurring caseload for humanitarian assistance in the targeted communities. While meeting the immediate food needs of refugees, returnees and host populations is most urgent, applicants are encouraged to focus conditional transfers on activities which promote these populations' recovery and support their longer-term resilience. This may include agricultural and/or non-agricultural support, with an emphasis on community asset building activities and efforts that promote community cohesion.

## **Senegal**

In April 2014, the Ambassador issued a Disaster Declaration for the food security and malnutrition emergency in Senegal that has roots in the 2011/2012 drought and food crisis. Recent country-level assessments identified 18.8 percent of households as food insecure, and among them 675,000 people as severely food insecure and in need of emergency assistance. The critical threshold for global acute malnutrition (GAM) of 15 percent was surpassed in four (of 45) departments. The initial FEWS NET and Cadre Harmonize predictions for the 2014/2015 season estimate cereal production at 40 percent of the 2013/2014 level and 45 percent below the five-year average, representing the worst production deficit recorded since 2000. Up to seven departments may reach IPC Phase 3 by March 2015, with one million people affected (representing a doubling of the caseload from last year). Rainfall forecasts and agricultural production predictions point to an early lean season in 2015, with early transhumance and water shortages for both animal and vegetable production. The food security of very vulnerable households in north and central Senegal, who are highly dependent on markets, their own household production and have not fully recovered from the 2011/2012 crisis, will be severely impacted.

FFP will accept concept papers that support interventions in northern Senegal, including the Podor and Ferlo regions, which address food consumption gaps during the 2015 lean season while reinforcing adaptive capacity to withstand future climatic shocks. Submissions should be closely coordinated with other existing and planned UN and NGO interventions.