

Appendix A

AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Principal Areas of Focus

The Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET) is an innovative application of science for supporting efforts to alleviate risks related to existing climate variability or potential climate change. Through FEWS NET, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is able to provide decisionmakers—both in the United States and in the developing world—with information designed to support policy and program interventions for effective and timely response to drought and food insecurity. FEWS NET historically focused its activities in 23 countries of Africa, as well as Guatemala, Haiti, and Afghanistan. In addition to monitoring a wide variety of socioeconomic indicators to identify levels of food insecurity, FEWS NET monitors and analyzes remotely sensed data and ground-based meteorological, crop, and rangeland observations to track the progress of rainy seasons and crop production in semi-arid regions, in order to identify early indications of reduced food availability and access.

Program Highlights for FY 2009

In FY 2009, FEWS NET will continue to provide seasonal monitoring in relationship to analyses of food insecurity conditions in Africa and Central America, as well as in Haiti and Afghanistan. A major element of this work has been to strengthen information networks that collect and analyze data to reveal intra- and interannual climate variability trends as they relate to possible longer term climate variability and change.

Depending upon available funding, USAID will continue to conduct climate change adaptation programs applying scientific information to international development assistance.