

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, 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 18 drought-prone countries across sub-Saharan Africa and, as of 2003, FEWS NET has expanded its coverage to include select countries in Central Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. 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 2008

In FY 2008, 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.