



**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 #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2005

January 7, 2005

**BACKGROUND**

- Pastoralism provides a critical means of survival in the Horn of Africa, accounting for the livelihoods of millions in Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Uganda, and Eritrea. The number of pastoralists varies widely within the region, but reaches as high as 60 percent of the population in Somalia, according to the U.S. Department of State. Local figures can be significantly higher. In the Somali Region of Ethiopia, official figures estimate that 85 percent of inhabitants are pastoralists.
- The welfare of pastoralist communities is directly related to the environment, as livestock production is highly dependent on the availability of natural resources such as water and pasture. Even under normal circumstances, pastoral communities often face extreme challenges in meeting basic needs due to significant reductions in land and water available for pastoralism as a result of desertification, bush encroachment, soil erosion, population growth, and political and economic marginalization. This scarcity of resources has led to increased conflict between agricultural and pastoral groups—as well as between competing pastoralist communities.
- Due to reliance on scarce natural resources, pastoralist communities are particularly vulnerable to any natural or human-caused disaster. Crises that can threaten the survival of their 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 are depleted, communities become increasingly vulnerable.

**CURRENT SITUATION**

- According to a November 1 report from USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET), the humanitarian situation in the Horn of Africa remains precarious, especially in pastoral livelihood areas where households face acute food insecurity.
- On November 5, FEWS NET reported that late and erratic seasonal rains in pastoral areas of Ethiopia resulted in early livestock migrations, deterioration of livestock conditions, and animal deaths. In Gash Barka Zone, Eritrea, animal feed from grazing lands and from seasonal crop residues are expected to cover only 29 percent of the total annual feed requirement for the area, a figure well below the long-term average.
- After several seasons of below average precipitation in the Horn of Africa, rainfall in October and November recharged ground water sources and improved pasture conditions in some pastoralist areas of Somalia and eastern Ethiopia. Heavy rains, however, caused flooding and animal deaths in northeastern Somalia and damaged houses and assets along the eastern coast of Kenya.
- FEWS NET reported that pastoralists throughout the region remain highly vulnerable, as full recovery will require successive seasons of sufficient rainfall to rebuild depleted resource bases. The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) estimated that cumulative animal mortality rates during the last 4 years in Somalia reached 60 percent for goats and sheep and 80 percent for pack camels.
- According to FAO, ongoing conflict further contributes to the food insecurity of pastoralists in the region. Insecurity and the presence of landmines in many areas of southern Sudan restrict the movement of pastoralists and livestock. In Somalia, sporadic outbreaks of clan violence over pastoral lands and water wells continue to disrupt the livelihoods of pastoralist communities.

**USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE**

- In response to the unique vulnerabilities of pastoralist communities in the Horn of Africa, USAID/OFDA created a regional initiative to support pilot interventions that strengthen these communities' ability to withstand crises. In FY 2004, USAID/OFDA solicited proposals through an Annual Program Statement (APS) and awarded more than \$1.4 million for multi-sectoral interventions in pastoralist communities. For FY 2005, USAID/OFDA issued a second APS for pastoralist communities in the region, which closed on December 20.

*Programs Funded in FY 2004*

Eritrea

- Through a 12-month grant to CARE, USAID/OFDA supported a multi-sectoral intervention in Debub Zone to increase agro-pastoralist communities' resiliency to aggregate shocks. This intervention is expected to reach more than 7,300 beneficiaries through pasture improvement for oxen and other animals used for agricultural labor.....**\$250,000**

Ethiopia

- USAID/OFDA provided financial assistance to Cooperazione Internazionale to implement a pilot multi-sectoral intervention in largely pastoralist Afar Region. This 12-month grant will reach nearly 19,000 beneficiaries through building capacity in livestock and agricultural production, maternal and community health, and water and sanitation..... **\$249,907**

Kenya

- The Greater Horn of Africa Rainwater Partnership (GHARP) is implementing an 18-month project to promote rainwater management technologies in 11 districts near Mount Kenya and in the Rift Valley, which will benefit an estimated 3,000 people. GHARP is a regional network of National Rainwater Associations (NRWA) from the Greater Horn of Africa countries that was formally established in March 2001. Specifically, GHARP will construct earthdams for livestock and micro-irrigation, water tanks, drip irrigation systems, seedling nurseries, and improved sanitation facilities. The project also works to promote community mobilization, training, and knowledge sharing.....**\$181,780**

Sudan

- Mercy Corps received USAID/OFDA funding to improve resiliency of vulnerable agro-pastoralists through innovative production and storage of animal feed, maximizing health and utility of draught animals, and improving linkages between these communities and local markets. This activity will benefit an estimated 50,000 in Twic County, Northern Bahr el Ghazal.....**\$249,995**
- Save the Children Federation, Inc. is implementing a USAID/OFDA-funded project in Abyei area, West Kordofan State to support community-based interventions for pastoralist and agro-pastoralists. Primary interventions include animal disease control, water and pasture resource improvement, promoting environmental conservation, and human health. This 18-month project reaches an estimated 25,000 beneficiaries..... **\$250,000**

Somalia

- USAID/OFDA is supporting World Concern Development Organization's (WCDO) community water project in Juba Valley. This project benefits an estimated 52,000 people in pastoralist, agro-pastoralist, and riverine communities with water resource rehabilitation and management activities. Specifically, WCDO is rehabilitating 35 water sources to be managed by newly established local committees..... **\$254,060**

**Total USAID/OFDA FY 2004 Assistance to Pastoralists in the Horn of Africa.....\$1,435,742**