

## Development

# Pathways to Food Security

While a number of nations in Africa are prospering, many other countries—especially in sub-Saharan Africa—face serious economic and social problems, civil unrest, agricultural shortfalls and severe hunger. To help address those issues, FAS activities in the region tend to be focused on development, technical assistance and food aid programs. Here are just two examples of programs underway.

### Famine Early Warning Systems

FAS has teamed up with USAID (the U.S. Agency for International Development) on its FEWS NET (Famine Early Warning Systems Network) project to share satellite imagery and field data for low-income countries in Africa. FEWS NET monitors early signs of potential threats to food security in 18 African countries. Information sources include remote sensing and ground-based meteorological data, crop and rangeland conditions, household information, nutritional data, market activities and food prices.

FAS shares technical support and remote sensing data for this longstanding USAID-funded program to help countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa that are struggling to meet their basic food needs. The information gathered is critical in making food aid decisions. The partnership also helps improve national crop estimates and validates and enhances spatial models used to monitor African crop yields. The data and analyses also are used

in technical assistance and training, development and contingency planning and capacity building.

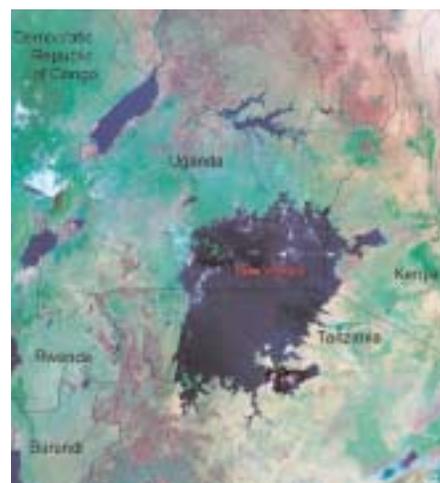
FEWS NET staff members collaborate with national and regional early warning and response networks in Africa. The U.S. Geological Survey, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are also active partners in FEWS NET.

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*Web sites: [www.fews.net](http://www.fews.net)/[www.pecad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/fews\\_briefing/](http://www.pecad.fas.usda.gov/cropexplorer/fews_briefing/)*

### Food for Education

The FFE program (McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program) helps support



*This image produced from remote sensing technology shows that in mid-January 2005, Lake Victoria had the lowest water level of the past 13 years, due to drought in Kenya. This affects downstream hydropower generation, pumping for irrigation, water lily harvesting and fishing along the White Nile River.*



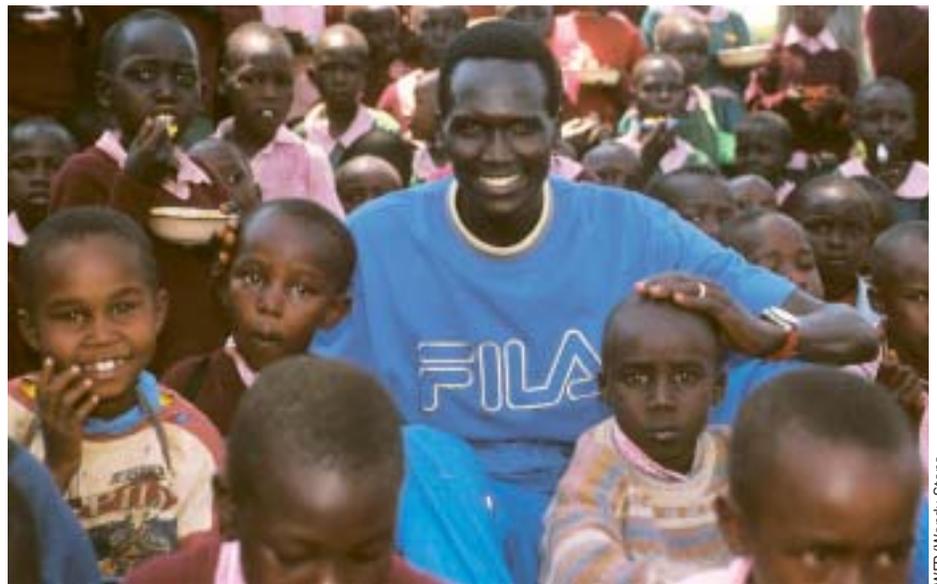
## AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

education, child development and food security in many African countries. It provides for donations of U.S. agricultural products, as well as financial and technical assistance, for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects in low-income, food-deficit countries that are committed to universal education.

The FFE program was authorized by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 and is named in honor of Ambassador and former Senator George McGovern and former Senator Robert Dole for their efforts to encourage a global commitment to school feeding and child nutrition.

The key objectives of the program are to reduce hunger and improve literacy and primary education, especially for girls. By providing school meals, teacher training and related support, FFE projects help boost school enrollment and academic performance.

For fiscal 2004, FFE projects have



WFP/Wendy Stone

been approved to help feed over 1.4 million children in Mozambique, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, the Gambia, Kenya and Malawi.

For example, USDA is donating 5,430 metric tons of U.S. wheat, vegetable oil,

nonfat dry milk and soy protein concentrate to Mercy Corps, a private voluntary organization, for an education program in Eritrea.

Mercy Corps will sell the wheat and most of the vegetable oil to the Eritrean Grain Board and use the remaining commodities for direct feeding. Proceeds from the sales will help fund activities, such as producing, packaging and distributing high-energy biscuits to 20,000 students in 50 primary schools. Proceeds will also be used to encourage rural girls to enroll in school, to train parent-teacher associations in distributing the biscuits and supporting schools, and to implement community-designed school improvements. ■



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