



Regional Economic Growth & Integration (REGI)



USAID helps East African firms such as Rwanda Indego to create products for export to major retailers in the United States and other markets. Credit: East Africa Trade Hub

2012 Funding:
\$40.6 million

Partners:

- ACDI/VOCA
- Alliance for Commodity Trade in East and Southern Africa (ACTESA)
- Association for Strengthening Agricultural Research in Eastern and Central Africa (ASARECA)
- African Union Interafrican Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR)
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- Chemonics
- DAI
- East African Community (EAC)
- Financial Services Volunteer Corps (FSVC)
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)
- Regional Strategic Analysis and Knowledge Support System (ReSAKSS)
- Tetra Tech ARD

Geographic Location:

East and Central Africa, including the Horn of Africa

The Program

The REGI program focuses on two Presidential Initiatives—Feed the Future (FTF) and Global Climate Change (GCC)—and incorporates complementary work implementing the African Competitiveness and Trade Expansion (ACTE) Initiative in intra-regional and export trade, investment, and regional integration. Regional Water and biodiversity conservation programming complete the REGI portfolio.

Facilitating Trade for Economic Growth

USAID/EA provides direct support and technical assistance to the EAC and COMESA to improve the policy and regulatory environment for intra-regional trade. Integrated and transparent markets permit farmers and businesses to take advantage of regional diversity and different harvest periods for crops and livestock products, moving food from surplus to deficit areas, including those affected by drought and conflict as currently in the Horn of Africa. Harmonized standards enabled formal trade by building transparency, improving quality and meeting clear thresholds for pests and diseases.

As a result of U.S. Government (USG) support, the EAC adopted harmonized regional standards for 24 staple foods including maize, wheat, rice, beans, millet, potatoes, and cassava.

The creation of joint border committees at key border crossings, training programs, and the rolling out of a regional customs virtual exchange platform—the Revenue Authorities Digital Data Exchange (RADDEX 2.0)—advanced the implementation of harmonized procedures and reduced average clearance times by half at borders posts thru which transit 90 percent of the goods traded on the EAC’s Northern Corridor.

USG support has also facilitated export partnerships between the United States and East African firms as part of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). Thirty-five million dollars in exports to the US were brokered last year, bringing the total since 2009 to over \$100 million.

Feed the Future

USAID/EA’s Feed the Future (FTF) strategy provides the framework for supporting economic growth through agricultural sector capacity, agricultural enabling environment and trade and investment facilitation. The USG supports the development of more predictable, transparent and structured markets that create incentives for farmers to adopt technologies to increase productivity and improve



East Africa's food security will improve through increased integration and competitiveness.



USAID's East African Trade Hub provides assistance to improve the quality, quantity, and competitiveness of East African coffees.

Farmers now earn far more for "specialty" export coffee than they do for lower quality beans. Credit: East Africa Trade Hub

USAID Contact:

Matthew Rees,
Acting Office Director,
Regional Economic Growth and Integration
(REGI)
Email: mrees@usaid.gov

quality, and for the private sector to increase investments in post-harvest storage, finance, and other facilities and services along key value chains. USAID efforts help to increase the availability of affordable nutritious foods and build regional food security. By improving the policy and regulatory environment for intra-regional trade, USG programs contribute to regional integration, stability and transparency.

USG-supported analysis found that, between 2008 and 2011, combined formal and informal trade in selected staple foods in ten East African countries increased 37 percent by volume and 27 percent by value. In addition, a regional multi-donor program for the management of aflatoxin was initiated. Harmonized biosafety standards were discussed in national consultations and will be taken to the COMESA council next year for adoption.

In science and technology, USAID and other donors continued their combined support to ASARECA, an African-led regional platform for agricultural research. With USG support, 39 technologies were made available for transfer, while 68 more moved through the research and testing pipeline. USAID took a leadership role in building the capacity of African partner institutions, supporting the objectives of the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP). A total of over 5,592 individuals received training in agricultural sector productivity or food security training.

Global Climate Change and Environment

East Africa's natural resource base provides the building blocks for agricultural production and economic growth. REGI's new five year program, Planning for Resilience in East Africa through Policy, Adaptation, Research, and Economic Development (PREPARED), is designed to enhance the EAC region's response to climate change through three integrated objectives: 1) Improve the capacity of regional institutions to lead the East African response to climate change; 2) Strengthen the management of critical transboundary freshwater ecosystems in the region, making them more resilient to human and climate change stresses; and 3) Enhance sustainable water supply, sanitation and wastewater treatment services in the Lake Victoria Basin. Implementation of PREPARED aims to coordinate and align all major activities in the region, leveraging the strengths and expertise of each partner to maximize program results.

To address the challenges of cross-border trade in energy, USAID provided technical assistance for a high-priority, bilateral electricity interconnection agreement between Kenya and Ethiopia, a prerequisite for financing by a consortium of private donors. The USG also supported the facilitation of regional power transmission standards and provided technical assistance to the East Africa Power Pool and its nine member countries.