

USAID/REDSO-ESA

Annual Report

FY 2005

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Please Note:

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REDSO-ESA

Performance:

The 23 countries of east and southern Africa (ESA) have, for the most part, extremely low or even negative, annual rates of economic growth. They are among the poorest countries in the world. Repeated natural disasters, political disruptions, cross-border and internal conflict and external and internal displacement of populations exacerbate the poverty endemic to the region and contribute to the extremely high rates of malnutrition found throughout the region. More than 35% of the populations of Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Rwanda, Somalia and Tanzania do not get enough food to remain healthy. Between 20% and 34% of the population of the Republic of the Congo (Brazzaville) suffers from malnutrition, while in Sudan 18% of the population does not get enough food to eat. The high rates of malnutrition combined with poor sanitation and lack of health care for refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), helps to spread disease. Already overburdened public health systems unable to cope with the growing threat of drug resistant malaria strains, other endemic diseases and unacceptably high rates of maternal and child mortality, are being further stressed by the devastating prevalence of HIV/AIDS. Outdated policies and pervasive bureaucratic ineptitude create an environment that stifles growth of intra-regional and international trade, while conflicts and pervasive undercurrents of corruption inhibit resolution of fundamental food security issues. These realities and an awareness that the region is fertile ground for the cultivation and operation of terrorist activities, has renewed international and regional interest in resolving the underlying constraints to economic growth and political stability in this geopolitically important region of Africa. Notwithstanding this discouraging setting, FY 2004 witnessed some positive accomplishments. Peace in Burundi, however tenuous, continues to hold. The Arusha Peace Accords continue to provide the framework for the country's transition out of civil war and the move towards elections. In Somalia, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development's (IGAD) peace process has achieved a major breakthrough with the election by members of the transitional parliament of a new president and the selection of a prime minister and formation of a cabinet. In Sudan, the government and rebels from the south continue to move towards a peace deal to end years of civil war, signing an interim power and wealth sharing agreement in May. Three ESA countries - Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda - were selected as eligible to apply for Millennium Challenge Account Threshold Program funding. Under the Threshold Program, these three countries are eligible to apply for funding to help them make key policy reforms in areas such as anti-corruption, the rule of law, education and health and economic and trade policy to qualify for Millennium Challenge Account assistance.

The Regional Economic Development Services Office for East and Southern Africa (REDSO/ESA) is based in Nairobi, Kenya with USAID/Kenya, the Sudan Field Office, and USAID's regional office of Disaster Assistance (OFDA). A unique tripartite mandate governs the allocation of scarce human and financial REDSO resources. This mandate includes responsibilities for: 1) managing an innovative, cross-sectoral, regional program to enhance African regional institutional capacity to achieve food security, to better contain and prevent conflict situations, to improve the capabilities of public health systems and to reduce the devastation of the HIV/AIDS pandemic; 2) supporting, complementing and enhancing 23 USAID programs in the region by providing technical advisory and program support services, while sharing experiences and the lessons learned from ongoing regional and bilateral activities; and 3) managing the programs in the Central Africa Republic, Djibouti, Burundi and Somalia, and soon, Comoros. .

U.S. Interests and Goals: REDSO promotes U.S. national interests through an innovative, multi-year strategy that is designed to implement regional activities that address fundamental trans-national developmental and organizational problems. The resolution of such constraints and issues have a direct impact upon the success or failure of USAID country-specific programs, yet their resolution is often well

beyond the scope and operational capacities of traditional, bilateral USAID or other USG programs. Therefore, REDSO programs and services fill a critical gap, making a unique contribution to USG and international donor economic developmental undertakings in the region.

The REDSO regional program promotes African solutions to address social, political and economic issues that are the root causes of poverty and despair throughout the region. In this manner the program expects to lessen the likelihood that the ESA region will serve as a breeding ground of recruits for organizations engaged in the conduct of terrorist activities around the world. The innovative, cross-sectoral REDSO approach shares with partners and clients the most up-to-date developmental results and appropriate technological achievements. By focusing on the expansion of regional economic cooperation and the opening of national markets to international and intra-regional trade, REDSO promotes economic growth throughout the region, while increasing opportunities for U.S. agricultural products and technologies to increase food security and decrease dependence on international humanitarian assistance. In addition, REDSO programs help strengthen public health systems throughout the region in order to lower the rate of transmission of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, while reducing the tragically high rate of mortality among women and children. Thus, successful achievement of REDSO's strategic objectives will contribute to the U.S. government's efforts to diminish the risk of economic disruption, political disintegration, impoverishment and conflict throughout this region. Finally, the cross-cutting and adaptive nature of the program guarantees that regional activities and services will continue to be supportive of Presidential Initiatives and Agency priorities such as: the Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE) initiative, the Presidential Emergency Plan For AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA), and the initiatives on basic education , to curb corruption and building public-private alliances.

Beneficiaries: The REDSO program has both direct and indirect beneficiaries. Direct beneficiaries include key regional inter-governmental organizations, such as: the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA); IGAD; the East Central and Southern Africa Health Community (EAC); the African Union/International Bureau for Animal Resources (AU/IBAR), which is supporting the expansion of livestock exports to the Middle East through a new facility in Djibouti. Others include the Commonwealth Regional Health Community Secretariat (CRHCS) and the Regional Center for Quality of Health Care (RCQHC). In addition, a number of regional NGOs benefit directly from REDSO support including: the Centre for African Family Studies (CAFS); the African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS); the Africa Peace Forum (APF); and the Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in East and Central Africa (ASARECA). Indirect beneficiaries include thousands of small farmers who have taken advantage of the results of the agricultural research and the development of new agriculture technologies that have been funded under REDSO activities. Also, a substantial number of small and medium-size businesses have benefited indirectly from REDSO's trade and investment activities, while conflict-reduction activities have positively impacted the lives of people throughout the region who have been devastated by ongoing conflicts, e.g., those living in border areas, those affected by past genocide campaigns, and the thousands of refugees that fled the outbreak of conflict in areas such as northern Uganda. Finally, thousands of women and children who comprise the region's most vulnerable population have benefited indirectly from REDSO's efforts to improve health systems and reduce the spread of HIV/AIDs.

Donor Relations: The European Union and the United States are the two major international donors that directly support regional institutions and activities. Other donors related to food security and health include: the World Bank, Canada, the African Development Bank, and Great Britain. Germany is a key U.S. partner in conflict prevention, and a variety of UN agencies (the World Health Organization, UNICEF and UNDP) provide support for and cooperate closely with the U.S. on activities related to maternal/child health and HIV/AIDS prevention. The World Food Program and the U.S. collaborate closely in activities related to food assistance.

Challenges: The distinctive nature of the regional program generates a unique set of circumstances that REDSO has begun to address as its programs have matured. For example, performance monitoring requirements are especially challenging for USAID-supported regional activities. In a region where communications infrastructure is unreliable and inadequate, the timely acquisition of accurate data on target regional results is a significant challenge. On the ground monitoring is difficult from a regional

platform. In order to address this REDSO endeavors, whenever possible, to ensure that regional activities compliment bilateral USAID programs. In this manner REDSO may be able to utilize country-level and people-level data obtained by USAID missions and their partners to monitor and report on the achievement of targeted regional results. In addition, REDSO has provided specific training to strengthen performance monitoring capabilities of regional partners such as COMESA, IGAD and the EAC and, as appropriate, such programs include the provision of technical advisory services and equipment to enhance communication capabilities of partner organizations. Current funding for the regional health program is to implement country-level activities and to systematically measure country-level impact. As a result, the regional health program will be limited to working with three Africa partners. Best practices initiated in previous years will have restricted adoption in new countries. There will be difficulties in implementing additional best practices in the region.

REDSO's tripartite mandate encourages a creative tension between the sometimes divergent operational demands of its three component parts. While REDSO staff devotes substantial time to developing, implementing and monitoring its unique regional program, it cannot ignore the high priority of managing the programs in countries such as Burund, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Somalia, and soon, Comoros. Nor can the increasing requests for support and service to bilateral USAID programs suffer. Therefore, to ease the tension, REDSO continues to carefully review and schedule service delivery to client programs, while exploring new and innovative technologies, i.e., telecommunication and computers. Also, whenever possible, REDSO travel is utilized to serve more than any one part of the mandate, e.g. visit regional partners while facilitating services.

Notwithstanding the above, REDSO/ESA's overriding challenge, both in terms of program management and service provision, continues to be the tenuous regional and Kenyan security situation. Travel by REDSO staff to client countries such as Burundi and Somalia as well as official travel into Kenya continues to be severely restricted. As a result of the threat in Kenya, the recruitment of qualified staff has become more difficult, and the Ambassador's limitation on the overall number of internationally recruited staff is a reality which cannot be ignored in program planning and implementation.

Key Achievements during this reporting period: In FY 2004 impressive progress was made under the four strategic objectives of the 2001 - 2005 strategy.

1. Regional Food Security: REDSO's objective is to enhance African capacity to achieve regional food security, measured through expanded trade and increased strategic partnerships between key African organizations. USAID's program focuses on improving environmentally sustainable agricultural productivity and improving economic policies and governance in support of expanded trade. USAID's food security program is meeting or exceeding performance targets.

As a result of USAID assistance, trade in selected commodities increased 15% over the base line set in 2002, including a 48% rise in overseas exports of specialty coffee. USAID facilitated increased AGOA exports by sending over thirty companies to trade shows in the US, which generated \$3.5 million in sales. Regional research partnerships added value to national institutions and improved dissemination of technologies to farmers. Support to FEWSNet for vulnerability assessment, capacity-building, and training has been extended to Djibouti. Rigorous application of environmental review standards enhanced the quality of investments. USAID's partners improved in terms of governance and management systems, protocols for strategic planning, and monitoring performance. Improvements were also made in gender, information and communications technology, investment and customs policy harmonization in the COMESA region. Public-private alliances leveraged \$3.6 million additional contributions to the program.

2. Conflict Prevention, Mitigation and Response: REDSO's conflict management and governance programs continued to build African organizations' capacities in conflict prevention, mitigation and response (CPMR) at the local, national and intergovernmental levels; expanded application of effective conflict management approaches; and, increased networking among stakeholders. East Africa, the Horn and the Great Lakes (Rwanda, Burundi, DRC, Tanzania and Uganda) regions are among the most conflict prone in the world. U.S. Government-supported initiatives to bring to a close years of internal conflict in Sudan and Uganda cross-border conflict between Sudan and Uganda; to restore sovereignty in

Somalia; and, to hold transition elections in Burundi contributed to hopeful signs of future stability. War to peace transitions in these countries will leave them fragile, as thousands of refugees and IDPs return to their homes. The Conflict Early Warning (CEWARN) mechanism focuses on early detection and prevention of conflicts among pastoralist communities in the ESA region. Some of these conflicts, especially along the Ethiopian-Kenyan border, can have international dimensions.

FY 2004 highlights include CEWARN's first full year of data collection, allowing comparative analysis of conflict trends in future years. The increased early warning data analysis capacity has generated lessons learned that will engender improved response options. Kenya and Uganda Conflict Early Warning Units (CEWERUs) were established, significant progress toward establishing CEWERUs in Sudan and Ethiopia. The number of groups applying effective conflict mitigation and management practices across borders in the Karamajong (northeastern Uganda, northwestern Kenya, southeastern Sudan and Ethiopia) and Somali (northeastern Kenya, southern Ethiopia and southwestern Somalia) clusters exceeded targets by 13%. Thirteen local partners and community based peace-building organizations benefited from USAID financed capacity building. Ten regional Members of Parliament and 25 journalists from the Karamajong cluster were trained on improved coverage of conflict and corruption in Africa. Eleven local partners in the peacebuilding network increased their capacity for managing conflict in the region through 8 CPMR skills trainings, exceeding targets by 33%. Two hundred fifty six CSO members and parliamentarians benefited from CPMR related trainings.

3. Population, Health and Nutrition: The current status of health indicators for ESA indicate that most countries in the region will not meet their Millennium Development Goal by 2015. ESA countries continue to have very high rates of childhood and maternal mortality. Over 50% of children are malnourished. With low contraceptive prevalence rates (13%), women are unable to decide the number and spacing of their children. Malaria continues to be endemic, with over 2 million women and children dying annually. Tuberculosis (TB)-HIV co-infection rates are increasing dramatically. Acknowledging that these issues can only be addressed if the systemic issues of health service delivery are improved, the USAID strategy is designed to enhance regional capacity to improve health systems through: strengthening the institutional capacity and sustainability of African partner institutions; expanding the base of human and technical resources; increasing the analysis and application of information to improve sector programs; and broadening the policy environment by engaging in regional dialogue on key health policy issues.

The work carried out by USAID in the health sector has met and in some cases has exceeded expectations. A mid-term assessment carried out in November 2004 adds weight to this statement. Fifteen (15) networking meetings with USAID-supported African partners taking a key role affirms the technical leadership of African health organizations, it also ensures that the regional dialogue is African-led and African-owned. Improving regional health systems depends on the presence of a broad base of skilled African professionals. Fifteen hundred and ninety five (1,595) professionals and technical experts have been trained to date - with 541 people trained this year alone, far exceeding the target. The USAID regional mission is uniquely poised to review and disseminate best practices in ESA. Since the inception of the health program thirty-nine (39) best practices have been identified. This year alone, select best practices were operationalized 20 times, vastly increasing the utilization of critical information in program implementation in 10 countries. Additionally, 4 critical policy issues were analyzed to inform decision making at a ministerial level and impact change at a country level such as prevention of malaria in pregnancy, regional Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) policies and the impact of HIV on reproductive health services.

4. Strengthened Programs in HIV/AIDS: The REDSO/ESA HIV/AIDS program focuses on improving the prevention of HIV/AIDS and strengthening the care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS in the 12 countries in the ESA region that are devastated by the epidemic. The ESA region is home to only 5% of the world's population, but accounts for 22% of adults living with HIV, 34% of AIDS orphans and 22% of AIDS deaths in 2001. The ESA countries report over 8 million adults and 830,000 children living with HIV/AIDS with numbers increasing daily. The epidemic claimed an estimated 800,000 lives in 2001, bringing the number of children orphaned by AIDS in the region to over 4.7 million.

FY 2004 was a year of transition for USAID's regional HIV/AIDS program. FY 2004 was the first year of

implementation for REDSO/ESA's Strategic Objective 8 - Strengthened Programs in HIV/AIDS. The seven year multi-sectoral strategy was approved in April 2004, program designs were completed in June and funds were obligated in September. At the end of FY 2004, the core HIV/AIDS activity - the Northern Transport Corridor Initiative that focuses on the key transport routes in East Africa and the role they play in disease transmission - was in place. The Initiative's brand, Safe-T-Stop, is an innovative public-private-community package strategically placed along the major transport routes that integrates truck stop services with social, economic and educational and recreational opportunities that are designed to stem the spread of HIV/AIDS. The Safe-T-Stop sites will offer or provide referrals to comprehensive HIV/AIDS services such as counseling and testing, treatment of sexually transmitted infections and opportunistic infections, anti-retroviral therapy (ART) and support to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Gender: REDSO continues to place a strong priority on strengthening the systematic approach to gender integration in the ESA region. In the health sector, REDSO continues to strengthen the disaggregation of data by gender and has embarked on the process to specifically integrate gender in the pre-service training curricula for health workers in the east African region. REDSO's support to the Isis Women International Cross-Cultural Exchange Institute (Isis-WICCE) strengthened the Women's Peace Network in the Great Lakes Region, promoting women's solidarity and capacity-building as well as the documentation from different countries of human rights violations in the context of armed conflict. REDSO/ESA has focused its efforts on capacity building in the trade sectors, implemented through the Trade for African Development and Enterprise Initiative. The East and Central Africa Trade Hub has contributed greatly to strengthening the enabling environment for African businesses and, by making gender mainstreaming a priority, has been able to send over a dozen African women business owners to trade shows in the United States resulting in increased export orders from the region. Full commitment by USAID partners to gender mainstreaming has been critical to ensuring positive results on gender integration in the region. Early results indicate a need to continue with training programs to strategically target gender capacity development to heighten the impact of our assistance program by creating stronger counterparts.

Results Framework

623-001 Effective Program and Technical Support to ESA Missions

623-002 Increased Utilization of Critical Information by USAID and Other Decision-makers in the Region

623-003 Establish a strong basis for implementation of the Greater Horn of Africa Initiative (GHAI)

623-005 Enhanced African Capacity to Achieve Regional Food Security

SO Level Indicator(s):

Number of policy changes adopted by regional inter-governmental organizations

Number of strategic partnerships to achieve food security

Percentage increase of trade in commodities selected to benefit smallholders

5.1 Regional Organizations Strengthened

5.2 Improved Regional Availability of Technologies and Practices

5.3 Networking and Cooperation Increased

5.4 Improved Policy Environment Advocated by African Partners

5.5 Investment Alliances Fostered

623-006 More Effective Management of Conflict by African Organizations

SO Level Indicator(s):

Greater frequency/coverage of efforts to manage conflict in the 3 target conflict zones

Mitigation of some factors driving conflict in the region

Number of situation reports produced by IGAD warning of a risk of conflict

6.1 More Effective Management of Conflict by African Organizations

6.2 Capacity of African-Owned Conflict Management Organizations Strengthened

6.3 Expanded Application of Effective Approaches in Managing Conflict

623-007 Enhanced Regional Capacity to Improve Health Systems

SO Level Indicator(s):

Number of regional strategies to address health systems implemented

Number of selected better practices implemented regionally

7.1 Improved viability of regional partner institutions

7.2 Broaden technical resource base

7.3 Expanded utilization of critical information

7.4 Expanded policy dialogue

623-008 Strengthened Programs for HIV/AIDS in the Region

SO Level Indicator(s):

Number of programs that have adopted at least one of the better practices advocated by REDSO

Percent of REDSO funded programs that meet annual planned results

8.1 Strengthened USAID Mission technical and strategic leadership

8.2 Enhanced human and organizational ability to respond to the epidemic

8.3 Information exchanged, lessons learned, and best practices disseminated

8.4 Effective programs implemented in target populations

623-XXX Strengthened programs for HIV/AIDS in the region