



# Food Assistance – East and Central Africa



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**Countries:**

Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Djibouti, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Central African Republic (CAR), Chad and the Republic of Congo

FFP FY 16 Contributions to East & Central Africa	
Humanitarian Assistance	\$1.15 billion
Development Assistance	\$40 million
Total Food Assistance	\$1.55 billion

**Partners:**

Country Governments and Relevant Ministries

**Implementing Partners:**

-UN Partners

- \*Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- \*UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
- \*World Food Program (WFP)

-NGO Partners

- \*ACDI-VOCA
- \*ACTED
- \*Adeso
- \*ADRA
- \*Action Against Hunger
- \*CARE International
- \*Catholic Relief Services
- \*Danish Refugee Council
- \*Food for the Hungry
- \*Mercy Corps
- \*Relief Society of Tigray
- \*Save the Children
- \*World Vision

**OVERVIEW**

The Regional Office of Food for Peace (FFP) supports or directly manages food assistance operations in 14 countries in East and Central Africa. Humanitarian needs - specifically food insecurity - in this region have been rising at an unprecedented rate due to cyclical drought, political insecurity, prolonged conflicts, environmental degradation and disease outbreaks. Currently, the number of people facing crisis- and emergency-levels of food insecurity in the region has nearly doubled from 12 million to 24 million and the number of refugees in the region had risen to 4 million. Vulnerable populations are being driven further into poverty and hunger due to a variety of factors, from drought and floods to record-breaking inflation of over 700%. These disasters include political unrest, ethnic violence, election disputes, security threats and large-scale human displacement that are resulting in humanitarian needs that span borders. To respond to these ever-rising needs, USAID/FFP provided over \$1.1 billion to the region in Fiscal Year (FY) 2016, including more than \$1.15 billion in humanitarian assistance and some \$40 million in development food assistance.

In 2015-2016, the East Africa region suffered from one of the worst El Nino climatic events in 60 years, with drought and massive crop failures affecting primarily Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia. Due in large part to USAID’s investments in early warning systems, host government safety net programs and ongoing resilience programs, a major humanitarian catastrophe was averted. However, needs remain high and FFP has committed a significant amount of resources and energy towards continuing to build the resilience of people who have suffered and are susceptible to recurrent crises in the Horn of Africa.

In addition to the almost 24 million people in East and Central Africa facing acute food insecurity, malnutrition rates remain a chronic concern, especially for children under five, who are in danger of permanent developmental damage. Global Acute Malnutrition (GAM) levels exceed the World Health Organization’s emergency threshold of 15 percent in several areas in the region with nearly two million children under five experiencing severe acute malnutrition (SAM). In parts of northern Kenya, South Sudan, CAR, Burundi, Somalia, Djibouti, Sudan, and eastern DRC, GAM rates also are well above the 15 percent threshold, with some areas at more than double the emergency threshold level.

The number of those displaced – both within and outside their countries – has risen to over 14 million at the end of 2015. Kenya alone harbors more than half a million refugees, mostly from South Sudan and Somalia, while Ethiopia has nearly 700,000 refugees and asylum seekers and 1.1 million persons are displaced within Somalia. The current conflict in South Sudan has pushed Uganda for the first time to be the country hosting the most refugees in region.

USAID/KEA/FFP focuses its efforts on improving food and nutrition security for the most vulnerable populations by providing life-saving humanitarian and development assistance. FFP and its partners aim to reduce hunger and malnutrition and provide access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food for a healthy and productive life.

## **PROGRAM AREAS**

FFP works with the United Nations (UN) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to provide relief and build resilience to chronic shocks among the most vulnerable populations in the region. Programs also aim to reach food-insecure people affected by conflict and displacement, including refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs), returnees and host communities. FFP implements these activities through emergency and development assistance using Title II and International Disaster Assistance Funds. USAID/KEA/FFP staff directly manage food assistance programs in eight countries in the region (Central African Republic, Chad, Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, and Tanzania) and provide technical support to six countries that have FFP staff in-country (Burundi, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda).

### **Emergency Food Assistance**

FFP emergency programs support food-insecure populations through a variety of activities, including direct U.S. and locally and regionally procured in-kind food distributions and cash- and market-based interventions such as cash transfers, food vouchers, food-for-assets, and cash-for-assets programs. FFP also supports refugees and their host communities through direct food distributions, mother and child health and nutrition, supplementary feeding, and therapeutic feeding activities. The majority of the emergency programs are implemented by WFP, other UN agencies, and both international and local NGOs. FFP provides funding and in-kind Ready-to-Use Therapeutic Foods (RUTF) to UNICEF to treat severely malnourished children under five.

### **Development Food Assistance**

FFP funds ten development food assistance programs in Burundi, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, and Uganda and provided roughly \$200 million in FY15 and another \$40 million in FY16. These programs work to increase access to food, strengthen livelihoods, improve agricultural sector capacity, market linkages and small-business development, maternal and child health and nutrition, HIV/AIDS awareness, civil participation and local governance, disaster-risk reduction, water, sanitation, and hygiene, natural resource management and biodiversity, and microenterprise productivity.

### **Building Resilience and Strengthening Livelihoods**

In line with USAID's resilience policy, FFP and USAID development offices in the USAID/KEA, Uganda and Ethiopia Missions as well as with the Somalia Field Office are integral partners in the Horn of Africa Resilience Network (HoRN, formerly the JPC). In addition to the HoRN, FFP supports resilience and life-saving relief activities aimed at strengthening livelihoods in almost every country in the region. These activities, implemented primarily through food-for-assets and cash-for-assets programs, have rehabilitated water catchments, irrigation canals and rangeland, and have cleared feeder roads to encourage increased household-level production and productivity.