



Food Assistance – East and Central Africa



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East and Central African countries include Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR), Chad and the Republic of Congo

FFP FY 14 Contributions to East & Central Africa	
Humanitarian Assistance	\$1.03 billion
Development Assistance	\$135.4 million
Total Food Assistance	\$1.17 billion

Partners:

Country Governments and Relevant Ministries

Implementing Partners:

-UN Partners

- * Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- *UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- *World Food Program (WFP)

-NGO Partners

- *ACDI-VOCA
- *ADESO
- *ADRA
- *Action Against Hunger
- *CARE International
- *Catholic Relief Services
- *Food for the Hungry
- *Mercy Corps
- *Relief Society of Tigray
- *Save the Children
- *World Vision

OVERVIEW

Cyclical drought, food insecurity, disease, prolonged conflicts, environmental degradation and limited government capacity present significant challenges to vulnerable populations throughout East and Central Africa. Climate change has increased weather-related disasters, such as drought and floods, pushing the poor deeper into poverty and hunger. Natural disasters are aggravated by man-made disasters, such as political unrest, security threats and large-scale human displacement, all of which exacerbate vulnerability and create a difficult operating environment in the region. In response, the USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP) provided nearly \$1.2 billion to the region in Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, including more than \$1 billion in humanitarian assistance and some \$135 million in development food assistance.

The 2011 drought in the Horn of Africa left 14 million people in need of humanitarian assistance. Many of those affected populations remain vulnerable to food insecurity, chronic malnutrition and displacement.

Some 20 million people in East and Central Africa face acute food insecurity as a result of successive failed rains, increasing food prices, conflict and limited humanitarian access. High malnutrition levels remain a concern. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) levels are higher than 20 percent in some countries, exceeding the World Health Organization’s emergency threshold of 15 percent.¹ In parts of northern Kenya, South Sudan, Central African Republic (CAR), Burundi, Somalia, Djibouti, Sudan, and eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), GAM rates are well above the 15 percent threshold.

The number of those displaced – both within and outside their countries - rose by almost two million in 2014 to about 12 million. Kenya alone hosts more than half a million refugees, mostly from South Sudan and Somalia, while Ethiopia has nearly 700,000 refugees and asylum seekers and 1.1 million persons are displaced within Somalia. The current conflict in Yemen also has forced more than 42,000 people to flee to Djibouti and Somalia to date.

USAID/KEA/FFP focuses its efforts on improving food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable populations by providing life-saving humanitarian and development assistance. FFP and its partners aim to reduce hunger and malnutrition and provide access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for a healthy and productive life.

PROGRAM AREAS

FFP partners with the United Nations (UN) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide relief and build resilience to chronic shocks among the most vulnerable populations in the region. Programs also aim to reach food-insecure people affected by conflict and displacement, including refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs),

¹ East and Central Africa Food Security and Nutrition Working Group, a multi-stakeholder regional forum chaired by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

returnees and host communities. FFP implements these activities through emergency and development assistance using Title II and International Disaster Assistance Funds.

USAID/KEA/FFP staff manages programs in eight countries in the region (Kenya, Somalia, Rwanda, Tanzania, CAR, Chad, Republic of Congo, and Djibouti) and provides technical support to six countries that have FFP officers in country (Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda).

Emergency Food Assistance

FFP emergency programs support food-insecure populations through a variety of activities, including direct U.S. and locally and regionally procured in-kind food distributions and cash- and market-based interventions such as cash transfers, food vouchers, food-for-assets, and cash-for-assets programs. FFP also supports refugees and their host communities through direct food distributions, mother and child health and nutrition, supplementary feeding, and therapeutic feeding activities. The majority of the emergency programs are implemented by WFP, other UN agencies, and both international and local NGOs. FFP provides funding and in-kind Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) to UNICEF to treat severely malnourished children under five.

Development Food Assistance

FFP funds ten development food assistance programs in Burundi, DRC, Ethiopia, and Uganda and provided roughly \$135.4 million in FY14. These programs work to increase access to food, strengthen livelihoods, improve agricultural sector capacity, market linkages and small-business development, maternal and child health and nutrition, HIV/AIDS awareness, civil participation and local governance, disaster-risk reduction, water, sanitation, and hygiene, natural resource management and biodiversity, and microenterprise productivity.

Building Resilience and Strengthening Livelihoods

FFP partners with USAID development offices in the USAID/KEA and Ethiopia Missions under the Horn of Africa Joint Planning Cell (JPC). In addition to the JPC, FFP supports resilience and life-saving relief activities aimed at strengthening livelihoods in almost every country in the region. These activities, implemented primarily through food-for-assets and cash-for-assets programs, have rehabilitated water catchments, irrigation canals and rangeland, and have cleared feeder roads to create opportunities for increased household-level production and productivity.