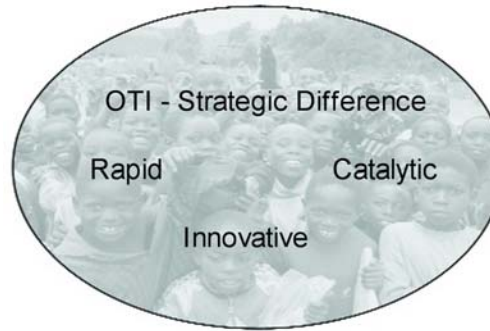


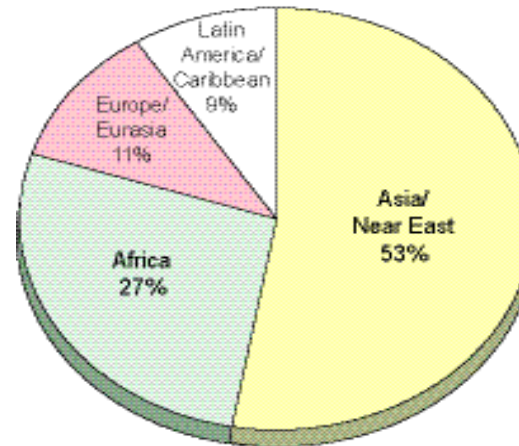
OTI Highlights

OTI has supported activities that:

- ◆ Renovated and equipped fourteen women's centers and created regional women's and human rights associations in **Iraq**.
- ◆ Rehabilitated more than seventy **Iraqi** schools, clinics and municipal buildings.
- ◆ Established sixteen of **Afghanistan's** first licensed independent radio stations.
- ◆ Rebuilt ministries, schools, irrigation canals, micro-hydropower plants, with 20% contribution from the **Afghan** community.
- ◆ Reintegrated internally displaced persons into the local community in **Angola**.
- ◆ Promoted the peaceful transfer of presidential power from Tutsi to Hutu groups in **Burundi**.
- ◆ Increased national radio coverage in the **Democratic Republic of Congo** to disseminate information on humanitarian assistance, the peace process, and demobilization.
- ◆ Supported peace-building workshops for multi-ethnic student, community and religious leaders in **Sri Lanka**.
- ◆ Published a bi-monthly newspaper to expand flow of balanced information in **Sudan**.
- ◆ Monitored the recall process of elected officials in **Venezuela**.
- ◆ Reintegrated 450 former child combatants in **Colombia**.
- ◆ Galvanized voters through anti-corruption campaign prior to elections in **Serbia**.



OTI Budget FY 2003
Transition Initiative Funds



Contact:

U.S. Agency for International Development
Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and
Humanitarian Assistance
Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI)
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Rm. 2.9B
Washington, DC 20523
Tel: (202) 712-0730
Fax: (202) 216-3406
Internet: www.usaid.gov - key word "OTI"

Office of Transition Initiatives

U.S. Agency for
International Development



*Helping local partners
advance peace and democracy
in priority, conflict-prone countries*

March 2004

Office of Transition Initiatives

Introduction

The USAID Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) provides fast, flexible, short-term assistance to countries experiencing a political transition or emerging from civil conflict. Since 1994, OTI has helped lay the foundation for long-term development in 29 countries by promoting reconciliation, jumpstarting local economies, and fostering peace and democracy.

A New Tool for a New Era

OTI specializes in rapid, innovative interventions that seize critical opportunities to promote positive change during periods of transition. Working in countries at the forefront of U.S. foreign policy interests, OTI responds to post-conflict needs and to crises that threaten internal, regional or international peace and stability. OTI programs are tailored to country-specific needs, and are designed to be limited in duration and maximum in reach. OTI programs often are initiated in fragile states that have not reached the stability needed to initiate longer-term development programs.



Coordination with Partners

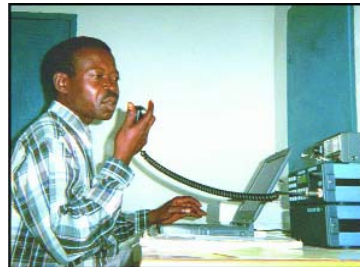
As part of the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance, OTI develops country strategies and program designs in coordination with the Offices of Foreign Disaster Assistance, Democracy and Governance, and Conflict Management and Mitigation. OTI regularly cooperates with USAID regional bureaus, local USAID missions, and U.S. foreign policy-makers, including the Departments of State and Defense, and the National Security Council. In the field, OTI partners with indigenous non-governmental organizations, U.S. private voluntary

organizations, international agencies, businesses, consulting firms, and educational institutions.

Innovative Targeted Programs

OTI closely follows developments in countries throughout the world and selectively carries out assessments to determine whether or not a country is ripe for OTI activities. In consultation with U.S. embassies and USAID counterparts, strategies and programs are developed and designed to meet the unique needs of each situation. There are no set responses and, once started, programs may be readjusted to better address new developments. Program timeframes are compact - usually two to three years.

OTI programs have included media assistance to increase dialogue between ethnic groups, emergency economic stimuli to support "peace dividends," technical assistance and equipment to restart key governing bodies, and small grants to foster a more active civil society.



OTI programs also have demonstrated the benefits of peace over conflict by fostering linkages between civil society and national and local government bodies, supporting efforts to reintegrate former combatants, and bringing together people from feuding ethnic or religious groups to work productively together.

As part of U.S. reconstruction efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, for example, OTI has played a crucial role in rebuilding schools, water supplies, communications networks, and local government human rights structures. In Africa, Asia and the Near East, Eastern Europe and Eurasia,

and Latin America, OTI programs have increased dialogue between rival groups, engaged civic groups in peace talks, and cultivated peaceful settlements of long-standing conflicts.

Flexible Formats

OTI expands on the menu of USAID interventions through:

Flexible Instruments: OTI procurement mechanisms allow for quick start-up and fast, flexible disbursement of small grants. OTI can set up and begin operations within four weeks.

Funds: OTI receives core funding through the Transition Initiatives account, with a "notwithstanding" clause that enables quicker obligation of funds. OTI also receives up to 40% additional program funding through transfers from other USAID accounts and the Department of State. **Staff:** Complementing its dynamic in-country staff, OTI/Washington personnel regularly travel to the field to assist with strategic planning, monitoring, and management support.

Bullpen: Programs are enhanced by the OTI "bullpen" of seasoned foreign aid administrators that serve OTI on an on-call basis. Bullpenners lead assessment teams, assist in program design, monitor progress, and provide other technical assistance.

Reach: OTI regularly reaches outside capital cities and sets up offices and programs in neglected, crisis-prone areas. Local activities address issues that are unique to local conditions and at the same time linked to the country's longer-term transitional challenges.

Expertise: OTI brings specialized expertise to areas such as civilian-military relations, local community reintegration, conflict management, abuse prevention, and media development.

