

USAID IN AFRICA

Spring 2004

News, Updates, and Resources from USAID's Bureau for Africa

U.S. Pledges \$200 Million to Reconstruct Liberia

Liberia is one step closer to recovery now that donors have pledged more than \$500 million during the International Reconstruction Conference on Liberia, held February 5–6 at the United Nations. The two-day conference, co-hosted by the United Nations, World Bank, and the United States in collaboration with the National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL), offers significant momentum to rebuild Liberia after nearly 15 years of civil conflict. The United States pledged \$200 million. Other donors include the European Commission, individual European states, Canada, and Japan.

“This conference was a catalyst for dialogue between the international community and the National Transitional Government of Liberia. Chairman Bryant [of the NTGL] presented a compelling plan for the future of Liberia as a peaceful, productive neighbor and the international community responded with pledges to ensure Liberia’s robust and sustainable recovery,” said USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios.

Following the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in Accra, Ghana in August 2003 that brought an end to civil strife in Liberia, this conference was a partnership of bilateral, multi-lateral, and international supporters who pledged assistance for the security and rebuilding of Liberia.

In spite of the end of hostilities, hundreds of thousands of Liberians are still displaced internally and in neighboring countries. In addition, the country’s infrastructure has been destroyed and needs to be entirely rebuilt. Funds pledged at this conference will address these and other daunting problems.

As of the time of the conference, USAID had already provided nearly \$6 million to international NGOs and UN agencies for programs targeting health, water, sanitation, emergency nutrition, shelter, coordination, and logistical support of humanitarian assistance, and protection on behalf of internally displaced persons and war-affected populations. For example, thousands of children have been vaccinated against measles and thousands of families who fled their homes have received basic household cooking and cleaning supplies.



USAID/OFDA

Children in the Maimu Camp for Internally Displaced Persons.

AIDS Initiative Assists 15 Countries

By Renuka Bery

The President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is the largest international health initiative ever to target a single disease. The Emergency Plan commits \$15 billion over five years to reverse the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS in 15 focus countries: Botswana, Côte d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Haiti, Guyana, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and one as yet unnamed. This commitment marks \$10 billion in new money and includes an annual \$200 million contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Global Fund) through 2008. The \$2.4 billion that Congress appropriated for the Emergency Plan in FY2004 includes all U.S. government funding for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

The Emergency Plan’s multifaceted approach to combating the disease includes providing treatment to at least 2 million HIV-infected individuals, preventing 7 million new infections, and providing care and support to 10 million people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS in these 15 countries including

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orphans and vulnerable children (OVC). This will be accomplished by continuing bilateral programs and using multilateral approaches such as the Global Fund.

Ambassador Randall Tobias and the recently created Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator at the State Department lead efforts using the expertise from the many U.S. government agencies involved in HIV/AIDS programming and research such as USAID, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Departments of Defense and Health and Human Services, the National Institutes of Health, and the U.S. Peace Corps. U.S. ambassadors in the 15 focus countries will coordinate all U.S. government in-country HIV/AIDS activities.

The first phase of the Emergency Plan includes areas of focus such as supporting OVC, advocating for abstinence and behavior change for youth, providing antiretroviral treatment, ensuring blood safety, and encouraging injection safety. USAID will take the lead on activities

related to OVC and abstinence and behavior change advocacy. Funding for existing bilateral agreements will be increased to support rapid expansion of HIV/AIDS activities in the 15 countries.

The majority of the activities will be managed at the mission level, however several will be managed by U.S. government agencies in Washington. The first round of these was announced in mid-April. The American Red Cross, Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children, World Relief, and a partnership of Habitat for Humanity and Opportunity International will each receive grants of between \$5.1 and \$9.7 million for projects addressing the needs of OVC and promoting abstinence and behavior change for youth. These projects will operate in Ethiopia, Guyana, Haiti, Kenya, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Antiretroviral treatment is a critical component of the Emergency Plan and will be accomplished by identifying those eligible to receive treatment, ensuring reliable delivery systems, and monitoring compliance. Programs will build on existing community health activities while working to strengthen human capacity.

USAID has focused on a number of thematic areas in preventing and mitigating the impact of HIV/AIDS in Africa. Programs involve a balanced approach to HIV/AIDS prevention including the "ABCs" of abstinence, being faithful, and, as appropriate, correct and consistent use of condoms; prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV; treatment for sexually transmitted infections that increase the chance of HIV infection; and voluntary HIV counseling and testing.

As part of the Emergency Plan, USAID is demonstrating its commitment to bringing care and support services to communities affected by HIV/AIDS through innovative programs, partnerships with the private sector and com-

munity- and faith-based organizations, and research to find the best approaches. USAID's care activities include home-based care, prevention and treatment of tuberculosis and other opportunistic infections, symptom management, support for children affected by HIV/AIDS, nutrition, psychosocial support, and end-of-life care. For example, in early May, USAID/South Africa announced a \$5 million grant to the Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa to expand hospice services.

Through the Emergency Plan, USAID programs are working to create an environment in which persons living with and affected by HIV/AIDS are empowered to become involved as educators, community mobilizers, and active participants in the fight against HIV/AIDS in their communities. The Agency is currently funding numerous activities in many countries worldwide to help families and communities create and sustain a supportive environment for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

The Africa Bureau has also worked to highlight the multisectoral impacts of HIV/AIDS on a host of different sectors including agriculture, democracy and governance, education, environment, and economic well-being and has encouraged USAID missions to use resources from other sectors to expand their response to the AIDS pandemic. USAID's response under the Emergency Plan extends beyond the 15 focus countries and addresses prevention, care, and treatment needs in all USAID presence countries, particularly in Africa where the need is overwhelming.

Renuka Bery is the dissemination and advocacy manager of the Support for Analysis and Research on Africa project.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/aids/pepfar.html or contact Peter Salama, Africa Bureau HIV/AIDS advisor, at psalama@af-sd.org.

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Editors: Christine Chumbler
Patricia Mantey

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The Editors, **USAID in Africa**
Africa Bureau Information Center
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 1425
Washington, D.C. 20004-1703 USA
Telephone: (202) 661-5827
Fax: (202) 661-5890
Internet: abic@dis.cdie.org
www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa



USAID Works to Eliminate Human Trafficking

Worldwide, every year between 700,000 and 4 million people are bought and sold as prostitutes, domestic workers, sex slaves, child laborers, and child soldiers. Trafficking in persons is often seen in conflict settings, where men, women, and children are abducted by militias and rebel forces and forced into labor, combat, and sexual slavery such as in Sudan or northern Uganda. Trafficking also occurs where economic opportunities are few; parents often believe that they are sending their children to better lives with trusted acquaintances. Instead these acquaintances are intermediaries for traffickers. According to a new UNICEF report, "Trafficking in Human Beings, Especially Women and Children, in Africa," released in April, the number of countries reporting trafficking in children is twice that of those reporting trafficking in women. Africans are trafficked domestically, to other African countries, and to Europe, the United States, and the Middle East. Victims trafficked as domestic laborers are subject to psychological and physical abuse as well as sexual exploitation.

The level of official response by African governments to the problem varies widely. Some countries, such as Côte d'Ivoire, have taken positive steps, developing comprehensive anti-trafficking plans and establishing inter-ministerial structures. Many African countries have recognized the need to reach local communities with culturally appropriate information about the dangers of trafficking, and are implementing grassroots awareness campaigns and anti-trafficking programs in schools, as well as working with traditional leaders. African governments have increased their support for facilities to assist victims but, overall, are constrained by a severe lack of resources. Governments are cooperating with NGOs and donors on programs to reintegrate former child soldiers and other victims of trafficking. Effective cross-border arrangements to limit trafficking are in their beginning stages, and more

governments are working together in prosecution and protection efforts such as Mali and Côte d'Ivoire.

In 2003, USAID provided \$2.5 million to its field missions in Africa to support specific anti-trafficking activities in nine countries. The examples below are activities that help to prevent trafficking, improve care and assistance to victims, and strengthen national responses.

Benin. USAID/Benin is working on trafficking prevention with the Ministry of Family and Children, UNICEF, and various NGOs. USAID programs are providing opportunities for education,



Children are especially vulnerable to trafficking.

training, and employment for children and young women who are vulnerable to trafficking. Film and radio are spreading information to at risk-groups about the harm of child trafficking including the working conditions on cocoa plantations. USAID is also working with local governments to incorporate the protection of children into the formal mandate of all locally elected officials.

Democratic Republic of the Congo.

USAID supports efforts by the International Rescue Committee, Search for Common Ground, and local groups to improve and expand services for populations vulnerable to trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence. Activities provide victims with pro bono legal advice, psychological and social support, and medical assistance. Radio, theater,

posters, and videos educate communities about the risks of trafficking and provide information on available support services. Public messages include examples of women who have been successfully reunited with their families. USAID also trains local groups so that they can effectively investigate, counsel, and report on abduction and trafficking during armed conflict. In addition, USAID support sensitizes current and former combatants to the effects of sexual abduction and other gender-based violence.

Ethiopia. One USAID program provides victims with return and reintegration services including shelter, medical care, counseling, travel arrangements, vocational training, and micro-credit mechanisms. It also supports a prevention program on Radio Ethiopia and is extending awareness activities to key areas around the country. USAID is also helping the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Women's Affairs Bureau in the Office of the Prime Minister, and the government committee that sets trafficking policy to develop practical ways to implement a recent national anti-trafficking proclamation. Technical support will strengthen government prevention and victim protection programs, for example, to monitor employment agencies and document trafficking cases. USAID's anti-trafficking partners include local NGOs, Save the Children, PACT, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Mali. USAID/Mali and the West Africa Regional Program are collaborating with Save the Children and other partners to support a media campaign that uses community radio to promote child welfare and prevent trafficking. Programming frequency is increasing to two 30-minute episodes each week in several local languages and in French. Radio soap operas are addressing issues related to child welfare and helping families and

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Pooling Energy Resources in West Africa



Yosef Hadari/The World Bank

Hydroelectric dams, like this one in Ghana, are vital for West Africa's electricity production.

West Africa is well endowed with energy resources but its energy sector is among the least developed in the world. The cost of electricity is high, the supply unreliable, levels of electrification average less than 30 percent, and most electric utilities are unable to meet increasing public demand for electricity. The lack of a reliable electricity supply is one of the most frequently cited constraints on business expansion in West Africa, particularly for small and medium-sized businesses, which often

lose vital capital equipment to power interruptions, outages, and power surges.

Through the West African Regional Program (WARP), USAID has played a critical role in facilitating the development of the West Africa Power Pool (WAPP), earmarking approximately \$8 million for the project. The project centers on the development of power

generation plants and the interconnection of electricity grids in Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) countries.

In WAPP's initial stages, WARP provided funding to the State Utility Forecasting Group of Purdue University to develop a power expansion model that demonstrates the benefits of power pooling to ECOWAS member states. Among those benefits are efficiency gains from pooling resources, economies of scale

from new generation, better balancing of daily and seasonal energy demands, and better management of floods and other risks. In turn, member states will benefit from decreased electricity costs, increases in the reliability of supply and cross-border energy trade, savings of approximately \$4 to \$5 billion in unnecessary investment over the next 20 years, and increased attractiveness for donor and private sector investment. For individual households, these benefits translate into greater and more reliable access to low cost electricity and an enhanced quality of life, particularly in rural areas of West Africa where current electricity access is marginal. Thus, WAPP is gaining enormous political support in the region and is now considered among West Africa's highest priorities under the New Partnership for African Development.

For more information, visit https://engineering.purdue.edu/IIES/Research/OTHER/wapp_btml or contact Rolf Anderson, WARP environmental officer, at randerson@usaid.gov or 223-2236-828.

—Lauren Pandolfelli

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USAID has provided nearly 25,000 metric tons of P.L. 480 Title II emergency food assistance, valued at \$16.7 million, to internally displaced persons, refugees, and other vulnerable populations through direct distribution, food for work programs, maternal and child health programs, and supplementary and therapeutic feeding programs. The P.L. 480 program is implemented through the World Food Program.

Much of the pledged \$200 million will fund USAID programs, and the Agency has already allocated \$81.5 million of it. Plans are underway to begin a rehabilitation of Liberia's community infrastructure such as roads, water systems, community buildings, clinics, homes, and government offices using labor-

intensive construction brigades. This will also assist ex-combatants to establish small construction businesses. Another project is intended to strengthen civil society, support the early stages of the peace process, and facilitate a peaceful reintegration of displaced persons, refugees, and ex-combatants. This Next Steps in Peace Program will strengthen constituencies for peace by increasing awareness and providing information about the peace process; provide inter-ethnic dialogue; mitigate imminent and ongoing violence and address its immediate aftermath through mediation and community-based reconciliation; and address some of the causes and consequences of conflict through conflict management programs. The Women and

Children Fighters' Rehabilitation Program will assist the social and economic reintegration of approximately 10,000 child and female former combatants for up to three years. Although these ex-combatants are the primary beneficiaries, it is anticipated that significant numbers of war-affected children, women, families, and communities will benefit. Other programs supported by the U.S. pledge will assist in election planning and produce radio public information campaigns.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-sabaran_africa/liberia or contact Lowell Lynch, Liberia coordinator, at llynch@usaid.gov or 202-712-4599.

Madagascar National Parks Triple Size of Protected Areas

Madagascar's rich biodiversity makes it one of the highest conservation priority countries in the world. A hectare of forest lost in Madagascar has tremendous negative impact on global biodiversity since more than 80 percent of the country's flora and fauna are found nowhere else in the world. Unfortunately, Madagascar is also noted for its high degree of environmental degradation. Forest destruction is eliminating viable habitat critical to countless plants and animals. Poverty, unproductive agriculture, population growth, inappropriate national policies, and weak governance also threaten Madagascar's natural resource base.

In a powerful response to this continued loss of biodiversity, Madagascar's President, Marc Ravalomanana, announced his government's commitment to more than triple the size of its network of protected areas from 1.7 million to 6 million hectares over the next

five years. Under the plan, the government will expand its terrestrial coverage from 1.5 million to 5 million hectares and marine wetlands from 200,000 to 1 million hectares. "We can no longer afford to sit back and watch our forests



A river in Ranomafana National Park.

go up in flames," President Ravalomanana said. "This is not just Madagascar's biodiversity, it is the world's biodiversity. We have the political will to stop this degradation."

This initiative is driven both by the government and local communities in cooperation with international and national conservation organizations and donors such as USAID. The Agency has supported the environment sector in Madagascar over the past 12 years through assistance to the 15-year (1991–2008) National Environmental Action Plan. One of USAID's underlying strategies to assist the Malagasy people conserve their unique biodiversity has been the creation of a Malagasy National Park Service, which has taken important strides in establishing a well-defined and representative network of protected areas.

Over the next five year strategy (2003–2008), USAID will continue to help Madagascar expand the protected areas network and protect the critical ecosystems in close collaboration with the Malagasy National Park Service,

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USAID Relocates and Opens New Offices in Africa

In response to changing needs and political circumstances in Africa, USAID has expanded its presence on the continent. An Office of the USAID Representative for Sudan (USAID Rep./Sudan) was established in December 2003 in Nairobi to handle the anticipated expansion of the Sudan program, and an office has also been established in Djibouti. In addition, the West Africa Regional Program (WARP), which is responsible for programs across the sub-region, has relocated.

USAID restarted support for development programs in southern Sudan beginning in 1998 with Greater Horn of Africa Initiative funding, and emergency disaster assistance funding for all regions of Sudan has been on-going for decades to assist the millions of people caught in the war. However, continued conflict has made it impossible to maintain an official presence in Sudan. The Agency is hopeful that it may soon be possible to house staff in-country if a comprehensive peace agreement is signed and hostilities cease. Sudan programming is centered around reconstruction in the south in the wake of decades of conflict. Activities include supporting the peace process and the establishment of a southern governing entity; improving access to educa-

tion, health care, and potable water sources; and promoting activities to help the economy recover such as the delivery of market support services like credit and skills training to farmers and other entrepreneurs.

USAID's office in Djibouti focuses on basic education and health programs. Specifically, the education program's goals are to expand access to schools, especially for girls, and improve the quality of education. Similarly, the goals of the health program are to increase both the availability and quality of essential health services, as well as to build local capacity to sustain them.

In October 2003, WARP moved from its main office in Bamako, Mali, along with satellite offices in Dakar, Senegal, and Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, to newly constructed facilities in Accra, Ghana. The agriculture, food security, and environment team will remain in Bamako through FY 2005, but once they move, the entire program will be housed together for the first time. The new contact information is: E45-3 Independence Avenue, Accra, Ghana; Tel: 233-24-311920, 21-228440; Fax: 233-21-231937.

Cell Phones Extend Economic Opportunities

Cellular telephone technology is creating unexpected opportunities in rural Africa. Cell phones can reach places that land telephone lines have never come close to, connecting communities to the rest of the world. And those who own cell phones are able to generate income by selling airtime to their communities.

The MTNvillagePhone program in Uganda, run by the Grameen Foundation USA and supported by USAID's dot-ORG information and communications technology initiative, aims to help establish 5,000 new communications microbusinesses across the country, which will serve over 5 million rural Ugandans. This program allows microcredit borrowers to obtain loans to purchase cellular phone kits and then operate pay phone businesses. This transforms cellular technology into a viable economic development strategy.

The program is designed to be fully sustainable and performance is already exceeding the original plan by almost 25 percent only a year after the first MTNvillagePhone was deployed. This unique public/private partnership between Uganda's largest telecom operator and Grameen was formally launched by the Minister of Communications in Uganda in November 2003.

Women, in particular, benefit from MTNvillagePhone through microfinance loan programs. MTNvillagePhone works across the microfinance

sector and has partnerships with six of Uganda's microfinance institutions. Drawing upon the success of Grameen Bank's Village Phone model in Bangladesh—where there are now over 50,000 Village Phone operators—Grameen Foundation USA has adapted this model to the Ugandan environment.

Potential Village Phone operators were nominated by the microfinance organizations they have been active with. For example, Fatima Serwoni in Mbale district owns a small store, selling food and household items. In her 11th loan cycle with FOCCAS, a Ugandan microfinance organization, her weekly income is 80 percent higher today than it was before she joined. As with most other Village Phone operators, there is no electricity in her village, so she uses an automobile battery to recharge her phone. The nearest public pay phone is over four kilometers away from her business. Before receiving her Village Phone, the shelves in her small shop were bare due to lack of capital to invest in goods for resale. She has since used the money earned from her Village Phone to stock her shelves and is now a focal point for her small community.

Josephine Namala has found that her MTNvillagePhone business is giving her neighbors a voice nationally. Before she purchased her cell phone, they had to walk over five kilometers to make a phone call. Now large groups gather



Fatima Serwoni with her cell phone.

in front of her shop in the evening to listen to call-in radio shows. They use her phone to call the radio stations and participate in national debates.

These are just two of the many women and communities benefiting from advances in information technology and the MTNvillagePhone program. Based on the success of this model, Grameen is now exploring opportunities for additional programs in other African countries. Two new locations are expected to be selected by the end of the year.

For more information, visit www.tech.gfusa.org/villagepayphone.shtml or contact Jeff Cochrane, Information Technology Specialist in USAID's Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade Bureau, at jcochrane@usaid.gov or 202-712-1956.

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the Forestry Service, and organizations such as World Wildlife Fund, Conservation International, and the World Conservation Society. Creation and development of the protected areas will be done in close cooperation with local communities, for whom the new protected areas will provide ecotourism and development opportunities. USAID has spent \$113 million on environmental programs in Madagascar since 1991 and will spend \$40 million more between 2003 and 2008.

The new protected areas are part of Madagascar's long-term commitment to preserve the remaining 10 to 20 percent of its

primary forest, freshwater, and marine ecosystems and encourage local communities to use land sustainably. A preliminary list of 20 sites has already been identified. Through sustainable conservation and plans to turn the country into a regional leader in ecotourism, the government hopes to meet its goal of reducing poverty by 50 percent over the next 12 years.

For more information, contact Lisa Gaylord, environment team leader, at lgaylord@usaid.gov or 261-202-253-920.

Benin's Education System Reform: An Absolute Necessity

By Romain Babagbeto

For 17 years, the Republic of Benin was ruled by a Marxist-Leninist government characterized by a single-party system. However, following a historic National Conference that brought together the ruling party, opposition leaders, and civil society organizations in February 1990, a new democratic political era was born, characterized by a multi-party government system. One of the many challenges for the country now is to reinforce democratic principles across the society.

The most appropriate means to sustainably achieve this political change is through the education system. Social transformations need to be enshrined in the curricula. The last educational reform in Benin took place in 1975, and so the curricula in use did not integrate the culture of democratic values. It was therefore necessary to revise those curricula after the advent of democracy to adjust their contents not only to the demands of the new political system, but also to the realities of the rapidly changing modern world. The ongoing Benin educational system reform, therefore, is geared towards creating citizens who are autonomous, creative, responsible, capable of adjusting to changing situations, cooperating, and taking responsibility.

To help achieve this, the Benin Ministry of Education's New Study Programs (known by the French acronym NPE) is proposing focusing on the child's acquisition of crosscutting skills such as problem-solving, teamwork, and abilities in the six subjects of French, math, science and technology, social education, arts, and sports. For example, one innovation of the NPE called "Petits Projets" (Small Projects) gives children the opportunity to go through the whole problem-solving process, starting from real problems they have come to face or needs they have and would like to satisfy.

The NPE is addressing the serious deficiencies that many years of misguided policies created including low enroll-

ment rates, particularly for girls; poor planning and management of education resources; poorly qualified teachers; lack of relevant teacher training; lack of appropriate school infrastructure, equipment, and pedagogical material; and poor school management.

USAID's mission in Benin supported the reform process by helping to develop a set of 15 integrated action plans focusing on institutional reform, teaching, and planning that served as a framework for the reform. USAID took on all the major components of the reform that involved teaching/learning issues, the development of a new curriculum, teacher training, health education, planning and management, and community involvement in school management. The central goals of the action plans are to create an enabling environment for a successful basic education reform program, improve the quality of education, and promote girls' education.

The sustainability of the primary education reform program is dependent on an informed and active civil society within an environment where education resources reach the intended recipients and schools are well managed. USAID seeks to strengthen the role of local communities and civil society groups in the management and financing of schools by strengthening parent associations and making them effective partners of school administration. Parent association members learn how to run meetings, write letters, design projects, and discuss public issues. In this way, parents are able to

hold school administrations accountable for their children's education.

This necessary reform to Benin's educational system will improve the lives of many Beninois and help the country participate meaningfully in globalization. It is urgent to train a new group of citizens whose education will prepare them to face the realities of the modern world. Purely academic knowledge is no longer enough. Students must also have the diverse capacities to use modern development tools such as information technology, the ability to communicate both in one's mother tongue and in global languages such as French and English, and also the awareness of the devastation caused by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The reform process is complex, strenuous, and unpredictable, but Benin, with the help of USAID and other donors, is committed to see it through.

Romain Babagbeto is the basic education reform program coordinator for USAID/Benin. For more information, contact him at rbabagbeto@usaid.gov or 229-30-05-00 ext. 1108.



A Beninois teacher and his many students.

J. Owen-Rae/USAID

Transportation Runs Smoother through Regional Collaboration

Shippers like Willie du Toit, managing director of the largest private cargo carrier in Namibia, knew about the Trans-Kalahari Corridor (TKC)—the road and railroad network linking Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa—but delays at multiple border crossings forced them to use a route that was 450 km longer. Then in March 2003, du Toit started routing his cargo via the TKC and found it faster, more efficient, and \$5,000 per cargo load cheaper. Since 2001, the USAID Regional Center for Southern Africa (RCSA) has supported interventions aimed at transforming the TKC into a true transit corridor, offering efficient seamless transport services. These interventions have paid off.

The major challenges were to establish means of cooperation for all the stakeholders in the three countries and reach

agreement on how to simplify transport and customs documentation and procedures.

The RCSA provided technical assistance and training to establish the public-private TKC management committee (TKC-MC). The committee includes key government bodies such as customs, border security, transport, and trade and representatives of private sector bodies such as business chambers, port authority, truckers associations, and major port users from all three countries. The TKC-MC coordinates reform, harmonization, and simplification of transport policy, regulations, and procedures along the corridor in order to facilitate trade. In addition, the TKC-MC provides a support and resource center, facilitates business contacts, and ensures convenient and reliable cargo delivery.

The Botswana Minister of Finance, Baledzi Gaolathe, noted that in addition to efficiency benefits, the use of Walvis Bay, Namibia, as the TKC's port to global markets places Botswana and the Southern Africa Development Community in a strategic position to forge and expand business links with the United States within the framework of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act and other global trade initiatives.

Volumes of traded goods on the corridor have increased significantly. Since it opened, heavy commercial traffic on the TKC increased to 60 percent of its capacity, up from 40 percent in 2001.

For more information, visit www.satrade-hub.org or contact Vincent Sandamuka, project manager, at vsandamuka@usaid.gov or 267-392-4449 ext. 313.

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communities understand what steps they should take to reduce the vulnerability of children to traffickers.

Nigeria. USAID has developed a strategy with the U.S. Embassy and is working with UNICEF, IOM, and a consortium of local NGOs to rehabilitate trafficking survivors. The program establishes and maintains temporary shelters and training centers in Edo State, a primary source for women trafficked to Europe. The shelters, which can accommodate up to 300 at a time, provide temporary housing, counseling, and support to women and girls who cannot immediately be reunited with their families. Six months of training covers literacy and numeracy and marketable skills such as tailoring and computer use.

Mano River Union—Regional Program for Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Guinea. USAID is working with the International Rescue Committee, the Center for Victims of Torture, and

Search for Common Ground to meet the complex needs of victims, especially women who had been abducted to serve as “wives” for former Revolutionary United Front members in Sierra Leone and were then abandoned. USAID's partners are working with local groups to facilitate the safe return, social integration, and rehabilitation of victims, who obtain psychological counseling, social services, and employment-related skills. USAID is also addressing prevention by raising community and governmental awareness.

Sudan. The USAID Regional Economic Development Services Office for East and Southern Africa is supporting the Sudan Peace Fund program to promote grassroots community dialogue and efforts to foster the identification, return, and reintegration of women and children from southern Sudan who are victims of war raid abductions, primarily in Upper Nile and Eastern Equatorial regions. Funding for an interagency

database enables support groups to trace the progress of victim care and reintegration. Local organizations provide interim shelters and develop long-term solutions such as family-based care, small group homes, and an assistance package to help young adults resettle. The program tracks and reunites families and provides options for women and children for whom reunification is not possible.

By themselves, USAID activities will not end this abuse of human rights. But with the committed participation of civil society, government, faith-based organizations, and law enforcement—all working towards a common goal—these actions can produce powerful results.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/trafficking or contact Carla Komich, Africa Bureau democracy specialist, at ckomich@usaid.gov or 202-712-0244. The UNICEF report is available at www.unicef.org/medialfiles/insight8e.pdf.

Civil Society Organizations Guided Towards Activism

After 30 years of socialism, Tanzania's transition to democracy has encountered many challenges. Since the first democratic elections in 1995, the balance of power has favored the executive branch, civil society has not yet emerged to its full strength, and the government has continued to consist primarily of one party.

Tanzanian citizens do not yet fully participate in their own governance, though it is a basic right guaranteed by the Tanzanian constitution. Tanzanian advocacy civil society organizations (CSOs) also lack the capacity to effectively understand and articulate the needs of their constituencies to the government.

Through training and assistance focused on organizational development and advocacy, CSOs are beginning to have a

more influential role in Tanzania's transition to a free and fair democratic society. As part of its efforts to ensure citizen participation in public affairs, USAID funded the Tanzanian Advocacy Partnership Program administered by the U.S. private voluntary organization, PACT, to compile accurate and easy-to-understand information on the public policy making process in Tanzania. This information was published as user-friendly guides on how CSOs and citizens can influence government policy-making.

USAID's civil society capacity building program has spearheaded the effort to educate Tanzanian citizens on how to participate in governance. The publication—called *Legislative Roadmaps: A Guide for Civil Society Organizations in Tanzania*—provides an overview of Tan-



zanian law, public policy, and legal as well as institutional structures of the government.

The guide defines law and public policies as well as identifies their sources, and explains how they are made. It also provides information on how CSOs can use the information to influence change, and identify the ways for civil society to express its needs based on the existing government structures. Printed in English and the national language of Kiswahili, the publication contains diagrams and a glossary of terms to make it comprehensible and user-friendly.

The Good Governance Coordination Unit in the Office of the President in Tanzania has requested copies of Legislative Roadmaps to use in its civic education programs as has the Ministry of Education for use in secondary school civics courses. Partner NGOs report that having the information available in such an easy-to-use format has stimulated activism by many CSOs. The book has also been featured on television and in major English and Kiswahili daily newspapers. The first batch of 5,000 copies was distributed through partner organizations, and PACT printed an additional 10,000 in response to popular demand.

For more information or an electronic version of Legislative Roadmaps and the related Media Guide: A Handbook for Tanzanian Civil Society, visit www.pacttz.org/docs.htm.

USAID-DFID Collaboration in Assisting Parliament in Tanzania

The democracy and governance (DG) team in Tanzania successfully negotiated an agreement with the British Department for International Development (DFID)/East Africa/Tanzania to jointly provide technical assistance to the Parliament of Tanzania. Under the unusual agreement, DFID will provide \$800,000 directly to USAID through a Memorandum of Understanding to manage the two-year, \$2.0 million project. A donor agency from one country rarely gives funds directly to a donor agency from another country to use for a specific project, such as this one, that they do not help implement. DFID has earmarked its funds to center on financial oversight capacity of the parliament. USAID's DG Team will contribute \$1.2 million and manage the project being implemented by the State University of New York/Albany's International Development Group.

DFID and USAID agreed that the parliament has a constitutional responsibility to play an expanded role in setting national priorities and have greater involvement in national planning and that the agencies' joint technical assistance program should elevate the parliament's capacity to become a more active institution.

The head of research and projects for the parliament, Thomas Kashililah, says "This type of assistance is very much needed in Tanzania. We have been very pleased at the level of ownership the parliament has with regards to this project. We were included in the initial needs assessment, the project design, contractor selection, and now, implementation. It is also good to see donors coordinating their assistance, which reduces the management burden for parliament so we can focus on our jobs."

For more information, contact Sean Hall, USAID/Tanzania democracy governance officer, at seahall@usaid.gov or 255-222-668-502.

AFRICA RESOURCES

A selection of recent USAID-funded publications on Africa

Life Skills and HIV Education Curricula in Africa: Methods and Evaluations

Georges Tiendrebeogo, Suzanne Meijer, and Gary Engleberg. USAID/AFR/SD. July 2003.

PN-ACT-985

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACT985.pdf (680 KB)

Life Skills programs aimed at combating HIV/AIDS among youth are designed to reinforce personal risk perception and self-esteem; provide skills in assertiveness, communication, and decisionmaking, as well as in coping with peer pressure and emotions; and instill compassion and anti-discrimination. This study compiles lessons learned from evaluations of Life Skills programs in sub-Saharan Africa and includes a theoretical analysis of a sample of curricula used in schools in French-speaking Africa. The authors recommend that Life Skills education programs should begin early in primary school and should be data-driven and theory-based. Programs must move beyond pilots and be implemented on a large scale. Life Skills should be a separate topic rather than be integrated throughout the existing curriculum. Teachers or facilitators of Life Skills must be well-trained in participatory methodologies. Life Skills programs should include data collection and evaluation. More attention should also be paid to out-of-school youth.

Southern African Development Community Impact Study: The Services Sector in Southern Africa

Kennedy K. Mbekeani. The Services Group, Inc.; USAID/RCSA. January 2004.

PN-ACW-269

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACW269.pdf (2,634 KB)

Service industries are becoming significant players in most economies in Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries, often providing the bulk of employment, income, and input for the production of other goods and services. Current restrictions on trade in services reduce the level of economic activity and therefore real GDP. This paper explores options for liberalizing the services sectors in the SADC region, examining trends in services trade in the region and reform efforts in telecommunications, finance, tourism, and transport. According to the paper's conclusion, emerging economic opportunities can be realized only if governments in the region improve the services infrastructure and human and institutional capacity, private sector firms have sufficient capacity to produce the services necessary for exports, and exports of the services are cost-competitive and of international quality, among other factors.

Southern African Development Community Economic Impact Assessment Study: The Manufacturing Sector In Southern Africa

Anastasia Gekis. The Services Group, Inc.; USAID/RCSA. January 2004.

PN-ACW-268

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACW268.pdf (226 KB)

Although the manufacturing sector in most SADC countries remains economically marginal, the existence of sectors having good growth potential, particularly export-oriented growth, suggests the possibility of further growth across a range of manufacturing subsectors. In the clothing and textile sector, for example, the potential exists for the development of robust regional supply chain links, especially in light of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act. The overall recommendation is that government policy throughout the region focus on creating an environment that facilitates investment flows and fosters political and macroeconomic stability. Evidence from across the region suggests that such a course of action has resulted in substantially improved investment inflows that continue to boost manufacturing sector performance in a number of countries.

Family Health and AIDS Project, USAID/West Africa Regional Program: Best Practices from West and Central Africa 1995-2003

JHPIEGO, FHI, JHUCCP, PSI, and Tulane University; AED; USAID/WARP. August 2003.

The Family Health and AIDS Project (FHA) of USAID's West Africa Regional Program has produced a new CD-ROM that compiles all the best practices the project developed between 1995 and 2003. This USAID-funded project pooled expertise from the areas of training, service delivery, operations research, social marketing, and education to change risky behavior in order to implement its multifaceted approach to improving family planning and HIV/AIDS in West and Central Africa. FHA's legacy includes tools and approaches developed and implemented during seven years of promoting sustainable use of reproductive health, sexually transmitted infection prevention, and child survival services and products in West and Central Africa. This CD-ROM is a compilation of these approaches, tools, and key supporting documents such as FHA's Facilitative Approach to Clinical Supervision, a Quality of Care Diagnostic Tool, and the Standard Days Fertility Awareness Method. For more information or copies, please contact sara@aed.org.

AfricaDotEdu: IT Opportunities and Higher Education in Africa

Maria A. Beebe, Koffi M. Kouakou, Banji O. Oyeyinka, and Madanmohan Rao, eds. Tata-McGraw Hill; USAID/RCSA; Leland Initiative. 2003.

www.africadotedu.org

This book highlights the impact information and communication technologies (ICTs) have on educational institutions, systems, curricula, and methods in Africa. Case studies illustrate the role higher education has on developing local capacities in pedagogy, research, publishing, healthcare, e-commerce, and cyber law and how seemingly disparate sectors such as health, education, and business development are linked through legislation and policies that enable the use of ICTs. Country case studies include Egypt, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Zambia. Regional and continental analysis highlights strategies for developing and sustaining networks between sectors and cross-nationally. Visit www.africadotedu.org for ordering information.

The Johns Hopkins and Red Cross/Red Crescent Public Health Guide for Emergencies

Saade Abdallah and Gilbert Burnham, eds. Johns Hopkins University, School of Hygiene and Public Health; International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies; AED; USAID/AFR/SD. 2003.

PN-ACU-086

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACU086.pdf (5,123 KB)

Building the skills needed to respond effectively to the complex emergencies facing cities today requires not only technical health training but also further learning in emergency preparedness. This guide is designed to serve as a reference for such training for government, Red Cross, and local nongovernment groups. Although the focus is on emergency situations, primarily in Africa, extensive coverage is given to pre- and post-emergency activities for which many local organizations are taking an increasing responsibility. The guide covers subjects such as disaster characteristics and trends and their consequences on displaced and host populations; management tools; disaster epidemiology; environmental health; food and nutrition; control of communicable diseases including diarrheal diseases; emergency immunization programs; primary, emergency, reproductive, and mental health care; the incident management system; new technologies; and the role of the media in humanitarian emergencies.

Microenterprise Market Survey

Lief Doerring, Irene Karimi, et al. Chemonics International Inc.; USAID/REDSO/ESA. June 2003.

PN-ACT-633

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACT633.pdf (353 KB)

USAID's Southern Sudan Agriculture Enterprise Finance Program aims to establish a viable, self-sustaining financial service organization to provide access to working capital for micro-entrepreneurs. This report presents a rapid needs assessment and microenterprise market survey of several of the major towns of South Sudan. It describes the micro and small enterprise community in the region in terms of entrepreneur educational status, business constraints, income generation, and credit needs, among other factors. It then provides a rapid assessment of each county covered by the survey in detail. Topics include brief overviews of the climate, population, judicial system, security situation, transport issues, and taxation.

Proud Pioneers: Malawian Teachers Implement Continuous Assessment in Primary School Classrooms

Shirley Miske. AIR; Juarez and Associates, Inc.; AED; EDC; University of Pittsburgh; USAID/EGAT/ED. August 2003.

PN-ACT-784

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACT784.pdf (300 KB)

Continuous assessment is an ongoing process of making observations to find out what students know, understand, and can do. In this way, teachers can monitor students' progress and their own effectiveness. This paper examines the changes in the teaching practices of 4 of the 57 teachers who participated in a 12-month continuous assessment feasibility study in 21 primary schools of the country's Ntcheu district. Success factors cited by teachers included their own dedication and their pupils' new enthusiasm for learning. Also repeatedly cited as key reasons for success were several elements of the program's design and structure, which are detailed in the report.

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/title_search.cfm. Search for the desired document ID number (DOCID), for example, PN-ACT-985, in the field search option.

Vitamin A Distribution Campaign Saves Lives

By Sixte Zigirumugabe

Between January 21 and March 5, 2004, the second autonomous vitamin A supplementation campaign was organized across Mali. Under the leadership of the Nutrition Division of Mali's Ministry of Health (MOH), and financial and technical support from UNICEF, Helen Keller International, and USAID through Abt Associates, the "Intensive Nutrition Activity Week" reached the country's eight regions and the capital, Bamako.

In addition to vitamin A distribution, the campaign promoted messages on breastfeeding, consumption of iodized salt, and best practices in infant feeding. The MOH's health communication and education center, as well as the national radio and TV office contributed to mobilizing the population for the campaign.

Vitamin A supplementation is a proven, highly cost-effective intervention for reducing under-five mortality. Just by providing vitamin A supplements twice

a year to children under 5 years old, child mortality can be cut by 23 percent by reducing the risk of severe diarrheal disease or measles. Visual impairment or blindness is also reduced. In Mali, the estimated number of children 6-59 months who are at risk of vitamin A deficiency is estimated to be 1,663,200, representing 79 percent of children in this age group. Given current mortality rates, adequate vitamin A supplementation in this age group can help prevent 27,000 deaths annually. This campaign follows the successes achieved during a similar campaign held during June-July 2003.

The contribution of vitamin A as a weapon in the campaign to reduce



A health worker administers a dose of vitamin A.

under-five mortality rates in Mali can be economical and effective through nationwide campaigns. Vitamin A supplementation saves lives, is easy to do, and is being done successfully.

For more information, contact Sixte Zigirumugabe, Mali health activity manager, at szigirumugabe@usaid.gov or 223-222-3725

USAID in Africa

Africa Bureau Information Center
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 1425
Washington, D.C. 20004-1703 USA