On behalf of the American people, we promote and demonstrate democratic values abroad, and advance a free, peaceful, and prosperous world. In support of America’s foreign policy, the U.S. Agency for International Development leads the U.S. Government’s international development and disaster assistance through partnerships and investments that save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance, and help people emerge from humanitarian crises and progress beyond assistance.
MESSAGE FROM THE USAID MISSION DIRECTOR

I am proud to present our third annual report to the people of East Africa. USAID’s East Africa programs address development challenges that require coordinated effort across nations and regions. This report to the East African people contains a snapshot of the results of our strategy for regional cooperation for development during 2017.

For decades USAID has partnered with regional intergovernmental organizations (RIGOs) including the Common Market for Eastern and Central Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD). Together, we build prosperity through shared priorities such as achieving food security, boosting economic growth, preventing conflict and improving health systems. Our commitment to supporting RIGOs to be more financially self-reliant and strategically engaged in building regional capabilities and expanding partnerships and investments will deepen over the coming years.

Through our regional partnerships, more cross-border health units have been established and services streamlined to prevent the spread of diseases such as HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, and to improve the surveillance of emerging diseases.

Together, we improved food security and household resilience to shocks, such as drought, while providing humanitarian assistance linked to programs that will build long-term resilience for the most vulnerable populations. Collaboration with governments and communities are helping prevent poaching and wildlife trafficking while also conserving critical natural resources that are tied to the future economy and livelihoods of East Africans.

To ensure that cross border and inter-state challenges are addressed, USAID and RIGOs have created information systems for trade and early conflict warning. USAID alongside other development partners have supported building stronger networks of community and government leaders, providing more opportunities to counter the corrosive effects of violent extremism and intervene before conflicts escalate into violence.

In trade and economic growth under the U.S. Government’s Africa Growth and Opportunity Act, AGOA, East African exports continue to grow and diversify. East African governments have put in place policies to harmonize trade regulations and infrastructure such as roads and customs systems that have helped make trade between countries more efficient and predictable. In 2017, the region welcomed more than $30 million in new private sector investment, primarily in agribusiness, providing boosts for African businesses and farmers.

USAID will continue to support the region’s ability to look within for solutions and focus on the people, governments and regional institutions that can ultimately lead a more peaceful and economically strong East Africa. East African citizens deserve the very best we can provide through regional solutions to their development challenges.

Mark Meassick
USAID Mission Director
USAID collaborates with regional intergovernmental organizations to promote integration and growth and to guide and coordinate development efforts. These partnerships complement work carried out through multilateral, U.S., national, local and private sector partners and contribute to results achieved by in-country USAID missions.

**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 while the cost of doing business has decreased. USAID works with two COMESA agencies: i) 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 ii) 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, was formed in 1999 and comprises 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, 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 to 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) helps to integrate 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.
Jamlick Bundi (left) and Tengure Lekupe (right) prepare to sell tobacco at Oldonyiro Livestock Market in Isiolo County, Kenya. USAID supported the development of several new livestock markets like this one in Oldonyiro which provide jobs and other economic opportunities for nearby communities. Photo: USAID/Mwangi Kirubi
TABLE OF CONTENTS

MODERNIZING REGIONAL TRADE

POWER AFRICA

INCREASING REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF EAST AFRICANS

1

9

13

25
REDUCING CONFLICT AND SUPPORTING PEACE

CONSERRVING AND PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES

BUILDING A NEW GENERATION OF AFRICAN LEADERS

PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
MODERNIZING REGIONAL TRADE

$841 MILLION
IN EXPORTS TO THE U.S. – OF WHICH $108 MILLION IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO USAID

$31 MILLION
IN NEW PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT

7%
DECREASE IN COST OF TRANSPORTING GOODS FROM MOMBASA TO REGIONAL INLAND DESTINATIONS
PROMOTING TRADE BETWEEN EAST AFRICA AND THE UNITED STATES

East Africa has experienced impressive economic growth in recent years, with some countries achieving up to six percent annual growth. With reduced trade barriers enabling greater regional integration, growth could soar even higher.

African governments exported $841 million in goods to the U.S. in 2017, with $108 million attributable to USAID support. The Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) aims to expand U.S. trade and investment in sub-Saharan Africa, to stimulate economic growth, encourage regional integration and to make East Africa more competitive in the global economy.

The U.S. supports a regional trade hub that engages with governments and businesses to diversify East Africa’s exports. In East Africa, USAID has helped to foster more harmonized trade regulations, reduce trade costs and improve infrastructure such as roads and customs systems.

“’We need to produce quality and competitive products if we are to maximize on the AGOA opportunity.”

— Susan Muhwezi, Uganda AGOA presidential advisor

Above: Kenyan home décor producer Zohra Barka shipped her largest U.S. order in 2017. Valued at $200,000, the deal came about from the USAID-supported Cost Plus World Market Trade Mission. The profit from this order will go to the nearly 400 artisans who contributed to each hand-carved piece and will help finance Zohra’s next big export to the U.S.

Photo: USAID/EATIH
While East African exports continue to grow in the apparel sector, many untapped opportunities exist in high-demand sectors such as specialty foods, cut flowers, home décor and leather, including footwear. To promote products from these sectors, USAID sponsored East African companies to participate in 11 international trade shows and various buyer missions. As a result, East Africans forged links with 1,071 businesses and developed initial contracts worth more than $18 million.

Ethiopia is the top African exporter of shoes to the U.S. under AGOA, and demonstrated its footwear manufacturing at a USAID-sponsored pavilion at the Fashion Footwear Association of New York. The country has a developed leather industry and investors are interested in establishing factories there. Six Ethiopian companies attracted U.S. buyers and investors with their impressive displays of quality footwear.

USAID secured a new partnership agreement with the American Apparel & Footwear Association during the MAGIC trade show in Las Vegas, Nevada. This agreement will promote high-quality manufactured goods that are destined for the U.S., and East African businesses and governments will learn best practices and standards required by American footwear and apparel sourcing companies.

Kenya and other countries are revitalizing their leather and footwear industries to take advantage of foreign export opportunities. To promote East Africa’s footwear industry, USAID sponsored a trade show booth for a Kenyan running shoe company called Enda at The Running Event in Texas. Capitalizing on the success of Kenyan marathon runners, Enda believes that the U.S. running shoe market demands new brands.

“The opportunity for exporting running shoes to the U.S. is huge. It’s a crowded marketplace, but many of the brands are offering very similar brand stories and products...new players have shown that customers are hungry for something different.”

– Weldon Kennedy, an American national who co-founded Enda with Kenyan Navalayo Osembo-Ombati, speaking at a USAID-supported trade show booth at The Running Event in Austin, Texas.
INCORPORATING COMPETITIVENESS AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT

USAID provided more than 11,100 person-hours of training in trade and investment to enable East African entrepreneurs to attract capital investment for new technologies and to expand their markets. As a result, more than 200 firms strengthened their export capacity. These opportunities helped to create 3,500 full-time jobs in the region, highlighting healthy economic growth. USAID attracted $23 million in new private sector investment for regional agricultural enterprises (out of a total of $31.3 million for all sectors), and developed a pipeline of $155 million in promising deals. Six East African investment promotion agencies worked with USAID to generate $10 million in investment-ready deals.

Twiga Foods, a new Kenyan-based business, worked with USAID to close a $6.3 million private investment deal. Twiga's goal is to “revolutionize African retail” by growing its mobile (cellular)-based, cashless, business-to-business food supply services. Promising to source produce that is both cheaper and of higher quality than goods offered through other markets, Twiga's product list boasts of “professionally handled, safely ripened and simply the best” bananas in Kenya, “plump and long-lasting” tomatoes and “firm and well-curved” onions. The investment will be used to launch a new mobile ‘fintech solution app’ that allows consumers to make mobile orders and earn short-term credit by using their transaction histories to apply for loans through partner banks.

Suppliers and buyers experience a game-changing way of doing business with Twiga. Suppliers earn higher prices for their goods, are paid promptly, bypass a middleman broker, and even receive advice about growing their business. Buyers find lower prices than those in wholesale markets and are guaranteed quality produce.

Twiga’s efficient logistics are putting more money in the hands of farmers and retailers by reducing post-harvest losses that occur when farmers are unable to access markets or retailers are not able to sell their produce before quality is sacrificed.

Above: Next day delivery is guaranteed via Twiga Foods’ ‘TukTuk’ vehicles. In 2017, Twiga Foods partnered with USAID to seal a $6.3 million investment deal that will expand the company’s operations. Photo: USAID/EATIH

REMOVING BARRIERS TO TRADE

The East African Community’s (EAC) Common Market Protocol promotes the free movement of goods, labor, service and capital to enhance trade and integration in the region. USAID supports compliance with this protocol through various mechanisms, advocating for governments and the private sector to replace systems that impede trade and to promote reforms that can expedite it.

The Northern Corridor is East Africa’s main transport route. It begins at Kenya’s port of Mombasa and extends across five countries. Over the years, a variety of national systems were adopted to track cargo as it moved along the Northern Corridor. Each system had its advantages and disadvantages. To streamline cargo tracking, strengthen cargo safety and gather cargo tax revenues, USAID contributed to the development of a unified, regional, real-time electronic cargo tracking system that allows countries to jointly track cargo from port of entry to final destination, 24 hours a day. This technology, adopted by Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, promotes regional integration and decreases opportunities for corruption as cargo travels between countries. The adoption of this unified system is expected to inspire more confidence in East Africa’s trading systems, attracting more businesses to the region.
Transport costs along the Northern Corridor remain among the highest in the world. Nevertheless, innovations such as One Stop Border Posts, an integrated customs management system and improved cargo tracking are helping to reduce costs. These posts contributed to a seven percent reduction in the cost (from $1,725 in 2016 to $1,608 in 2017) to move a 20 foot shipping container from the Mombasa seaport to interior, landlocked capitals.

USAID conducts research on government regulations that have an adverse impact on regional trade. For example, this year, influenced by data provided in part by USAID and in collaboration with private sector apex bodies, Rwanda agreed to eliminate a $300 per metric ton tax on rice originating from Tanzania, reducing the end price for consumers. The reduction in taxes is expected to stimulate trade in rice across the region.

“From a tax administration perspective, we are going to see improved revenues because the revenue leakage is going to be mitigated, but also it’s going to allow us to give more confidence to the business community to trade with ease without the manual processes that we’ve been trying to apply.”

– Richard Tusabe, Rwanda Revenue Authority commissioner general, speaking during the dedication of Rwanda’s Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System

Map courtesy of Transit Transport Coordination Authority of the Northern Corridor (TTCA-NC)
Above: Miria Akankwasa, interim chairperson of the regional East African Cross-Border Traders Association, addresses traders during the organization’s launch. The new organization will unite more than 40 independent trading associations. Photo: USAID/EATIH

PROMOTING CROSS-BORDER TRADE

I learned the benefit of joining trading groups and associations as this makes access to finance easier. For example, if a client needs products in bulk and you don’t have enough stock you can visit a fellow member of a grain association to assist in sustaining the order.”

— Natimba Halima, a trader working on the Busia border between Kenya and Uganda, speaking of her experience as a participant in a USAID training for cross-border traders

“We started business with a big dream, making it a big business,” says Natimba Halima, a 28-year old businesswoman working from Busia, Uganda, along the border with Kenya. She continues, “We expected to get customers in huge numbers, but on our way we discovered the customers were very few and we even ran out of capital, as we could stock the produce and it stayed there for a long time without customers.”

Natimba shared her experience while participating in one of six skill-building workshops hosted by the Agricultural Market Development Trust, a USAID partner. These workshops trained 232 cross-border traders on accessing capital, maintaining financial records, setting prices and marketing products. They also improved traders’ knowledge of legal requirements for trading food across borders.

Most cross-border traders are women, and the odds of growing as a small-scale enterprise are daunting, Natimba and other cross-border traders are strengthening their businesses by putting in place new practices that allow...
them to share the costs for bulk grain storage facilities, reduce shipping losses and prevent pest or moisture contamination, which lowers the quality and quantity of the grain and diminishes profit.

Natimba and thousands of cross-border traders from Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda have since taken an even bolder step forward. Approximately 70 traders, convened with support from USAID, agreed on the first-ever constitution for a regional East African Cross-Border Traders Association. To enable this success, USAID hosted meetings throughout the year at five different cross-border towns to build consensus on the objectives, agenda, constitution and the leadership structure of this new association.

Officially launched in 2017 with a female interim chairperson, the East African Cross-Border Traders Association will unify more than 40 independent, fragmented cross-border trade associations in East Africa and give cross-border traders a voice in the formulation of trade policies.

Representatives from the association will be invited to sit on influential trade committees within the EAC and engage in activities ranging from information sharing to advocacy on behalf of their membership. The association will promote compliance with EAC trade regulations. Most importantly, cross-border traders will become better positioned to monitor the supply and demand of staple foods, and to increase access to African-grown staple foods through integrated markets, contributing to improved food security for all.

Above: Women grow approximately 75 percent of food in East Africa, including this maize in Tanzania. Seven trade linkage events were held at cross-border points in the region, resulting in signed contracts for 4,240 metric tons of staple foods including beans, maize, sorghum and rice. Photo: USAID/Megan Johnson
BRINGING POWER TO AFRICA
An employee at work at the KivuWatt Power Plant in Rwanda, which extracts methane gas from one of Africa’s Great Lakes. Photo: USAID/Power Africa
BRINGING POWER TO AFRICA

Two out of three people in sub-Saharan Africa lack access to electricity. Power Africa, the U.S. Government’s power initiative, sees electricity as an opportunity for growth and prosperity for families and businesses alike. Through strong partnerships with governments, the private sector and technical experts, Power Africa aims to double the rate of access to electricity using the rich resources of the African sun, wind, water and natural gas – investing in innovative and clean technologies that expand the region’s grid and reach beyond power lines.

As East Africa moves toward a regional market for electricity trade, investment in the energy sector is the cornerstone of expanding electricity services and promoting economic development. Power Africa, through its partnerships, has mobilized billions of dollars in investment to help East African governments overcome their energy crises. By supplying affordable, reliable and clean energy solutions, people can save time and money, avoid hazardous sources of energy such as diesel and kerosene, and are given the opportunity to maximize their personal and business potentials.

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.

Power Africa supports small and medium-sized local businesses, and ensures supported projects meet appropriate environmental and social due diligence. To avoid delays and unexpected costs of projects, Power Africa has developed best practices on community consultation as a means to de-risk projects, and to create shared value among companies and local stakeholders.

Above: KivuWatt, the world’s largest methane extraction plant, based in the middle of Lake Kivu in Rwanda. The 26MW gas power plant provides nearly 30 percent of Rwanda’s electricity output, and is owned and operated by CountourGlobal, a Power Africa partner. Photo: USAID/Rachel Couch

Circle: A young Ugandan boy basks in the light cast from his family’s new pay-as-you-go solar system. Photo: USAID/Bobby Neptune
INCREASING REGIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND RESILIENCE

$186 MILLION
OF CROSS-BORDER TRADED STAPLE FOODS FACILITATED FROM AREAS OF FOOD SURPLUS TO AREAS IN FOOD DEFICIT

26 POLICIES
MOVED FORWARD FOR IMPROVED TRADE IN STAPLE FOODS

A NEW ONE-STOP-SHOP INFORMATION PORTAL FOR MAIZE LETHAL NECROSIS NOW ONLINE
A handful of Tanzanian rice. The EAC has gradually increased rice production although demand is still greater than supply. USAID and the East African Grain Council hosted a Grain Trade Facilitation Forum in Kigali, Rwanda, where officials explored strategies to expand regional rice production. Photo: USAID/Meghan Johnson
BOOSTING REGIONAL TRADE IN STAPLE FOODS

East Africa’s regional trade primarily involves agricultural crops, especially staple foods consumed by the majority of East Africans. These include beans, livestock and livestock products, maize, onions, processed flour, rice, roots and tubers, and tomatoes. To promote economic growth and improve regional food security, USAID partners with The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the EAC and others to expand the trade in staple foods, reduce barriers to trade, and to devise systems that promote the efficient movement of high-quality, safe staple foods from areas of food surplus to those that are experiencing a deficit.

The urgency for promoting intra-regional trade in staple foods took center stage this year as millions of East Africans faced food insecurity due to a devastating drought. Somalia and South Sudan were perilously close to encountering famine conditions. Food prices in major markets soared to historic highs, and staple foods were unavailable in some countries.

In February 2017, the Government of Kenya declared a national drought disaster and requested support to address widespread food insecurity. Maize flour was in short supply, and many Kenyans paid inflated prices for small quantities of this treasured staple. In contrast, Ethiopia harvested a bumper maize crop, and hoped to export some of its maize. However, Ethiopia is not a member of the EAC, and has never traded with Kenya, an EAC member state, on a large scale, despite sharing a border.

Above: Roasting maize, an East African staple food, in Kenya. USAID supported a public review of nine revised draft EAC staple foods standards. The standards were approved by the EAC Standards Committee and are awaiting final approval by the EAC Council of Ministers. Consistent application of staple foods standards will expedite cross-border trade and provide incentives for farmers to invest in quality food production. Photo: CIMMYT/Peter Lowe
The USAID East Africa Trade and Investment Hub (the HUB) promoted the movement of staple food grains from surplus to deficit regions by addressing systemic challenges and market constraints to achieve food security in Africa. This was done by facilitating private sector-led business-to-business (B2B) forums that connected grain traders from countries with surplus grain to grain traders from countries that are experiencing grain deficits, and by connecting the private sector with public sector trade specialists who can help remove non-tariff barriers and ease the logistical challenges. In this way, the USAID HUB and partners facilitated contracts for 1.41 million metric tons of grain, worth approximately $472 million, between regional trade partners since March 2017. Once contract delivery is completed, this amount of grain trade will contribute to the food security of approximately 16.78 million East Africans.

Kenya’s Ministry of Agriculture, with USAID and Ethiopian government support, subsequently sourced maize directly from the Ethiopian private sector. In May, 40 trucks loaded with Ethiopian maize departed for Kenya. The first purchase agreement totaled 50,000 metric tons. Over a four-month period, USAID facilitated business linkages for more than $100 million in intended trade, reducing barriers for the maize trade, and allowing the region to feed itself.

“I am a trader and farmer from Kenya’s largest grain producing region, and we currently don’t have any cereals. I’m buying.”

– John Kandila, chief executive officer, Zeros Two Heroes, speaking at the Grain Facilitation Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Above: Business-to-business forums, like this one held in Rwanda, brought members of the private sector together to promote the trade in grain from surplus to deficit countries. Another forum in Lusaka, Zambia connected East African grain buyers with grain sellers from Malawi, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe and resulted in signed contracts valued at $93 million. Participants also discussed policy changes required to reduce barriers to the grain trade. To facilitate bilateral trade between Zambia and Kenya, the Government of Kenya agreed to remove a ban on maize exports. Photo: USAID/EATIH
INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH MORE EFFECTIVE SEED SYSTEMS

Bountiful harvests begin with good seed. But many smallholder farmers do not farm with quality seed, due to high costs, lack of availability in local markets, or limited awareness of the relationship between improved seed varieties and crop yields.

Since 2015, Feed the Future, the U.S. Government’s global hunger and food security initiative, has promoted COMESA’s Seed Harmonization Implementation Plan (COMSHIP) so that farmers can access productive, reliable seed that can withstand depleted soils and extreme weather conditions. COMSHIP is dedicated to harmonizing seed development, standards and trade. Today, 19 COMESA member countries have agreed to align with COMSHIP, many with USAID support, including the Democratic Republic of Congo and Ethiopia in 2017. With the translation of COMSHIP into seven regional languages, farmers can now learn directly about the benefits of these harmonized regulations. Mutual accountability meetings are held to enhance coordination between donors, farmers’ associations, national seed authorities and trade associations, the private sector and non-governmental organizations. To inform the development of seed labels and certificates, COMESA completed several study tours to learn how other countries in Africa certify and brand their seed packages. A request for proposal was developed and disseminated publicly to conduct a rapid assessment of how to best promote East Africa’s seed trade. Approximately 50 seed specialists were engaged to assess their interest in the Feed the Future-hosted East Africa Seed Network, an online networking platform with a mobile application that seeks to bring together the most important stakeholders working on seed trade in East Africa.

IMPRESSING FOOD STANDARDS, QUALITY AND SAFETY

The EAC oversees the implementation of the EAC Protocol on Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures for their member states. The protocol guides the production, processing and handling of animal, plant and food products that are traded across borders. It protects human and animal life from risks associated with additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms that may spread through food while facilitating trade. It also seeks to prevent the entry or spread of plant pests. In addition to protecting public health, these harmonized measures provide standards for producers and traders. USAID helps EAC member states leverage SPS measures in a way that stimulates agricultural production and global competitiveness to contribute to broader economic growth.

In 2017, USAID helped to mobilize the government of Burundi to adopt the protocol, joining three countries that had already signed (Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda). USAID supported the EAC to develop an SPS Bill and to hold national and regional consultations to improve its technical and legal aspects. Once countries ratify their SPS protocols, the resulting bill will facilitate the implementation and enforcement of SPS measures across the EAC.
With USAID support, the EAC region has now adopted nine revised harmonised product standards out of the 22 for staple foods (i.e., cereals and grains, pulses and their products). In addition, two standards for sampling and test methods were adopted to ease movement and increase intra-regional grain trade. With the adoption of harmonized standards, the time and cost of border transactions will be significantly reduced as there will be no need for additional testing and verifications. Disputes will be minimized, resulting in lower costs for millers of processed foods.

Above: Gabriel Ekaale, a program officer with the UN World Food Program (WFP), with Selina Akiry examining her sorghum crops. Photo: USAID/Tine Frank

Right: Sarah Mwangangi shows off her newly harvested beans, ready for sale. USAID supported a public review of nine revised draft EAC staple foods standards. The standards were approved by the EAC Standards Committee and are awaiting final approval by the EAC Council of Ministers. Consistent application of staple foods standards will expedite cross-border trade and provide incentives for farmers to invest in quality food production. Photo: USAID
Agriculture is the backbone of the East Africa economy, accounting for 32 percent of the regional gross domestic product and 70 percent of the employment opportunities in Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. Producers are primarily smallholder farmers with less than one hectare of land. These farmers are very vulnerable to shocks and threats such as severe weather and pests/disease which can impact their crops and livelihoods. USAID is increasing food security through programs to prevent both pre- and post-harvest losses of these vulnerable farmers across East Africa.

More than 200 East African innovators and researchers participated in the East Africa Postharvest Technologies Competition. This USAID-supported competition introduced new, African-designed technology engineered to improve nutrition and food security. Participants pitched their ideas for how to improve the safety, longevity and quality of food crops after they have been harvested. Ugandan Grace Akumu won first place for her device that allows a farmer to sit on a bench and quickly shell maize while minimizing breakage to the kernels. Grace’s creativity has helped hundreds of farmers in Uganda to increase their efficiency. She plans to use her $15,000 in prize money to start disseminating her innovation across Africa. Donatus Ndungu Njoroge from Kenya came in second for his plant-based technology that protects stored grains from post-harvest pests. Tanzanian John Nkwabi Kirigiti won the third-place prize for a solar dryer for fruits and vegetables.

USAID partnered with the Center for Agriculture and Biosciences International to train national SPS specialists and private sector experts in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda on plant and animal health and food safety risks.

"The East Africa Postharvest Technologies Fair is a great platform to showcase talent and innovations towards resolving food loss, and is an additional tool to addressing perennial food security challenges in the region.”

– James Shikwati, chief executive officer, Inter Region Economic Network (IREN)
Participants learned to apply risk analysis methods to facilitate safe intra-regional and international trade. They also became familiar with risk assessment information sources, documentation, management and communication. As a result of the training, 84 participants were added to the database of risk analysis experts in the EAC.

USAID partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in January 2017 to conduct a training workshop for the Phytosanitary Border Inspection Services of EAC countries. This workshop included visits to Kenya’s Jomo Kenyatta International Airport import/export facilities, the Namanga (Kenya/Tanzania) One Stop Border Post and the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS) quarantine station in Nairobi. The course was led by USDA inspectors and consisted of a variety of practical exercises to enforce the use of risk-based produce inspection methods. Fifteen plant protection officers from six countries received hands-on practical training and inspection kits to better enable them to detect damaging invasive pests on agricultural imports, thus protecting farmers’ crops and livelihoods across the region.
BUILDING RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY IN ARID AND SEMI-ARID LANDS

East Africa’s drylands are particularly susceptible to frequent, harsh climate shifts. Searing heat, drought, and flash floods can have devastating impacts on human, animal and plant life. USAID’s activities are encouraging vulnerable populations to become more adaptable to a changing climate and to take precautionary measures that will help them to withstand economic shocks that can occur in the face of extreme weather. Vulnerable communities are gaining new tools and skills to prepare for weather setbacks and to recover when difficulties emerge.

This year, USAID brought together staff from the USAID missions in Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda, and partners working in Somalia, to share best practices in resilience building. This collaboration improves the effectiveness of development programs and informs the design of new activities.

Pastoralists who live in these drylands have a long history of raising and trading livestock. The USAID Standard Methods and Procedures for Animal Health Program (SMP-AH), a four-year initiative implemented by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development and the African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources, ended in 2017. This program aimed to harmonize standards and cross-border cooperation in animal health in East Africa.

Through this program, technical manuals on the 10 key regional transboundary animal diseases were produced. These manuals describe prevention,
detection and control methodologies, as well as standardized testing protocols for certification. The manuals have now been incorporated into the regulatory framework of all IGAD countries, making cross-border movement of animals easier due to uniform testing and certification requirements.

To support live animal trade, SMP-AH also worked with IGAD to implement a coordinated approach to livestock quarantines. A quarantine facility allows livestock to be screened for disease prior to being shipped to export markets such as in the Middle East and North Africa. This year, the Regional Network for Quarantines met in Uganda to prioritize steps required to further harmonize quarantine procedures, with the goal of avoiding costly and timely livestock trade bans that can be imposed if diseased livestock are allowed to enter the trading system.

Key to success for the whole program was the platform that SMP-AH created for cooperation between national veterinary services. Joint disease investigations and vaccine campaigns to control disease are now occurring in border areas. For example, 2017 drought conditions in Northern Kenya forced livestock herds to migrate into Uganda where grazing was still possible. Many of these animals were unvaccinated and Uganda did not have enough available vaccine to cover the large influx of animals. Kenya agreed to provide vaccines for these animals and worked with Uganda to conduct a cooperative vaccination campaign. Overall, the SMP-AH has been a key driving factor in regional cooperation in the animal health sector in East Africa. There are now plans to implement the same program in the West African region.

In response to animal feed and forage shortages triggered by widespread regional drought in 2016/2017, USAID convened the first Regional Animal Feed and Fodder Workshop in September 2017 in Naivasha, Kenya. A diverse cross section of 46 stakeholders from drought-impacted Horn of Africa countries attended the workshop including representatives from livestock ministries, the private sector, international research organizations and development partners.
The overall purpose of the Regional Animal Feed and Fodder Workshop was to review current challenges facing the feed and fodder market in East Africa and to identify courses of action that could improve this market’s sustainability and future. Participants provided recommendations to improve the overall sector, and agreed on the need for a coordinated cross-sectoral approach to support the development of feed and fodder value chains at the regional level. As a result of this meeting, the UN’s East African Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) office launched national and regional feed and fodder supply and marketing surveys to collect the information needed to develop targeted interventions. USAID continues to collaborate with FAO and other partners to address the supply, quality and safety issues surrounding feed and fodder in East Africa.

IGAD’s Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI) spearheads an effort to improve regional disaster risk management, preparedness and response. IDDRSI drafted a report on the impact of climate change on cross-border communities and encouraged national resilience units to contribute to a regional resilience monitoring and evaluation system. IDDRSI provided training for media champions from selected member states to help journalists, through their storytelling, encourage families to adopt practices that will help to maintain and improve their livelihoods and well-being in the face of shocks. These combined efforts will help pastoralists in the future take advantage of strong markets to sell their livestock both in times of bounty and times of crisis.

Right: A smallholder dairy producer transports his purchased fodder back to his farm in Naivasha, Kenya. Photo: USAID/Tracy McCracken
IMPROVING THE HEALTH OF EAST AFRICANS

A woman holds her newborn baby in Shebe Senbo woreda district in the Oromia region of Ethiopia. Photo USAID/Adey Abebe
22,249 INDIVIDUALS RECEIVED HIV TESTING AND COUNSELING AND OTHER HEALTH SERVICES AND RECEIVED THEIR TEST RESULTS

861 HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TRAINED IN MATERNAL AND NEWBORN HEALTH

87 HEALTH FACILITIES LINKED TO STRENGTHENED CROSS-BORDER REFERRAL SYSTEM
Many East Africans cross borders for work, to look for work, to visit family members, or to seek new horizons. These mobile husbands, wives, siblings and children also cross borders for health care, particularly in border areas where quality health care may be difficult to find. Those who receive health care may require a second or third follow-up visit, to adjust medicines, have an injury examined or to receive the second or third in a series of injections. Follow-up could mean life or death for someone who began treatment in one country but has since moved to another country. Until recently, there was virtually no system in place for health care providers to track patients after they crossed a border. Lacking follow-up, infectious patients could travel across borders with an untreated illness, and put themselves and entire communities at risk.

USAID responded to this challenge by initiating and operationalizing, in collaboration with the EAC and other regional partners, six cross-border health units (CBHUs). Each CBHU includes between one and three private or public health facilities on either side of the border and a team of health specialists and peer educators. The CBHUs allow health providers, working on opposite borders, to jointly care for patients who seek treatment. Through this system, patients with infectious diseases like HIV and Tuberculosis (TB) are enjoying increased access to care and treatment including increased testing for these diseases, and access to other health services. USAID developed a standard operating procedures manual to define and operationalize CBHU cross-border health coordination, service delivery and referrals. This manual is helping to improve existing facilities and is guiding the establishment of new CBHUs.

This CBHU model is a new approach that has already begun to improve the lives of East Africans. Cross-border referrals were strengthened among 33 facilities within the CBHU catchment area and 926 health care workers at 87 facilities improved their skills through refresher training on HIV, TB, family planning, and maternal, newborn and child health. More than 22,200 East Africans sought cross-border HIV testing services and received their test results.
Many young East African women and girls cannot afford basic health necessities and millions of girls drop out of school because of challenges in managing their menstrual cycles. Some girls use dangerous substitutes, or resort to unsafe sexual practices to earn money for sanitary pads. As a result, some girls become pregnant or ill from sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

A partnership between Huru International and Johnson & Johnson increased access to quality integrated health services for vulnerable women and adolescent girls who live, work or frequent the Malaba (Kenya-Uganda) border areas. About 250 adolescent girls and young women aged 15-24 participated in a six-week program to improve their management of menstrual hygiene, increase their awareness of health issues and life skills, and expand their understanding of basic business principles and math. Participants took advantage of cervical cancer screening and other available integrated health services. Every graduate received a Huru Kit (‘huru’ means ‘freedom’ in Kiswahili) consisting of reusable sanitary pads and information and resources for sexual and reproductive health and HIV prevention. Plans are underway for another workshop to begin on the Kenya-Tanzania border.

“Reaching out-of-school girls and young women needs an innovative approach. By limiting the educational sessions to small groups of 25, the participants were able to develop strong relationships….that resulted in them encouraging each other to complete the education sessions, and avail themselves of various health and other services offered.”

— Velna Morang’a, youth facilitator, speaking of the workshop for adolescent girls and women.
STRENGTHENING REGIONAL HEALTH SYSTEMS

In an ideal world, health professionals design health systems that respond to a targeted community’s health needs. As lifestyles change, and new diseases emerge, health systems must also evolve. Regional leaders recognize the need to improve health services for mobile and vulnerable cross-border populations. The introduction of the CBHUs represents a substantial improvement to the health system for this population.

To increase training programs geared specifically to cross-border mobile health, USAID, in consultation with EAC’s technical working group on HIV/AIDS, developed a cross-border training curriculum to train nearly 400 health care workers through in-service and continuous medical education. This is unique because the training is geared towards the specific health needs of mobile cross-border populations.

Skilled health providers and managers are a health system’s greatest asset. Providers reach out to vulnerable cross-border populations with life-saving information and services. Services will be accepted and utilized by vulnerable women only when those services respond to their particular needs and circumstances. To strengthen the region’s provision of health services for women and children in cross-border communities, 861 providers were trained in maternal and newborn health and 95 additional community health workers provided family planning services.

A study was conducted to examine the costs of health care at 45 public and private health facilities in six cross-border areas of Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. Initial discussions were held about whether a portable health insurance model could provide mobile populations with a means to help cover health costs. An insurance program for this group might provide incentives to seek earlier, more preventive health care, which could result in substantial savings region-wide. Data from this study was presented at a conference in the United States and was one of 10 presentations given about USAID’s cross-border health activities that were highlighted (four poster presentations and six oral presentations) at international conferences.

ELIMINATING POLIO AND PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF TUBERCULOSIS

The global effort to eradicate polio is a medical success story: only 22 cases of polio in the world were reported in 2017. But there is no cure for polio, and when it strikes, children are crippled for life. If an infected person travels, everyone she or he comes into contact with is at risk of contracting the disease. Every child in every country of the world must be vaccinated in order to eradicate polio.

USAID supports a team of polio experts who travel to remote cross-border areas to administer the polio vaccine, to follow up on possible cases of polio and to provide training to health workers. As a result, 178,599 children under five years of age along 138 cross-border points were vaccinated on the Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia, South Sudan and Uganda borders. More than 400 community health volunteers and 80 community mobilizers worked to complete this monumental task. Notably, one remote

Above: An internally displaced child in Dobley, Somalia receives a vaccination to prevent polio. Photo: CORE Polio
county in Kenya achieved over 90 percent coverage. No cases of the wild poliovirus were reported in Ethiopia, Kenya or Somalia. Nevertheless, this vaccination campaign reported that 764 children had not received the oral poliovirus vaccine dose at birth or by six weeks of age, as recommended by health officials. This indicates gaps in routine immunization coverage and the need for strengthened surveillance systems.

Approximately 75 percent of Somalia’s population does not have access to health care, and many Somalis are highly nomadic, moving across international borders. To reach as many Somali children as possible, USAID’s partners work closely with international health organizations and with border medical staff to jointly plan and coordinate polio outreach and immunization activities. Community health volunteers conducted more than 24,000 house-to-house visits and made more than 1,300 visits to border health facilities in Somalia. Vaccination teams visited major crossing points such as transit areas, markets, centers for internally displaced persons and other locations with high concentrations of nomads and pastoralists. Despite these efforts, approximately 115 districts in Somalia were inaccessible, leaving some 230,000 children unimmunized since the last outbreak of polio in the Horn of Africa in 2013.

East Africa’s capacity to treat, manage and follow up on TB cases has improved substantially. However, among mobile populations, TB is exceptionally high. While treatment is possible for TB, the full drug regimen can take up to 20 months. Health providers are accelerating efforts to find active TB cases, begin treatment for those infected with TB, and follow patients until their treatment is completed. More than 100 health providers participated in six joint cross-border health committee meetings at three border areas (Kenya-Uganda, Kenya-

**Above:** With timely diagnosis and correct treatment, most people who develop TB can be cured. Photo: USAID/Alex Kamweru
Somalia and Kenya-Tanzania). By working collaboratively, and using a USAID-supported cross-border referral tool, 834 TB patients received health notifications from 56 health facilities located in border areas. With the assistance of a USAID-designed inter-country referral tool, 12 patients from four countries (Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda) were successfully transferred across borders for treatment.

Twelve professionals representing national TB control programs in Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community (ECSA) are now fully trained to manage a new web-based, TB commodities management system. The system will improve the monitoring of TB medicines and facilitate the exchange of medicines within the region when needed. ECSA took the lead in coordinating the training for the portal, and will also host the system.

Children are particularly susceptible to TB. Regional health officials have expanded efforts to reduce childhood TB by developing, with USAID, an online childhood TB training course. This year, USAID published the Implementation of the Online Childhood TB Training for Healthcare Workers Course: A Facilitators Guide that includes case studies based on actual situations, practical questions and answers on childhood TB and physician/patient role-play scenarios that students can practice. The facilitators guide will encourage larger, group-based training, in addition to the independent online training.

IGAD coordinated a training workshop on TB treatment and biosafety standard operating procedures for three regions in Somalia: South Central Somalia, Somaliland and Puntland. These procedures are reducing risks to health providers as they care for patients with TB and are being used in 22 TB centers in Somaliland and 44 centers in the South Central zone.

USAID supported the establishment of the Regional Center of Excellence for East Africa on Programmatic Management of Drug Resistant Tuberculosis in Kigali, Rwanda in 2010. This year, the center completed a business plan to lay the groundwork for its long-term financial sustainability as a leading TB learning center and reference laboratory.

**LINKING CONSERVATION AND HEALTH**

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) promotes sustainable development in communities that are located far from formal facilities and within endangered natural ecosystems through its population, health and environment (PHE) outreach activities. The commission supports both the provision of health care to a diverse and growing population, and the protection of fragile lands and ecosystems in borders areas of EAC member states. LVBC’s community conservation and health workers build awareness of the natural environment, the urgency to conserve and protect critical ecosystems, and the link between family planning and environmental protection. Community members receive essential family planning and maternal and child health services. This year, LVBC’s community outreach and mobilization efforts encouraged 1,680 women to visit a health facility for family planning services while 1,442 women used

---

31 2017 | EAST AFRICA REPORT
new family planning methods. More than 500 women delivered their babies at health facilities and 1,260 children were fully immunized. Approximately 1,560 households now have handwashing facilities and 1,908 households have clean latrines. The once threatened Mt Elgon forest in Kenya and Uganda is thriving due to greater understanding within the community about the need to protect fragile areas.

USAID supported the LVBC to strengthen PHE data collection and improve data sharing with environmental and health care stakeholders. A digital health monitoring and evaluation application has made data collection forms easier to complete through a variety of mobile devices. This user-friendly digital tool has also simplified data management and analysis.

The LVBC completed a Knowledge Management Plan that will be implemented in conjunction with its new 2017-2022 strategic plan. The plan is designed to make the commission more effective, efficient and responsive to the needs of partner states and other stakeholders.

PHE stakeholders and partners from the five EAC member countries participated in a training to improve their understanding of knowledge management as a tool to enhance learning and advocacy.

As USAID phases out support to the PHE activity, the LVBC has demonstrated leadership to strengthen interventions, to adopt or improve policies and to expand LVBC’s internal management systems. The LVBC’s leadership is contributing to a stronger regional health system that is even more responsive to the health care needs of local communities. LVBC’s advocacy efforts have led to some governments in the region dedicating funds to support PHE initiatives in their country, as well as other positive steps reflecting ownership and sustainable actions.
PREVENTING DISEASE OUTBREAKS

People throughout the world become sick from zoonotic diseases that pass from animals to humans. Some diseases are treatable while others may cause illness or death. The Zika outbreak in South and Central America and Ebola pandemic in West Africa inflicted unimaginable pain and suffering, some of which might have been prevented by early detection and improved surveillance. Learning about a newly emerging infectious disease may take time and governments must plan for uncertainty and for potentially exponential increases to patient caseloads.

East Africans are improving their capacity to prevent, detect and respond to threats from infectious diseases. This year, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda developed lists of priority zoonotic diseases, and developed preparedness and response plans. The Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda strengthened their disease surveillance and laboratory diagnosis capacity. USAID also supported Kenyan ministries to develop a preparedness and response plan for a newly emerging infectious disease outbreak of unknown origin, the first plan of its kind in East Africa.

Above: East Africans are learning new approaches to undertake disease surveillance and to prevent infectious diseases that pass from animals to humans. Photo: USAID
Circle: With support from USAID, the FAO handed over laboratory equipment to Kenya’s Department of Veterinary Services to strengthen lab testing capacity for priority zoonotic diseases. Photo: USAID/Faith Njoki
PIONEERING BEST PRACTICES AND INNOVATIONS

East Africa has a new science-based health journal, the East African Health Research Journal. The first edition was published in conjunction with the EAC’s 6th Health and Scientific Conference in March 2017. The contents reflected the theme of the conference: Preparedness for, and Control of, Disease Outbreaks, Epidemics, and Pandemics in the Context of Climate Change, Globalization and Gaps in Health Systems. A second edition of the journal was published in July 2017. Copies were distributed to ministries of health, medical research institutes, medical school libraries and individual health professionals.

The journal provides science-based evidence to support health policy development and practices within the EAC. It will act as a platform to share knowledge, support career development, raise the visibility of East Africa’s health professionals and guide regional health priorities. The journal format includes articles, surveys, opinions and book reviews. Health areas covered may include medicine, nursing, dentistry, pharmacology, veterinary science, food science, the environment, health-related agriculture science and public health. The journal is peer-reviewed, free and will be published three times a year online at www.eahealth.org and in hard copy.

The East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC) started publication of the East African Health Research Journal with support from USAID. EAHRC staff gained valuable production management skills to handle future publications of this journal.

“

The East Africa Health Research Journal will promote and facilitate the application of knowledge from research to strengthen national and regional health policy and practice.”

— Gibson Kibiki, MD, PhD, editor-in-chief of the East Africa Health Research Journal

A new digital health roadmap was developed by the EAHRC, representing the first time countries in the region have worked together to create an ambitious, unified digital health strategy. The roadmap will improve regional health outcomes by applying information and communications technology (ICT) to improve cross-border surveillance and response, supply chain management, resource allocation and management, health worker education and training, and to accelerate interconnectivity between different data systems. The roadmap is expected to reduce costs, improve regional health programs, as well as complement, improve and strengthen country-specific work in digital health without replacing national systems.

During the East African Digital Health Roadmap Conference, representatives from ministries of health, ICT companies, universities, the private sector and faith-based health service providers learned about the value of digital health. Conference participants agreed on the need to institutionalize digital health technologies within health care systems and to collaborate on this goal across countries, including with the private sector and with donors. The meeting resulted in a harmonized, detailed draft of the roadmap. The final version will be presented for endorsement at the 15th EAC Health Ministers Conference in 2018.
REDUCING CONFLICT AND SUPPORTING PEACE

11,414 EAST AFRICANS PARTICIPATED IN EVENTS SUPPORTING PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

62 PROGRAMS SOUGHT TO COUNTER VIOLENT EXTREMISM

47 WOMEN CONTRIBUTED SUBSTANTIALLY TO PEACEBUILDING
Representatives of the Ugandan Dodoth and Kenyan Turkana communities shake hands. They have helped negotiate and execute cross-border agreements that encourage resource sharing as a way to promote peace. Photo: USAID/Tine Frank
Conflict in East Africa erupts over unequal access to land and water, clan politics, and unresolved geographical boundaries. Violent extremism is a newer phenomenon, compounded by relatively easy access to automatic weapons and the aggressive recruitment of youth by extremist groups. IGAD partners between USAID to counter violent extremism and reduce conflict, particularly along border crossings between Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda. Working through IGAD's Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN), USAID supports the development of policies and interventions that are increasing security for many vulnerable communities.

CEWARN commissioned a situation analysis of cross-border areas of Ethiopia (Liben), Kenya (Mandera) and Somalia (Gedo). This study examined how violent conflict has affected communities and how they can respond to and prevent it. To help maintain peace leading up to the 2017 Kenyan elections, CEWARN joined the African Union, COMESA and EAC to conduct a conflict analysis that highlighted factors that increased the likelihood of violence, how conflict-affected communities responded to and prevented it in the past and the steps they may take in the future. CEWARN shared the analysis with elected officials and other important stakeholders and helped to reduce the potential for violence around this highly charged election.

IGAD member state officials representing the trade, security and customs sectors convened in Addis Ababa to contribute to the review of IGAD’s draft policy framework on informal cross-border trade and security. The two-year policy development process included extensive discussions within border communities about how cross-border trading can contribute to improved security. Country-specific and border-based studies were also commissioned to better understand the dynamics of informal cross-border trade.

CEWARN, along with member states’ national conflict early warning and response units (CEWERUs), addressed 72 percent of the conflicts that were reported by communities. During a period of intense drought, Uganda’s minister of disaster prevention requested IGAD’s support after the country experienced a rapid influx of Toposa and Turkana people from South Sudan and Kenya, creating an environment rife with the possibility of conflict. The Kenyan, South Sudan and Ugandan CEWERUs collaborated to organize a series of discussions with these communities, generating a list of recommendations on how to reduce the potential for violence, which was provided to government representatives for their action.

Below: Marching for peace in Mombasa prior to Kenya’s 2017 elections. CEWARN’s analysis of the drivers of conflict provided important guidance to maintain peace in the lead up to Kenya’s historic 2017 election. Photo: USAID/Faith Njung’E
Cross-border communities that sign and honor peace and resource-sharing agreements can contribute to more peaceful environments. One form of conflict—cattle rustling—is a major source of hostility between pastoral communities in arid and semi-arid areas. It can often turn violent and potentially devastate entire communities. Photo: USAID/Tine Frank.

BUILDING COMMUNITY-BASED PEACE

During the 2017 drought, communities were faced with limited access to water. In some areas, pasture and rangeland for livestock were depleted, causing crop and livestock losses. USAID strengthened outreach, communication and support networks during this difficult time. As a result, many communities were able to avoid major escalations of violence over access to these scarce natural resources.

At the start of the year, strained relations between the governments of Ethiopia and Kenya contributed to fear and mistrust between the Borana and Gabra communities, whose members live on either side of the Kenya-Ethiopia border. This threatened to reduce the earnings of cross-border traders. USAID’s PEACE III program supported a series of discussions between representatives of these communities and their local governments. Over time, relations between the two groups improved. Ethiopian traders and residents resumed their visits to markets in Kenya, and local peace committees once again began to exchange information with their counterpart peace committees across borders.

This success led to a year-long review of the 2009 Dukana-Dillo-Maikona peace declaration, which helps to maintain peace between the Borana and Gabra. This success led to a year-long review of the 2009 Dukana-Dillo-Maikona peace declaration, which helps to maintain peace between the Borana and Gabra. In 2017, Kenyan and Ethiopian community members signed an amendment to the declaration that resolved contradictions with the formal justice system and provided a more effective framework for preventing and resolving conflicts. Cross-border relations were
strengthened through clauses supporting livestock migration, and enhanced trading opportunities and coordination between peace committees. A new clause permitted the use of alternative dispute mechanisms to maintain peaceful relations. The communities demonstrated their commitment to peace, and have since relied on this amended declaration to resolve disputes.

In another case, relations between the Dassenach community of Ethiopia and the Turkana of Kenya deteriorated after the murder of a Dassenach elder. USAID partners worked with national CEWERUs to calm the situation and facilitated an agreement between both sides to a series of peaceful resolutions. A year later, relations have improved significantly; there is now fruitful trade across borders, women gather to share news at border crossings, and fishing communities have celebrated a peaceful year of sharing Lake Turkana’s waters.

The Turkana people and Uganda’s Dodoth community furthered the cause of peace by signing the Loyoro Resource Sharing Agreement. The agreement helped these communities to maintain peace when neighboring areas, lacking any agreement, experienced conflict. The agreement has been particularly useful during the drought of 2017, as it reinvigorated trade activity in the cross-border market, and, for the first time, the Turkana were allocated land in Uganda to cultivate their crops.

Above: Elders and county officials sign the amended Dukana-Dillo-Maikona declaration that helps to maintain peace between the Borana and Gabra communities of Kenya and Ethiopia. Photo: USAID/Pact

Left: During an active dispute between two cross-border communities in Ethiopia and Kenya, a young boy went missing. To his family’s relief, the neighboring community ensured the boy’s safe return. This gesture was celebrated in a public ceremony and viewed by local and national government officials from both countries as an authentic act of peace. Photo: Pact.
COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM

USAID supported national and local governments, educators, religious leaders, elders, women and youth to build and strengthen information-sharing networks, early warning systems, community initiatives and policies that encouraged economic development and growth, rather than a life based on fear and violence.

USAID supported training for community and religious leaders to help them counter misinterpretations of religious narratives used by recruiters to gain followers. In the process, the leaders gained confidence to speak out against violent extremism.

By attending school peace clubs, established with USAID’s support, influential leaders spoke directly to youth about steering clear of radical extremism. This connection provided youth with messages that were grounded in fact and reality, that they then passed on to their peers.

This support inspired stronger networks of community and religious leaders who supported one another and engaged more effectively with local and national governments about concerns within their communities. For instance, the Supreme Council of Kenya Muslims helped to change perceptions between religious leaders and security officials. In the past, these leaders were accused by the government of not doing enough to address radicalization. Today, government officials are seeking out religious leaders for their guidance and support.

“The training …changed my attitude of suspecting the religion of Islam and the religious leaders as promoters of this violent extremism with the communities under my jurisdiction.”

– Takaba, Kenya district commissioner

Right: Religious leaders are gaining confidence to deliver anti-radicalization messages in their sermons and in daily encounters with members of the community. Religious leaders are now seen by many government and security officials as critical allies in efforts being made to counter violence and extremism.

Photo: USAID/Pact
Youth are considered to be most vulnerable to radicalization and recruitment into extremist groups. USAID brings youth leaders together with security and elected officials to discuss extremism and to build trust.

In Lamu, an island off the coast of Kenya, a ban on night fishing that was imposed because of security concerns was damaging the local economy and relations with security officials. USAID supported stakeholder forums that led to the development of the Lamu County Countering Violent Extremism Action Plan, which contributed to the lifting of the ban.

USAID provides at-risk youth (drug users, school dropouts, former soldiers and former extremists) with an integrated support package that increases their understanding about the repercussions of violent extremism and provides them with business and economic development skills that can be used to generate income. Youth who have spent time engaging in violent behaviors may also receive trauma support and help in reconnecting with their families and communities.

Above: Youth are seizing opportunities to promote peace over violent extremism within their communities. They are forming networks, gaining analytical skills, and sharing violence prevention messages with their peers and other influential members of their communities. Photo: USAID/Pact
INTEGRATING WOMEN INTO PEACE BUILDING

Many women wield substantial influence in their homes and in their communities. They follow community security, economic and political trends, till farmland, raise livestock and children, and can be shrewd entrepreneurs. With support from USAID, women are gained confidence to serve in their local governments and peace committees and to speak out on community issues on local radio and in public forums to advocate for policies that promote safety and peace in order to protect themselves and their families from conflict.

USAID brought together women from Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan and Uganda to develop action plans for addressing conflict from a woman’s perspective. This led to a forum in Kitale, Kenya, where 33 senior female representatives from these five countries drafted a document called the Kitale Resolution. This resolution called for two major changes: a) to increase women’s participation on peace committees, and b) to increase women’s participation in discussions about conflicts over the sharing of natural resources. Women leaders from Kaabong District in Uganda made a dramatic difference when they returned home after participating in this forum. They immediately met with senior district officials to discuss the Kitale Resolution, and, as a consequence, two Ugandan women were appointed to the district security committee while three others were placed on the district peace committee. These committees had previously completely lacked female representation.

“In Kaabong you will find women are now well represented in both formal and informal committees. We were involved in reviewing the peace agreement between Turkana and the Dodoth, ensuring women were represented in the discussions about grazing and water resources. Now we extended that to cross-border trade where there has been some conflict too.”

– Achai Rose Lydia, Kaabong District Women’s Forum member, Uganda

Below: Ugandan women participate in a discussion forum to voice their opinions and needs to leaders and government officials. Photo: USAID/Pact
Women are generally not found working in security-related jobs, and most police stations lack a separate women’s reporting desk, making it difficult for women to report incidents of violent extremism and gender-based violence.

At the Kenya-Somalia border crossing in Mandera, women were constantly harassed by male police officers during routine searches. Women worked together, developed a plan, and during a meeting with the police commander requested that they appoint female police officers to search women at the border. This request was granted.

Thirty women from East Africa received USAID support to attend and graduate from an 18-month peace building and leadership program at Eastern Mennonite University in the United States. These graduates are now making important contributions within their countries to promote peace. One woman from Kenya’s coastal region helps mothers overcome traumas experienced as a result of violent extremism and involves these mothers in a women’s support group.

“The biggest challenge for women in peace building is a lack of confidence created by negative cultural practices that promote peace building and conflict management as an exclusive role for men.”

– Amina Mzee Fanikupi, member, Kyunga Youth Bunge Initiative and participant in a 2017 women’s forum held in Garissa, Kenya

Below left: A graduate of the Eastern Mennonite University women’s leadership program. The graduates have built a strong network of educated, women peace activists throughout the region. Photo: USAID/Solomon Onyata

Below right: Achai Rose Lydia is a member of the Kaabong District Women’s Forum in Uganda and works to increase the representation of women in peace structures. Today, each peace committee in Kaboong is comprised of at least one-third women. Photo: USAID/Tine Frank
Idris Yussuf Hassan [left], a member of the Garre clan in Kenya, embraces old friend Mohamed Ousman Ali, a fellow pastoralist from the Ajuran clan of Ethiopia. In 2000, when natural resources became scarce after a prolonged drought, the clans began to compete for dwindling pasture and water. In recent years, USAID trained local leaders who mediated the conflict. “It was an opportunity to bring us back together and heal the wounds. I felt so happy, it was as if a new window was opening up to return to normal and continue with our lives as one community,” Ali said. Photo: USAID/Tine Frank
CONSERVING AND PROTECTING NATURAL RESOURCES

219,546 HECTARES OF BIOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE PLACED UNDER IMPROVED MANAGEMENT

EAC PRODUCED THE FIRST REGIONAL STRATEGY ON ANTI-POACHING AND ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING

10,592 PEOPLE WITH IMPROVED ACCESS TO SAFE DRINKING WATER
USAID partners with community conservation organizations, governments and the private sector to combat wildlife trafficking that is undermining economic growth, national security and natural ecosystems. Photo: Traffic Wildlife Uganda
COUNTERING WILDLIFE CRIME

Wildlife is central to East Africa’s robust tourism industry. Tourism is Kenya’s second largest economic sector; yet the region’s largest port, in Mombasa, Kenya, is a hub for the illegal trade in wildlife. Protecting the survival of severely threatened animals such as elephants, lions, rhinos and pangolins is critical for East Africa’s security and growth. The region’s natural resources are intricately linked to the resilience of East Africans. While rolling plains and roaring animals may seem far removed from growing urban areas, rural communities rely on wildlife and associated habitats for their livelihoods.

Twenty-one law enforcement officers from Botswana, Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia, including four women, are now using enhanced crime scene kits to carry out forensic investigations on the carcasses of animals slaughtered for their tusks or horns. As part of a training provided by the U.S. Department of the Interior’s U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), participants learned how to approach a crime scene and to collect and store evidence for use in criminal trials. The course was also offered in Tanzania and Uganda, and included the donation of cameras, DNA sample collection kits, evidence bags, chain of custody forms and seizure evidence tags.

Above: Illegal wildlife trafficking in East Africa is valued at $200 billion per year. The poaching of elephants for their tusks and rhinos for their horns has devastated these animal populations. Many U.S. Government agencies are working collectively to counter wildlife trafficking by helping East African communities, governments and organizations disrupt intricate networks engaged in these crimes. With expanded education and outreach activities, some communities are turning away from illegal wildlife activities, opting instead to conserve natural resources for future generations. Photo: Traffic Wildlife Uganda

Right: USFWS special agent Tennis advises a crime scene investigation trainee on proper labeling and preservation of evidence during a training course in Malawi. Photo: U.S. Embassy, Tanzania
A partnership between USAID and the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association has enhanced wildlife monitoring to combat poaching in 12 conservancies in Maasai Mara, Kenya. About 60 percent of Kenya’s wildlife migrates beyond park and country boundaries for at least part of the year, and conservancies cover almost eight million acres of arid rangelands. USAID supports community conservancies, which are often found around protected areas, to protect migrating animals and improve the lives of community members who share these wild spaces with wildlife through socio-economic initiatives.

Twelve conservancy managers, 159 rangers and 63 ranger patrol teams received and learned how to use a smartphone equipped with the Wildlife Information and Landscape Database (WILD) application, developed with USAID support. By using WILD, community game scouts can collect data on wildlife sightings and illegal activities, and conduct patrols and report findings quickly and accurately. WILD replaces a manual data collection system and takes photos, thus allowing investigators to preserve the integrity of crime scenes without damaging evidence that may be used to prosecute offenders.

The training will help equip rangers with necessary skills to effectively collect evidence that can be used to link offenders, and to prosecute and punish those found culpable of wildlife crimes. These are geared towards comprehensive protection of Kenya’s national heritage.”

— Stephen Kisotu, technical manager, Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association
USAID supported a pilot activity at Kenya’s Port of Mombasa that increased the number of shipping containers screened for wildlife contraband. Six Kenya Wildlife Service canine handlers were trained to use sniffer dogs to identify wildlife contraband. They also learned how to deploy remote air sampling for canine olfaction (RASCO) to improve detection for ivory, rhino horn, and abalone at the port. The RASCO method involves inserting a probe into a container to extract air that is stored in a tube or filter. A trained dog can then examine the tube or filter and, through its superior sense of smell, indicate if the air includes the scent of contraband. This training was particularly successful because it allowed the teams to work through the challenges of operating in an actual port environment.

The EAC, with support from USAID, completed and adopted its first-ever regional Anti-Poaching and Illegal Wildlife Trafficking Strategy for the period 2017-2022. To increase the detection and prosecution of wildlife trafficking, 22 Kenyan officials, representing various Kenyan institutions with responsibilities at Mombasa Port, participated in a wildlife trade law compliance and enforcement training workshop held at Bandari College. Participating organizations included the Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, National Intelligence Service, National Police Service, Kenya Ports Authority and Kenya Revenue Authority. The workshop covered a variety of topics including wildlife trade and its impact on Kenya’s economy and environment; Kenya’s constitution and wildlife laws; permits and licenses; container profiling and counteracting smuggling techniques; wildlife susceptible to illegal trade; practical search, seizure and arrest scenarios; and courtroom procedures.

Above and Center: Kenya Wildlife Service canine handlers learn to deploy the remote air sampling for canine olfaction (RASCO) method to improve detection of illegal wildlife being smuggled in cargo containers at Mombasa Port. Photo: Traffic Wildlife Uganda

Below: The African pangolin is a gentle animal that is poached for its meat and scales. When threatened, the pangolin rolls itself into a stationary ball, making it particularly susceptible to illegal capture by humans. Photo: Traffic Wildlife Uganda
Improving Biodiversity Conservation

Lake Victoria is Africa’s largest freshwater lake and runs through some of the region’s most dynamic transboundary areas with important natural resources, including the Maasai Mara-Serengeti ecosystem, renowned for its national parks, rich wildlife and tourism; Mount Elgon, an extinct volcano shared by Kenya and Uganda; and the mountain rainforests of Nyungwe-Kibira that stretch across Burundi and Rwanda. The lake and the surrounding wetlands play a significant role in pollution control and detoxification by acting as a filter to prevent, reduce, and control pollution. More than 80 percent of the water for the lake and surrounding wetlands comes from rainfall and tributary runoff, making it exceptionally vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Lake Victoria’s basin straddles Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda, supporting local livelihoods for citizens of these five East African countries. More than one million people in Kenya and Tanzania depend on the resources of the Mara River Basin for their livelihoods including: fisheries, crop production and livestock rearing for food, water transport, tourism, and water for domestic and industrial uses.

To mobilize stakeholders and to raise awareness of the importance of conserving this irreplaceable transboundary habitat, the LVBC coordinated the 6th annual Mara River Day celebration, held in Tanzania under the theme “Healthy Mara River for Sustainable Development.” To demonstrate their collective responsibility for conserving the Mara River, and their commitment to sustaining the positive changes that Mara Day generates, the EAC countries of Kenya and Tanzania that share the waters of the Mara River are currently covering 90 percent of the costs of Mara Day Celebration activities. In contrast, expenses for the first Mara Day, held in 2012, were fully covered by USAID.

Above: Lake Victoria. Photo: USAID/Bobby Neptune
This year, four conservation investment plans were finalized for many of these areas, including Sango Bay and Nabugabo Lakes Complex in Uganda, and Minziro Forest Nature Reserve and Mara Wetlands in Tanzania. The plans outline the economic returns of investing in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. They also outline a strategic vision for the most critical conservation funding priorities and serve as a marketing tool to mobilize new funding that supports conservation efforts.

Proximity to Lake Victoria has not eased the water-related stress of the five EAC partner states that surround it. Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda have all experienced rapid, unplanned expansion of secondary towns, which has increased competition for water. Urban water distribution systems are inefficient and suffer from excessive systemic water losses. Water can be lost from a distribution system in many ways, but in all cases, it is labelled “non-revenue water” (NRW) because no end users are paying for it.

USAID supported a public-private partnership between Uganda’s National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC) and Itron, a water engineering company, to reduce the loss of water due to leaks, theft and metering errors. The successful reduction of NRW by NWSC from 45 to 20 percent in Jinja and Iganga, Uganda has opened opportunities and elicited interest across the EAC from water utilities in Rwanda and Tanzania. The LVBC is working with the Entebbe-based Lake Victoria Regional Local Authorities Cooperation to build its capacity so that the organization can become a center of excellence for reducing NRW losses, making connections between stakeholders, supporting training and facilitating dissemination of NRW best practices throughout the region.

“Conservation and protection of the Mara River Basin ecosystem is not a joking affair. It is a matter of life and death.”

— January Makamba, environment minister for the Government of Tanzania


PROMOTING ECO-FRIENDLY TOURISM

The private sector has a large stake in conserving East Africa’s biodiversity (landscapes, waters and wildlife). Many tourists fulfill a life-long dream when they travel for safari, and they expect to see pristine parks and iconic wild animals, including the annual wildebeest’s migration. Some tourists choose to stay in lodges and camps that demonstrate a commitment to safeguarding the environment, by properly disposing wastewater and by conserving scarce water resources.

USAID supported the formation of the Mara-Serengeti Hoteliers Forum and assisted in its registration as a legal international non-governmental organization (NGO) in both Kenya and Tanzania. The forum’s goal is to promote eco-friendly management practices within the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem. USAID also encouraged 36 businesses to formally agree to promote resource efficiency and eco-friendliness in their hotels operating in this ecosystem. As a first step, the forum facilitated water quality testing at six tourist facilities in the Kenyan and Tanzanian basins and disseminated the findings to stakeholders to inform environmentally sustainable decision-making.
RESPONDING TO DROUGHT THROUGH CLIMATE SERVICES

East African climate specialists have access to new, improved data, tools and products, collectively referred to as ‘climate services’, that help governments better prepare for climate-related emergencies. Governments armed with this data are investing in smart development approaches such as adaptation and resilience activities, so that more communities can avoid emergencies that ultimately require costly humanitarian assistance. A USAID study, the Economics of Resilience to Drought, released in March 2018, found that an earlier and more proactive response to drought in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia could reduce the cost of humanitarian response by 30 percent. This provides further evidence for the necessity of putting in place climate prevention and adaptation systems, policies, procedures, technology and staff throughout the region.

The EAC’s Climate Change Coordination Unit and IGAD’s Climate Prediction and Application Centre (ICPAC) are adopting climate-resilient planning and programs. In partnership with USAID, ICPAC is improving their leadership to pro-actively manage and communicate scientific data on the changing climate. With access to better data, they are preparing for likely scenarios and training regional experts to use climate-monitoring tools and technology that can help countries prepare and respond to extreme weather.

ICPAC partnered with USAID’s Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) to develop timely and accurate climate early warning forecasts for the
Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forums. These events bring climate scientists and government officials together to discuss, reach consensus on and prepare for seasonal climate conditions. Reports generated from these periodic gatherings inform IGAD member state actions on water availability for human and livestock consumption, agricultural productivity and health and food security. ICPAC adopted the new Geospatial Climate Outlook Forecasting Tool, developed by USAID, to provide a statistically based rainfall forecast for the March-May 2017 season. USAID supported several of these forums in Ethiopia, Sudan and Tanzania.

The EAC member states completed the drafting of the Lake Victoria Basin Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan (2018-2023), jointly coordinated by the EAC Secretariat and LVBC. The plan will serve as a tool to secure investment, provide guidance to decision-makers and promote regional resilience. The approach was informed by a climate vulnerability, impacts and adaptation assessment of the Lake Victoria Basin, completed in prior years with USAID support. The assessment examined five critical socio-economic sectors: agriculture and food security, water and aquatic ecosystems, terrestrial ecosystems (forests and wildlife), health and human settlements, and energy and infrastructure.

The Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD), with support from USAID and NASA, are developing digital maps that provide granular data on resource and land use. Open to the public, these interactive maps offer high-resolution satellite images of land covered by important crops that contribute to a country’s food security and trade outlook. They not only show national boundaries but also the geographical spread of crops such as maize, as well as rain-fed or irrigation systems being used. Decision-makers can use these maps to rapidly identify changes in crop development and effectively negotiate on regional trade movement of food commodities from areas of surplus to deficit during droughts, flooding and other food security crises.

The maps are also assisting governments and private sector players to improve their crop insurance programs and inform drought response. In Kenya, for example, RCMRD and FEWS NET are helping the government to select farms in key agricultural zones that they monitor (from planting time until harvesting) to determine the degree of crop success or failure.

Above: This well water in Ethiopia is life-sustaining. Governments now rely on improved climate early warning forecasts to prepare communities for increasingly variable rainfall. Photo: USAID/Kelley Lynch
Above: Workers toil on a Tanzanian farm. RCMRD’s high-resolution digital maps are able to effectively capture crops on smaller land sizes with measurements as low as 0.9 square hectares. Photo: USAID
PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

$500 MILLION
WORTH OF LIFESAVING ASSISTANCE PROVIDED IN EAST AND CENTRAL AFRICA

$135 MILLION
PROVIDED TO ADDRESS NEEDS OF CONFLICT-AFFECTED FAMILIES IN SOUTH SUDAN

$126 MILLION
PROVIDED TO RESPOND TO THE ONGOING HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SOMALIA
USAID partnered with the UN World Food Program (WFP) to provide a ten-year-old student with a hot meal at the Mohamed Moge Primary School in Hargeisa, Somalia. School meals are a vital safety net for vulnerable families, particularly in times of crisis. WFP provides nutritious cooked meals to school children to relieve hunger and encourage primary school attendance. Photo: WFP/Karel Prinsloo
RESPONDING TO HUMANITARIAN CRISSES

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—as well as chronic or recurrent humanitarian challenges, including acute food insecurity, cyclical drought, floods, and disease outbreaks. To assist conflict- and disaster-affected populations, USAID supports distribution of emergency relief commodities; interventions to increase access to critical health, nutrition, and water; sanitation and hygiene (WASH) services; and 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 $135 million in 2017 to extend emergency assistance to people affected by violence and insecurity.

Beginning in late 2016, drought conditions in eastern and southeastern Ethiopia intensified following consecutive seasons of below-average rainfall. By August 2017, the Government of Ethiopia estimated that 8.5 million people required emergency food assistance, primarily in Oromiya, Somali, and Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples regions. Food insecurity contributed to deteriorating nutrition conditions, with an estimated 3.6 million children and women experiencing moderate acute malnutrition and an additional 376,000 children facing severe acute malnutrition. USAID provided nearly $94 million in assistance during 2017 to meet the health, livelihoods, nutrition, and WASH needs of conflict- and drought-affected people in Ethiopia.

In Somalia, prolonged drought conditions in 2017 exacerbated the country’s ongoing humanitarian crisis, characterized by persistent food insecurity and widespread violence. An estimated 6.7 million people required food assistance during 2017, while conflict and drought contributed to the displacement of more than 1 million people. USAID responded with approximately $126 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 and support humanitarian protection. In Kenya, successive seasons of below-average rainfall resulted in poor agriculture, livestock, and water conditions, with an estimated 3.4 million people facing food insecurity. In response, USAID provided more than $15 million to assist drought-affected people in Kenya.

Similarly, ongoing conflict and acute food insecurity contributed to significant humanitarian needs in Sudan, with approximately 4.8 million people requiring emergency assistance in 2017. USAID provided nearly $54 million in assistance to support the needs of conflict-affected populations across Sudan, USAID also worked with partners to respond to conflict-related displacement and humanitarian needs in Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and to assist affected people following widespread flooding and landslides in Rwanda during September 2017.

Above: Community members at a water rehabilitation site in Turkana, Kenya. Photo: USAID/Rob Friedman
Above: A boy in the Dollo Zone of Somali Regional State, Ethiopia, carries sacks of sorghum home from a USAID food distribution center. Photo: UNICEF /Karel Prinsloo

PROVIDING FOOD ASSISTANCE

More than 26.5 million people in East and Central Africa experienced food insecurity in 2017 due to successive episodes of drought and failed harvests, conflict, insecurity and economic shocks affecting the most vulnerable. The 2017 drought in the Horn of Africa was comparable to the 2010-2011 drought, with famine declared in Unity State of South Sudan and households in Somalia losing up to 60 percent of their herds. In 2017, USAID’s Office of Food for Peace (FFP) provided more than $1.8 billion in lifesaving food assistance in the form of food and nutrition commodities, mobile money transfers and food vouchers to support disaster-affected populations in East and Central Africa.

Conflict was pervasive in South Sudan, Somalia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo, leading to unprecedented levels of displacement in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa regions, including approximately 4.4 million refugees and asylum seekers. In Burundi, significant human rights violations continued to be reported. Conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo displaced more than 1.6 million people in the Kasai and Tanganyika provinces. Drought was also a significant driver of displacement, with over 739,000 people in Somalia and nearly 200,000 people in Ethiopia displaced as a result of drought.

Meanwhile, Fall Armyworm has appeared in western Kenya, southwestern Ethiopia, Burundi, Rwanda and central and western Uganda. In Uganda, it affected 54 districts, attacking up to 40 per cent of maize farms in some areas.
Acute malnutrition, especially among refugees, children under five, and pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, was a major concern in many parts of South Sudan, Sudan, northern Kenya and Uganda’s Karamoja region. Over 1.1 million South Sudanese children under five were acutely malnourished in 2017, while Kenya faced a nutrition crisis with global acute malnutrition (GAM) rates exceeding 30 percent in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASALs).

Throughout 2017, FFP channeled funds through the United Nations and non-governmental partners in East and Central Africa to address immediate food 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 reduce the impact of future shocks. 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—putting asset-poor households, previously dependent on food assistance, on the road to self-reliance.

Right: An aid worker provides food to an internally displaced family in Hargeisa, Somalia. With FFP support, WFP is leading nutrition efforts to prevent both acute and chronic malnutrition in children under the age of two. The program reached nearly 44,000 vulnerable mothers and their children every month in 2017. Photo: WFP/Karel Prinsloo
BUILDING A NEW GENERATION OF AFRICAN LEADERS

Members of Cohort 22 of the Young African Leaders Initiative Regional Leadership Center East Africa celebrate the completion of the program at Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya. Photo: USAID/Solomon Onyata
908 YOUNG LEADERS
(49% FEMALE) FROM 14 COUNTRIES IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA COMPLETED A FOUR-WEEK LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

20 ALUMNI
FROM THE YALI REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTER EAST AFRICA AWARDED GRANTS TO FUND PROMISING BUSINESS PLANS

2,104 PEOPLE REGISTERED FOR THE YALI U-LEARN VIRTUAL LEADERSHIP LIBRARY AND TRAINING SITE
Throughout East Africa, youth are an undervalued resource. Despite an enthusiasm for change, many young people lack the connections, knowledge and opportunities to convert their energy into action.

The Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Regional Leadership Center East Africa (RLCEA) is investing in the potential of young people between 18 and 35 years of age from 14 countries in East and Central Africa, namely Burundi, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. With training and mentorship in business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership and public management fields, more than 1,600 young people are using what they have learned to create visible change—joining the ranks of the region’s most imaginative leaders.

Competition for participation in the four-week program is intense, with about 5,000 applications submitted each cycle. Those who are not selected to participate have the chance to connect and learn from free, public courses hosted on the center’s U-Learn virtual leadership library.

“Deep inside me lies a great potential in leadership that I ought to unleash and apply to the fullest for the benefit of my community and Africa at large. Being able to clearly understand my area of competence and maximizing on the same for effectiveness in service delivery.”

— RLCEA Cohort 19 male participant from Kenya

Right: With training from YALI RLCEA, Ahumuza Ignatius (Uganda) has transformed his small agricultural school, Art Planet Academy, into an agricultural college and hub for climate-smart innovations. He was nominated as one of Africa’s top 15 young entrepreneurs by the African Leadership Academy and the MasterCard Foundation’s Anisha Prize.

Photo: YALI RLCEA
**BUDGET ALLOCATIONS**

**ALLOCATED FUNDS FROM 2013 - 2017**

- **2013**: $57.0M
- **2014**: $51.9M
- **2015**: $62.0M
- **2016**: $42.6M
- **2017**: $41.4M

**BUDGET ALLOCATION % BY SECTOR**

- **Health**: 25%
- **Trade**: 12%
- **Environment**: 15%
- **Agriculture**: 48%

*3.81 in central USAID headquarters for YALI and Peace and Security*
## 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)

### POWER
- African Governance Initiative - Tony Blair Institute
- Africa Union Commission
- Power Africa Transaction and Reform Program
- The East Africa Energy Program
- U.S. Energy Association Utility Facility

### HEALTH
- Cross-Border Health Integrated Partnership Project
- Knowledge for Health
- Measure Evaluation IV
- Population Health and Environment and EAC Health Policy and Coordination
- TB Challenge

### REGIONAL TRADE
- COMESA Integrated Partnership Assistance Agreement
- EAC Assistance Agreement to Support Comprehensive Regional Development
- East Africa Trade & Investment Hub
- Financial Sector Deepening Program
- Invest East Africa - Impact Investment Fund
- TradeMark East Africa - Trade Infrastructure Project

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

### REGIONAL FOODSECURITY AND RESILIENCE
- Africa Leadership Training and Capacity Building Program
- Aflasafe Technology Transfer Program
- COMESA Integrated Partnership Assistance Agreement
- IGAD Drought Disaster Resilience and Sustainability Initiative (IDDRSI)
- Maize Lethal Necrosis Disease
- Resilience Learning Project
- Standard Methods and Procedures in Animal Health (AUIBAR)

### YOUTH LEADERSHIP
- Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI)