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U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)

Horn of Africa – Multi-Sectoral Interventions in Pastoralist Communities

Fact Sheet #2, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

September 30, 2005

Note: The last fact sheet was dated January 7, 2005.

BACKGROUND

- Pastoralism provides a critical means of survival in the Horn of Africa, accounting for the livelihoods of 15 to 20 million people in Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Sudan. The number of pastoralists varies widely within the region and precise figures are difficult to obtain because national census figures do not include information on pastoralists. A 2004 report by Minority Rights Group International (MRGI) estimates that 10 to 12 percent of Ethiopia’s population, or 7 to 8 million people, are pastoralists, with large numbers concentrated in Afar, Somali, and Oromiya regions. Local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) suggest that 1 to 1.5 million pastoralists make up one-third of Eritrea’s population. USAID’s Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reports that 6.7 million people, or 70 percent of the population of Somalia, are pastoralists, and the U.S. Embassy in Djibouti estimates that 93,000 to 130,000 Djiboutians are pastoralists. Kenya contains 6 million pastoralists or roughly 18 percent of its total population, according to MRGI.
- Pastoralism refers to a range of livelihoods including pure nomadism and mixed agro-pastoral practices. Due to reliance on natural resources, pastoralist communities are particularly vulnerable to natural and human-caused disasters. Even under normal circumstances, pastoral communities often face extreme challenges in meeting basic needs due to significant reductions in land and water available as a result of desertification, bush encroachment, soil erosion, population growth, and political and economic marginalization.
- The welfare of pastoralist communities is directly related to the environment, as livestock production is highly dependent on the availability of water and pasture. Crises that can threaten the survival of animals include drought, food shortages, disease, severe cold, lack of access to grazing lands, looting, and conflict. While communities often have the ability to cope with isolated emergencies, coping mechanisms are frequently exhausted through consecutive shocks. As the negative effects of crises accumulate and household assets, including herd sizes, are depleted, pastoral communities in the Horn of Africa have become increasingly vulnerable and food insecure.
- Although most pastoralists trade milk, hides, skins, and crops for food and other products, production for the purpose of market sale is still rare. When pastoralists participate in the market, it is primarily as a coping strategy implemented as a result of one or more shocks to their livelihoods.
- Shortages of resources sometimes lead to increased conflict between agricultural and pastoral groups—as well as between competing pastoralist communities—over access to water and pastures. For example, between July 12 and 13, 2005, a wave of attacks and retaliations between members of the Borani and Gabra communities in Marsabit District, Northern Kenya, left close to 90 people dead and 9,000 people displaced, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

NUMBERS AT A GLANCE			
	Total Population (estimated)¹	Number of Pastoralists (estimated)	Pastoralists as Percentage of Total Population (estimated)
Djibouti	466,900–650,000	93,000–130,000	20 percent ²
Eritrea	4.5 million	1 million–1.5 million	33 percent ³
Ethiopia	70.5 million	7–8 million ⁴	10 – 12 percent
Kenya	30 million	6 million ⁴	20 percent
Somalia	9.6 million	6.7 million	70 percent ⁵
Sudan	40.2 million	n/a	60 percent of non-urban areas ³

¹ Source: U.S. Department of State Country Background Notes.

² Source: U.S. Embassy, Djibouti. May 17, 2005.

³ Source: Pastoral and Environmental Network in the Horn of Africa (<http://www.penhanetwork.org>).

⁴ Source: John Markakis, *Pastoralism on the Margin*. MRGI, October 2004.

⁵ Source: FEWS NET, September 2004.

Total Pastoralist Population in Horn of Africa (HOA)up to 30 million⁵
Total FY 2005 USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance for HOA Pastoralists Initiative\$990,769
Total FY 2004 and FY 2005 USAID/OFDA Humanitarian Assistance for HOA Pastoralists Initiative\$2,426,511

CURRENT SITUATION

Djibouti

- A delay in the onset of the June to October 2005 *karan* rains exacerbated an ongoing drought and led to a reduction in grazing areas, water shortages, and precarious food security in Djibouti. FEWS NET estimates that half of all goats and sheep in Djibouti have died this year as a result of the drought. Decreased animal productivity combined with an increase in livestock diseases have resulted in declining terms of trade for pastoralists.
- Both rural and urban populations face a significant decline in water availability. Pastoralists' access to water sources has worsened due to ongoing regional instability, which has limited human and animal movement.
- In April 2005, the U.N. World Food Program (WFP) launched an emergency appeal for \$7.5 million to purchase 5,000 metric tons (MT) of food assistance to benefit 50,000 people.

Eritrea

- More than 40,000 animals in the riverine areas of Setit, the traditional dry-season grazing areas of nomadic pastoralists, died as a result of the poor June to September *kremti* rainfall in 2004.
- In August 2005, FEWS NET indicated that the March to May *azmera* rains were good in Dehub and Makaal zones that regenerated pasture and allowed for planting of long-cycle crops. The 2005 *kremti* rains have performed well, leading to improved conditions and terms of trade. Nevertheless, full recovery will depend on ongoing rainfall, along with the availability of agricultural inputs and timely planting.
- Food security prospects for pastoralists in the eastern lowlands are less encouraging due to failure of the October–February *bahri* coastal rains in late 2004 and early 2005.

Ethiopia

- According to a July 2005 FEWS NET report, pastoralists in Afar and Somali regions and in the agro-pastoral lowlands of Bale and East Hararghe zones, Oromiya Region, remain vulnerable despite improved rainfall and ongoing food assistance.
- FEWS NET reported that between January and June grain–livestock terms of trade deteriorated for pastoralists, primarily as a result of the increase in maize prices. Since June, both cereal and livestock prices have been increasing, but the rise in cereal prices has been more rapid.
- USAID/Ethiopia is currently supporting a wide range of pastoral development activities that focus on animal health, livestock market information, natural resource management, alternative basic education, promotion of good governance, and an early warning system in Jijiga, Fik, and Shinile zones, as well as in Liben and Afer zones, along the border with Kenya.
- In response to recurrent droughts and chronic needs of pastoralist communities in Ethiopia, USAID's Africa Bureau (USAID/AFR) is implementing the Pastoralist Livelihoods Initiative (PLI). The PLI will include cash infusions for targeted emergency de-stocking linked to livestock markets; restocking with improved breeds of small ruminants; and long-term livestock market development.

Kenya

- The 2005 long rains from February to June were heavy in the northwestern districts compared to rainfall in the northeastern districts, according to FEWS NET's August update. As a result, pastoralist communities in the northwestern districts of Turkana, Marsabit, West Polot, Baringo, Kajiado, Narok, and Samburu reported greater food security, improvements in livestock prices, increased milk availability, and decreasing rates of child malnutrition. In contrast, pastoralists and livestock in the northeastern communities of Garissa, Wajir, Tana River, and Isiolo began trekking for water and pasture two months earlier than normal. Livestock health has deteriorated and livestock prices have declined by 5 to 10 percent.
- Proximity to areas of greater rainfall has broadened the migration for the worst-affected pastoralists. However, new patterns of migration could also strain available pasture and water, causing resources to deplete faster than normal.

Somalia

- The 2005 *gu* rains from April to June were above normal in central and northern Somalia but below normal in the southern Bay, Lower and Middle Shabelle, and Lower and Middle Juba Valley regions, according to the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization's (FAO) Food Security Analysis Unit's (FSAU) August update. Consecutive seasons of good rains, above normal cereal production, and significant pasture recovery indicate the end of a three year drought in the north. The south continues to face a deteriorating humanitarian situation, with increasing cereal prices and a reduction in the ability of pastoral and agro-pastoral households to access food from markets. FSAU reports unusually high cattle migration to riverine and coastal areas in southern regions.
- Livestock conditions are normal throughout the country. High kidding rates among sheep and goats in the northeast has improved the availability of milk and dairy products, but a large number of destitute pastoralists in towns and villages still depend on relief food and kinship support for survival.

USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

- In response to the unique and ongoing vulnerabilities of pastoralist communities in the Horn of Africa, USAID/OFDA created a regional initiative in 2004 to support interventions aimed at strengthening communities' capacity to weather and recover from crises. In FY 2005, USAID/OFDA awarded nearly \$1 million for multi-sectoral interventions in pastoralist communities—bringing the total assistance provided through the initiative in FY 2004 and FY 2005 to more than \$2.4 million through eight partners across five countries in the Horn of Africa.
- In addition to the pastoral initiative, in FY 2005 to date USAID/OFDA has provided approximately \$100 million for programs in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, and Uganda, many of which directly support pastoral livelihoods. Detailed information on these programs can be found on the USAID website at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/countries/index.html.

Ethiopia

- USAID/OFDA provided GOAL with more than \$250,000 to establish community-based activities to increase the resiliency of Kereyou and Ittu pastoralists and agro-pastoralists in East Shoa Zone, Oromiya Region. The 12-month program from March 2005 through February 2006 will reach nearly 33,000 beneficiaries through activities that increase food security and improve natural resource and water management systems.
- Through a grant of nearly \$250,000, USAID/OFDA is supporting a 10-month initiative by World Vision International (WVI) to improve livelihood security and shock-resistance of 24,000 pastoralists in Assaita District, Afar Region. Starting in August 2005 and running through June 2006, the project aims to increase the availability of livestock fodder; improve the health status of targeted households through providing water and sanitation activities; and expand the livelihood choices of pastoralists by improving access to seeds and small ruminants.
- As part of a \$251,000 grant to Tufts University's Feinstein International Famine Center (FIFC), USAID/OFDA is supporting the creation of mini-dairy processing enterprises in the towns of Moyale, Yabello, and Negelle in Oromiya Region. The 18-month project began in February 2005 and targets primarily pastoral women's groups who are the sole traders of milk-commodities. Through establishing a mini-dairy processing group in each town, the Tufts University program increases local access to hygienic milk and milk-products thereby improving the health of the regional population; guarantees an income source for the targeted women thereby empowering the women to make their own economic choices; and mitigates the seasonal surpluses and scarcities of milk thereby increasing the resiliency of the pastoral communities to aggregate shocks.

Kenya

- As part of the \$251,000 grant to FIFC, USAID/OFDA is also supporting the creation of mini-dairy processing enterprises in the Kenyan towns of Garissa and Wajir.

Somalia

- USAID/OFDA provided more than \$260,000 for World Concern Development Organization's (WCDO) twelve-month community water project in Juba Valley. Through increasing availability and quality of potable water and enhancing local hygiene and sanitation services, WCDO will reduce the high level of livestock mortality, improve community health, strengthen pastoralists' ability to respond to recurrent droughts, and reduce conflict between pastoralists and agro-pastoralists over water resources.

U.S. GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR MULTI-SECTORAL INTERVENTIONS IN HORN OF AFRICA

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE (FY 2005)			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
GOAL	Food Security/Agriculture, Water and Sanitation	Oromiya, Ethiopia	\$226,785
Tufts University, FIFC	Income Generation	Oromiya, Ethiopia; Garissa and Wajir, Kenya	\$251,419
World Vision	Food Security/Agriculture, Income Generation, Water and Sanitation	Afar, Ethiopia	\$249,891
WCDO	Water and Sanitation	Juba Valley, Somalia	\$262,674
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR PASTORALIST INTERVENTIONS IN HORN OF AFRICA IN FY 2005			\$990,769

USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE (FY 2004)			
Implementing Partner	Activity	Location	Amount
CARE	Food Security/Agriculture	Debut, Eritrea	\$250,000
Cooperazione Internazionale	Food Security/Agriculture, Water and Sanitation	Afar, Ethiopia	\$249,907
Greater Horn of Africa Rainforest Partnership	Food Security/Agriculture, Water and Sanitation	Multiple Districts, Kenya	\$181,780
Mercy Corps	Food Security/Agriculture	Bahr el Ghazal, Sudan	\$249,995
Save the Children	Food Security/Agriculture, Health	Abyei, Sudan	\$250,000
WCDO	Water and Sanitation	Juba Valley, Somalia	\$254,060
TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR PASTORALIST INTERVENTIONS IN HORN OF AFRICA IN FY 2004			\$1,435,742

TOTAL USAID/OFDA HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR PASTORALIST INTERVENTIONS IN HORN OF AFRICA, FY 2004 AND FY 2005	\$2,426,511
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PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on identifying such organizations is available in the "How Can I Help" section of www.usaid.gov or by calling The Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) at 703-276-1914.
- USAID encourages cash donations because they: allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
 - o USAID: www.usaid.gov – Keyword: Donations
 - o The Center for International Disaster Information: www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914
 - o Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at www.reliefweb.int.

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/.