

# 2016 EAST AFRICA REPORT TO THE PEOPLE











# OUR MISSION

The United States Agency for International Development is the lead U.S. Government agency that works to end extreme global poverty and enable resilient, democratic societies to realize their potential.



*From left to right: Karen Freeman (USAID-Kenya and East Africa Mission Director); Virginia Blaser (Charge d’Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania and special ambassador to the East African Community [EAC]); and Liberat Mfumukeko (EAC Secretary-General).*





# MESSAGE FROM THE USAID MISSION DIRECTOR

I am proud to present our second annual report to the people of East Africa. The economic growth in the region is among the fastest in the world and its countries are becoming increasingly integrated and interdependent. This report to the East African people represents the results of our strategy for regional cooperation for development in 2016.

USAID's regional programs complement the development efforts of individual nations and bilateral USAID Missions by addressing development challenges that affect several countries but whose resolution requires a coordinated effort. Often our programs are in border areas where conflict and violent extremism disrupt development. Often our beneficiaries are mobile and pastoralist people who are not reliably accessing national social systems.

In order to ensure an integrated and sustainable approach, our key implementing partners are the regional intergovernmental organizations whose membership includes countries across the region, such as the East African Community (EAC), the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Other partners and stakeholders include the private sector, civil society organizations and our sister Mission's across the region.

Together, in a truly collaborative way, we are strengthening policies and standards that improve lives. We are enhancing cross-border information systems including early conflict warning and community focussed problem solving. We are preventing the spread of infectious diseases among people and animals. We are ensuring cross border and mobile populations easier access to health care on both sides of borders, particularly for HIV/AIDS services. We are improving food security and household resilience to shocks, such as drought. We are conserving natural resources, including preventing poaching and wildlife trafficking. We continue to provide humanitarian assistance linked to programs that will build long-term resilience for the most vulnerable populations.

Also, we are also reducing barriers to trade and expanding trade opportunities across the region and the world. For instance, under the U.S. Government's African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), the region exported almost \$795 million in goods to the United States, a substantial increase over last year. The United States also gains from this trading partnership. In 2015, the U.S. exported \$17.8 billion of goods to sub-Saharan Africa, an increase of 202 percent from 2000.

USAID invests in regional institutions and their vision for a stable, productive East Africa. By working with regional institutions, USAID aims to ensure that cross border and inter-state challenges can be systematically addressed, rather than being roadblocks to the growth of each nation as well as the region as a whole.



**Karen Freeman**  
USAID Mission Director



# REGIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION PARTNERS

In 2016, three of USAID's long-time regional partners were designated as public international organizations, which allows them more flexibility to work with the global development community and fulfil their mandate to lead and coordinate development efforts across the region.



**The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA):** USAID has maintained a strong partnership with COMESA since 1998. COMESA is based in Zambia and comprises 19 African member states. USAID has contributed \$111 million to help COMESA advance the common market, focusing on harmonizing policies and standards. Intra-regional trade within the COMESA region has grown by 40 percent and the cost of doing business has decreased. USAID works with two COMESA agencies: the Alliance for Commodity Trade in Eastern and Southern Africa (ACTESA) to improve regional integration, harmonize policies and increase competitiveness for staple foods and markets, and the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP) to increase access to electricity for all East Africans in the region. In 2016, USAID and COMESA entered into a new \$77 million, five-year partnership agreement to collaborate on these development objectives as prioritized in COMESA's Medium-Term Strategic Plan (2016-2020).



**East African Community (EAC):** The EAC, a common market, formed in 1999 and comprises of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania (where it is based), Uganda and most recently South Sudan. In 2014, it enacted the EAC Single Customs Territory (SCT) which requires goods to clear customs only once upon entering a country and is an important building block of regional integration and a key outcome of years of USAID partnership. To date, USAID has provided \$23.2 million in assistance to the EAC to support its efforts in trade, environment and harmonizing health and agriculture policies and standards. The EAC established the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) to coordinate activities for economic growth and conservation on the lake and throughout the basin. USAID supports the LVBC to improve access to health services while empowering communities to manage their natural resources. USAID is also strengthening the EAC Climate Change Coordination Unit, established in 2015, to improve regional cooperation to address climate change issues. The EAC was one of the initial Power Africa partners during the formative stages of this U.S. Government initiative and continues to collaborate with USAID and other partners to double access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa.



**Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD):** USAID and IGAD have been partners since 2006. IGAD was created in 1996, is based in Djibouti and comprises eight African member states: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda. The IGAD mission is to assist and complement member-state efforts to increase cooperation to: (1) achieve food security and environmental protection; (2) promote and maintain peace and security; (3) manage humanitarian affairs; and (4) support economic cooperation and integration. USAID has provided \$23 million in assistance and supports three initiatives under IGAD. The IGAD Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) helps counter violent extremism and strengthen cross-border conflict management in the Horn of Africa. The IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) works with member states to prepare for drought and other extreme weather events. The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC) integrates climate science and research into the region's economic policies. In 2016, USAID and IGAD entered into a new \$17 million, five-year partnership agreement to collaborate on these development objectives, as prioritized in IGAD's new five-year strategy.







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*A customs official works at the border of Rwanda and Uganda where the EAC has reduced the time and cost of moving goods along busy trade routes through the adoption of one-stop border posts.*





# PROMOTING REGIONAL INTEGRATION

**\$96**

MILLION IN NEW TRADE  
DEALS FACILITATED UNDER  
THE AFRICAN GROWTH AND  
OPPORTUNITY ACT (AGOA), AN  
INCREASE OF 19% OVER LAST  
YEAR

**\$24.9**

MILLION IN NEW INVESTMENTS  
BROUGHT THE CUMULATIVE  
PROJECT INVESTMENT TOTAL TO  
\$31.2 MILLION

**4,068**

FULL-TIME JOBS CREATED SINCE  
2014 DUE TO AN INCREASE IN  
EXPORTS UNDER AGOA



# PROMOTING TRADE BETWEEN EAST AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES

Economic integration is central to East Africa's viability and strategic importance as one of the world's fastest-growing global markets, leading to inclusive economic growth, stability and increased opportunity for the United States and its African partners. With a sustained 6.1 percent growth rate in gross domestic product (GDP), East Africa is ripe for trade and investment. USAID's work to facilitate the movement of goods, capital and services through an integrated market, including work to improve the efficiency and transparency of cross-border transactions, the harmonization of safety and quality standards and efforts to reduce the time and cost of doing business in the region has multiple benefits. It advances the interests of the U.S. Government and U.S. businesses, provides win-win opportunities for its African partners, supports food security and contributes to resilience.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), recently extended for 10 years until 2025, aims to increase trade between the United States and its African partners while incentivizing market compliance and reforms. Incentives include the elimination of import levies on more than 7,000 products exported to the United States. Under the law, the president is required to make an annual determination that each AGOA beneficiary country has established, or is making continual progress toward establishing,

the following: market-based economies; the rule of law and political pluralism; elimination of barriers to U.S. trade and investment; protection of intellectual property; efforts to combat corruption; policies to reduce poverty, and increase availability of health care and educational opportunities; protection of human rights and worker rights; and elimination of certain child labor practices. The Trade Africa initiative provides support to eligible countries, including the development of national strategies that promote competitiveness, firm-level support to qualified companies and efforts to support regional integration.

In addition to increasing East African exports regionally and beyond, AGOA is credited with boosting U.S. private investment, modernizing customs, improving infrastructure and reducing the time and cost of cross-border trade for the benefit of regional and international trading companies. It further provides U.S. companies with an avenue for expanding exports to East Africa to meet the demand for the improved infrastructure, machinery, capital and inputs that underpin regional trade.

Trade between the African countries and the United States through AGOA has created more than 120,000 jobs in the United States and 300,000 jobs across Africa since 2000.

## INCREASING COMPETITIVENESS & PRIVATE INVESTMENT

*Photo right: Lucia Namubiru of Lunas Enterprises in Uganda learned how to market her fashionable apparel with support from USAID's East Africa Trade and Investment Hub during an AGOA preparedness workshop. Apparel accounts for the largest volume of non-oil African trade to the United States under AGOA and is a key sector in East Africa for employment and growth potential. East Africa has become a focal point for African sourcing, a trend that is expected to continue.*







*Photo above: Atuhaire Gillian operates a Chims Africa kiosk near a local market in Uganda. USAID's advisory services helped Chims, a mobile money company, analyze the market and develop an expansion strategy that led to a \$2 million investment. By setting up mobile money kiosks where banks cannot be located, Chims has expanded to more rural areas and created jobs for local residents. Such efforts boost the buying power of East Africa's growing consumer market, a promising destination for U.S. goods and services.*

To compete in global markets, U.S. businesses need reliable partners and assurance of a high-quality supply chain to help East African producers meet buyers' needs with ready, quality products. USAID trained staff at 960 companies on exporting through AGOA, facilitated 591 trade deals and supported 23 trade promotion events that introduced East African companies to buyers in the United States and other countries. The events highlighted trade and investment opportunities for U.S. companies in East Africa.

In 2016, USAID supported private sector investments of more than \$9 million in the agriculture sector and nearly \$16 million in the non-agriculture sector, primarily in information and communication technology (ICT), health, financial services, cotton, textiles and apparel. By the end of 2016, USAID helped close \$31 million in cumulative investments with \$225 million in additional investments in the pipeline. USAID achieved these results through market-led trade facilitation efforts aimed at lowering risk and reducing transaction costs, catalyzing private capital financial access.

USAID-supported East Africa investment promotion agencies (IPAs) received assistance in six countries (Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda and Tanzania) to generate \$10 million in investment-ready deals that they showcased during the U.N. Conference on Trade and Investment (UNCTAD) in Nairobi, Kenya, in July 2016. The effort helped IPAs raise the profile of the region's most promising and competitive investment opportunities to U.S. and global private investors.

USAID showcased 35 African apparel companies at Sourcing at MAGIC, the largest apparel trade show in North America. U.S. buyers were introduced to the "Africa Advantage," a reference to the benefits of trading with AGOA-eligible countries that offer American apparel buyers a viable and sustainable alternative to sourcing from more traditional producer countries such as China, where the costs of production are becoming prohibitive. Other incentives encourage compliance with global best practices, including improved worker safety and adoption of advanced technologies.





Photo above: U.S. buyer Tulsi Teneyck provides tips to a Source East Africa trade fair craft exhibitor. USAID and other regional organizations hosted a new professional trade fair, called Source East Africa, in Arusha, Tanzania. This event connected 33 East African craft businesses with buyers from the region as well as the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom and Sweden. Buyers discussed their market needs with producers, ordered samples and forged relationships for future business.



# REMOVING BARRIERS TO TRADE

USAID support for infrastructure investment along the EAC's most critical transit corridors has reduced the time and cost of moving goods along busy trade routes. Construction of one-stop border posts (OSBPs) has enabled the rapid and efficient movement of commodities. Customs transactions for the region may now be cleared at one point rather than all along the chain of borders as products travel through multiple countries. Ten of 13 planned OSBPs are operational and have contributed to a 58 percent reduction in the time to cross regional borders. The launch and operation of the Taveta/Holili post resulted in an 82 percent reduction in the time to cross between Kenya and Tanzania.

Delays in importing and exporting goods cost time and money. USAID's support to improved port infrastructure and technology has substantially reduced the time it takes cargo to clear the ports of Mombasa in Kenya and Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. In the Mombasa port, the time to clear cargo dropped by 60 percent, from 15 days in 2010 to six days in 2016, and both ports have seen expanded capacities for increased international trade. Transit times from the two ports to the landlocked countries of Burundi and Rwanda decreased from an average of 20 days in 2010 to just over five days in 2016.

Non-tariff barriers (NTBs) — such as import quotas, special licenses, unreasonable standards for quality of goods and export restrictions — add unnecessary costs and burdens to trade. USAID has partnered with regional intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to remove trade barriers. In Rwanda, this effort has resulted in export clearance falling from seven days to only one day, while product testing time has shrunk from 60 days in 2013 to seven days currently.



Photo above: Ministers and Cabinet secretaries from EAC partner states attended the February 2016 launch of the Holili, Tanzania, and Taveta, Kenya, one-stop border post.



Photo above: A traveler receives a customs receipt at a one-stop border post between Rwanda and Uganda.



# PROMOTING CROSS-BORDER TRADE

USAID supports various infrastructural and policy reforms around the borders that will make it easier and faster for cross-border traders to conduct business. Trademark East Africa (TMEA) leads information campaigns to help these largely informal traders understand the benefits of using formal trade routes and procedures. This reduces their cost of doing business by eliminating exorbitant bribes and harassment, and generates revenue for governments.

Improving border management is another important component to increasing trade across borders. The process of moving goods across borders can be very bureaucratic, which results in prolonged, costly delays. USAID supports the EAC's pursuit of integrated border management between member states to organize and coordinate border agency activities, facilitating the movement of legitimate people and cargo while maintaining secure borders and meeting national legal requirements.

To advance these efforts, USAID has supported the creation of joint border committees, working groups comprising government agencies and private sector players responsible for clearing goods at one side of the border.

To increase trade in staple foods and ensure that food moves efficiently across borders, Agricultural Market Development Trust (AGMARK) organized 10 regional trade fairs at border posts in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. More than 2,840 farmers and cross-border trade representatives and 175 agriculture input exhibitors participated. AGMARK also organized five border committee meetings with government officials and trade association representatives to resolve issues that impede cross-border trade. Contracts for the trade of 1,654 metric tons of beans were closed during the AGMARK business linkage meetings.



Photo above: Lorna Atieno is a grain cross-border trader at Kasarani Market at the Kenya/Uganda border. "We did not know these cross-border procedures. We assumed the government men wanted to terrorize our businesses, which is not the case," she said after participating in a USAID training on trade laws and procedures. USAID also introduced her and other women traders to border officials, banking institutions and government regulators to help them have equal access to trade opportunities.



*After harvesting fish, these women traders in Rwanda prepare to sell their catch at the market or along the border. Women are responsible for the majority of trading activities in East Africa, though most are day traders and move relatively small quantities of goods. In contrast, border officials and brokers tend to be men.*







A farmer works on a soya bean plantation in Rwanda. Women in East Africa play an important role in agriculture, yet they don't have the same access as men to productive inputs, such as credit, technology, seeds and extension services.





# INCREASING REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

**5,378,000**

PEOPLE ASSISTED THROUGH  
RESILIENCE EFFORTS ACROSS THE  
EAST AFRICA REGION

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**2,842**

FARMERS AND TRADE  
REPRESENTATIVES PARTICIPATED  
IN TRADE FAIRS AT CROSS-  
BORDER POSTS

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**10%**

INCREASE IN REGIONAL STAPLE  
FOOD TRADE VOLUMES OVER  
LAST YEAR'S LEVELS



# BOOSTING REGIONAL TRADE IN STAPLE FOODS

Since 80 percent of East Africa's trade is agriculture-related, food trade is fundamental to regional economic growth. When farmers can sell their goods to buyers across borders, they expand their markets and earn more money while ensuring that food is more available where it is most needed.

The U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative puts agriculture at the heart of the development agenda. Through regional economic communities such as the Common Market for Eastern & Southern Africa (COMESA), African leaders are developing, standardizing and implementing uniform policies and standards so that safe, quality food can move quickly and freely throughout the region.

Ensuring efficient movement of food region-wide helps eliminate hunger and food insecurity and reduces the need for emergency food relief.

Collaborating with the EAC and the Eastern Africa Grain Council, USAID supported Kenya and Uganda in enacting common standards for select staple food standards and testing procedures for cereals and pulses, as well as developing regional standards for maize, wheat grain, dry beans and milled rice.



*Photo above: A worker at the Mombasa Port loads Kenyan tea for export to Egypt and Poland. USAID joined Polucon Services Ltd. at the Mombasa Port to see its inspection and testing services in action. Polucon is one of the laboratories that the Eastern Africa Grain Council uses to sample, grade and test grains and pulses. The goal is to streamline and harmonize these procedures across the region and make trade easier.*





Photo above: Burundi, Rwanda and Zimbabwe aligned their national seed laws with COMESA's seed trade regulations.

## INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH MORE EFFECTIVE SEED SYSTEMS

Seed is a crucial input for agricultural productivity. USAID supported COMESA to harmonize national seed laws in East Africa so that farmers can more easily access seeds that are resistant to pests and drought conditions. As a result of USAID's support, COMESA member states Burundi, Rwanda and Zimbabwe have aligned their national seed laws, enabling freer movement of seed across their borders. Kenya and Uganda are due to align by the end of 2017, followed by Zambia and Malawi in 2018.

Common product standards allow seed certified in any two COMESA countries to be sold throughout the 19-country COMESA region and to be included in the USAID-supported COMESA Seed Variety Catalog, which is available online to all international and regional seed companies. American seed companies Syngenta, Monsanto and Dupont Pioneer use the COMESA Seed Catalog to market seed to all 19 COMESA member countries. USAID is helping build awareness and promoting adoption of this crucial resource.

**“COMESA Seed Variety Catalog is a gateway for quality and improved seed that targets 80 million smallholder farmers in the region.”**

– Getachew Belay, COMESA Biotechnology Policy Advisor



Photo above: Participants gather in Nairobi for an accountability meeting on the COMESA Seed Harmonization Implementation Plan.



# IMPROVING FOOD STANDARDS, QUALITY AND SAFETY

With expanding regional integration and stronger trade ties, more commodities are now moving across borders. As members of the World Trade Organization, EAC nations must meet sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS), which guide the production, processing and handling of plant, animal and food products traded across borders.

USAID worked with the EAC to establish an SPS protocol for compliance by member states. This protocol will provide clear standards for producers and traders across the region and facilitate the smooth transit of safe products between countries. In 2016, Kenya joined Rwanda and Uganda in ratifying the protocol, leaving Burundi and Tanzania as the only EAC countries that have yet to do so.

The EAC has developed a process to standardize quality marks (i.e., a stamp or logo certifying that goods have met established standards) for goods approved for regional trade. To build confidence in this process, USAID and other donors supported a series

of peer assessments of national bureaus of standards through Trademark East Africa. Standards bureaus in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda underwent peer assessments to learn what quality improvements would be required before these institutions could get the green light to issue official EAC quality marks.



*Photo above: An inspector checks for parasites on kale. Harmonized measures that adhere to international standards minimize the possible adverse effects of trade, such as the spread of pests and diseases.*

*Photo below: Lab workers sort through beans as part of quality control and inspection services provided by the East African company Polucon.*





# RESEARCHING SOLUTIONS TO AGRICULTURAL THREATS

Plant pests and diseases affect food crops, contributing to significant losses for farmers from reduced productivity and limited export opportunities. Additionally, health risks such as aflatoxins are found on agricultural crops including maize, peanuts, cottonseed and tree nuts. In Africa, aflatoxin causes childhood stunting and adult liver cancer.

The U.S. Government supports the development of a bio-control product called Aflasafe™ that has been found to reduce aflatoxin in crops by up to 99 percent. Based on that research, USAID donated resources to produce Aflasafe™ in Kenya and advance its commercialization to Nigeria, Zambia, Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Mozambique, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Malawi and the Gambia.

Extreme weather conditions from drought to too much rain are not only threats to food security, but they also create favorable conditions for the mold that produces aflatoxin and [leads to an] increase in aflatoxin contamination.”

Maize lethal necrosis (MLN) causes a significant loss of crops for farmers in East and Central Africa. USAID supported the development of an effective surveillance and monitoring system to reduce the impact and spread of MLN. As a result, national plant protection organizations can better diagnose MLN, protect seed stocks from contamination and utilize digital surveillance tools to monitor the disease.

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**“The Aflasafe™ technology could not have come at a more opportune time.”**

— Dr. Eliud Kireger, Director General of the Kenya Agricultural Research Organization.”

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*Photo right: Maize lethal necrosis technician Janet Kimunye collects maize leaf samples in Naivasha, Kenya. Samples will be tested for MLN-causing viruses.*







*Photo above: Pastoralists in Turkana County, Kenya, face challenges because of weather fluctuations, disease and conflict.*

## BUILDING RESILIENCE IN ARID AND SEMI-ARID LANDS

The pastoralists of East Africa's drylands depend on livestock trade and agriculture to sustain themselves and their families. While they are renowned for their adaptability, they face challenges from weather swings, disease and conflict. To help reduce chronic vulnerability and the high costs associated with weather or economic shocks, USAID invests in building resilience so communities can strengthen their traditional coping mechanisms, protect their livelihoods, prevent financial ruin and adapt to and recover from events that might otherwise undermine growth.

USAID helps build resilience in many ways. For example, meteorologists are learning to identify weather patterns that could affect vulnerable communities. This empowers families to better protect their assets. Through dialogue and joint planning, communities are sharing limited grazing land and natural resources peacefully. By planting drought-resistant crops in addition to livestock keeping, families have options in case their cattle fall sick. Crop and livestock insurance is more widely available, and helps farmers and pastoralists safely manage risk.



In the wake of humanitarian emergencies that swept through the drought-prone areas of the Horn of Africa in 2011-12, national leaders gave IGAD the mandate to work with countries to develop long-term solutions to recurrent crises such as drought. USAID's support to IGAD helps them manage regional resilience programs, such as the one that improves livestock health and trade across borders. These programs should reduce their need for emergency assistance over time.

Through direct USAID support, the IGAD Secretariat improved its procurement procedures, financial accounting and knowledge management systems. These improvements contributed to IGAD's success in securing funding from other development partners, such as the European Union. Since 2012, IGAD has raised nearly \$1 billion for the 15-year IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI). In 2016, IGAD also developed a knowledge management policy to provide information and tools that encourage smart, proactive and coordinated resilience approaches.

## IMPROVING LIVESTOCK HEALTH AND TRADE

Improved livestock health and trade helps secure livelihoods. USAID, the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the IGAD Center for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) have harmonized national policies to prevent and treat outbreaks of livestock disease in nine countries: Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. These efforts boost national economies by easing the movement of livestock across national borders and creating uniform conditions for safe trade.

USAID promoted a Regional Network for Quarantines, where technicians screen live animals for disease prior to traders moving them to export markets. This network will expedite the safe, healthy trade of live animals, bringing more income to livestock traders.



Photo above: Workers prepare meat for export at a factory in Ethiopia.



Photo above: Camels drink at a watering point in Garissa County. The availability and appropriate management of quarantine facilities ensures the testing of animals in accordance with the requirements of the importing countries.



*Peter Mutai purchased a solar lantern from Boma Safi, a local business that sells efficient and sustainable energy products to low-income families. The company won a Power Africa grant through USAID to expand their business.*





A person's arm is reaching up towards a glowing light bulb. In the background, a poster is visible with text in Swahili. The overall scene is dimly lit, with the light from the bulb illuminating the arm and the poster.

# BRINGING POWER TO AFRICA

**50**

MEGAWATT LAC ASSAL  
GEOTHERMAL PROJECT  
RECEIVED WELL DRILLING  
SUPPORT IN DJIBOUTI

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**60 million**

NEW ELECTRICITY  
CONNECTIONS WILL BE ADDED  
ACROSS SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

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**10**

COUNTRY PARTNERSHIP  
DESIGNED TO MANAGE AND  
DEVELOP SHARED NILE BASIN  
WATER RESOURCES



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**“We are thrilled now to be working more closely with the United States Government and USAID to increase access to renewable energy for people across the Nile Basin region and all of East Africa.”**  
—Innocent Ntabana, Executive Director, Nile Basin Initiative

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## BRINGING POWER TO AFRICA

Access to power is essential for East Africa's prosperity and can help families and businesses move forward. The U.S. Government's Power Africa initiative is working to double access to electricity in sub-Saharan Africa. This will reduce electricity costs and help move East Africans away from the use of diesel and kerosene fuels that are hazardous to human health. As a testament to the transformative progress to increase energy access in Africa and promote economic growth, the U.S. Congress adopted the Electrify Africa Act of 2015 and then-President Barack Obama signed it into law in 2016. The act's goals largely mirror those of

Power Africa, reinforcing the U.S. Government's efforts to unlock Africa's vast energy potential.

USAID contributes to Power Africa by working with national governments and regional organizations such as the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP) and its Independent Regulatory Board (IRB), the Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Program (NELSAP) and the EAC to promote clean, renewable energy, increase trade of power between countries and streamline policies to reduce energy costs for governments and consumers.

*Photo below: A technician checks the power load flow.*





# PROMOTING CLEAN, RENEWABLE ENERGY

The East Africa region has huge potential for geothermal power capacity. Found within the earth's core, extracted geothermal energy provides clean, reliable power. But geothermal power development and drilling can be both costly and risky.

USAID's East Africa Geothermal Partnership (EAGP) is accelerating the development of geothermal resources in the region. In 2016, the EAGP disseminated a request for proposals to methodically document the risks of geothermal exploration and design a risk mitigation plan incorporating support from private and public partners. After completion of the plan, national, regional and U.S. stakeholders discussed it and provided input. Risk mitigation is key to the development of a strong geothermal energy sector in East Africa. This effort will result in an improved understanding of risk reduction methods, a list of potential pilot projects and investors interested in engaging with these large-scale but important projects.

USAID supported Ethiopia to submit an application to access financing from the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility.

The African Union Commission and other donors established the Geothermal Risk Mitigation Facility to fund geothermal development in East Africa. Energy developers have access to grants through a competitive, transparent and rigorous two-stage application process. Ethiopia's Parliament demonstrated its support for geothermal energy development when it passed a 2016 Geothermal Proclamation establishing the regulatory framework for independent power producers to implement energy projects in the country. The USAID-supported EAGP provided assistance in developing the proclamation.

Representatives from Djibouti's Office for the Development of Geothermal Energy received geothermal well drilling support from the U.S.-East Africa Geothermal Partnership as part of Djibouti's effort to advance the 50-megawatt Lac Assal geothermal project. Lac Assal is a saline crater lake that lies below sea level at one of the lowest points in Africa.



*Signs of geothermal energy: Natural geothermal steam (fumarole) rises from the ground in a ravine within the Corbetti Caldera in Ethiopia.*

ROBERT SAUERS | USAID ETHIOPIA



# ADVANCING POWER TRADE AND DELIVERY

USAID signed a new partnership agreement with the Nile Basin Initiative (NBI) and its investment program, NELSAP, to help advance regional power projects and increase access to renewable power. Under the agreement, NELSAP has access to a Rwanda-based energy advisor who will promote priority power transmission projects and improve coordination with Power Africa and other regional partners. The NBI is a 10-country partnership designed to manage and develop the shared Nile Basin water

resources. NELSAP promotes investments for the NBI region in power development and trade, river basin management and fisheries. The advisor will prepare and coordinate complex multi-country regional energy projects. This important power link will eventually enable power trade between the EAPP and the South African Power Pool.



*Photo above: A Tanzanian village has access to power through the use of solar-powered micro-grids. The solar power is providing lifesaving water purification, a shared refrigerator for food and medicines, a computer for the community and lights to frighten hyenas away from the cow and goat corrals.*



# HARMONIZING POWER REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

East African power regulators have agreed on a common system to overcome the challenges of collecting accurate financial data from national utility companies. The U.S. National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) is working with regulators across East Africa to improve and harmonize their regulatory practices and to meet international best practice accounting standards. This year, representatives of the region's regulators from Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda and the EAPP-IRB worked together to finalize a standardized tool called a "Uniform System of Accounts." A Uniform System of Accounts helps ensure that regulators collect clear and consistent data from utilities about

the costs of generating, transmitting and distributing electricity. A standardized data collection template was also developed. The system allows utilities and regulators to be in alignment about the true cost of power. This move is critical for cross-border trade since it helps provide clear cost comparisons between countries. The presence of unified regulatory standards provides a more stable, and therefore more attractive, environment for private power investors. The tool can also help resolve disputes over the costs of cross-border power trades.



*Photo above: The Virunga hydro-power plant in Meru County, Kenya, uses water to provide power to a nearby community.*





*A nurse at Busia County Teaching and Referral Hospital on the Kenya side of the border with Uganda weighs a malnourished child whose growth has been stunted due to malnutrition. The facility serves both Kenyans and Ugandans.*





# IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF EAST AFRICANS

**71,000**

FAMILY PLANNING COUNSELING  
VISITS  
MADE TO THE LAKE VICTORIA  
BASIN AREA

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**65**

HEALTH FACILITIES LINKED  
TO CROSS-BORDER REFERRAL  
SYSTEMS

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**783**

HEALTH PROFESSIONALS  
RECEIVED TRAINING IN  
MATERNAL AND NEWBORN  
HEALTH



# ADDRESSING THE HEALTH NEEDS OF CROSS-BORDER POPULATIONS



*Photo above: Willy Mungoma, district medical officer for the Tororo District Medical Facility in Uganda, near the Busia border with Kenya, is in charge of peer educators affiliated with the facility.*

Many people living and working in transit hubs have fast-moving, mobile lifestyles that make them more vulnerable to infectious diseases such as HIV, tuberculosis and malaria. USAID has conducted extensive research to identify gaps in health care for these mobile populations. For example, a recent USAID study of female sex workers in Kenyan-Ugandan border areas found that 60 percent engaged in sex work outside their home country.

About 800 trained volunteers from vulnerable priority populations who live along the borders became “peer educators” and worked in their communities to promote the importance of health services and gather more information about health needs. To encourage coordination between educators and health officials, health ministry officials from neighboring counties and districts served as co-trainers of the peer educators alongside USAID-supported staff.

More than 100 truck drivers and clearing agents from the Federation of East African Freight Forwarders Association (FEAFFA), a private sector group, also received training as peer educators at the Busia/Malaba border areas between Kenya and Uganda. They encourage fellow agents in transport, clearing and forwarding to seek quality health services at appointed cross-border sites.

About 100 health workers from 44 private and public health facilities learned to promote and provide health services for mobile populations along the Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda borders. During trainings, health workers reviewed their knowledge of and behavior toward mobile populations and made suggestions on how local health facilities could provide quality, integrated services, such as strengthening health referrals across border facilities.



# REACHING THOSE MOST AT RISK FOR HIV

The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is helping those most at risk for HIV infection get tested and helping those who test positive receive treatment.

By working together, peer educators and health care workers provided HIV/AIDS counseling and testing to nearly 19,000 people. The effort gave special focus to reaching mobile populations such as long-distance truck drivers, freight clearing and forwarding agents, female fishmongers, traditional brewers, female sex workers, injecting drug users and men who have sex with men. These populations are considered to be more at risk for HIV due to the nature of their occupations and long absences from home. Many are also reluctant to access health services because of stigma against their behaviors among the larger populations in which they live.

Violence against women also increases the risk of being infected. Frequently, after a violent episode, women are unable to find support. USAID helped 3,600 survivors in East Africa receive critical services such as health care, legal assistance, psychosocial support or shelter after they became victims of gender violence.

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**“We are at risk because the environment we live and work in exposes us to vices such as prostitution, alcohol and drug abuse and health risks. We live far from our families and we have disposable income.”**

— Francis Mugo, clearing agent at the Busia Uganda-Kenya border

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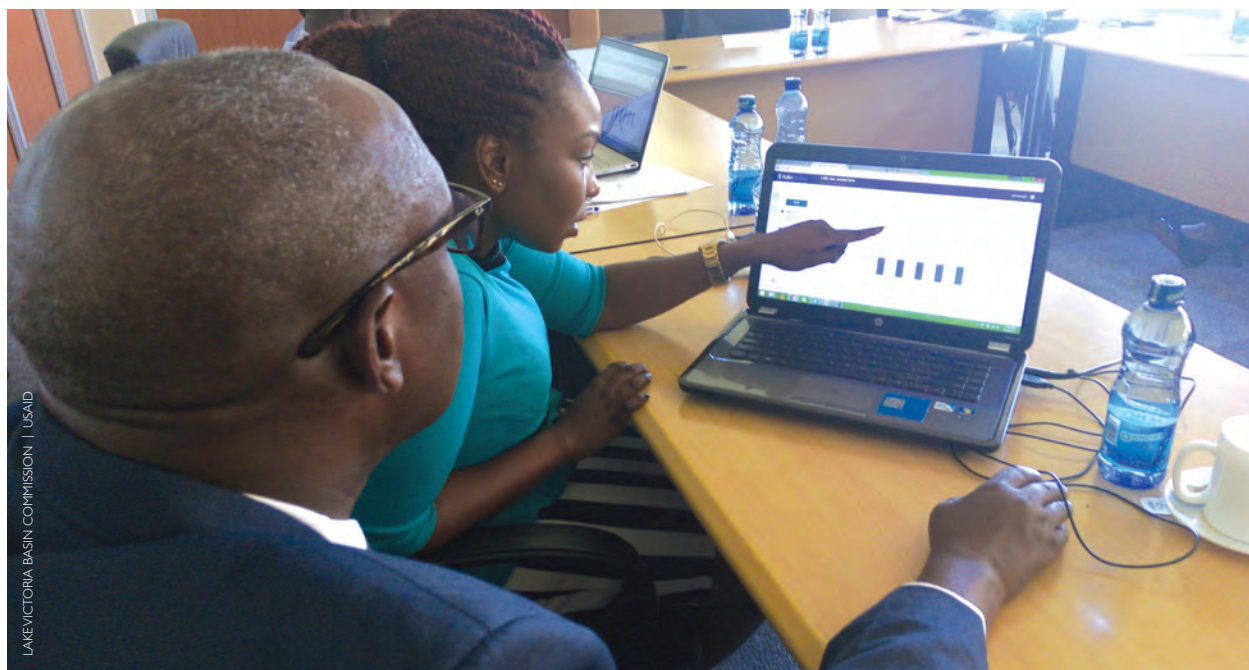
Photo above: Charles Ouma (center, in short-sleeved white shirt) is a peer educator for injecting drug users along the Busia border between Kenya and Uganda. A user himself, he educates his peers about HIV prevention and treatment, tuberculosis, domestic violence and other issues. Drug users are often reluctant to seek treatment due to the challenges of addiction, hardship, stigma and discrimination. Charles refers his peers to USAID-supported wellness centers, where health workers have received special training on practical strategies to effectively work with this population without judgment.



Photo above: Francis Mugo works at the Busia Uganda-Kenya border stop as a clearing agent for the various goods and transport vehicles that cross the border. He is also a volunteer peer educator with the Amalgamated Transport and General Workers Union in Uganda.



# STRENGTHENING REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEMS



*Photo above: Health professionals from the EAC Lake Victoria Basin Commission receive training on the Kobo Toolbox, a free and open-source tool to collect data in the field.*

African leaders and health experts recognize the necessity of regional approaches in controlling communicable diseases, harmonizing policies and standards and sharing best practices that are proven to address common public health challenges.

USAID supported two reports under EAC leadership: the EAC Waterways Health, HIV and AIDS Programming and Accountability Framework, which targets the fishing community, and the EAC Regional Strategy on Scaling Up Integrated Health, HIV and AIDS Programming along the Transport Corridors. These policies and guidelines are crucial to galvanizing institutionalized regional programming support for vulnerable and underserved fishing communities and transport corridor workers, both populations in constant mobility across East African partner states.

A significant gap in East Africa health training programs has been cross-border mobile health. USAID supported the development of a training curriculum for a certificate course emphasizing public health issues that are unique to migrant populations and the communities that host them.

Piloted at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, the course will help graduate students and senior government officials learn to design and implement migration health policies and programs across the globe, especially in East Africa.

USAID is piloting a mobile health (mHealth) platform in selected cross-border areas to strengthen the referral system and help individuals adhere to the recommended treatment schedule. This platform allows real-time health data to be uploaded and shared on mobile phones with health workers across borders, reducing the high number of patients who fail to appear for their follow-up health visits. For example, a pregnant woman who receives services in her home country might travel across the border to sell goods during the week. Once the patient's travel plans are noted in the system, she will receive a text message reminder of her next scheduled health appointment. The health worker in the destination country can access the appropriate treatment through the health data from the country of origin.



# PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF TUBERCULOSIS

To contain and eventually eradicate tuberculosis (TB), East African health professionals must understand how to treat and manage it among mobile populations. This is especially important for pediatric cases and infections that have become resistant to common TB drugs – known as multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB).

TB patients face a high risk of death if they do not complete the full treatment regimen, which can last between six and 20 months. Management and treatment of TB is difficult and costly. Delays in drugs and disruptions to a patient's treatment can promote MDR-TB, which is far more complicated and takes about two years or longer to treat.

USAID works with regional, national and local partners to track, diagnose and treat East Africans who move frequently across borders and may be infected with TB. For example, Somalia's health system can diagnose but not treat MDR-TB. Consequently, patients in Somalia may cross into Kenya to seek treatment, where many settle in urban areas or refugee camps. USAID developed laboratory standard operating procedures,

translated them into the Somali language and printed and disseminated 500 copies to lab workers in Somalia. The workers also received training on how to safely work in a TB lab and avoid infection. Since labs in Somalia do not have the ability to determine whether a TB case is active, contagious or drug-resistant, USAID linked labs in Somalia with the Supra-National Reference Laboratory in Kampala, Uganda.

USAID supported the design and promotion of a regional MDR-TB referral tool that was piloted at cross-border learning sites in Kenya, Uganda and Somalia. As a result, one MDR-TB patient was successfully referred from Uganda to the Rwanda Centre of Excellence on Programmatic Management of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis, where his treatment continued. This referral tool was printed and distributed to 59 health workers from 30 border health facilities and refugee camps in three Kenyan counties – Garissa, Marsabit and Turkana – that border Somalia and Uganda.



*Photo above: Health professionals in Kigali, Rwanda, work as a group in a breakout session of a training on the management of drug-resistant TB.*



# ELIMINATING POLIO



Photo above: A health worker draws attention to a community polio screening and information session during an immunization campaign in Kenya. He is using a megaphone provided by USAID and the Core Polio Project.

Polio is a crippling illness that can be fatal. Vaccines can prevent the infection, but no cure is available once the disease develops. In 2013, an outbreak of polio occurred in the Horn of Africa. While no cases of the wild polio virus were reported in 2016, 15 acute flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases were detected in Somalia and five in Kenya, which can indicate gaps in routine immunization coverage. AFP can be caused by polio and the presence of these cases indicates that immunization coverage is not high enough to provide a protective effect on people who are not immunized. This is known as herd immunity, and it demonstrates the gaps in routine immunization coverage.

USAID supports a team of polio experts who work with national and local governments to vaccinate communities against and ultimately eradicate polio. More effective community-based approaches have expanded the reach of polio immunization campaigns.



Photo above: A Kenyan security officer supports polio vaccinators along a border crossing between Kenya and Somalia.

A new micro-planning tool helps health workers track and follow up with people who have received polio services and increases communication between health facilities, especially care providers in different countries. USAID helped establish 68 cross-border polio surveillance and demonstration sites in Kenya and 10 in Somalia. These sites are in government health facilities near the border and are places where health workers can learn about identifying, managing and referring AFP and polio cases.



# LINKING CONSERVATION AND HEALTH

USAID and the EAC Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) combine family planning and reproductive health services with conservation and natural resource management to improve human and environmental well-being. The LVBC trains environmental wardens to educate communities about the relationship between population growth, health and the environment. This has expanded health outreach services, particularly for maternal and child health care, and has improved hygiene practices as well as the management of critical ecosystems.

Using USAID-supplied health kits, nearly 700 newly trained wardens helped increase the use of family

planning and maternal and child health services by an average of 29 percent in Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Implementation of effective population, health and environment (PHE) programs requires continuous engagement with a diverse group of stakeholders, including policymakers and decision-makers, program and research specialists and community members who benefit from actual services. To help these groups understand more about the PHE approach, the LVBC developed a training manual that has been translated into several languages for use at the community level.



*Photo above: Negash Teklu, Executive Director of Population, Health, Environment (PHE) Ethiopia Consortium International, speaks at a PHE conference in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.*



# PREVENTING DISEASE OUTBREAKS



*Photo above: Field workers collect biological samples for disease surveillance from a juvenile camel at Mpala Ranch, Kenya.*

East Africans are gaining new skills to prevent and manage infectious diseases such as Ebola and stop them from reaching pandemic levels. In 2016, the Global Health Security Agenda and USAID supported East African countries to establish Emergency Center for Transboundary Animal Disease offices. These offices support response to potential pandemic threats.

Last year, USAID supported East African countries to strengthen their capacity to prevent, detect and respond to health threats, and to identify priority diseases that affect humans and animals. The Democratic Republic of Congo identified priority zoonotic diseases including rabies, Ebola and monkey pox to monitor, prevent and control.



*Photo above: A field worker in Uganda prepares to extract a sample from a bat near a national park where a high chance of human-animal contact exists.*



# PIONEERING BEST PRACTICES AND INNOVATIONS

USAID invests in innovative global health solutions that can make a difference in the lives of East Africans. Working with Social Entrepreneurship at Duke University (SEAD), USAID helped develop a paper called “Healthcare Innovation in East Africa: Navigating the Ecosystem.” It summarizes the comments of more than 60 professionals in East Africa on opportunities and gaps in innovation.

Through SEAD, USAID brought together 14 female leaders from eight East African health care businesses to discuss unique challenges that women entrepreneurs face. LifeNet International, one of the organizations that participated, partners with health centers to build their medical and administrative capacity and connect them with necessary medical equipment. Through support from SEAD, the company now works with 20 health centers in Uganda, 12 in the Democratic Republic of Congo and 54 in Burundi. Another social enterprise, North Star Alliance, works with USAID to extend health care services to truck drivers and female sex workers

via rehabilitated shipping containers called “Wellness Centers” that have been placed strategically along busy transport corridors.

The LVBC and the East, Central and Southern African Health Community (ECSA) are both knowledge management (KM) hubs for national ministries of health and specialists in the region. USAID supported the ECSA regional Knowledge Management Share Fair in Tanzania, where more than 100 health and development experts from 14 countries learned more effective ways to share and exchange information. LVBC took the learning further, designing and implementing online KM capacity assessments at the LVBC Secretariat and among organizations working on PHE programs in the Lake Victoria basin. This enabled LVBC to identify capacity gaps and prioritize the actions needed to enable LVBC and partners to more effectively synthesize, share and disseminate best practices and contribute to the policy agenda for improved health outcomes in the region.



*Photo above: USAID supports health services for truck drivers and female sex workers at the NorthStar Alliance Blue Box Center on the Busia border between Kenya and Uganda.*



*Members of the Moroto Women's Forum in Uganda meet to discuss local cross-border peace issues.*







# REDUCING CONFLICT AND SUPPORTING PEACE

## 16,000

EAST AFRICANS JOINED EFFORTS  
TO BUILD MASS SUPPORT FOR  
PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

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## 26

PROJECTS SOUGHT  
TO COUNTER VIOLENT  
EXTREMISM

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## 37

NEW GROUPS OR INITIATIVES  
CREATED TO RESOLVE  
CONFLICTS OR CONFLICT  
DRIVERS



# GAINING REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PEACE



*Photo above: Local peace facilitators representing Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda completed a 10-day certificate course in peace studies and conflict resolution organized by CEWARN with the Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations in Nairobi. Each participant developed a conflict case study based on his or her geographic area of expertise. After graduating, participants joined the CEWARN Facilitator Corps, a growing network of peace advocates who are available to support peace negotiations, communal conflict mapping, community peace projects and other priorities.*

IGAD partners with USAID in countering violent extremism and mitigating conflict in the region. By working through IGAD's Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN) and several supportive programs, USAID contributes to the development of effective policies and interventions that increase the security of vulnerable communities, especially those between Kenya and its conflict-prone border crossings with Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda.

In 2016, these efforts were bolstered by a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between CEWARN and Pact, a USAID partner that is implementing a complementary cross-border conflict mitigation program. This unprecedented relationship between an intergovernmental body and a non-governmental organization enables Pact to provide technical support to CEWARN through joint implementation of activities, information-sharing and learning. The MoU also facilitated closer engagement between Pact and national conflict early warning and response units (CEWERUs) in each of the IGAD

member states to design and deliver activities that respond to rising tensions in border communities.

CEWARN receives data on existing and potentially violent conflicts from a network of field monitors, national research institutes, civil society organizations and community leaders. The organization augments this data with actionable analysis and recommendations, then shares it with local, national and regional authorities to encourage an early, effective and united response that prevents escalation of conflict and lays the foundation for peace.

CEWARN completed a multi-year process to redesign its "Reporter System" early warning database in Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda. On the basis of these pilots, CEWARN tested the database and identified and implemented revisions to the system before rolling it out region-wide. The new system supports its robust mandate to report on more than 15 types of conflicts, such as those related to elections, land disputes and ethnicity.



USAID works to defuse border tensions, facilitates stronger relationships between citizens and government, trains local peacebuilding practitioners and supports dozens of local peace groups and committees. Peace dividend projects bring communities together to address a common need. In doing so, they are able to appreciate their similarities and differences while reaping the benefits (“dividends”) of maintaining peace. Communities previously in conflict constructed and managed six peace dividend projects that included a maternity ward, watering holes, a community peace hall, livestock markets and new roads.

*Photo right: Leila Abdullahi Abdi holds her newborn baby at a newly renovated maternity facility supported by USAID in Hulugho, Kenya, near the border with Somalia. In addition to providing essential maternal care to reduce maternal and newborn deaths, this peace dividend project is furthering ties between two clans that are often in conflict and reducing the vulnerability of these communities to violent extremist organizations.*



*Photo above: Adan Mohamed Ibrahim and his livestock make use of a new water pan in the Somali region of Ethiopia. Water scarcity in this Ethiopia/Somalia cross-border area led to conflict between neighboring clans. Today, the two communities share this water pan and have established schedules to allow both communities to benefit. Herders bring camels, cattle, sheep and goats to drink in an orderly way while others wait for their turn. These groups used to fight over resources such as water. Now, they protect the peace to benefit from this shared resource.*



# BUILDING COMMUNITY-BASED PEACE



Photo above: Youth from different ethnicities interact and become acquainted during a competitive – and violence-free – soccer match. These interactions help groups in conflict focus on their commonalities rather than their differences, encouraging peace along the way.



Photo above: Peter Acia makes a sale in his shop in Kaabong, Uganda.

**“I am so happy I have been given an opportunity to change my life and live in my community. I have seen the light.”**

—Peter Acia

In 2016, communities continued to build trust with one another and break cycles of cross-border violence. Armed groups lay down their weapons to engage in dialogue. Young people find that a little training goes a long way toward getting a job. A diverse and growing array of peace actors that includes women, youth, tribal chiefs, elders, security officials and local political leaders learns to help others recover after violence befalls them.

Chiefs' forums convened to build trust between youth and local authorities. Participating youth paired with a local chief, then the teams worked together to help youth develop action plans to move their lives forward in peace and dissuade them from succumbing to extremist ideologies. Youth learned about the resources and opportunities available in the community to help them start businesses, gain skills and seek employment and mentorship.

When Peter Acia was 19 years old, he joined a group of warriors in northeastern Uganda, partly because he was unemployed and lacked legitimate economic opportunities. Rising quickly through the ranks, he became a skilled sharpshooter and owned a dozen guns. He eventually left for Sudan, where he led cattle raids and other violent attacks.

Pursued by the police and army, Peter boldly decided to change his lifestyle. With the help of a friend, he laid down his weapons and was introduced to USAID's Kaabong Peace Ambassadors, a support group for reformed warriors. The group helped secure Peter's amnesty, which led to his participation in trauma healing with a small group of former fighters. Peter participated in life skills and entrepreneurship training and joined a village savings and loan association. Today he owns a small shop in Kaabong and is receiving additional work-related training. He hopes to become a community animal health worker and poultry vaccinator. He uses the earnings from his shop to care for his mother and other relatives and friends.



# INTEGRATING WOMEN IN PEACEBUILDING

When women are empowered to use their voices and skills, they can help counter violent extremism. Through USAID training, women learned to monitor and report violent extremist activity in their communities. This awareness led to action when four boys tried to cross into Somalia from Kenya under the guise that they were looking for employment, but they aroused suspicions that their true intention was to join a terrorist group. The mother of one of the boys shared this information with her women's group. The information-sharing ultimately prevented the boys from crossing the border when the women's group representative informed the local chief and security officer, who took action and prevented four young people from undergoing radicalization into terrorism.

Eight Kenyan women professionals attended a peacebuilding institute supported by USAID and Eastern Mennonite University (EMU) in Virginia. During their study in the United States, the women learned about actual conflicts across the world and discussed solutions to those conflicts in the context of their communities. These trailblazing women are impressively diverse: a high court chief

probation officer with alternative dispute resolution skills, a gender specialist who trains the military in peacebuilding, a peace worker who rallies Somali women using clan and family networks and a trauma counselor for mothers of youth who have been radicalized. Two graduates of the program will run for office in Kenya's 2017 parliamentary elections, seeking to expand their networks and platform as a way to promote peace.

In the final phase of the program, participants returned to their communities to carry out a conflict intervention that they designed. Roselyne Onunga, a graduate from Kenya, addressed a boundary dispute centered on the theft of cattle between Luo and Kalenjin ethnic groups that is blamed for 35 people's deaths. Working with her peace organization and the district peace committee, Roselyne successfully helped these groups in conflict resolve their differences through a series of meetings for which she served as a mediator. Today, Roselyne is mentoring young women who are interested in running for public office.



*Photo above: Participants and facilitators from the Eastern Mennonite University's Peacebuilding Leadership Institute are putting the lessons they learned to work in Kenya and East Africa.*



*USAID is partnering with the U.S. Department of the Interior and many East African governments and conservation organizations to combat elephant poaching in East Africa.*





A savanna landscape with acacia trees and a blue sky. The image is split vertically. The left half shows a bright, sunny savanna with green grass and several acacia trees. The right half is a dark, semi-transparent overlay containing white text.

# CONSERVING AND PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES

**214,354  
hectares**

OF BIOLOGICALLY SIGNIFICANT  
LAND PLACED UNDER IMPROVED  
MANAGEMENT

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**14**

CLIMATE ADAPTATION  
TOOLS, TECHNOLOGIES AND  
METHODOLOGIES DEVELOPED,  
TESTED OR ADOPTED

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**20**

NEW LAWS, POLICIES,  
AGREEMENTS OR REGULATIONS  
PROPOSED AND ADOPTED OR  
IMPLEMENTED



# COUNTERING WILDLIFE CRIME

Wildlife crime threatens the security, economy and biodiversity of East Africa. International networks for the poaching, transit and sale of illegal wildlife products target animal populations across borders, creating a complex problem that requires regional coordination. Demand for elephant ivory, rhino horn, lions (for trophies, bones and as retaliation after lions kill livestock) and pangolin meat and scales continues to rise as poaching methods become increasingly sophisticated.

To prevent and reduce wildlife crime, USAID launched the Wildlife Information and Landscape Database (WILD), a smartphone application that improves collection, sharing, management and analysis of biodiversity information in East Africa. WILD tracks the movement of game scout patrols using the phone's GPS. While on patrol, the scouts can record information on wildlife sightings, poaching, animal deaths, human-wildlife conflict and other activities and immediately transmit data back to their headquarters. The information is stored in WILD's secure online database, where it can be analyzed and used to support management decisions such as the need to adjust patrol routes to cover areas with higher incidents of poaching. WILD is being used in the

Amboseli ecosystem in Kenya and in 10 conservancies around the Maasai Mara National Reserve in Kenya and Tanzania. To date, 440 conservation managers and community game scouts have received training to use WILD in national and community protected areas.

USAID and regional institutions are leveraging expertise from several U.S. Government agencies, including the Department of Interior (DOI) and the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), to combat wildlife trafficking in East Africa.

Uganda is a critical transit point for illegal wildlife goods. USAID and DOI completed an assessment in Uganda on the status of anti-poaching and wildlife trafficking interventions by government agencies and NGOs. The assessment identified areas for further technical assistance by the DOI on wildlife law enforcement, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) implementation and training on information-sharing, investigating wildlife crime and intercepting wildlife products. The training included crime scene instruction and provision of 10 investigative kits to support conservationists and police in their efforts to protect rhinos from extinction.



*Photo above: Rangers in the field learn to use the new Wildlife Information and Landscape Database (WILD) mobile app. The WILD app is user-friendly, with a Kiswahili language option. The use of visuals makes it accessible to semi-literate users.*



Photo right: A ranger guards a pile of burning tusks at the Nairobi National Park. To increase awareness of the damage caused by poaching and wildlife crimes, USAID supported Kenya Wildlife Service communication and messaging for the historic burning of 102 tons of ivory and 1.53 tons of rhino horn in April 2016 in Nairobi. A comprehensive campaign using the hashtag #WorthMoreAlive reached millions of people across the world using television, radio and social media.



ERIC ONYIEGO | USAID



USAID

Photo above: To increase awareness about the importance of conserving wildlife, WildlifeDirect, a Kenya-based conservation organization, received a grant through the interagency agreement between the U.S. Department of Interior and USAID. The grant funds improvements to the quality and reach of NTV Wild productions, a Kenyan wildlife conservation television program that works in partnership with WildlifeDirect, Nation TV and the Kenya Wildlife Service. Intentions are to expand this valued wildlife documentary program to other countries in the region.

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**“Before we had WILD, our work was difficult. The rangers had to carry so many things while out on patrol. They had phones, camera, notebooks, pens, radios. So when they came across an incident, they would lose time recording it and maybe the poachers are still in the area and they would miss catching them. Now, they only have to carry one thing – their phones.”**

—Wilson Sairowua, data manager for Mara Elephant Project, a USAID grantee.

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# IMPROVING BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION

Sustainable economic integration requires the responsible use of the region's natural resources. East Africa's rich biodiversity is a tremendous and highly interconnected asset, supporting the livelihoods of millions of people. By working together to improve ecosystem management, adopt innovative technologies and increase awareness about biodiversity conservation, East Africans can conserve and protect their vast yet fragile land, water and wildlife resources.

USAID focuses its work in biologically significant areas that are critical to the survival of unique, rare and endemic species and contribute valuable natural resources to local and national economies. The Lake Victoria and Mara River basins are two such areas. Lake Victoria, the largest tropical lake in the world, and its satellite lakes, rivers and wetlands constitute the Lake Victoria basin. Kenya and Tanzania jointly manage the Mara River basin, which flows directly into Lake Victoria. People in the five East African countries of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda share the resources of these two river basins.

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***“This section of the wetlands is probably the most important breeding area for fish and other key species of plants, birds and amphibians. It is also a source of other natural resources, which contribute financially to the local economy and which are traded hundreds of kilometers away.”***

— Vincent Barugahare,  
Principal Wetlands Officer, NatureUganda

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Photo above: Ugandans in the Lake Nabugabo area are, like this fisherman, learning how to responsibly use resources to protect the lake's rich ecosystem.





*Photos above: Many birds, such as the malachite kingfisher, left, and shoebill stork, right, rely on wetlands for survival. These birds also draw tourists to their habitats, contributing greatly to Uganda's national economy.*

Uganda's Lake Nabugabo, situated near Lake Victoria, is one of the country's most important wetlands. These intersections of land and water reduce the impact of extreme weather events such as floods and droughts by acting as a natural sponge, absorbing and storing excess rainfall. Wetlands also provide livelihoods and economic stability for many communities.

USAID is working with the Uganda Ministry of Water and Environment and NatureUganda to extend the protected boundaries of Lake Nabugabo and strengthen environmental protections for and management of the lake. A USAID-supported economic valuation of the area found that the wetland

species and habitats make a substantial contribution to local, national and global economies. Lake Nabugabo's goods and services, for example, are worth an average \$215 a year for each member of the local population.

To support the lake's conservation, USAID developed an investment plan that prioritizes and values conservation interventions. National and local authorities can draw on this useful data to write proposals for anticipated conservation projects. NatureUganda is also working with communities around Lake Nabugabo to raise their awareness of the importance of conserving the lake for future generations.



# PROMOTING ECO-FRIENDLY TOURISM

Appropriate management of tourism activities in East Africa is necessary to avoid irreversible damage to areas that are already under serious stress from unplanned and uncontrolled development. USAID advocated for responsible environmental management through the newly formed Mara Serengeti Hoteliers Forum (MSHF), which represents 36 hotels in Kenya and Tanzania. These hotels are encouraged to use “green” biodegradable cleaning products to reduce contaminants entering the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem. USAID is supporting the forum’s transition to an international NGO to strengthen its ability to promote sustainable tourism practices and raise awareness within the tourism industry.

An audit of tourist facilities in the Maasai Mara National Reserve identified 31 facilities with a total bed capacity of 1,382 clustered around the Mara River and its tributaries. The audit provided several important recommendations, including the need for a management plan, a process to regulate the issuing of business permits and the completion of environmental impact assessments to help prevent exceeding the visitor capacity of this national reserve.



Photo above: A Mara Serengeti Hoteliers Forum representative answers questions at a festival in Narok County.



# ADAPTING TO CLIMATE VARIABILITY

Climate trends expected to intensify include increasing temperatures, erratic rainfall intensity and frequency and extremity of weather events such as floods and droughts. Without an effective response, these conditions will continue to threaten regional development gains and economic stability. A USAID assessment of the Lake Victoria basin provided a comprehensive overview of current and plausible future climate scenarios and how they are likely to affect East African people and ecosystems. National experts from five countries discussed the assessment and suggested 25 adaptation options that could reduce these inevitable hardships. The scientific data generated informed the development of a Lake Victoria Basin Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan.

USAID worked with insurance, fertilizer, farmer, meteorological and other organizations to pilot an affordable, weather-indexed insurance plan for smallholder farmers in Kenya. The insurance, Kinga Kilimo (Kiswahili for “protect farming”), helps reduce the risk of crop losses associated with adverse weather events. Farmers can also access weather advisories via SMS text message prior to major weather events. This information helps them decide which crops and fertilizers to use and the best times and ways to prepare, plant and store them.

The U.S. Government's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and USAID are pioneering the use of space technologies for development efforts. This partnership is improving the environmental decision-making of East African inter-governmental regional organizations and national governments through the use of scientific data such as satellite-based earth monitoring and geospatial information. Partners, including the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development, work with member states in East and Southern Africa to translate NASA data into practical products and services that contribute to long-lasting development.



*Photo above: A technician prepares to scan and digitize meteorological record cards in Tanzania. Historical and credible climate data is critical to understand climate trends, including climate change. USAID helped preserve valuable climate information with the Tanzania Meteorological Agency by digitizing 30 years of temperature and rainfall data from 96 stations around the Lake Victoria basin in Tanzania. The EAC Secretariat, IGAD, the World Meteorological Organization and the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development all participated in an evaluation of this project to facilitate its replication elsewhere in the region.*





A mother receives health services from a clinic in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, operated by Medair, a partner of USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.





# PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

## **\$1 BILLION**

WORTH OF LIFESAVING FOOD  
ASSISTANCE PROVIDED IN EAST  
AND CENTRAL AFRICA

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## **\$85 MILLION**

PROVIDED TO ADDRESS NEEDS  
OF DROUGHT-AFFECTED  
FAMILIES IN ETHIOPIA

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## **\$60 MILLION**

WORTH OF ASSISTANCE  
PROVIDED TO RESPOND TO THE  
ONGOING HUMANITARIAN  
CRISIS IN SOMALIA



# RESPONDING TO HUMANITARIAN CRISES

Through its East and Central Africa Office in Nairobi, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance responds to humanitarian needs across the region in countries experiencing complex emergencies — characterized by widespread violence and internal displacement — and chronic or recurrent humanitarian challenges, including acute food insecurity, cyclical drought, floods and disease outbreaks. To assist conflict- and disaster-affected populations, USAID supports the distribution of emergency relief commodities; interventions to increase access to critical health, nutrition and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services; and the provision of protection assistance, among other activities.

Since large-scale fighting erupted in South Sudan in late 2013, USAID has operated a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) based in South Sudan's capital city of Juba, through which USAID provided more than \$109 million in 2016 to extend emergency assistance to people affected by violence and insecurity.

In Ethiopia, agricultural commodities performed poorly as a result of consecutive rainy seasons and severe drought conditions related to the 2015/2016 El Niño climatic event. This translated to an estimated 10.2 million people requiring food relief assistance and approximately 5.8 million people requiring clean water, among other critical needs, at the height of the crisis in 2016. USAID activated a DART in March 2016 to scale up humanitarian response efforts, and USAID provided nearly \$85 million to address the emergency WASH needs of drought-affected families; distribute critical supplies of seeds and other agricultural inputs to farmers for planting; and provide lifesaving nutrition assistance, including preventive screenings and treatment, for vulnerable women and children.

In Somalia, drought conditions associated with the 2015/2016 El Niño climatic event exacerbated the country's ongoing humanitarian crisis, characterized by persistent food insecurity and widespread violence. In 2016, approximately 5 million people required emergency food assistance, and continued conflict-related displacement resulted in an estimated 1.1



*Photo above: A child born in a USAID-supported health clinic in Ituri territory, Democratic Republic of Congo.*

million internally displaced persons (IDPs). USAID responded with nearly \$60 million in assistance for activities to meet acute health, nutrition, food security and WASH needs, as well as early recovery programs to build resilience among vulnerable populations. Similarly, ongoing conflict and acute food insecurity contributed to significant humanitarian needs in Sudan, with approximately 5.8 million people requiring relief assistance in 2016. USAID provided more than \$59 million in assistance to meet the health, livelihoods, nutrition and WASH needs of conflict-affected populations across Sudan. USAID also worked with partners to respond to conflict-related displacement and humanitarian needs in the Central African Republic and Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), as well as respond to May 2016 flooding and landslides in Rwanda that affected approximately 30,000 people.



# PROVIDING FOOD ASSISTANCE

More than 23 million people in East and Central Africa experienced food insecurity in 2016 due to frequent droughts, floods, political instability and conflict. Most notably, conflict and drought in South Sudan and Somalia and political instability in Burundi were major contributors to the sharp increase in people needing urgent, lifesaving humanitarian assistance. In 2016, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) provided more than \$1 billion in lifesaving food assistance in the form of food and nutrition commodities, mobile money transfers and food vouchers to support these populations.

Conflict and drought led to unprecedented levels of displacement in the region, resulting in approximately 4 million refugees and 9.2 million internally displaced persons. In Burundi, political instability continued to drive food insecurity and displacement. In response, FFP provided more than \$32 million in 2016 to combat food insecurity in the country and address the food and nutrition needs of Burundian refugees in Rwanda and Tanzania. FFP nearly doubled resources provided to the U.N. World Food Program's (WFP) Rwanda and Tanzania refugee programs. This helped address the food and nutrition needs of fleeing Burundians and the already present Congolese refugees. Flexible market-based assistance in the form of cash and vouchers allowed refugees to choose commodities from the local markets, providing an economic boost to the host communities and reducing conflict.

The South Sudan crisis significantly escalated in 2016, prompting more than one million South Sudanese to flee into neighboring countries.

The primary recipient of those refugee flows was Uganda, which then became the largest host of refugees in the region with almost one million refugees, followed by Ethiopia and Kenya. FFP's food and nutrition assistance to WFP and UNICEF were used to save lives and help stabilize these populations as they adjusted to their new lives as refugees in foreign lands.

Somalia experienced a challenging 2016, with El Niño climatic conditions exacerbating acute food insecurity and malnutrition caused primarily by localized shocks, conflict and displacement. Early in 2016, drought hit the northern regions of Somaliland and Puntland. FFP responded by reprogramming resources to address the increased needs in the North. Later in the year, low rainfall from April to June and subsequent below-average performance of the October to December rains caused acute food insecurity and malnutrition to steadily rise as cereal production plummeted and livestock were negatively impacted. Throughout 2016, FFP channeled funds through the United Nations and non-governmental (NGO) partners to address immediate needs ensuring that affected families had access to sustenance through in-kind food and market-based assistance, while also investing in activities to build assets such as water catchments to help mitigate the longer-term impacts. Lastly, prior FFP investments have contributed to resilience activities that have already built the capacity of communities to prepare for, mitigate the effects of and recover from shocks such as this drought.



*Photo above: Children at the Kalobeyei Integrated Refugee Settlement line up to receive free school meals provided by WFP and USAID.*









# CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS

## 733

YOUNG LEADERS FROM 14  
COUNTRIES IN SUB-SAHARAN  
AFRICA COMPLETED A 12-WEEK  
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

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## 120

MANDELA WASHINGTON  
FELLOWS PARTICIPATED IN THE  
YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS  
INITIATIVE (YALI) REGIONAL  
CONFERENCE

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## 310

YALI MANDELA WASHINGTON  
FELLOWS LINKED TO  
PROFESSIONAL PRACTICUM/  
MENTORS



# BUILDING A NEW GENERATION OF AFRICAN LEADERS

Approximately 60 percent of Africa's population is younger than 35 years of age. In partnership with the private sector, USAID develops the next generation of young African leaders across sub-Saharan Africa. In 2016, youth aged 18 to 35 from 14 countries in East and Central Africa participated in leadership training at the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Regional Leadership Center in Nairobi, Kenya. The center's programming builds skills, assets and competencies for leadership in business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership and public management.

Graduates engage in projects that transform their communities and countries while forming a regional network of young leaders.

USAID also provided opportunities to young African leaders who had participated in the Mandela Washington Fellowship in the United States to gain practical skills, identify mentors in their countries and network and share experiences at a regional conference.



Photo above: Yanie Yanou is a Young African Leaders Initiative Regional Leadership Center graduate from Djibouti. After the first three weeks of the program, she gained confidence to pursue her dream of being a fashion designer, featuring modern fashions and accessories with a local Djiboutian flair. In June 2016, she received the Djibouti national Fashion Designer of the Year award.





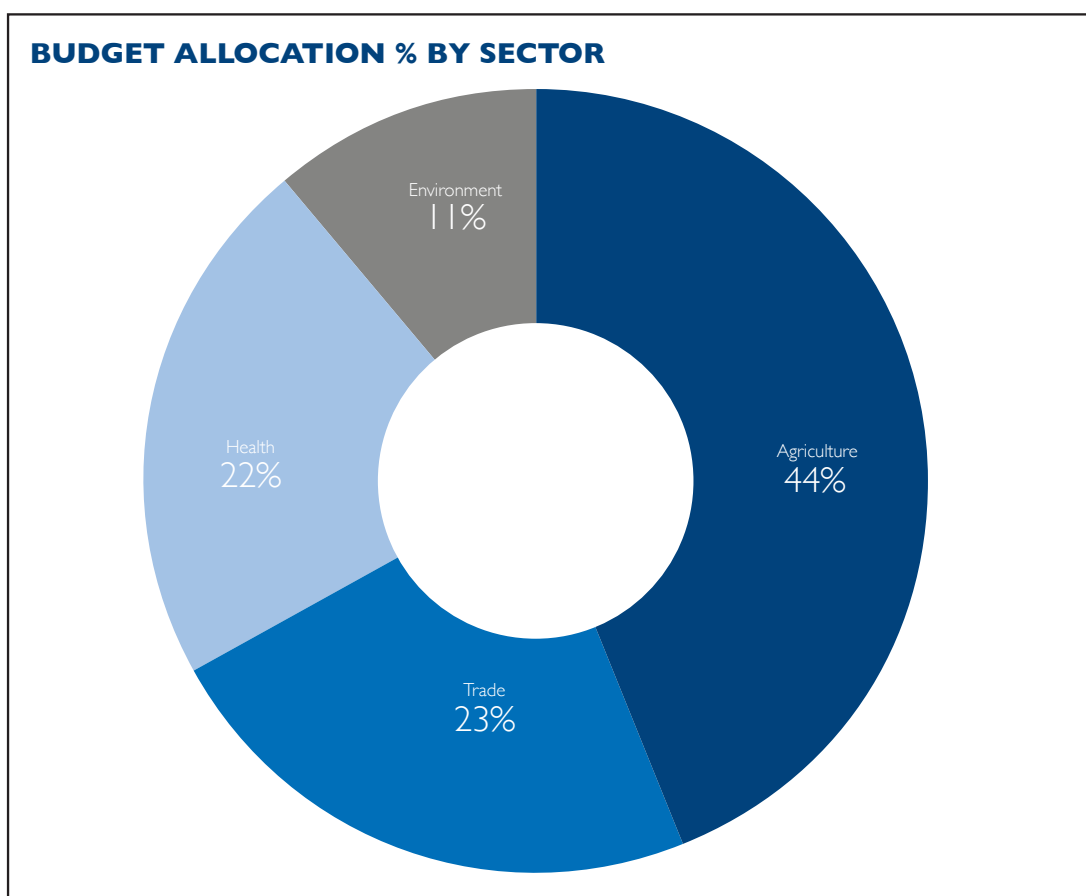
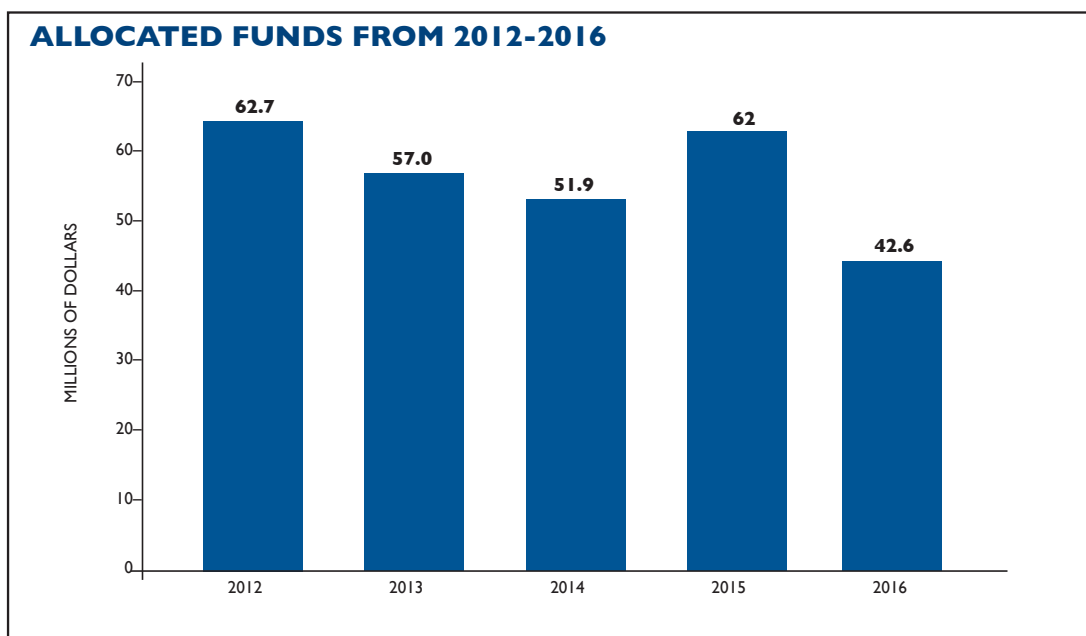
USAID



ERIC N'YIEGO | USAID



# BUDGET ALLOCATIONS\*



*\*Funds represent allocations based on USAID's 2016 fiscal year (FY) Operational Plan for East Africa. In addition to FY2016 allocated funds, USAID regional programs operated with over \$13.8 million in central USAID headquarters funding for Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI), trade and democracy activities.*



# USAID ACTIVITIES

## DEMOCRACY GOVERNANCE AND CONFLICT

IGAD/Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism

PEACE III

Women's Peace Building and Leadership Program (Eastern Mennonite University)

## REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

Aflatoxin Policy and Program Activity for East Africa

African Institutions Innovation Mechanism (AIIM) Assist

Africa Leadership Training and Capacity Building Program

Agricultural Market Development Trust (AGMARK)

COMESA Integrated Partnership Assistance Agreement

IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI)

Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease

Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS)

Resilience Learning Project

Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health (AUIBAR)

## HEALTH

Cross-Border Health Integrated Partnership Project

Higher Education Solutions Network

Knowledge for Health

Polio Eradication and Immunization Support Worldwide

Population Health and Environment and EAC Health Policy and Coordination

TB Challenge

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)

## ENVIRONMENT

Implementing a Resilience Framework to Support Climate Change Adaptation in the Mt. Elgon Region of the Lake Victoria Basin

Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER)

Planning for Resilience in East Africa through Policy Adaptation, Research and Economic Development (PREPARED): Tetra Tech ARD, East African Community, Lake Victoria Basin Commission, IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre, Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET)

United States Department of the Interior Partnership to End Wildlife Trafficking in East Africa

## POWER

Africa Legal Support Facility

African Union Commission

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners

Power Africa Transaction and Reform Program

Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa

U.S. Energy Association Utility Facility

## REGIONAL TRADE

COMESA Integrated Partnership Assistance Agreement

East Africa Trade & Investment Hub

Financial Sector Deepening Program

Invest East Africa - Impact Investment Fund

TradeMark East Africa - Trade Infrastructure Project











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