



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



RESILIENCE

“Instead of just responding after crises happen, what we've been focused on is helping communities in countries build resilience to shocks and to be in a position to avoid crises.” – *President Barack Obama, White House*

Summit on Global Development, Washington, D.C., July 20, 2016

Development achievements over the past ten years have increased resilience, but Ethiopia's vulnerability to external factors like natural disasters, market shocks, and climate change remains high. Land degradation, limited household assets, low levels of farming mechanization and technology, lack of employment opportunities and a growing population all undermine efforts to maintain sustainable livelihoods during a crisis. Any aberrations have the ability to spike emergency needs. A strong focus on resilience promises to strengthen Ethiopian's coping ability. In 2015 and 2016, the El Niño-related drought and food insecurity crisis affected millions of people in Ethiopia requiring a \$1.4 billion response. Due to coping abilities of households and rapid response, including prepositioning of food, and programs mounted by the Government of Ethiopia, humanitarian agencies, and donors, the impact was less severe than what had been predicted.

PROGRAM GOALS

Increased resilience will strengthen development investments and facilitate sustainable growth. To build resilience, USAID is helping Ethiopia to improve agricultural productivity, expand markets, better manage natural resources, and improve access to climate services, while providing targeted humanitarian aid supporting the safety net for pastoralists and agro-pastoralists, and collaborating with other USAID missions in East Africa to promote strategic planning and learning opportunities.

USAID expanded livestock and other response interventions to quickly respond to El Niño by shifting development resources to compliment the coping capacity of vulnerable households in drought-affected areas of Ethiopia's Afar and Somali regions. The response compliments the mission's ongoing resilience-building interventions and protects development gains achieved in the affected areas.

Emergency response interventions improve animal health services for vulnerable households, facilitate commercial destocking, save breeding animals through emergency feed from local, feed-producing enterprises, and facilitate cash transfers for drought stricken pastoralists and those transitioning out of pastoralism.

PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT RESILIENCE

Ethiopia's population is at risk from environmental shocks including flooding, drought, and disease outbreaks. Additionally, scarce resources can cause localized conflict and exacerbate crises. To minimize harm when shocks occur, USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance provides emergency food aid, emergency relief supplies, therapeutic feeding for malnutrition, and water and sanitation improvements for vulnerable populations.

STRENGTHENING LIVELIHOODS TO CREATE RESILIENCE

In 2003, Ethiopia experienced a devastating drought, leaving 20 percent of the population without food and tens of thousands dead from starvation. Learning from this experience, USAID introduced resiliency activities to mitigate the impact of crises. USAID supports the Government of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program, which distributes food and cash transfer to participants for work on public works projects. As a result, crucial local conservation and infrastructure projects get completed and families don't have to sell their assets to buy food after a crisis.

In Ethiopia, an estimated 12 to 15 million pastoralists live in arid or semi-arid drylands, making them particularly vulnerable to environmental shocks. To build their resilience, USAID, through the U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative, supports market expansion opportunities for pastoralists with large livestock herds and helps individuals with small unsustainable herds transition out of pastoralism by giving them the skills, access to finance, and tools needed to adapt to a different lifestyle. Through USAID support, more than 118,000 farmers/pastoralists have applied new technologies or management practices and more than 34,000 hectares of rangeland is now under improved management.

In Ethiopia's drylands, water is a scarce resource, particularly during drought periods. It causes livestock loss, poor nutritional outcomes, and potential conflict. To address these issues, USAID is improving access to clean and sustainable water sources while improving sanitation and hygiene behaviors for target communities in the Afar, Somali, and Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples regions. USAID will also pilot small-scale sustainable irrigation activity, boost public awareness about natural resource management to prevent further rangeland degradation, and train government offices on better management of water resources. USAID is supporting innovative approaches such as drought insurance by helping pastoralists transfer risk to insurance companies through index-based livestock insurance instruments, mobile banking services through microfinance institutes.