



## FACT SHEET

September 2014

## Resilience



Ethiopia's livestock population is among the largest in the world. USAID's livestock and market expansion activities support productivity, animal health care and market access for smallholders as well as opportunities for large producers to increase exports. Photo: Kelley Lynch.

“Ultimately, we seek to save and improve lives and decrease the need for repeated infusions of humanitarian assistance in these areas.” – USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah, *USAID Policy: Building Resilience to Recurrent Crisis*, December 2012

In 2011, one of the worst droughts in 60 years plunged 13.3 million people into crisis in the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia was one of several countries affected, but due to a relatively improved coping capacity and rapid response, including pre-positioning of food and programs mounted by humanitarian agencies, donors and the government, the impact was less severe than in Somalia where many perished. Natural disasters, climate changes or market shocks can always trigger emergency needs, but recurrent factors within Ethiopia create and increase vulnerability to these extreme events. Land degradation, limited household assets, low levels of farm technology, lack of employment opportunities and population pressure all undermine efforts to maintain sustainable livelihoods in the face of crises. But a focus on resilience promises to strengthen Ethiopians coping capacity by addressing the core causes for vulnerability and sensitivity to climate or other change.

## PROGRAM GOALS

For Horn of Africa governments and development partners, the response to the 2011 drought demonstrated how taking steps to plan for a disaster, rather than simply reacting to it, could increase the resilience of populations. A focus on resilience—the ability of people, households, communities, countries and systems to mitigate, adapt to, and recover from shocks and stresses—will strengthen development investments and facilitate sustainable growth. In Ethiopia, USAID is [building resilience](#) through improving agricultural productivity, market expansion, natural resources management, targeted humanitarian aid, safety net support for pastoralists and farmers, and joint planning with other USAID missions in East Africa to promote strategic collaboration.

### Providing Humanitarian Assistance to Support Resilience

Ethiopia's population is at risk for several environmental shocks including flooding, drought, volcanic activity, disease outbreaks, and crop losses due to insects and mold. Additionally, resource scarcity after disasters can cause localized conflict and exacerbate crises. To minimize harm when shocks occur, USAID's [Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance](#) (OFDA) provides emergency food aid, emergency relief supplies, therapeutic feeding for malnutrition, and water and sanitation improvements for vulnerable populations.

## ETHIOPIA SNAPSHOT

- Pastoralism accounts for approximately six percent of Ethiopia's agricultural GDP each year through the production of milk, meat, skin and hides valued at USD \$1.5 billion
- Pastoralist areas provide 95 percent of Ethiopia's meat for export
- Prevalence of poverty in Ethiopia's pastoralist areas: 56.3 percent
- Undernourished population in Ethiopia's pastoralist areas: 45.6 percent
- Over the last three years, USAID has invested an average of USD \$58.3 million per year for resilience related activities in Ethiopia

Sources: Berhanu and Feyera study, 2009; International Livestock Research Institute, 2008

## Strengthening Livelihoods to Create Resilience

USAID's humanitarian assistance through OFDA is a foundation upon which to build resilience programs. In 2003, Ethiopia experienced a devastating drought, leaving 20 percent of the population without food and tens of thousands dead from starvation. Learning from this experience, USAID began to create resiliency programs in advance of the next crisis. The [Productive Safety Net Program](#) (PSNP), designed by the Government of Ethiopia with support from USAID, the World Bank and other donors builds resilience to shocks by addressing chronic food shortages. Participants receive food and cash stipends in exchange for work from able-bodied household members on public works projects. As a result, crucial local conservation and infrastructure projects get completed and families don't have to sell their assets to buy food after crises. Since 2006, PSNP has reduced beneficiaries' food gap, or the months in the year when they don't have a secure source of food, by half.



Bule Dhenge (in red) and Ware Tache (to Bule's right) fill their jerry cans at the rehabilitated water point in Dhas, Borena Zone. To ensure it is properly managed and fees can be collected, the water point is only open for two hours in the morning and two hours in the evening. USAID benefits almost 47,000 households in the Afar, Somali, and Oromia regions by improving sustainable access to safe water and by linking it to improved sanitation and hygiene. Photo: Kelley Lynch.

In Ethiopia, an estimated 12 to 15 million pastoralists live in arid or semi-arid dry lands, which makes them particularly vulnerable to environmental shocks. To build resilience among this population, USAID, through the U.S. [Feed the Future](#) Initiative, created the [Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement through Market Expansion](#) (PRIME) project to support pastoralist-driven economies and improve livelihoods. PRIME supports market expansion opportunities for pastoralists with large livestock herds and helps individuals with smaller, unsustainable herds transition out of pastoralism by giving them the skills and resources needed to adapt to a different lifestyle. To date, the project has reached 65,000 households and placed more than four million hectares of rangeland under improved management.

In dry lands of Ethiopia water is a scarce resource particularly during drought periods. It is cause for livestock loss, poor nutritional outcomes, and can cause localized conflict. To improve water availability in the dry lands, USAID designed the [Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Transformation for Enhanced Resilience](#) (WaTER) project. WaTER improves access to clean and sustainable water sources for target communities in the Somali, Afar and Oromia regions. The program also boosts public awareness about natural resources management to prevent further rangeland degradation. Currently, new or improved wells are benefiting 220,000 individuals in lowland pastoralist areas. USAID is supporting innovative approaches such as drought insurance by helping pastoralists transfer risk to insurance companies through Index-Based Livestock Insurance (IBLI) type insurance instruments. In response to the failed rainfall in Borena in 2014, 400 households will receive livestock insurance payouts valued at 2.83 million birr (equivalent to USD \$120,000).

## Strategic Planning to Build Resilience

USAID has created a [Joint Planning Cell](#) across its missions in East Africa, including Ethiopia, to bridge the gap between its humanitarian relief work and development by creating integrated programming with mutual strategic objectives. The expected goal of the planning cell is to directly benefit 10 million people and reduce east Africa's emergency caseload by one million people during major crises in the next five years.

## Key Projects and Implementing Partners

### Food for Peace

- **Joint Emergency Operation:** Catholic Relief Services, 2012-2015
- **Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP):** Catholic Relief Services, Food for the Hungry, REST and Save the Children, 2012-2016

### Food for Peace, Global Climate Change Initiative, Office of Disaster Assistance

- **Resilience through Enhanced Adaptation, Action-learning, and Partnership (REAAP):** Catholic Relief Services, 2014-2017
- **Restoring Vibrant Villages and Environments (REVIVE):** Project Concern International, 2014-2017

### Feed the Future Initiative and Global Climate Change Initiative

- **Graduation with Resilience to Achieve Sustainable Development (GRAD):** Care, Tufts University, SNV (Netherlands Development Organisation), Catholic Relief Services, and four Ethiopian partners, 2011-2016
- **Pastoralist Areas Resilience Improvement through Market Expansion (PRIME):** Mercy Corps, CARE, AISDA, Kimetrica and ACPA, 2012-2017

### Water

- **Groundwater Exploration and Assessment:** U.S. Geological Survey, 2011-2015
- **Sustainable Water Resources: Capacity Building in Education, Research, and Outreach:** University of Addis Ababa and University of Connecticut, 2010-2015
- **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Transformation for Enhanced Resilience (WaTER):** International Rescue Committee and CARE, 2011-2014