



USAID IN AFRICA

Fall 2005

News, Updates, and Resources from the U.S. Agency for International Development

U.S. Renews Efforts to Reduce Hunger

Following the opening of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City on September 15, 2005, USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios announced that the agency is redesigning specific programs to advance the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program (CAADP), which promotes agricultural development as a means to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty.

“The Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program provides a new framework for collective action among donors, governments, business and farmer organizations,” Natsios said. “It is African-led and represents a true partnership to assist African countries in tackling the root causes of hunger and poverty, as well as building wealth. We applaud the African vision and ambition, and are committed to working toward these important goals.”

Some 200 million people in Africa are chronically hungry. Since people suffering from hunger are unable to contribute substantially to the economy, investing in reducing hunger makes economic sense as well as being a moral imperative.

In June 2005, African heads of state and government, under the auspices of the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD), endorsed the goals of CAADP, an agricultural framework that promotes the critical role of agricultural development as a means to eliminate hunger, reduce poverty and food insecurity, and increase trade. The core objective of CAADP is to achieve 6 percent annual growth rate in agriculture, sustained over time.

Specifically, to back the African-led implementation of the integrated agricultural framework that is CAADP, USAID will

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K.WYLE/USAID/TANZANIA

Farmers like this Tanzanian onion grower could benefit from the improved farming techniques promoted by the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa.

USAID Supports Vital Liberian Elections

On October 11, 1 million Liberians voted for a new president and government, hoping to reclaim long awaited peace and prosperity. Since none of the presidential candidates captured more than the required 50 percent plus one of votes needed to be declared a winner, the two top candidates, George Weah and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, contested a runoff election on November 8. USAID funded international and domestic observers, and additional voter education for the runoff election as it did for the October elections.

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The holding of free and fair elections has been one of the U.S. government's top priorities in Liberia, and is an essential part of the transition to a legitimate government in that country.

After 14 years of civil war, restoring electricity and running water and rebuilding roads and bridges are among tasks vital to Liberia's recovery and the ability of its people to rebuild their lives. However, an orderly election is the most important step to restore peace and democracy in the country.

"USAID/Liberia takes these elections very seriously," said Wilbur Thomas, USAID mission director in Liberia. "We understand that these elections represent a last chance for Liberia. The process and the outcomes are critical for Liberia's successful transition."

USAID provided \$10 million in material and technical assistance to prepare for and conduct the October elections when

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Liberians voted for a president, vice president, the entire Senate (30 members), and the entire House of Representatives (64 members).

This assistance was provided through the Consortium on Elections and Political Process Strengthening, which includes U.S.-based International Foundation for Election Systems, the International Republican Institute, and the National Democratic Institute. Specific material contributions included ballots, ballot boxes, forms, and other election equipment and supplies. Technical assistance included strengthening the capacity of Liberia's National Elections Commission to administer the national elections, supporting political party development and training, preparing NGOs for election observation, and training polling place officials. USAID also supported "get out the vote" initiatives, trained civil society organizations to educate voters, and provided nationwide coverage of the election process. Finally, USAID supported international election observers to monitor many of the 3,070 polling stations alongside local Liberian observers.

Liberia was in a constant state of conflict from 1989 until the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed on August 18, 2003, after the departure of President Charles Taylor from the country. The Peace Agreement ended a civil war that claimed the lives of over 250,000 people, most of them civilian noncombatants. It is estimated that approximately 10 percent of Liberian children have been traumatized by witnessing close friends and family members suffer through murder and rape. A similar



Liberia's future depends on a stable government to provide services, such as education, for its people.

percentage of children are believed to have been recruited into the militias over the course of the war. Amongst the general population, more than 1.3 million persons were displaced from their communities, including hundreds of thousands who fled the country.

As a result of the Peace Agreement, the National Transition Government of Liberia (NTGL), composed of the warring factions, civil society and political parties, assumed power on October 15, 2003. The NTGL was given a two-year mandate to implement the Peace Agreement and prepare Liberia for free and fair elections. In September 2003, the United Nations Security Council established the United Nations Peace Keeping Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). The principal work of UNMIL with its 15,000 peacekeepers has been to prepare for new elections by providing security, reconstructing infrastructure, repatriating refugees, and registering voters.

More than 1.35 million Liberians, estimated to be at least 90 percent of eligible voters, registered to vote. Five percent of registered voters are internally displaced persons who fled the country during the civil war.

For additional information, contact Lydia Hall, desk officer for Liberia, at lyhall@usaid.gov or 202-712-5053.

President Bush Increases Funding to Fight Malaria in Africa

On June 30, 2005, President Bush challenged the world to reduce the burden of malaria dramatically as a major killer of children in sub-Saharan Africa, and pledged to increase funding for malaria prevention and treatment by more than \$1.2 billion over five years. The goal of this effort is reduce malaria deaths by 50 percent in each of the target countries after three years of full implementation.

The United States will significantly expand resources for malaria in Angola, Tanzania, and Uganda beginning in 2006, and will expand to at least four more highly endemic African countries in 2007, and at least five more in 2008. By 2010, the U.S. government will provide an additional \$500 million per year for malaria prevention and treatment. The money will pay for insecticide-treated nets, indoor spraying against mosquitoes, and effective new combination drugs to treat malaria. This effort will eventually cover more than 175 million people in 15 or more of the most affected African countries.

“Malaria is a major cause of illness and death in Angola, Tanzania, and Uganda, especially among children under five years of age, pregnant women, and people living with HIV/AIDS,” said USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios at the signing of the declaration for this new initiative. “Today we are putting the President’s words into action and building strong partnerships to reduce the crushing burden of disease in these countries. This is just the first step, and the U.S. and its international partners take on the challenge of saving the most lives from malaria with inspiration, compassion, and great expectations.”

Each year, an estimated 300-500 million malaria infections occur, leading to 1.2 million deaths—85 percent of these deaths are in sub-Saharan Africa. Although malaria was successfully eliminated in many countries with temperate

climates during the 1950s, it remains a major killer in Africa, increasing its toll during the late 1980s and 1990s due largely to increasing resistance to commonly used anti-malarial drugs. Today, malaria causes an estimated \$12 billion in economic losses each year in Africa, robbing 1.3 percent from the annual gross domestic product of endemic countries.

The President made this commitment to fight malaria as the U.S. contribution to a larger international effort to reduce the burden of the disease, and he called on other donors, foundations, and organizations to complement United States commitments by providing \$1.2 billion annually through 2008 in additional funding. These efforts could expand the initiative to reach 650 million total beneficiaries and control malaria in the most affected countries in Africa. The initiative will support the efforts of the



A woman in Mozambique displays a new bednet, which will help protect her and her child from malaria while they sleep.

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New Trade Hub Opening

On November 8, the newest center of information for and about trade in West Africa, the West Africa Trade Hub in Dakar, formally opened.

The Dakar Trade Hub joins three other USAID-funded Trade Hubs on the continent, including its sister hub in Accra, Ghana; the Eastern and Central Africa Hub in Nairobi, Kenya; and the Southern Africa Hub in Gaborone, Botswana. Each Hub responds to region-specific needs and serves as a central point where African and U.S. government agencies, donor and civil society organizations, and the private sector can find information and technical assistance on trade, investment, and business activities in the region, including training opportunities.

“The new Trade Hub in Dakar is a gateway to the global marketplace,” said USAID Assistant Administrator for Africa, Lloyd Pierson, “as well as a bridge to jobs and personal opportunity.”

Like the Hub in Accra, the Trade Hub in Dakar will work to reform regional trade policy, boost international exports—particularly in seafood and cashews—and help businesses take advantage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act.

The Trade Hubs are funded through the African Global Competitiveness Initiative, which seeks to expand trade between African countries and the United States.

For more information, visit www.africatradehubs.org.

Humanitarian Assistance Updates

Niger

Following good rains and harvest in most of Niger, the food shortage that had gripped that country earlier in 2005 seems to be drawing to a close. Through a combination of drought and locust infestations in the previous season and persistent poverty, approximately 3 million people in the country were without adequate food.

USAID provided more than \$19 million in assistance to Niger in fiscal year 2005. These funds have supported agriculture projects, emergency and development food assistance, and airlifts of fortified food for emergency nutrition programs. During fiscal year 2005, USAID also contributed 20,090 metric tons (MT) of food assistance to Niger.

USAID gives assistance to other countries in the Sahel sub-region, which includes Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal, for a total of over \$134 million in fiscal year 2005.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/niger.



Recipients of emergency food assistance in Niger.

Darfur

The security situation in the Darfur region of western Sudan, which had stabilized somewhat earlier in 2005, has now deteriorated once again. Jingaweit militias sponsored by the Government of Sudan (GOS) have increased attacks on villages and camps, and have even

crossed the border into Chad for cattle raiding. The government opposition force Sudan Liberation Movement/Army has also stepped up attacks, taking over a formerly GOS-controlled town in South Darfur.

While these developments make delivering aid to the estimated 1.8 million internally displaced persons in the region hard enough, the GOS has also tightened the regulations governing travel conditions for all humanitarian workers, including USAID, citing safety concerns.

In spite of these difficult conditions, USAID continues relief operations, delivering over 376,000 MT of food assistance and another 26,000 MT to refugee camps in Chad by late September in fiscal year 2005. Total USAID humanitarian assistance to Darfur during this same time is \$435.8 million and \$25.4 million to Chad.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/sudan/darfur.html.

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Global Fund, the World Bank, Roll Back Malaria, and other donors.

This new commitment is in addition to the \$200 million the United States is already spending on malaria prevention, treatment, and research worldwide. USAID has been a leader in the global effort to control malaria since the 1950s, and is the U.S. government's lead agency for implementing malaria prevention and treatment programs. Between 1998 and 2005, USAID increased its annual commitment to fighting malaria around the world from \$22 million to \$89 million, most of which is targeted to

African countries with the highest levels of transmission.

USAID is committed to reducing malaria around the world, in close collaboration with national and international partners. USAID uses a comprehensive strategy that combines prevention and treatment approaches, including interventions to reduce malaria among pregnant women. These approaches are proven to be effective in reducing sickness and death from this disease, especially in Africa. In addition, USAID supports research, including malaria vaccine development, the devel-

opment of new and improved anti-malarial drugs, and operations research to improve the delivery of current prevention and treatment options.

USAID currently provides bilateral assistance for malaria control to Angola, Benin, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/id/malaria.

Congo Basin Partnership Addresses Root Causes of Forest Depletion in Central Africa

In a remote area of the war-scarred North-Kivu Province in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), over 300 students gather at the country's only accredited university for conservation biology, the Tayna Center for Conservation Biology. On land donated by the chief of the local Batangi people, the university is the brainchild of Pierre Kakule Vwirasihikya, a local reserve coordinator, and the collaborative efforts of USAID, Conservation International, and the Diane Fossey Gorilla Fund International.

USAID is working with the six countries that comprise the Congo Basin—Cameroon, Central African Republic, the DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo—to address this and other threats to the world's second largest rain forest and those who depend upon it. In September 2002, the United States and several public and private partners launched the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) to protect this invaluable forest area and promote sustainable management of the forest's ecosystems and wildlife.

CBFP brings together governments, international organizations, nongovernmental environmental organizations, industry, and civil society in a strong international partnership to manage the Congo Basin in a sustainable manner. The Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), USAID's most prominent natural resources management program in Africa, manages most of the U.S. government's contribution to CBFP. Through CARPE, USAID is encouraging a shift to more transparent and sophisticated forest management.

CARPE is currently supporting projects in 11 regions, called landscapes, with a combined area of 685,327 square kilometers (slightly smaller than Texas). Within these landscapes, CARPE part-

ners are actively working in 51 protected areas, 55 community-based natural resource management zones, and 37 resource extractive zones. Nongovernmental and U.S. government partners implement activities that address the root causes of tropical forest and biodiversity loss through protected area management, large-scale landscape management, promotion of economic development and poverty alleviation, and improvement of natural resources governance. Several of CARPE's landscapes cross borders and have been recognized by international agreements that promote cooperation on issues of environmental monitoring and law enforcement.

In the Sangha Tri-National Forest Landscape, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) supports a private Swiss logging company, Congo-laise Industrielle des Bois (CIB), in its bid to obtain Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification. Obtaining FSC certification will help CIB contribute to the growing global demand for sustainably harvested wood, while simultaneously providing an incentive for logging companies to practice environmentally sound practices. In collaboration with WCS, CIB has identified ecologically important set-aside areas within its concessions and continues to contribute to local law enforcement initiatives aimed at controlling the hunting of threatened wildlife.

Six hundred kilometers west of Sangha, in the country of Equatorial Guinea, a

draft National Policy for Biodiversity is currently under review and slated for formal presentation to the government's council of ministers in 2006. The policy stems from a technical workshop involving Equatorial Guinea's National University and the national agency in charge of protected areas and logging concessions. Its adoption has been promoted in meetings between Conservation International and Equatorial Guinea's President Obiang.

To help track the long-term impacts of these activities, the National Aeronautics



The Ba Aka people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo have depended on the Congo Basin forest for centuries.

and Space Administration (NASA) is using satellite remote sensing to conduct high resolution image analyses of forest landscapes across Central Africa. The information gathered by NASA is shared among all stakeholders and is crucial for both local adaptive management and the development of international forestry policies.

All these projects supported by CARPE provide a snapshot of the complex and widespread initiatives currently being

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New Public-Private Alliances Enhance USAID's Programs in Africa

USAID's Global Development Alliance (GDA) business model promotes partnerships with the private sector (i.e. private businesses, non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations and/or government agencies) and combines the unique capabilities of each to solve development problems. Between fiscal years 2002 and 2004, USAID funded 105 alliances in Africa, with over \$315 million in USAID funding leading to over \$1.16 billion in partner resources.

USAID's Africa Bureau initiated four additional public-private alliances in 2005 to support economic growth, improve access to education, increase delivery of services, and develop water resource access, protection, and management tools.

The City Year South Africa National Youth Service Partnership is a leadership development program that focuses on increasing critical support to public schools, in particular the development of mathematics, science, and technology skills among young learners, while simultaneously providing marketable life skills training to the youth workforce. In 2005, City Year South Africa and its partners—African Rainbow Minerals, JP Morgan Chase Foundation, Anglo American Chairman's Fund, Keystone Apparel, Edcon, Standard Bank, Xstrata Coal, Citigroup Foundation, Ernst & Young, Eskom, and City Year, Inc.—will help place approximately 120 youth into full-time service in public schools and community-based organizations.

Thousands of farming families in East Africa rely on cashew crops as a vital source of cash income. The Building a Globally Competitive Cashew Industry Partnership will link cashew producers in Tanzania to processing firms as a way to build sustainable access to markets, employment and production assistance, and to promote the recovery and growth of a competitive cashew industry in

Tanzania. Olam Industries, one of the partners along with TechnoServe, is a leading global supply chain manager of agricultural products and food ingredients including cocoa, coffee, cashew, shea nuts, sesame, rice, and teak wood.

The Community-Watershed and Wastewater Partnerships is designed to provide grants to support community watershed protection and improvement programs in USAID Mission locations where the Coca-Cola system operates and to contribute to improving water and sanitation for the world's poor. The objectives of the program are to increase the level of access to sustainable, safe sources of water; foster improved behaviors in human sanitation and hygiene; protect and conserve local water resources; promote water sustainability and community-based water resources management; and increase investments in basic infrastructure.

The mission of the HERO (Help Educate at-Risk Orphans and Vulnerable Children) Partnership is to improve education for at-risk orphans and vulnerable children and in so doing, expand their opportunities, enabling them to make better life choices and thereby lower rates of HIV/AIDS transmission. To achieve this goal, the alliance with the United Nations Association of the United States will provide grants to local implementing partners in South Africa, Namibia, and Ethiopia that will fund school-based support for at-risk children and the development of under-resourced schools. The United Nations Association of the United States is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to enhancing U.S. participation in the United Nations.

Alliances such as these incorporate a breadth of USAID and partner resources to arrive at solutions only available through pooled efforts. Together, the combination of complementary assets

has encouraged innovative approaches, more effective problem solving, and deeper impact.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_partnerships/gda.

CARPE from page 5

undertaken to conserve the forests of Central Africa. From 2003 to 2005, USAID committed over \$48 million in CBFP assistance through CARPE. If results are positive, USAID intends to continue to support the CBFP through 2011. The public-private partnerships of CARPE's alliances has leveraged substantial additional funds from other CBFP members as well as from other sources including U.S. computer software suppliers, heavy equipment manufactures, logging companies, telecommunications companies, and private foundations.

External factors, including the global timber trade and the population dynamics in this region will continue to impact the forests of Central Africa. At the same time, political instability and insecurity provide immediate challenges for both USAID and its implementing partners. In the midst of these complex risks, CARPE's efforts to develop a long-term and management approach to natural resource conservation based on the collaboration of all stakeholders helps to assure that the economic and environmental vitality of the Congo Basin forest is conserved.

For more information, visit <http://carpe.umd.edu>.

USAID Plans to Reduce Schools Fees without Sacrificing Education Quality

By Tracy Brunette

School Fees and USAID Programs in Africa:

Increasing Educational Opportunities for Underserved Children

Today in Africa, 40 percent of school-aged children lack access to basic education—46 million have never stepped foot in a classroom. The reasons for nonattendance are myriad and interlinked, including



Children like these in Malawi deserve easy access to quality education.

inability to pay costs associated with schooling such as tuition, uniforms, textbooks and supplies; lack of safe, accessible schools; school calendars and curricula that do not fit the needs of the local community; and competing demands for children's time.

There is no single solution to increasing learning opportunities that will work for all children in all settings. A holistic approach is needed to fit local circumstances that would include minimizing all direct and indirect costs

of schooling, strengthening national education systems and communities, and introducing innovations that address the particular local reasons for nonattendance and drop-out.

The costs of schooling are a tremendous barrier to access in many settings, especially for the most vulnerable children.

Abolishing tuition fees can drastically increase enrollment, as most recently seen in Burundi where the abolishment of school fees has resulted in an increase of over 200,000 new school entrants.

This remarkable influx of students is a reason to cheer to be sure, but abolishing tuition fees is not a "quick win" as suggested by some, but part of a longer term vision. Schools need financial resources to operate. If fees are eliminated, this revenue needs to be replaced by other sustainable funding

sources; if not, education systems, school-by-school, run the risk of collapsing or reintroducing fees. Studies have shown that where education quality collapses due to exhausted resources, even the poor will turn to paid private education rather than meaningless free schooling.

The elimination of school fees must be part of a broad government and civil society commitment to achieving universal primary enrollment. It must also be accompanied by

efforts to increase capacity to plan and manage sector reforms and funding, increase the efficiency of education systems, increase revenue from other non-fee sources, promote complementary learning opportunities, and support community participation in the education sector.

By strengthening institutional capacity to plan and manage education reform, support host country-developed and -led reform plans, including realistic costing plans and adequate means of finance, USAID helps to ensure sustainability of efforts. In harmony with ministries and other donors, USAID also implements programs to increase the number of school places, train teachers and improve curricula, and develop and provide learning materials.

In addition, USAID promotes and supports activities for underserved children to ensure that they are able to learn and thrive. These complementary activities are designed to make schools more responsive to the needs of underserved children by tailoring schedules, curriculum, school calendars, and learning in maternal languages; promote alternative learning opportunities such as radio instruction; and provide incentives to families or schools such as scholarships or school meals.

In FY 2005, the U.S. Congress encouraged USAID to set aside \$15 million to design and implement a demonstration program in Africa that would address the issue of school fees in a holistic manner. In accordance with this directive,

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allocate agency resources over five years to support the ongoing Presidential Initiative to End Hunger in Africa. USAID will commit approximately \$200 million in fiscal year 2006 for the first year of a five-year effort. USAID expects similar commitments over each of the next five years.

Working closely with NEPAD, USAID and other donors will:

- Establish a CAADP process and investment plan in those countries that are meeting their pledges to increase support for and attention to the agriculture sector. In 2006, USAID will work with NEPAD and other donors in up to six countries to support CAADP;
- Establish multi-donor efforts in countries consistently threatened by famine. In addition, donors will develop a process and plan to address the policy and technical barriers that are making countries famine-prone and ultimately integrate them into the CAADP;
- Support NEPAD's CAADP implementation through regional economic communities that will build the regional dynamics for achieving agricultural growth and

increase the availability of and access to food within regions; and

- Support the strengthening of African regional and continental organizations to oversee, manage, and lead the CAADP implementation process.

The U.S. has long supported higher agricultural productivity in Africa. Consistent with CAADP's agricultural objectives, USAID's Initiative to End Hunger in Africa calls for a rapid and sustainable increase in agricultural growth and rural incomes to reduce hunger and poverty. To ensure long-term sustainability, the Initiative calls for a strong global partnership with African leaders and governments, and recognizes the importance of investing in health, education, infrastructure, environment, and public policy management. Aimed at halving the number of hungry people in Africa by 2015—consistent with the United Nations' Millennium Declaration—the Initiative is currently active in six countries: Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Uganda, and Zambia.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/initiatives/docs/ending_hunger_ieha05.pdf.

USAID Supports Rwandan “Peace Baskets” Deal

In 2004, East and Central Africa Trade Hub representatives met Janet Nkubana, the owner of the Rwandan company Gahaya Links, at a regional trade event in Kigali. Over the next year, the Trade Hub team helped Gahaya Links with product design, marketing, and pricing, and prepared and sponsored Nkubana's participation at the Sources Trade Show in New York City in May 2005. There she was able to connect with buyers from Macy's department store to promote Gahaya Links' products, including traditional Rwandan “peace baskets” made by

female genocide survivors—a deal valued at \$150,000.

The Trade Hub sponsored Nkubana's trip to New York to participate in the highly publicized opening of Gahaya Links' products at the Herald Square Macy's in midtown Manhattan. President Kagame of Rwanda and the CEO of Macy's inaugurated the event, during which Macy's announced their intention of buying Gahaya Links' entire inventory of the baskets—a deal substantially exceeding the initial one, noted above. Gahaya Links also is benefiting

from training in logistics, packaging, and shipping through Macy's parent company at its New Jersey facility.

Currently, the Trade Hub is working with Nkubana to create an e-commerce web catalogue to showcase her products and facilitate bulk orders.

The four African Trade Hubs are operated by USAID. They each help African businesses access American markets through the U.S. African Growth and Opportunity Act.

For more information, visit www.africatradehubs.org.



USAID Programs Use Sports to Promote Healthy Lifestyles

USAID launched a program called Jump4Life to reach at least two million people with a persuasive message about HIV/AIDS prevention through healthy and responsible lifestyle choices and the importance of good nutrition.

The Jump4Life mission, developed as a global development alliance in cooperation with U.S. partners Land O'Lakes and Hoops4Africa—a nonprofit organization dedicated to HIV/AIDS education through basketball—uses sports star power influence to affect social change and promote good nutrition among sports-minded youth and young adults in Kenya. It specifically focuses on curbing the tide of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and improving the quality of life for those living with the disease.

While in Kenya in September, a delegation of U.S. professional women's and men's basketball players conducted various activities including sports clinics,



Another sports-related program in South Africa brought American basketball stars like Bob Lanier, right, together with their South African counterparts to promote HIV voluntary counseling and testing programs. USAID donated the van behind them to serve as a mobile testing facility.

exhibition games at schools and college campuses, and the creation of public service announcements. They used these venues to convey messages about the importance of sportsmanship, education, eating right, and making good decisions, spreading the Jump4Life motto of “play safe, live long, eat right, stay strong.”

In another sports-related program, 40 young athletes from the Namibia Basketball Association participated in

a four-day workshop in July organized by the U.S. Embassy to Namibia's Public Affairs Section, which included leadership training for coaches, event planning, ethics and sportsmanship, and health and living.

Using a sports context to relay messages on HIV prevention and nutrition, staff members presented participatory activities and a dramatic role-play to illustrate how poor nutrition can harm individuals living with or without HIV. This workshop was the first program under the “Youth for Hope” project to form grassroots

clubs nationwide to encourage young people to abstain from sex and drinking by offering healthy alternative activities. The coaches trained at this workshop will not only start basketball clubs but will also initiate other youth activities such as reading and science clubs, teaching health and HIV/AIDS awareness as part of the clubs' activities.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_partnerships/gda.

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USAID has designed a program that *responsibly* reduces school fees while increasing access, equity and the quality of education. The countries selected for this program in “holistic school reform” are the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Malawi.

In the DRC, where a school fee policy has been in effect since 1993, the program will focus on reducing school fees at the local level while increasing access, equity, and quality of education. In Malawi, where the

official tuition fee was abolished in 1994, the focus is on increasing resources at the school level while minimizing private costs of schooling that still exist, especially for the most disadvantaged children, and improving the quality of learning. The program is expected to begin in school year 2005-06 in DRC and in the new school year beginning in January 2006 in Malawi.

USAID is committed to working with host countries, NGOs, and other donors towards changes in financing

A F R I C A R E S O U R C E S

A selection
of recent
USAID-
funded
publications
on Africa

Post-conflict Elections and Democratization: An Experience Review

Rafael Lopez-Pintor. USAID/PPC. May 2005

PN-ADB-897

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADB897.pdf (578 KB)

This paper discusses international experience in supporting post-conflict elections in 14 countries worldwide, draws lessons learned, and makes specific policy and program recommendations to donor agencies. African countries surveyed include Angola, Ethiopia, Liberia, Mozambique, and Sierra Leone. A major conclusion is that international assistance is crucial for the conduct of post-conflict elections and has yielded consistent positive effects. These effects are particularly visible in the institutionalization of elections in countries moving forward in democracy.

Steps Towards the Stabilization of Governance and Livelihoods in Darfur, Sudan

and

Steps Towards the Stabilization of Governance and Livelihoods in Northern Sudan

Alex de Waal and Helen Young. USAID. March 2005

PN-ADC-781

PN-ADC-782

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADC781.pdf (121 KB)

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADC782.pdf (105 KB)

These papers were commissioned to help USAID develop strategies to stabilize livelihoods and social resilience in the face of widespread violent conflict in Darfur, Sudan, and mitigate the effects of further widespread violent conflict and instability in the east and north of the country. The first paper (PN-ADC-781) analyzes the Darfur conflict from both local and national/international viewpoints. The key recommendation is that USAID develop a strategic negotiated approach, with a medium/long-term plan for a solution. Remarkably, Darfurians across the political and ethnic spectrum share many aspects of a common vision: a region at peace, retaining most of the traditional architecture for land tenure, administration, and inter-ethnic relations, but with sustained efforts to overcome poverty and marginalization. The second paper (PN-ADC-782) analyzes some of the main challenges facing Sudan as it embarks upon the six-year interim period before a national referendum on southern Sudan's independence. This will be a difficult period in which the conduct of national

political issues—the composition of the Government of National Unity and the management of conflict—will determine whether or not the country can secure a peaceful, stable, democratic, and prosperous future. The overarching recommendation to USAID is the need for a strategic plan to stabilize governance and livelihoods in Northern Sudan. The formation of the Government of National Unity should be an opportunity for breaking out of the crisis-management mindset that has necessarily dominated approaches towards Sudan's problems.

Youth on the Streets: The Importance of Social Interactions on Psychological Well-Being in an African Context

Sweta Shah, Georgina Graidage, and Josephine Valencia. George Washington University; Cherry Engineering Support Services, Inc.; USAID/DCHA/DG. May 2005

PN-ADD-170

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADD170.pdf (545 KB)

An increasing number of young people throughout the world are finding their livelihoods, social networks, and homes on the streets. This study focuses on the psychosocial well-being of these vulnerable youth, with a particular focus on those living or working in Africa. The study identifies five key program components believed to promote the psychosocial well-being of street youth. The final sections of the study provide a typology of indicators for measuring psycho-social well-being and options for action by agencies.

Strategies for Mozambique's Textile and Apparel Sector

Peter J. Minor. Nathan Associates, Inc.; USAID/Mozambique; USAID/EGAT/EG. March 2005

PN-ADC-686

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADC686.pdf (247 KB)

In Mozambique, where only 8 percent of the country's 17 million people are employed in the formal economy, apparel industry workers are often the sole earners in the households. Mozambique's long-term development requires, therefore, that it tap the potential of its apparel sector. This paper reviews recent developments in the sector; summarizes the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats facing the country's apparel and textile industries; and presents strategies for sector development.

Sharing Water: Towards a Transboundary Consensus on the Management of the Okavango River Basin

Natural Heritage Institute; The World Conservation Union; USAID/RCSA. February 2005

PD-ACD-456

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PDACD456.pdf (8.5 MB)

“Sharing Water: Towards a Consensus on Transboundary Management of the Okavango River Basin” was an 18-month initiative funded by USAID’s Regional Center for Southern Africa. This report discusses collaborative learning—the core principle behind the project—and describes how this organizing principle was implemented through workshop-based learning, capacity-building, and outreach. It outlines the project’s technical components, including the development of scenarios and associated management strategies, a shared Okavango/Kubango database, and a river basin planning model. The report concludes with a section on recommended next steps for collaborative learning in the context of the Okavango/Kubango River Basin.

Community-Based Solutions for Effective Malaria Control: Lessons from Mozambique

Kathryn Bradbury, Anbrasi Edward, et al. Child Survival Collaborations and Resources Group; USAID/DCHA/PVC/American Schools & Hospitals Abroad. March 2005

PN-ADC-936

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADC936.pdf (670 KB)

Since 1994, the World Relief “Vurhonga” (a Shangan word meaning “dawn”) Child Survival Program, supported by USAID, has addressed the burden of malaria in Gaza Province, Mozambique, through use of a strategy known as the Care Group Model, designed as an efficient and cost-effective means to reach every household within a defined geographic area. The model is based on a vast network of volunteers organized into supportive units that conduct home visits to teach mothers key preventive and care-seeking practices and to collect vital data regarding births, deaths, and public health concerns. The model has demonstrated considerable success in malaria control by building health system capacity to deliver effective treatment and community capacity to effectively address behavior change at the local level.

Female Genital Cutting among the Somali of Kenya and Management of its Complications

Guyo W. Jaldesa, Ian Askew, et al. Population Council; USAID/GH/PRH. February 2005

PN-ADC-202

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADC202.pdf (387 KB)

This study examines the most severe form of female genital cutting (FGC)—infibulation—to identify how the Kenyan health system could be more actively engaged in managing complications and in discouraging the practice. Studies elsewhere have shown the importance of working with inter-marrying groups; if consensus can be generated and then publicized that marrying uncut women is acceptable within the social group, a “social convention shift” can happen. The study also found that the health sector is ill equipped to serve women who have been cut, particularly pregnant women. The report recommends specific ways in which the health system could strengthen its handling of FGC among the Somali.

AIDS in Africa: Three Scenarios to 2025

UNAIDS; USAID/GH/OHA. January 2005

PN-ADC-117

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADC117.pdf (5.1 MB)

This study presents three scenarios describing three possible ways in which the AIDS epidemic could play out across the African continent over the next 20 years. These rigorously constructed accounts of the future use the power of story-telling as a means of going beyond the assumptions and understandings of any one interest group in order to create a shared basis for dialogue and action about critical issues. Each scenario is illustrated by regional epidemiological stories. Five driving forces are identified as crucial to the future of HIV and AIDS in Africa: 1) the growth or erosion of unity and integration between individual and their communities; 2) the evolution of beliefs, values, and meanings; 3) the leveraging of resources and capabilities; 4) the generation and application of knowledge; and 5) the distribution of power and authority.

Unless otherwise noted, these and other documents can be downloaded in full-text free of charge at the web address given or at www.dec.org. Search for the desired document ID number (DOCID, eg. PN-ACX-650) in the field search option.

Support to Ethiopian Farmers Increases Local Food Security

Birhane Melese, a 40-year-old widow in northern Ethiopia, had struggled for years to feed her four children. But since she got her six goats, she has a steady supply of milk and butter and uses the manure to fertilize the potatoes, pumpkins, onions, and chilies in her backyard. “If we have a problem now, we can just sell some of the goats,” said Birhane.

She received her goats from USAID under a pilot project that is helping families develop their own means of income while increasing food security. Ethiopia has endured a series of droughts and famines that have killed millions in its recent history. Working closely with the Ethiopian government, USAID provides animals to the poorest Ethiopians and helps them learn about savings accounts, proper harvest storage, and alternative work like beekeeping so that they can survive times of food shortage. A cornerstone of USAID’s famine prevention strategy in Ethiopia, this three-year, \$400 million program aims

to give 1.5 million people a productive safety net in coordination with other government and partner efforts.

Two years into the program, residents around one northern Ethiopian town have constructed 71 miles (115 kilometers) of roads, making their district more accessible. In 2004, they planted thousands of fruit and tree seedlings and built two grain banks, where 291 farmers store sorghum, wheat, barley, and beans to avoid loss of crops after harvest and conserve during lean periods. Six farmers’ field schools were set up for villagers to learn about crop diversification and pest, soil, and moisture management.

In another program, USAID is training farmers in modern irrigation and horticultural practices. Girma, a 50-year-old farmer in the Tigray region, built hillside terraces to prevent erosion and dug a well to irrigate his crops. His harvest has increased substantially.

“Three years ago there was not enough water for drinking or irrigation. Now with our conservation methods, I have profits from the sale of vegetables and enough money to buy cereals for my family and further develop my farming business,” says Girma.

To help stabilize the water supply for the crops, farmers in Ethiopia’s large Oromia region are given cement and shown how to build concrete water structures that collect rain. They also learn how to construct simple drip irrigation systems to take the collected water to their crops during the drier growing season.

USAID and the government of Ethiopia hope that through programs like these, famine and food shortages will eventually become things of the past.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-sabaran_africa/countries/ethiopia.

USAID in Africa

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