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FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

Many of Africa's challenges are regional in nature, demanding regional solutions. People, goods, resources, and threats are mobile, moving across borders with ease. Even as some governments attempt to adhere to growth-oriented strategies, there is a recognition that their economies are not resilient enough to survive in isolation. Most of the countries in east Africa are affected by chronic food insecurity, conflict, and violence, often over natural resources, and continue to have high child and maternal mortality rates and rates of child malnutrition over 50 percent. HIV infection and death rates are among the highest in the world. Somalia has destabilized the Horn of Africa, reintroduced unmanageable attacks of piracy along the Gulf of Aden and deep into international waters, and served as a training ground for global terrorists. There is also a high concentration of weak democracies in the region with the potential for conflict to escalate quickly, leaving millions of people at risk and at the mercy of the international community for support.

The United States Government (USG) has an unwavering vision of a region where opportunities for terrorists and human traffickers are thwarted, national governments are able to create an open, just, and enabling environment that improves the social and economic well-being of their people, and issues that divide the countries are harnessed to encourage regional integration and harmonization to catalyze the region and realize its true economic, social, and global potential. This vision, while achievable, is not going to happen overnight. The region enters the next decade with issues of hunger, disease, and war taking center stage, along with discussions of trade and economic integration. In response to the reality of continual humanitarian imperatives, balanced with the massive potential for food self-sufficiency, the USG is supporting innovative approaches to promote income diversification and market access to encourage smallholder farmers and pastoralists to participate and benefit from regional economic growth. USG assistance is also increasing access to critical health interventions, including family planning and expanding HIV/AIDS services to high-risk groups along transport corridors. Trade and investment programs are reducing barriers to trade and promoting regional integration. Finally, the United States is promoting conflict mitigation and

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prevention through programs that build African capacity to respond to conflicts that can potentially destabilize or minimize many of the development gains that have been made by the region.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) East Africa Regional Mission directly supports U.S. policy goals and priorities by deepening strategic partnerships with regional African organizations, consolidating democratic transitions, bolstering fragile states, strengthening regional and sub-regional organizations, strengthening regional security capacity, stimulating Africa's economic development and growth, supporting Presidential Initiatives, and carrying out important humanitarian and regional development assistance programs. USAID has three important mandates in east Africa: provide a broad combination of core, technical, cross-cutting services that bolster U.S. bilateral assistance programs in east Africa; implement regional programs that strengthen regional and sub-regional organizations, stimulate regional economic development and growth, and enhance the impact of Presidential Initiatives and humanitarian assistance; and manage development programs in limited or non-presence countries such as Burundi, the Central African Republic, Djibouti, and Somalia.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Peace and Security

The Horn of Africa and Great Lakes regions are characterized by failed or weakly governed states that are increasingly vulnerable to emerging violent ideologies and conflict over access and control of natural resources. The USG is working to implement activities that strengthen the cross-border security environment along the Ethiopia-Kenya-Somalia and Ethiopia-Kenya-Sudan-Uganda border areas.

- In FY 2009, the USG supported interventions to address conflicts related to competition for natural resources and administrative boundaries. With USG support, local partners intervened in a coordinated and effective manner, which reduced conflict and thereby prevented increased casualties and large-scale population displacement.
- In FY 2009, the USG completed 15 peace dividend projects along the Kenya-Somalia border, which impacted 14,200 people
- The USG worked with local youth and officials on both sides of the Kenya-Somalia borders to mobilize communities and individuals to prevent or reduce crime, violence, and insecurity through community and police coordination. Gatherings were held at local police stations for communities, particularly youth, to express their concerns regarding security issues such as cattle raiding, cross-border drug trading, and kidnapping along the border, and to agree on effective mechanisms that security and community leaders can jointly use for increased security.

The persistent eruption of violence, political instability, and the general fragility of east African countries remain the most critical obstacle to program implementation and monitoring. Conflict between the leading Islamic militant group in the region, al Shabaab, and Kenya and Somalia Government forces has led to official closures of the Kenya-Somalia border, making it difficult to implement development programs for the transient communities that operate legitimately across both countries. Despite this, USG-supported activities in the border area contribute to regional stability and tightened border security environments through joint civilian and military programs that prevent conflict and safe havens or transfer corridors for extremists and criminals. Long-term

impact can be achieved through continued fostering of trusting and closely coordinated relationships between cross-border communities that are inclusive of security actors.

In FY 2009, the USG supported the continued development of conflict mitigation and management strategies that build political will and institutional capacity for African organizations to respond to and prevent violence in the Horn of Africa. To address the absence of women's voices and participation in peace-building efforts, USG resources were used to build women's awareness and capacity to become stronger leaders in conflict management in the region. A women's leadership program was launched in FY 2009 that offered a series of activities engaging women from Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda.

Economic Growth

East Africa is home to some of the poorest, most food-insecure people in the world. Sub-Saharan Africa contributes a mere 2 percent to the value of goods traded internationally. The high cost of trading goods contributes to poverty and food insecurity by dampening product competitiveness and inhibiting access to regional and global markets for locally produced goods. As part of the African Growth and Competitiveness Initiative and Feed the Future, USAID has integrated its trade, infrastructure, and agriculture portfolios to increase regional trade, competitiveness, and food security with a focus on staple foods, cotton, textiles, apparel, horticulture, and financial services.

The global economic crisis had a diminishing impact on extra-regional trade in FY 2009. However, the will of east Africa's governments to pursue increased economic integration remains strong, and as a result, intra-regional trade continues to grow. The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is a preferential trading area with 19 member states, including countries as diverse as Egypt, Ethiopia, and Zambia. The COMESA secretariat is a key African regional partner for the USG. COMESA's vision – "to be a fully integrated, internationally competitive regional economic community with high standards of living for its entire people ready to merge into an African Economic Community" – aligns with the vision held by the USG for the region. In FY 2009, USAID supported COMESA in implementing the mandate given by the African Union and the New Partnership for Africa's Development to coordinate the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program in its member states. Assistance to COMESA's integration agenda contributed to a 55 percent increase in intra-COMESA trade in FY 2009 (109 percent since 2006), and to the launch of the COMESA Customs Union, which will allow goods to move freely within the COMESA region, substantially reducing the time and cost of trade.

Movement of agricultural goods from areas of surplus to areas of deficiency can help to alleviate the food crisis. USG-funded programs focus on making sure that food can cross borders to reach those in need. This is necessary if U.S. assistance is to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

Regionally coordinated scientific research on regional issues make improved technologies and knowledge of best practices available more quickly and efficiently than separate national efforts can achieve. USG-supported crop improvement research focused on fast-spreading disease threats to the major staples of cassava and bananas. Common platforms for research and technology transfer were set up, promising varieties with resistance to both cassava mosaic virus and cassava brown streak disease were screened, and proven practices for the multiplication and distribution of planting material and the management of banana wilt were developed with extension agencies and non-governmental organizations. Regional quality standards for potato and cassava were published to facilitate trade. In biotechnology, USAID supported the development of a virus-indexing toolkit was developed and the advancement of regional universities' laboratory and biosafety procedures to transform maize varieties for drought resistance.

The USG continues to streamline clearance procedures at borders critical to the trade of goods and services in east Africa:

- With USG assistance, the East African Community (EAC), an organization of five governments in the region, and COMESA agreed to harmonize their customs protocols and ensure that they meet international standards. Harmonization of these protocols will ensure that transporters encounter the same transparent set of procedures each time they cross a border in the region.
- An important breakthrough was achieved at the port in Kenya this year with USG support. A new agreement was reached for banks, police, and agriculture inspection services to provide 24-hour services at the port. As a result, the backlog of containers at the port can now be moved into and out of the port 24 hours a day. Early in the year, the port had moved to a 24-hour schedule, but cargo did not move because ancillary providers were not open to provide the services needed to move cargo out. With 24-hour operation of service providers, the USG expects to see a significant reduction in the time it takes cargo to clear the port.
- USG assistance also led to joint inspection procedures for trucks at one of the main border crossings between Kenya and Uganda, reducing clearance times from 16 to 6 hours. This project built on support that was given to use one-stop clearance procedures for rail, which reduced clearance times for train traffic from three days to three hours.
- In FY 2009, the USG supported deployment of the Revenue Authorities Digital Data Exchange (RADDex , developed and piloted in 2007) between Malawi and Tanzania and between Rwanda and Uganda. RADDex is customs software that reduces the cost of trading goods by allowing customs officials to transmit data virtually across borders, eliminating the need for time-consuming paper transactions. The USG rollout of RADDex has prioritized borders that are critical to the movement of food and other important exports such as coffee and cotton. RADDex is fully functional at two border posts between Kenya and Uganda.
- The USG has also agreed with the EAC to develop a regional customs platform based on RADDex that will deliver RADDex capabilities to the rest of the region and allow a wide range of customs data to flow seamlessly between the customs administrations of the five EAC partner states. This will not only reduce the time and cost of transiting goods but also increase the quality of trade data that is collected.

Under the African Growth and Opportunities Act (AGOA), USG assistance to East African firms in FY 2009 also brokered \$11 million in new trade deals. Assistance was provided to help firms identify a niche in U.S. markets and understand the AGOA trade rules. The USG also supported participation in industry trade shows, in some cases matching them with prospective buyers. East African firms closed \$10 million in new deals at the African Pavilion of the USG-sponsored MAGIC apparel trade show alone. This represents the largest number of deals closed since the USG began supporting East African participation in this event in 2005.

Water is a key transboundary natural resource – one that is of utmost importance to all countries in the region. USAID’s transboundary program in the Mara River Basin is key to maintaining the rich biodiversity of the Masai Mara-Serengeti Ecosystem, home to one of the largest animal migrations in the world. As the effects of global climate change become more apparent in the region,

USAID/East Africa is spearheading a regional approach to mitigation and adaptation. FY 2009 results under the USG-funded transboundary biodiversity and water program, provided access to clean drinking water to over 12,000 people in Tanzania and Kenya, and improved sanitation facilities to 4,500 people.

Investing in People

East African health indices are poor. Multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR TB) is rising. Contraceptive use improved in only two countries, with many vulnerable groups having little access to services while continued conflict in the region fostered gender-based violence (GBV). New HIV infections need to be reduced. Climbing costs and prolonged drought have decreased food availability, seriously affecting children's nutritional status.

USG assistance in health aims to support dissemination and skills development in underutilized but proven interventions that contribute to reduced maternal and child mortality, extend HIV/AIDS services to high risk populations along transport corridors, support the region to achieve global TB targets by 2015, and increase access to Family Planning (FP) and GBV care and treatment services for underserved people in border communities and in emergency or post-conflict situations.

Controlling MDR TB depends on strong diagnostic and treatment programs. USAID/EA is collaborating with missions in Uganda and Tanzania to strengthen the capacities of national reference laboratories to manage MDR diagnostic testing. These laboratories are competing to become the supranational reference laboratory that tests specimens from multiple countries. Their readiness will be assessed in FY 2010. South Africa is the only country in sub-Saharan Africa with this testing capacity. In HIV/AIDS, USG assistance was used to reach over 134,000 people with HIV/AIDS prevention messages and to scale-up activities to address root causes of HIV/AIDS.

Using its comparative advantage as a regional platform, USAID/EA is providing FP services to transient border populations in 17 remote areas of Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and Rwanda, including counseling to more than 7,000 individuals, and reaching nearly 43,000 with FP/GBV messages. USAID/EA is testing the effectiveness of various models of FP service delivery in different phases of emergencies with internally displaced persons in the DRC and Burundi. USG assistance is also supporting the East, Central, and Southern African Health Community (ECSA-HC) in advancing GBV prevention and care issues. In 2009, 10 ministers unanimously adopted an Implementation Framework for GBV Prevention and Control. This builds on last year's decision by ECSA-HC to declare GBV prevention a health issue. A model national policy is being developed for country-level use.

USG resources are also being used to support food fortification initiatives through ECSA-HC that are laying the groundwork to improve nutritional status of families in the region. ECSA-HC expanded training of inspectors who test fortified foods and established a regional forum on food fortification that will develop a regional food and nutrition strategy and model policy to recommend to ECSA countries.