

Limited Presence Countries

In Burundi, USAID is helping to consolidate a hard-won peace and improve governance and health services, build civil society and stimulate agricultural growth. In Djibouti, USAID is working to improve maternal and child health, increase access to and quality of basic education, and support nascent democracy and governance systems. USAID has helped to increase immunization coverage, decrease child mortality, control the second-highest Tuberculosis rate in the world and increase school enrollment, especially for girls. Djibouti is strategic for its management of the only viable deep water port in the region and its hosting of the one U.S. military base on the African continent. Somalia is the world's most dangerous location for humanitarian work yet the U.S. Government is a leading donor to that country. The mission includes saving lives in Somalia, promoting peace, stability and governance, and improving access to social services. USAID helps build classrooms so that Somali children can build dreams and look towards a peaceful future. USAID is a leading donor supporting the peace and reconciliation process.



Somali children with prized possessions: books

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USAID is an independent federal government agency that supports long-term and equitable economic growth and advances U.S. foreign policy objectives.



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID/East Africa was established in 1972 and works in the Eastern and Central African Region on three mandates:

- o To manage regional programs in Economic Growth, Health and HIV/AIDS, Conflict Mitigation and Food for Peace;*
- o To manage USAID country portfolios where USAID has limited or no staff presence;*
- o To provide technical expertise and coordination for sector programming and an array of management issues (e.g., legal, financial, procurement, alliance building) to approximately 11 USAID missions in the region.*

USAID/East Africa advocates for improved regional cooperation while helping to increase regional free trade, promote food security, reduce conflict and improve the health and quality of life for all in the region.



Children are resilient but deserve healthy, happy lives

As a regional hub, USAID/East Africa brings technical expertise to opportunities and crises as they arise. Program activities increase information sharing between programs and countries, and partners and staff actively help expand successful initiatives so that others may benefit from lessons learned.

Most importantly, partners and programs work with and build the capacity of African regional organizations as they develop creative, effective and sustainable solutions to formidable regional development challenges.

Increasing Economic Growth & Integration

Some of the world's poorest nations are situated in the Horn of Africa and Great Lakes Region. Economic growth suffers from a lack of competitiveness, poor infrastructure and management of natural resources, and depressed agricultural productivity. USAID/East Africa helps promote regional economic growth and integration, and raise incomes by removing barriers to trade, improving transit facilitation, linking producers to markets, encouraging free competition, and promoting improved agricultural policies, standards and practices. Innovative programs seek to improve resilience of vulnerable farmers and pastoralists to better withstand droughts and other emergencies and to improve food security in the region. Other programs promote biodiversity and improve watershed management, water and sanitation practices in key transboundary areas. Key regional partners include: Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA).



USAID/East Africa programs reduce time to clear goods at border posts

Promoting a Healthier Population

The health situation for many in the region is abysmal. Access to sufficient quantities of nutritious food is limited for poor and vulnerable populations, many of whom live in underserved rural areas. Women experience excessive violence, mortality rates for pregnant women and children under five remain stagnant, and HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis rates continue to alarm. USAID works with African regional institutions and national Ministries of Health to promote a healthier population through policy and advocacy change, provision of technical assistance and capacity building, and by helping to improve quality of health care by enhancing and developing training curricula and materials. Key regional partners include: Regional Center for Quality Health Care (RCQHC) and the East, Central and Southern African Health Community (ECSA).



Reason to celebrate: improved access to quality health care

Mitigating Conflict and Supporting Peace

Many areas in the region are distinguished by persistent political instability and conflict, endemic poverty, weak governance and institutions that are unwilling or unable to respond to the needs of thousands of marginalized and impoverished people. These remote, mostly arid regions experience continuous conflict leading to security risks, extremism, smuggling and natural resource degradation. By working through local and regional organizations it is possible to address the root causes of instability and improve conflict early warning systems. In this way communities are working to safeguard peace and promote prosperity over violence and instability. Key regional partners include: Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and its Conflict Early Warning and Response Network (CEWARN) and COMESA.

Sharing Food, Saving Lives

The region is the most food insecure in the world, with tens of millions of people vulnerable due to conflict, political instability, climatic shocks and endemic poverty, combined with low agricultural productivity, limited livelihood opportunities, and lack of access to basic social services. Through the provision of emergency and non-emergency food aid, together with other non-food resources, USAID enhances food security by meeting critical food needs arising from natural disasters and complex emergencies, by protecting or mitigating against the impacts of disasters, and by tackling the underlying causes of chronic food insecurity. Key regional partners include: World Food Program (WFP), International and Non-Governmental Organizations, and FEWSNET.