



New construction or rebuilding of water and sanitation infrastructure, like this USAID/OFDA-funded project in northeast Kenya, helped the country transition to a recovery phase in FY 2002 (photo by Jack Myer, USAID/OFDA).

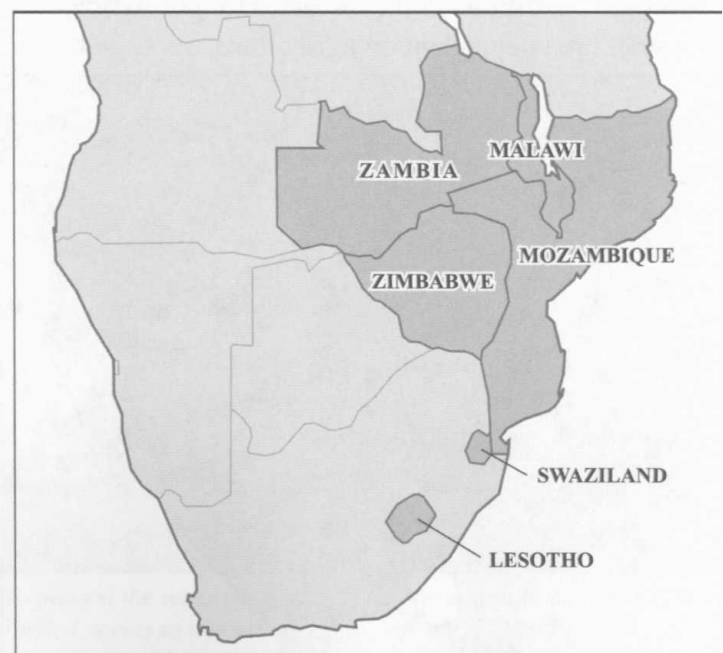
the hope of reversing the multiplier effect of the drought. A USAID/OFDA assessment in Ethiopia determined that the most drought-affected areas were in Afar Region and the West Hararghe Zone of the Oromiya Region. As a result of these assessments, USAID/OFDA recommended and funded an early and robust intervention in the water and sanitation and agriculture sectors by a diverse range of humanitarian actors. A USAID/OFDA assessment team in Eritrea recommended a comprehensive seed assessment to help rehabilitate the agricultural sector, and suggested the destocking of pastoral herds due to limited water resources and fodder.

In Somalia, potable water availability remained limited, as did harvests in the northern Gedo Region and portions of the Bay, Bakool, and Shabelle regions. In FY 2002, USAID/OFDA utilized a multi-sector approach, supporting programs in such areas as water and sanitation, health, nutritional surveillance, and animal husbandry. The emergency assistance has had a direct and positive impact on the affected Somali population. One USAID/OFDA project in Somalia, implemented by the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), focused on addressing severe water shortages stemming from chronic and acute drought by increasing availability and accessibility of potable water to 53,100 residents in the Bakool and Gedo regions in

southern Somalia. One of these residents was Muslimo Abdi Mohamed. Before the program began working with local community leaders to improve water and sanitation conditions, Muslimo drew water, when available, for her eight children and ten other dependent family members from an open, contaminated well using ropes and buckets. After the well was rehabilitated, Muslimo and 60 others began getting clean, potable water. The impact of the USAID/OFDA program on families in a country affected by ongoing drought and civil war was tremendous. In addition to clean drinking water and improved sanitation practices, inhabitants used excess water from drainage canals to water home gardens allowing Muslimo to supplement her family's income by selling vegetables and sugar cane.

Southern Africa

In the southern areas of Africa, two consecutive irregular growing seasons resulted in drought conditions that have severely impacted Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Mozambique, Swaziland, and Lesotho were also affected. Southern Africans exhausted their coping mechanisms in a pattern similar to drought-affected Afghans. For example, a joint USAID/OFDA and USAID/FFP assessment in Malawi found that the early onset of seasonal food scarcity coupled with rising food prices led to



Countries affected by drought in southern Africa

subsistence farmers liquidating their assets, including livestock, a primary coping mechanism and the key to their livelihood. Like the droughts in Central Asia and the Greater Horn of Africa, the impoverishment that accompanied the loss of livelihoods for southern Africans led to a decline in sanitation standards and an increased risk of disease. The regional food security crisis, resulting malnutrition, and high HIV/AIDS rates also heightened susceptibility to endemic diseases such as cholera and malaria.

Disease is both a cause and consequence of the loss of livelihoods. For example, a household with members infected by HIV/AIDS will have fewer people capable of earning family income through manual labor. A 1999 case study in Tanzania found that chronically ill family members could reduce household income by as much as 30 to 35 percent with each passing year. Moreover, the added costs of health care or even funeral expenses can further tax household resources.

In its paper exploring linkages between household food security and HIV/AIDS, the Food Economy Group, a partner to USAID's Famine Early Warning System (FEWS NET), noted that in drought-affected areas such as Kenya and sub-Saharan Africa, the people in the most economically productive age groups are those contracting HIV/AIDS. In addition, an FAO study found that women, who comprise 70 percent of the agricultural labor force in Africa, tend to have higher infection rates for HIV/AIDS. As deaths from HIV/AIDS rise, traditional community coping mechanisms that care for widows and orphans are placed under greater pressure. The relationship between poverty and disease is also exacerbated as stricken residents are forced to turn to prostitution or migrant labor, spreading the disease as they seek needed income.

USAID/OFDA sought to restore traditional livelihoods in the most drought-affected southern African countries, while minimizing the risk of disease. In Zimbabwe, USAID/OFDA funded two agricultural recovery programs and a combined nutrition and agricultural project. In Malawi and Zambia, USAID/OFDA supported three agricultural

recovery projects responding to the urgent need to distribute seeds in time for the October 2002 rains. USAID/OFDA also aimed to improve health conditions in Malawi through a UNICEF emergency nutrition initiative and a WHO program to respond to a cholera outbreak and prevent future diseases.

Conclusion

Drought will remain a fact of life in the coming years for many disaster-prone countries, and USAID/OFDA is committed to using focused humanitarian interventions to help offset the most difficult impacts. Through USAID/OFDA-supported early warning initiatives, populations that experience drought are better prepared to mitigate its adverse effects. As drought-affected populations regain coping mechanisms and livelihoods, they become less vulnerable to future droughts. USAID/OFDA's emphasis on reducing vulnerability by supporting relief projects in multiple sectors such as health, agriculture, and water and sanitation is integral in strengthening and restoring communities. ♦

—By Brady Hartley

ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR PRIOR YEAR(S) DECLARED DISASTERS

Activities initiated in response to a disaster declaration often require additional funding for completion in subsequent fiscal years. In FY 2002, USAID/OFDA obligated a total of \$4,461,991 in response to disasters declared in FY 2001.

FISCAL YEAR 2001 FUNDING CARRYOVER

AFGHANISTAN — Complex Emergency

Grant modification to ACTED for IDP camp management in Baghlan Province.....	\$630,000
Grant modification to IMC for health programs in Herat	\$735,000
Grant modification to FAO for seed multiplication program	\$300,000
Grant modification to UNICEF for nutrition, health, and water and sanitation programs.....	\$1,650,000
Cost of deployment of USAID/OFDA DART and related administrative costs.....	\$144,300

ANGOLA — Complex Emergency

Cost of transportation of relief supplies from a USAID/OFDA warehouse in Pisa, Italy to Luanda by ocean freight.....	\$42,820
--	----------

ETHIOPIA — Drought

Grant modification to GOAL for health and nutrition activities in Afar Region	\$865,391
---	-----------

SIERRA LEONE — Complex Emergency

Cost of administration for International Cooperative Administrative Support Services (ICASS).....	\$59,480
---	----------

VIETNAM — Floods

Funds provided to the Vietnam Red Cross to provide alternative income opportunities for landless laborers adversely affected by the floods	\$35,000
--	----------

FY 2002 DECLARED DISASTERS

Disaster Summaries in this Annual Report

The disaster descriptions on the following pages cover the period of the USG's fiscal year, October 1, 2001 through September 30, 2002. During FY 2002, USAID/OFDA responded to 75 declared disasters.

How a Disaster is Declared

The Chief of the U.S. Mission declares a disaster in the affected country when it is beyond the ability of the host country's response capacity and when he or she determines that a disaster exists that warrants a USG response. In the event that a U.S. Mission is not located in the affected country, the appropriate U.S. Assistant Secretary of State may declare a disaster. Since April 1, 2002, a disaster declaration provides for the Chief of the U.S. Mission or U.S. Assistant Secretary of State to access up to \$50,000 (the "Disaster Assistance Authority") for host country relief efforts. Prior to April 1, 2002, the level of funding under the "Disaster Assistance Authority" was up to \$25,000. USAID/OFDA releases the \$50,000 Ambassador's Authority from its International Disaster Assistance (IDA) account and provides the U.S. Mission with guidance to determine the need for additional USG assistance. USAID/OFDA deploys assessment teams to disaster sites when needed to assist in verification of relief needs.

Situation reports or fact sheets were produced for the following major disasters in FY 2002:

Algeria — Floods
Angola — Complex Emergency
Burundi — Complex Emergency
Central Asia Region (Afghanistan, Pakistan) — Complex Emergency
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) — Complex Emergency
Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) — Volcano
Eritrea — Complex Emergency/Drought
Ethiopia — Complex Emergency
Indonesia — Complex Emergency

USAID/OFDA and other USG Assistance

Some of the disasters in FY 2002 required a combination of USG financial and staff resources. The disaster descriptions include total dollar figures for the assistance provided from USAID/OFDA's IDA account, as well as summary information on assistance provided by other USG offices, such as USAID/FFP, USAID/OTI, USDA, State/PRM, and DOD. It is not always possible for USAID/OFDA to verify total assistance provided by other USG offices.

Detailed Situation Reports and Fact Sheets on Major Disasters Available Separately

USAID/OFDA produces documents that provide more detailed information about declared disasters than is provided in the case reports found in this Annual Report. Situation reports are four-to-five page documents updated periodically and written on long-term, complex emergencies. Fact sheets are bulletized one-to-two page documents written on natural disasters and fast-onset complex emergencies.

Kenya — Drought
Mano River Countries (Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone) — Complex Emergency
Somalia — Complex Emergency/Drought
South and Southeast Asia (Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam) — Floods
Southern Africa (Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia, Zimbabwe) — Complex Food Security Crisis
Sudan — Complex Emergency

Note: Current situation reports, fact sheets, and other related information are available on the Internet at:

USAID/OFDA Home Page
<http://www.usaid.gov/ofda/>

UN OCHA ReliefWeb Home Page
<http://www.reliefweb.int/>

Historical situation reports and fact sheets are available from USAID/OFDA upon request.