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# RISE

## Resilience in the Sahel *Enhanced*



West Africa's Sahel is an arid band stretching 1.1 million square miles from Senegal to Chad with limited annual rainfall. This zone has a combustible mix of deeply rooted chronic poverty, food insecurity, recurrent drought, scattered conflict, and violent extremism that drives the same vulnerable communities into crisis year after year.

**RISE** marks a groundbreaking joint humanitarian and development effort to end the region's vicious cycle of crisis and help the Sahel's most vulnerable stay firmly on the path to development.

## Recurrent Crisis in the Sahel

In 2012, the Sahel experienced its third harsh drought in a decade, throwing more than 18 million people into a severe food insecurity and nutrition crisis, many of whom had barely had time to recover from the region's food crises of 2008 and 2010. With many still struggling today to bounce back from 2012, millions are currently food insecure across the Sahel with 1.5 million at risk of severe acute malnutrition. The Sahel faces high childhood malnutrition and underdevelopment under the best of circumstances. One poor harvest can push millions of the most vulnerable into severe risk. With shocks coming more frequently as a result of climate change, the stakes are high.

Building resilience—including more inclusive, accountable governance and stronger livelihoods—is vital to help the people of the region cope with the next shock, break out of chronic poverty, and achieve inclusive economic growth.



## Resilience in the Sahel Enhanced (RISE)

RISE, a new USAID initiative based on joint analysis and planning, brings together our humanitarian and development assistance to address the root causes of persistent vulnerability. RISE commits more than \$130 million in new assistance over the first two years of a five-year effort to build resilience in targeted zones in Niger and Burkina Faso precisely to help communities get ahead of the next shock, even as it saves lives.

With focused efforts to strengthen institutions and governance, increase sustainable economic wellbeing, and improve health and nutrition in geographic zones selected through rigorous analysis, these new investments will be layered, sequenced, and integrated with existing humanitarian and development assistance **to give an estimated 1.9 million of the area's most vulnerable a real chance to break the cycle of crisis** and lessen the need for humanitarian assistance in the future.

In four additional countries in the Sahel—Senegal, Mali, Mauritania, and Chad—RISE leverages existing U.S. humanitarian and development assistance in new ways in close coordination with civil society, local govern-

### Building Resilience to Fight Extreme Poverty

- With recurrent shocks driving the same communities into crisis again and again, the global community has spent \$90 billion over the last ten years on humanitarian assistance in just nine countries.
- In the last 30 years, the World Bank estimates that one out of every three dollars spent on development is lost as a result of disasters and crisis.
- These losses constrain our fight against extreme poverty, while shocks like the 2011-2012 drought in the Sahel and the historic 2011 drought in East Africa hold the world's most vulnerable back.
- To fundamentally change the equation on extreme poverty, USAID is focused on systemic solutions that bring together our relief and development partners across sectors and in lockstep with other international donors to support country-led plans.



ments, NGOs, the United Nations, and other international development partners as part of USAID's participation in the **Global Alliance for Resilience in the Sahel (AGIR)**.

## **Five-Year Goals for Targeted Livelihood Zones in Niger and Burkina Faso**

- Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) rates reduced from near 15% to below 10%
- Depth of poverty among poor households reduced by 20%
- Prevalence of severely/moderately hungry households reduced by 20%
- Income from sheep/goats, poultry and cowpeas increased by 50% in targeted households
- Several hundred-thousand people fewer require humanitarian assistance during a drought of 2012 magnitude

For more information, visit <http://www.usaid.gov/resilience>