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# FACT SHEET

## **New Initiatives in Food for Peace Emergency Food Assistance**

USAID's Office of Food for Peace is undertaking a series of initiatives to improve the timeliness and appropriateness of emergency food assistance.

- To better link early warning and response to emergencies, USAID developed a new Famine Early Warning System Network resource – the Food Assistance Outlook Briefing – which provides warning of food assistance needs six months in the future. These predictions are critical because of the time required to purchase and ship in-kind food aid from the United States.
- To react to crises more quickly, USAID is increasing the number of sites in which U.S. food aid is prepositioned abroad, and will have the capability to open additional sites rapidly.
- To complement the Title II food aid program, USAID started the Emergency Food Security Program using International Disaster and Famine Assistance funds. This new program, launched in April 2010, supports local and regional procurement, cash transfers, and food vouchers. This program will be used primarily when Title II food aid cannot arrive in time or other forms of assistance, such as cash and vouchers, are more appropriate than Title II food aid due to market conditions.
- To ensure the appropriate type of food is available in each situation, USAID is increasing the range of products available under the Title II program. The new products will include emergency bars that can be quickly distributed to displaced populations, and ready-to-use foods developed for supplementary and therapeutic feeding programs. USAID is also working with the Tufts University School of Nutrition and other experts to develop the next generation of food aid commodities.
- To speed the grant-making process, USAID will issue streamlined proposal guidelines for private voluntary organizations (PVOs) and is supporting flexible, two-year PVO emergency programs.
- To ensure USAID and its partners can use the expanded range of capabilities effectively, Food for Peace plans to increase training and technical staff, especially in the area of market assessments.

Over the last several years, USAID has provided approximately \$2 billion in emergency food assistance each year through PVOs and the United Nations World Food Program, feeding tens of millions of people. These changes will help ensure the continued effectiveness of the food assistance program.

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