

MAKING PROGRESS in Africa 2003

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Sub-Saharan Africa faces some of the most severe development challenges in the world. Yet there is room for hope on a number of fronts. Within many countries, local communities are taking more responsibility for their children’s education and the preservation of their environment. Communities are also demanding a greater voice in how they are governed and how resources are used, all signs of better, more democratic governance on the continent. Expanded programs to fight HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases are being implemented throughout Africa. New projects to encourage trade and agricultural growth are accelerating economic development. Regional initiatives such as the African-led New Partnership for Africa’s Development signal an increased commitment by national leaders to address the region’s problems.

America’s future is inexorably linked with successful development in Africa. The goals of reducing poverty, mitigating conflict, fostering democracy, and lowering HIV/AIDS rates are important to U.S. national security and to regional stability and contribute to our efforts to encourage worldwide economic growth and combat transnational security threats.

A number of African economies are experiencing growth in spite of the global economic slowdown. The U.S. government’s African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), which opened the U.S. economy to African exports, contributed to this growth. During the first nine months of 2003, U.S. imports from Africa of AGOA-qualified goods increased 59 percent from 2002 levels.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to expand, but encouraging results from Uganda, Senegal, and more recently from Zambia, demonstrate that the right responses, combined with political will and strong leadership, can be effective in reducing prevalence rates.

Another positive sign for the continent is that support for democracy continues to grow. Civil society has become increasingly vibrant, increased freedom of the press and



L. Langlois/USAID Guinea

Former USAID employee, Fatoumata Doumbouya, displays coffee that has been produced and marketed in Guinea through a USAID project.

new communications media have expanded public access to information, and citizens are now more aware of their basic human rights. Over the last decade, the number of democracies in Africa has doubled and many other countries on the continent are undergoing political transitions.

USAID’s programs seek to build on these and other positive trends. Common themes include developing Africans’ capacity to design and manage their own programs; maintaining a focus on sustainability; using cross-sectoral links to increase performance for a wider range of programs; and establishing partnerships with other development partners and the private sector—both in the United States and globally—to maximize the impact of USAID resources.

Special initiatives of the Bush Administration to strengthen education, increase trade and economic growth, fight hunger, combat corruption, preserve the Congo Basin Forest, and reduce the rate of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS enable USAID to focus additional resources on these important programs.

USAID-Shell Partnership Supports Nigerian Development



Cassava seedlings.

FAO/17737/A-Conti

The Niger Delta, located in the center of Nigeria's multi-billion dollar oil industry, is paradoxically one of the country's most impoverished and unstable areas. To promote greater economic opportunity and stability in the Niger Delta and other regions in Nigeria, USAID and the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd. formed a \$20 million partnership in September 2003. The partnership is one of the largest thus far under USAID's new Global Development Alliance, which promotes public-private alliances to implement sustainable

development programs around the world.

Shell will contribute some \$15 million and USAID will contribute \$5 million over the next five years. The partnership will initially focus on food security through a cassava cultivation support program, as well as on the prevention of malaria, and support for the shrimp export industry.

Nigeria is the world's largest producer of cassava. The agriculture component of the partnership will help further expand the country's cassava industry and provide greater income for farmers in 11 Nigerian states. The program will improve technology transfer to address cassava mosaic disease and to develop cassava processing. It will also help identify further commercial markets for the crop, such as ethanol production, livestock feed, and use in baking. The cassava project will be implemented by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Ibadan.

Speaking at the launch of the partnership, USAID's Administrator Andrew Natsios said "Investing in people is perhaps the single most important factor in achieving long-term economic growth. USAID is proud to partner with Shell in the Delta region."

Agriculture

Hunger in Africa is widespread and getting worse. It is estimated that one in three people on the continent is currently undernourished and that a third of all the world's undernourished people reside in sub-Saharan Africa. Because hunger is directly related to poor economic development, increasing the productivity rate of agriculture—the mainstay of most African economies—is key to reducing poverty and hunger. Food production in many African countries has also been negatively affected by the rise of HIV/AIDS as farm productivity is compromised by declining health and the need to care for sick relatives. While

overall rates of hunger and poverty have increased in Africa, evidence indicates that countries that have focused on creating the conditions needed for agricultural growth are successfully reducing rural poverty and hunger.

A vital part of USAID's efforts to accelerate agriculture productivity and economic growth is the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA), launched in 2002. Through this initiative, which supports the U.S. pledge towards a global effort to cut hunger in the region in half by 2015, USAID channels significant additional resources to high-performing countries that have committed themselves to promoting broad-based and equitable agricultural growth. Innovations that increase agricultural productivity and the development of more competitive markets are essential ingredients to agricultural growth. IEHA promotes the use of modern technologies, expands credit to farmers, strengthens producer associations, provides better market information to farmers and traders, and enhances the economic incentives for farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs. The initiative also targets crops, livestock, and environmental goods and services where African farmers have a competitive advantage.

USAID's other agricultural programs continue to bring advances to rural Africa. Improved varieties of cotton, for example, can increase the profitability of production while limiting the application of insecticides that can harm the environment and damage human health. New strains of rice and sweet potatoes promise more nutritious meals, better harvests under poor growing conditions, and new sources of income. Agroforestry techniques add nutrients to soils without reliance on expensive chemical fertilizers. USAID works with rural farmers to develop opportunities for market-driven agricultural growth. This increases farmers' incentives to produce more, adopt new technologies and farm management techniques, and form new partnerships, thereby raising their families' income.

The Agency is also working to diversify export crops so that African

economies are less vulnerable to fluctuating market prices. Much of this diversification effort is aimed at higher value agricultural products, such as spices, shea butter, tea, and coffee. USAID/Ethiopia is helping coffee farmers' cooperatives with training and technical assistance. The Oromiya Coffee Farmers Cooperative Union (OCFCU), with help from USAID partner ACDI/VOCA, gained international certification for organic coffee produced by its 23,000 small-scale farmers. This has opened the specialty coffee market to the OCFCU, which is able to obtain a price that is three times that paid by local coffee dealers. By avoiding middlemen, the OCFCU is able to return 70 percent of the value of the exported coffee to the farmers, rather than the 30 percent they would receive through traditional marketing channels.

Economic Growth

There is reason for guarded optimism about Africa's economies. GDP in the region grew by 3.2 percent in 2003, and is projected to rise to 3.8 percent in 2004. Nonetheless, sub-Saharan Africa remains the world's poorest region, and average living standards lag far behind those in the rest of the world. Over 400 million individuals in sub-Saharan Africa are projected to be living on less than \$1 a day in 2015, as compared to 315 million in 1999. Poverty rates are expected to decline in the rest of the world over this time. At the current population growth rate of 2.5 percent a year, reaching the Millennium Development Goal of reducing poverty levels in sub-Saharan Africa by 50 percent by 2015 will require a 6 percent annual growth rate. However, since the mid-1990s, many African countries have made substantial progress toward macroeconomic stability. Average inflation is expected to fall to 3.9 percent in 2003 for the continent as a whole, which is a dramatic drop from the average of just under 10 percent over the last 20 years.

United States total trade with sub-Saharan Africa (exports and imports) rose 36 percent in the first half of 2003 compared with the same period in 2002. The United States is committed to build-

ing on the success of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).

To help African economies expand, USAID continues to work with governments to streamline trade policies such as customs regulations and tariffs. These efforts help increase trade flows and attract foreign investment by reducing barriers. For example, USAID-funded technical assistance ensured that Mozambican customs authorities and the Ministry of Trade successfully collaborated to pass the regulations required by the United States for garment imports under AGOA. In addition, USAID support to the Mozambican employers' federation enabled this group to lobby the government both to get the AGOA requirements in place quickly and to relax onerous rules that raised costs in the industry, such as certain import procedures and tax reimbursement delays. By the end of 2002, two Mozambican factories were shipping a total of over 200,000 garments a month to the United States.

USAID is also helping African businesses become more competitive in world markets. Business development services programs help companies improve their production practices, gain access to financing, increase their knowledge of international grades and standards, and form industry associations. In Ghana, for instance, USAID helped Asuo Bomosadu Timbers & Sawmillers Ltd. (ABTS) restructure its debts and develop an efficient management structure and new product lines. The firm now exports to the United States and Europe, as well as maintaining traditional markets in West Africa. In 1999, ABTS reported sales of 3.9 billion cedis (approximately US\$450,000), and in 2001, they reported sales of 8.7 billion cedis, or approximately \$1 million. Support for economic research and policy analysis is also critical, so USAID provides technical assistance to governments, and develops and supports local university programs to increase the pool of well-trained African economists.

Through the Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE) Initiative, USAID helps African coun-

tries increase their competitiveness and gain greater access to global markets. TRADE activities promote regional integration and cooperation by strengthening the ability of African countries and businesses to develop their export

trade, and helps African markets and businesses take advantage of increased trading opportunities provided through AGOA. USAID support for the TRADE Initiative is coordinated through three Regional Hubs for Global Competitiveness located in Ghana, Kenya, and Botswana. Hub activities include building relationships between U.S. and sub-Saharan African firms, strengthening African business groups to foster joint ventures, and increasing African access to the Internet and other information technologies.

Entrepreneur Creates Jobs and Inspires his Nation

As a child during South Africa's darkest apartheid years, 47-year-old Mthembeni Mkhize vowed "to make sure poverty will end with my generation and never again affect myself, my family, my community, my country, and the global environment where I will get a chance to participate." USAID's South African International Business Linkages (SAIBL) program has proven to be an ideal vehicle to help Mkhize achieve this dream.

Mkhize opened the TC Manufacturing (TCM) plant in Pretoria in 1996 to produce interior and exterior vinyl products for the motor industry. USAID assists Mkhize's job creation efforts through management training for owners and operators of growth-oriented small and medium businesses.

TCM is flourishing today, employing 60 people. Nearly 90 percent of the staff are women from poor backgrounds. Ford Motor Company comprises 50 percent of TCM's business, purchasing 50,000 individual products a year, ranging from vinyl truck covers to interior gear shields. Other customers include Daimler Chrysler, Toyota, Mazda, and Mitsubishi.

When TC Manufacturing outgrew its factory in 2002, SAIBL assisted the firm by helping redesign their new facility to enhance productivity. The move also meant that Mkhize could hire five additional workers. He said "SAIBL assists me with financial management, helps me look after my business, and celebrates with us as we grow; they have truly been a very good partner of my business."

TC Manufacturing is becoming an industry leader with revenue of about US\$737,000 in 2002, and Mkhize was just named South Africa's 2003 Businessman of the Year by Black Business Quarterly, a premier South African magazine. Yet he considers his most important achievement to be the contributions he makes by employing needy women and improving their lives. In his award acceptance speech he said, "My staff were so happy, they sang and danced when they heard I'd won the award. I share this award with them. They thanked me for my leadership that ensures that they can make a living and their extended family members are assured of bread on their tables."



Mkhize and one of his employees.

Environment

Sub-Saharan Africa has abundant natural resources that can be major contributors to sustained economic growth. Several countries in the region, notably Namibia and Madagascar, have implemented highly innovative community-based approaches to improve the management of their natural resource base and to extend the economic benefits to lower income households. Major challenges remain, however. The region contains 45 percent of global biodiversity, yet has the highest rate of deforestation in the world. Rapid urbanization and industrialization also create new environmental challenges. The top-down approach to natural resource management in many countries has resulted in inefficient resource use and contributed to degradation, while inequitable access to natural resources is often a root cause of social instability.

Through the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, the United States and its partners will help the people of the world's second largest rainforest manage their natural resources sustainably. USAID will contribute approximately \$48 million to the partnership through its successful Central African Regional Program for the Environment for projects supporting a network of effectively managed protected areas, improving forest governance, and developing sustainable means of livelihood for the 60 million people who live in the Basin.

USAID environment programs across Africa are demonstrating the

sector's ability to be a robust vehicle for rural economic growth, stronger local governance, and conflict mitigation as well as reduced degradation. In Guinea, for example, five national forests representing 100,000 hectares are now under co-management plans that empower local communities to share management responsibility and benefits with the government. A USAID natural resource management program provided a dozen forestry service agents with professional forest management training that allowed them to transform themselves from enforcement agents to development partners. At the village level, the men and women in democratically run management committees are empowered with the authority to make and enforce management laws. Some committees have exercised these rights by successfully challenging traditionally powerful logging and mining interests who transgressed the laws.

In Namibia, democratically run community-based conservancies manage wildlife enterprises. USAID's Living in a Finite Environment program helped form 15 conservancies, involving nearly 40,000 community members; an additional 33 conservancies are at various stages of development. Four of the conservancies have achieved financial sustainability. The conservancies manage 4.1 million hectares and members' incomes have grown to nearly \$700,000, doubling over the last four years. During the same period, wildlife numbers have increased, reversing a disturbing trend.

Education

Education is critical to sustaining democracy, improving health, increasing income, and managing environmental resources soundly, yet most African countries are unable to meet the education and training needs of their people. The continent suffers from an average illiteracy rate of 41 percent. Though 20 million more children were enrolled in 1998 compared to 1990, the enrollment rate itself has increased only slightly due to population growth. Of those 61 percent of boys and 57 percent of girls who do

Empowering Women through Coral Garden Conservation

Wasini, a picturesque island of approximately 250 Muslim households off the coast of Kenya, relied for centuries on subsistence fisheries and limited agriculture. Acute poverty, malnutrition, and low school enrollment rates were the norm. The creation of the Kisite Mpunguti Marine Park in the late 1970s further restricted community livelihood options by limiting access to and use of marine resources. The women of Wasini experimented with crafts and small-scale food processing to offset these losses, but without success.

The Kenya Wildlife Service proposed a solution that had high tourist appeal, income generation potential, and enhanced female management of the natural resources: a boardwalk. The one-kilometer-long boardwalk leads visitors through magnificent coral garden scenery filled with ancient, living coral structures, birds, fish, invertebrates, and luxuriant stands of mangroves. The project was a joint donor development initiative of a Netherlands-funded wetlands program and the USAID-supported Conservation of Resources through Enterprise project. USAID funds were used to train the Wasini women's group members in governance, leadership, and basic financial management skills.

Tourists pay about US\$1.25 each to use the boardwalk, generating over \$6,500 between the boardwalk's completion in 2001 and the end of 2002. From these funds, the group maintained the boardwalk, built a curio shop at a cost of \$2,000, and paid \$2,800 cash dividends to members after just one year of operation. The women have been able to send their children to school, buy food and other household amenities, and are in the process of establishing a fund for girls' education. The Wasini women, the boardwalk, and spin-off enterprises such as the curio shop, are celebrated along the Kenya coast, and other women's groups are requesting similar assistance to develop and benefit from natural resources under their control.



Exploring the mangrove forest along the boardwalk.

USAID Kenya

enroll in primary school, one third drop out before completion. Of those who do complete primary school, just half continue on to secondary school (20 percent of all children). Education is, moreover, often of poor quality, leaving children ill-equipped for entry into the workforce of the 21st century.

USAID's main education goals are to increase access to basic education for African children—especially girls—while maintaining or increasing quality; to respond to the challenge of HIV/AIDS for the education sector; and to ensure that teachers are well trained

The Remarkable People of Toya

Toya is a village of 2,000 people about 25 km south of the city of Timbuktu, Mali. Two-thirds of the population lives on less than \$1 a day. The nearest public school used to be five miles away and children had to walk four hours every day to get there and return home. Since government support was not forthcoming, the people of Toya vowed to find another way to offer a minimum of education to their children.



A young community school student.

In 1999 the villagers decided to establish a community school. They provided the land, bricks, mud, and unskilled labor; a USAID grantee provided the cement, doors, windows, roof, and a qualified mason to build three classrooms and two latrines. The community hired a local man with a ninth grade education as a teacher; the USAID grantee trained him in basic teaching skills. The villagers appointed a seven-member committee to manage the school; the grantee trained them in basic literacy/numeracy skills. Classes started on November 15, 1999, with 66 students (39 girls and 27 boys). Today there are 111 students in the school (67 girls and 44 boys) and two teachers. The promotion rate is 65 percent for girls and 68 percent for boys. In three years, the enrollment rate increased from 16.9 percent to 87.4 percent.

Last year, with the monies collected from the community, the committee paid the salaries of the school's two teachers and all the other expenses related to the day-to-day operation of the school, and still saved over \$400. Supporting a complete primary school (six grades and six teachers) that the community plans to have open three years from now may be a formidable challenge for a small village like Toya, but this dynamic committee is making this dream come true.

for their tasks. USAID devotes most of its efforts to improving basic education, because basic education, particularly for girls, has a relatively greater impact on economic and social development. USAID will continue long-term programs that address systemic education reform, which is essential to prepare Africa's children for the world today.

USAID also works to build the capacity of parents and communities to manage schools and provide education services where there would otherwise be few. In Guinea the USAID Community Participation in Education program has reinforced the capacity of 21 local NGOs, who are currently supporting 717 par-

ent-teacher associations. These PTAs have over 73,000 community members actively working towards greater access to quality basic education for all children. Interactive radio instruction and access to resource centers and information technology are two other innovative approaches the Agency is using to expand educational opportunities in countries like Ethiopia and Zambia.

Central to USAID's efforts to improve basic education in Africa is the five-year Africa Education Initiative (AEI), launched by President Bush in 2002. AEI will offer more opportunities for African children, especially at the primary level, to learn and become productive members of society. The initiative supports teacher training, the development and distribution of textbooks and other learning tools, greater involvement of parents and communities in their children's education, and HIV mitigation and prevention. AEI will provide scholarships at the primary and secondary level with a special emphasis on reaching girls who could not otherwise attend school.

As the impact of HIV/AIDS manifests itself on the continent, education is beginning to suffer. HIV/AIDS influences the demand for education, as girls in particular drop out of school to care for sick family members. HIV/AIDS is also decimating the ranks of teachers in many countries. The USAID-supported Mobile Task Team on HIV/AIDS, based at the University of Natal, South Africa, has worked with 12 governments to build the capacity of African ministries of education to better manage the impact of HIV/AIDS on their education systems, primarily in southern Africa, but also in West and East Africa.

Maternal and Child Health

A healthy population is critical to Africa's efforts to reduce poverty and improve living standards. Several countries in the region have demonstrated that political commitment at the highest levels, focused programs, adequate financial resources, and trained professional staff can indeed make a difference in

combating infectious diseases. Nonetheless, most Africans lack access to even the most basic health care.

Continent-wide, a woman's risk of dying from maternal causes is 1 in 15, about 10 times higher than in Latin America and over 2,000 times higher than in North America. For every 1,000 children born in Africa in 2003, 175 will die before their fifth birthday, compared to 100 in Asia and 6 in the developed world. Unlike any other part of the world, malnutrition rates are actually increasing in Africa. HIV/AIDS has compounded these problems, with an estimated 2.7 million children living with HIV/AIDS. Some 90 percent of the 300 million malaria cases per year occur in Africa and the incidence of tuberculosis (TB) is the highest in the world. Malaria is estimated to decrease the GDP of Africa by as much as \$12 billion per year. Immunization rates for children under one year of age continue to increase in some countries but they are still below 80 percent, leaving significant numbers of children exposed to vaccine-preventable illness and death.

USAID programs to improve the health of sub-Saharan Africans focus on increasing the availability, effectiveness, and access to quality health care. To reduce maternal mortality rates, the Agency is training midwives and traditional birth attendants, as well as making medical supplies more available. For example, 7,000 clean birth delivery kits were sold in four target districts during just the first 10 months of a new program in Uganda. In southern Sudan, USAID-funded programs to rehabilitate health clinics enabled 272,000 people to gain access to health services.

USAID's programs address the leading causes of child mortality and morbidity such as malaria, TB, malnutrition, respiratory diseases, and diarrhea. Programs increasing immunization coverage and strengthening surveillance are reducing vaccine-preventable illnesses. In Eritrea between 1995 and 2002, coverage of children aged 12 to 23 months with both diphtheria/whooping cough/tetanus and oral polio immunizations

increased from 48 to 83 percent. Over the same period, mortality for children under 5 years of age fell from 136 to 93 per 1,000. In Madagascar, 76 percent of mothers in one focus district received a "vaccination diploma" for fully immunizing their children, compared to less than 10 percent in 1999.

With USAID support, 18 countries are implementing Integrated Management of Childhood Illness strategies and 41 countries have developed malaria control programs that incorporate components of USAID's approach to malaria prevention. Well over 1 million insecticide treated bednets were sold through social marketing campaigns across the continent. In addition, efforts to contain wild polio virus transmission are meeting with success. The wild virus is now in only two African countries: Niger and

SmartNet: The Ultimate Malaria Shield

Malaria is the leading cause of illness and death in Uganda, accounting for up to 40 percent of all outpatient visits at healthcare facilities and up to 20 percent of all hospital admissions. Fighting the parasitic disease, which costs the country \$50 million each year on treatment alone, is therefore one of Uganda's highest priorities. One of the most cost-effective and appropriate methods to prevent malaria is the use of insecticide treated nets (ITNs). However, net use in Uganda is still very low, with less than 13 percent of the households owning a net. Of these, only around 3 percent own



Mosquito nets for sale.

insecticide treated nets. The SmartNet program was launched in December 2000 to make ITNs more readily available to Ugandans. Since then, over 100,000 nets have been sold to individuals, families, and institutions.

On the first Africa Malaria Day, April 25, 2001, the World Health Organization purchased 300 SmartNets for the Bweranyangi Girls' Senior Secondary School. Located in Bushenyi district, the school has a student population of about 900 girls living in dormitories. Before the students started using SmartNets, over 250 students would be admitted to the school's clinic every term with malaria. After one year of using SmartNets, however, the incidence of malaria declined to about 40 cases each term.

Nigeria. Officially certifying countries as polio-free is an important next step in the eradication effort.

USAID's emphasis on building human capacity helps provide better quality care, improve community and household practices for prevention and management of childhood illnesses, and promote innovative health financing strategies such as community- or cooperative-based programs. The Uganda Private Health Providers' Loan Fund is one such program. Since January 2001, it has made small-scale loans to clinics, which have invested in drugs, equipment, and renovations, and received business and credit management skills training. The repayment rate has been 97 percent.

Continued high population growth rates in sub-Saharan Africa undermine the best efforts to improve the standards of living and reduce poverty. Fertility rates continue to decline in some

countries, particularly those with relatively higher incomes. However, the annual population growth rate is still 2.5 percent per year, the highest in the world. Contraceptive prevalence rates remain under 15 percent in the region, although the majority of women say they desire fewer children. Even with the devastating effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic,

Africa's population will increase from about 690 million now to about 1 billion in 2020.

USAID's program to promote family planning and reproductive health services (FP/RH) focuses on advocacy for stronger FP/RH policies, dissemination of best practices, and strengthening Africans' ability to plan, conduct, and evaluate their FP/RH programs. USAID will continue to support a range of family planning programs, including public edu-

cation, advocacy, and outreach through traditional and community structures, community-based distribution and marketing of contraceptives, and encouragement of child spacing practices. For example, the Decentralized Reproductive Health Training and Supervision System program in Kenya trained 1,595 service providers in 2002. In Madagascar, nearly 300 physicians were trained in FP counseling, as were over 200 community-based FP distribution agents, who then made nearly 5,500 counseling visits. And USAID-funded programs in Mozambique trained 17,000 community leaders and community health agents to promote better health practices, provide family planning information and contraceptives, and refer pregnant women to health facilities.

HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS pandemic continues to expand, and Africa remains by far the world's most affected continent with an estimated 26.6 million people living with HIV. Women are the most vulnerable to the epidemic—they are at least 20 percent more likely to be infected than men. Prevalence rates across the continent vary greatly, but southern Africa is the region most affected by the epidemic; Botswana and Swaziland both have prevalence rates close to 40 percent. However, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda have all seen a welcome decline in prevalence. Indeed, in Kigali, Rwanda, the proportion of HIV-positive pregnant women in antenatal clinic sites has dropped from almost 35 percent in 1993 to 13 percent today, indicating a similar decline in the general population.

A correlated consequence of the effect of the pandemic is the growing number of orphans. Over 13 million children under the age of 15 have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS, most of them in sub-Saharan Africa. This number is expected to rise to 25 million by 2010. With infection rates still rising and adults continuing to succumb to the disease, HIV/AIDS will continue to cause large-scale suffering among children for at least the next two decades.



A Guinean school director administers vitamin A, one of three micronutrients—along with iron and iodine—that have been shown to profoundly affect child survival and provide overall resistance to illness.

HIV/AIDS is the major health priority for USAID in Africa. President Bush has made fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic a priority of U.S. foreign policy. The \$500 million International Mother and Child HIV Prevention Initiative focuses on the treatment of and care for HIV-infected pregnant women to reduce the transmission of HIV/AIDS to infants.

USAID is also a major partner in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, announced by President Bush in January 2003. This Initiative is the first large-scale effort to integrate prevention, antiretroviral treatment, and care in the 14 African and Caribbean countries most heavily hit by HIV/AIDS. With a commitment of \$15 billion over the next five years, the Presidential Initiative is intended to prevent 7 million new HIV infections, treat 2 million HIV-infected people, and care for 10 million HIV-infected individuals and children vulnerable due to HIV/AIDS. One billion dollars of the new funding will be for the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

HIV/AIDS education and prevention activities are an integral part of USAID programs throughout the region. In its efforts to slow the spread of HIV/AIDS, USAID will continue to enlist the support of community-based partners, including faith-based organizations. Programs to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV and care and support activities for persons affected by AIDS will be expanded.

Programs in Nigeria led to condom sales of about 127 million, a 21 percent increase from 2001. Another USAID program helped train more than 1,800 HIV/AIDS peer educators for the Nigerian uniformed services, one of the largest high risk subgroups in that country. In Mozambique, over 1,000 traditional healers were trained in STI/HIV counseling and STI diagnosis and referral, enabling these health care providers to give accurate information. Workplace HIV/AIDS services programs in Namibia reached over 12,000 workers and their families, and distributed 78,000 condoms.

Psychosocial Support Camps in Zambia Help Orphans Overcome Painful Memories

USAID has sponsored psychosocial support camps for vulnerable children in Kitwe and Mongu districts, Zambia, that at least for a few days provide children with an environment to freely discuss issues that affect them, such as loss and grief, HIV/AIDS, and children's rights. The children are able to open up and interact with others through drama, songs, games, and other interactive activities. Trained counselors are on hand to help children that are distressed during the camps.



This 12-year-old boy (center) is the head of a family of orphans in Zambia.

E. Oboler/HU-CCP

"Before I came to the camp I was moody, short tempered, unfriendly, and had a lot of fears. After being exposed to activities such as games, singing, dancing, and teachings about love, I became a different person. The camp was very good as I learned about HIV/AIDS, child rights, and child abuse. These topics are very important to every child today. I miss the friends I met and the mealtimes we shared together!"

—Dongo Nyirenda, 15 years, Race Course, Kitwe

"I am very happy to have been one of those who participated in this camp. I have heard, seen, learned, and enjoyed a lot during the days we spent here. I am glad to have met so many young people with whom I share similar experiences in life. I have learned how even in my state as an orphan I can still live a normal life and enjoy it. I have learned about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases. I have also been taught how I can protect myself from these diseases. I learned about my rights as a child; and both myself and other people should respect these rights. I was told of people and organizations that can protect me if I have been abused. When we return to our homes I will share what I have learned with other children in my school. I have made friends from different compounds, and I would love to meet them again after the camp."

—Mubita Mufungulwa, 13 years, Mongu

Recognizing that HIV/AIDS affects all sectors of development, USAID missions are beginning to incorporate HIV/AIDS activities into their non-health sector programs. USAID Zambia uses a multisectoral approach to increase the impact of its HIV/AIDS efforts and channels half of its health funding through non-health programs such as agriculture, education, and democracy and governance. An agriculture project, for example, prints HIV/AIDS preven-

tion and awareness messages on bags of seed and fertilizer. Education and democracy programs support publications, websites, and radio programs to promote public awareness and increase advocacy and public dialogue on the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Democracy and Governance

African democracies continue to maintain the gains made in political

freedom over the past decade. In 2002 alone 19 African countries held presidential or parliamentary elections. With each election come advances, some large and some small, but all contributing to a thriving civil society, improved political processes, expanded media freedom, enhanced legislative capacity, greater awareness of human rights, and more political will for governance. Challenges to peace and democratic development in Africa, however, are exemplified by the continued decline in political and economic rights in Zimbabwe and recent flawed elections in Guinea.

USAID's programs aim to strengthen the principles of democracy and good governance by promoting representative political processes and institutions, the rule of law, the growth of a vibrant civil society, and respect for human rights.

The quality of election processes in Africa is improving in areas such as voter registration, the role of the media, and respect for electoral standards. Support from USAID has enabled the Southern Africa Development Community Parliamentary Forum to develop regional electoral norms and standards. In Kenya, USAID-trained members of the media effectively used opinion polls during the successful 2002 election process.

Civil society organizations in Africa are increasingly engaged in democracy and governance work. The Inter-Congolese Dialogue, supported in part by USAID, assembled civil society organizations (CSOs) and political parties to draft a position paper on key issues of reconciliation and reconstruction. CSOs and the media have also taken on a critical role in exposing corruption and demanding reform in African countries. In Nigeria, the government is now using various media to increase the visibility of its anti-corruption campaign.

Judicial systems in Africa are becoming stronger and more effective. Alternative justice mechanisms such as arbitration and mediation processes, traditional courts, and legal advice centers are allowing countries to handle disputes and resolve cases more expeditiously. USAID support to legal advice centers

Technology Brings Home Democracy



Children investigate the Namibian Parliament's website in the Mobile Training Unit bus.

In a country as vast as Namibia, where it is difficult for citizens to access their public officials, information and communication technology (ICT) applications make a lot of sense. The Parliament's engagement with ICT has expanded rapidly since launching its interactive website,

www.parliament.gov.na, in 2001 with assistance from the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) through a USAID grant. This groundbreaking website allows citizens electronic access to their members of Parliament, parliamentary committees, public discussion forums, and parliamentary documents such as bills, minutes, reports, and acts.

To promote the website throughout the country and to strengthen the links between national and local government, the Parliament and the Ministry of Local and Regional Government and Housing outfitted a bus with computers and other related equipment to travel around the country. Known as the Mobile Training Unit (MTU), the bus received donations from Microsoft; Compaq; the IT Department, a local company; and USAID through the Education for Development and Democracy Initiative. It traveled to every region of the country and reached thousands of government officials, average citizens, and students.

Microsoft was so impressed with the success of the MTU that in December 2002, it donated another 10 computers and software for distribution in five towns around the country. The speaker of the Parliament, Mosé Tjitendero, traveled to the five towns to deliver the computers and to exchange views with citizens on pending legislation and the development of Namibian democracy. Microsoft now plans to make a much bigger donation of ICT equipment through the Parliament; and the Parliament, NDI, and USAID are exploring ways to maximize the impact the anticipated equipment donation might have on Namibia's economic and political development.

throughout South Africa, for instance, has helped to protect the legal and basic human rights of the most vulnerable segments of South African communities.

Many African governments are recognizing that corruption is a major threat to stability and growth in their countries. Corruption undermines the economic and political foundations of a modern state and hinders the growth of trade and investment needed for development. Anti-corruption laws are in place across much of Africa, and new anti-corruption bodies have been created in Sierra Leone, Burkina Faso, and other countries. USAID supports programs that reform laws, train officials, and develop institutions capable of governing effectively in the interest of the people. With USAID support, Transparency International's Kenya Chapter led efforts for the enactment of a bill requiring a Code of Ethics for government officials.

USAID's recently established Anti-Corruption Initiative for Africa approaches the problem by promoting good governance principles. This initiative will support efforts to reduce corruption by improving public access to information, strengthening civic participation in government action, and fostering transparent and accountable government procedures, effective government oversight institutions, and public-private dialogue.

USAID's development activities in all sectors in Africa increasingly incorporate democratic principles. To address the destabilizing effect of HIV/AIDS on African societies, USAID is promoting activities that advocate for the protection and rights of people living with HIV/AIDS. In South Africa, for example, HIV/AIDS workplace manuals were developed for government departments, outlining minimum standards on HIV/AIDS workplace protocols for public sector employees.

Crisis and Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian crises, both human-made and natural, continue to plague Africa. These emergencies threaten lives, economic growth, democratic progress, and regional stability. The

Cultivating Dynamic Female Leaders in Tanzania

For women aspiring to be leaders in Tanzania, the path forward is bumpy and uncertain. Lediana Mafuru did not see this as a disincentive for action, but as a challenge to overcome. USAID has supported Mafuru's efforts since she was a community activist working with a coalition of HIV/AIDS advocacy organizations in the country's Iringa Region to reduce stigma and discrimination against sufferers of this epidemic. Recognizing her potential contribution to the fight against HIV/AIDS, USAID sent her to a leadership training program in Washington. Through her innate leadership skills and her dedication to her mission, Mafuru gained public attention and mounted a successful campaign to become a member of the national parliament. After she was elected to a special seat reserved for women, she realized that this clubby, male-dominated legislature had taken no action in the greatest crisis ever to hit Tanzania. Mafuru was encouraged by colleagues from the U.S. Congress, including Rep. Jim McDermott (D-WA), who personally met with her to encourage her and give insights on the role of elected officials in combating AIDS. She mobilized fellow members to join together against HIV/AIDS and with USAID support, she created the Tanzania Parliamentarians AIDS Coalition (TAPAC), an organization of elected officials that has a unique role to play. Today, in addition to her duties as a member of Parliament, Mafuru is the elected leader of TAPAC, which has a voluntary membership of 130 elected officials, nearly half of the Parliament's total membership. It is assuming a leading role in Tanzania to ensure that discrimination against infected individuals is minimized, that orphans and vulnerable groups are provided for, and that resources dedicated to the fight are properly utilized and accounted for at the local level. For Mafuru, it's all in a day's work. Her selfless dedication to HIV/AIDS victims fuels her tireless work ethic. Mafuru is a role-model for women aspiring to be leaders in Tanzania.



Lediana Mafuru.

USAID Tanzania

severe food crises that have afflicted large parts of southern and East Africa also heighten the potential for conflict. These humanitarian crises and complex emergencies jeopardize economic development and undermine gains in the social sectors. USAID continues to provide emergency food aid to the most vulnerable groups in those countries suffering from famine. In addition, USAID provides support for water and sanitation and agricultural recovery activities. More favorable weather conditions in Malawi and parts of Zambia in early 2003 led to increased crop production; however many other countries in the region will require continued assistance until their harvests can improve.

In Ethiopia, USAID has developed an innovative famine prevention framework that addresses the root causes of famine threats, both acute and chronic, by building societal resiliency to prevent widespread starvation following shocks such as drought. The framework is a three- to five-year partnership between Ethiopia and donors aimed at protecting the chronically food-insecure, breaking



Selling a bountiful harvest at a Ghanaian market.

USAID Ghana

the cycle of food crises, and building the conditions for sustained growth. Using this framework, the number of food-insecure Ethiopians could be reduced by 30 percent within five years.

USAID's crisis prevention and mitigation programs strengthen African capacity to prevent or mitigate the impact of natural disasters and human-made crises. By giving African decision-makers the tools to identify approaching crises, they can lessen their impact and help countries recover in a more timely manner. USAID's Famine Early Warning System Network provided decision-makers in drought- and flood-risk countries in Africa with information to quickly and effectively respond to unfolding food security crises in the Horn of Africa and southern Africa. In addition, USAID programs support capacity building to manage outbreaks of locusts and other pests, provide integrated pest management and preparedness training, and provide assistance to eliminate stockpiles of obsolete pesticides.

Conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Burundi, and Sudan have moved closer to resolution during the past year. However, instability remains a serious risk for almost half the countries in Africa. USAID's conflict prevention programs and the new \$19.3 million Conflict and Peace Building Fund support African

organizations and efforts that monitor potential crises, identify sources of conflict such as natural resources, facilitate peace processes, and reintegrate communities after conflict. In West Africa, USAID works to enhance the operational capacity of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) conflict prevention mechanism, which sent peacekeeping forces to Côte d'Ivoire in 2002 and has now stationed troops in Liberia to help bring stability to this long-suffering country.

In Sierra Leone, USAID supports the government's establishment of "clean channels" for diamond trading to keep conflict diamonds out of the global market and ensure that more benefits from the mining and sale of the gems flow back to local communities. In 2002, legal exports of diamonds increased from \$25 million to \$37 million, and proceeds to mining communities nearly doubled.

Looking Ahead

Through these and future programs, USAID will continue to work toward its mission of reducing poverty and improving the quality of life for all Africans. Successful development in Africa can only result from a partnership in which Africans undertake the leadership and essential responsibilities themselves. USAID helps build African capacity to manage its own development, by strengthening African institutions at all levels—local, regional, and national—fostering regional cooperation, and helping African countries improve their policies, programs, and strategies for development solutions. For the United States, development assistance to Africa is not charity, but a vital investment in global peace and security.



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