



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID Mission DGP Supplemental Information

AFRICA

ANGOLA

Six years after four decades of civil strife and intent on consolidating democracy with the first elections in 16 years this September, Angola possesses nascent indigenous NGOs eager to develop as full actors in civil society. The Development Grants Program (DGP) offers an effective means to nurture selected Angolan civil-society organizations to become more effective in promoting women's empowerment, microenterprise, and water supply/sanitation. USAID/Angola currently has several public/private alliances. DGP resources should strategically leverage private resources to complement existing partnerships or to develop new ones as much as possible. USAID/Angola is interested in applications that address the following priorities:

Women's Empowerment: Entrepreneurship Development (\$500,000)

Angolan women play a significant entrepreneurial role as market traders, small-scale processors, farmers and other entrepreneurs. Yet many women entrepreneurs have limited access to productive resources and business development services (BDS) and face constraints on their time and mobility. Among responsive proposals in this area might be those that:

- Identify non-traditional business sectors for women entrepreneurs
- Innovate to expand women's entrepreneurship in traditional sectors
- Develop market-based competitive strategies
- Link to relevant USAID projects or to corporate-funded BDS providers in Cabinda, Luanda, and Benguela or develop new partnerships in Zaire or Lunda Norte
- Build the skills and attitudes required for entrepreneurial success
- Provide a range of business development services and/or services that support or replace women's household responsibilities
- Organize and facilitate access to and delivery of business inputs
- Facilitate access to credit
- Design and deliver microenterprise training for women

Microenterprise: Value Chain Development (\$300,000)

Employment creation is central to the U.S. goal of promoting broad-based economic growth.

USAID seeks to integrate micro and small enterprises into growing value chains while improving their bargaining power and expanding their access to business and financial services. Successful value chain development strengthens the competitiveness of value chains as a whole while also expanding the depth and breadth of benefits for participating microenterprises. USAID/Angola's Agriculture Development and Finance Program (ADFP) works with the banana

value chain in Benguela, the coffee value chain in Kwanza Sul, and has provided support to the potato value chain in Kwanza Sul, Huambo, Benguela, and Huíla.

Among responsive proposals in this area might be those that:

- Link to relevant USAID projects or corporate-funded BDS providers in Cabinda, Luanda, and Benguela
- Facilitate links between microenterprises and larger firms, enabling or strengthening microenterprise participation in the value chains of bananas, coffee, or potatoes
- Promote various forms of upgrading in the value chain through strategic direct technical assistance, expanded access to appropriate finance and other supporting services, and improved relationships between buyers and sellers.
- Support formal or informal linkages among microenterprises to agglomerate products for sale, add value, or increase bargaining power
- Facilitate access to credit and address financing constraints that constrain microenterprise participation

Water (\$500,000)

Proposals will be accepted for activities that directly increase sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation and improve hygiene. This includes investments to support both infrastructure as well as those activities related to organizational/institutional capacity-building needed to create sustainable management, improve service delivery or promote human behavior change. Among responsive proposals in this area might be those that:

- Link to relevant USAID water projects in Cunene or Cuando Cubango or link to relevant corporate water projects (e.g., Cabinda, Zaire, etc.)
- Increase the number of people with access to new improved drinking water sources (urban or rural)
- Increase the number of people with access to new improved sanitation services (urban or rural)
- Improve the quality of existing drinking water supply or sanitation services
- Strengthen capacity of communities, management committees, municipalities, utilities, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to improve management and sustainability of drinking water supply and sanitation systems
- Develop or promote innovative, cost-effective, affordable, and appropriate technologies for drinking water supply, sanitation or hygiene, including household point-of-use treatment of drinking water

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DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The USAID program in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is fully integrated into the U.S. government's diplomatic efforts to foster peace and stability within the DRC and in the region, and complements the \$317 million annual USG contribution to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operation (MONUC) in the DRC. The goal of the USAID program in the DRC is to assist the country in its transition to a sound democracy with a healthier, better educated population benefiting from improved livelihoods. With a bilateral foreign assistance budget that surpasses \$100 million in FY 2008, USAID has funded programs in conflict mitigation; demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration (DDR); good governance, human rights, social protection, education, food security, livelihoods, and health. USAID resources thus support a wide variety of emergency, transition, and development assistance efforts at both the national and local levels in support of a people-centered development approach that considers the needs, interests, experiences, and knowledge of both men and women, especially those from disadvantaged groups, and supports the DRC's transition.

Women's Empowerment (\$500,000) and Microenterprise (\$1,000,000)

As the DRC recovers from more than a decade of conflict and transitions to a more stable state, the United States Government strategy seeks to promote small and medium enterprise development, including women-led enterprises. USAID/DRC already supports sustainable economic growth in the DRC through programs that aim to strengthen women-led producer organizations and micro/small/medium-enterprises. Program activities economically empower women and women's groups by organizing the replication-multiplication of cassava planting material under small scale enterprise groups almost entirely composed of and managed by women. Other economic growth programs economic empower women through literacy for women's micro savings and credit groups.

Through the development grants program, USAID/DRC seeks new and non traditional partners whose programs focus on micro enterprise development and economic empowerment of women. Current Mission activities in these areas are located in Katanga province through USAID/DRC's public-private partnerships, but USAID/DRC will consider applications that focus on other targeted geographic areas.

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ETHIOPIA

Women's Empowerment (\$1,000,000)

USAID supports the Government of Ethiopia's improved emergency assistance targeting guidelines that reach more women-headed households in emergency food aid relief operations, and now pay particular attention to training women for lead and facilitation roles on USG-funded livelihoods assessment projects. USAID organizes women's cooperatives and provides credit and business skills training, reaching 4,000 women in pastoralist areas thus far.

USAID supports female health extension workers and other female health agents to deliver health information on topics such as nutrition, the need to vaccinate children, HIV/AIDS prevention, and exclusive breastfeeding. This is an important step in a country where 94% of women deliver at home. USAID also requires that 50% of the members of water committees it supports are women.

USAID has mainstreamed gender into its education programs. Teacher training at educational institutions improves the success of female trainees. Teacher in-service programs provide necessary skills on handling girls' issues. Modules on professional and personal development and coping skills are developed and distributed to tens of thousands of teachers.

Ethiopia's ruling party has succeeded in greatly increasing the number of women working in government. USAID provides capacity building support to the now 116 women members of parliament, as well as helped establish and support the Women's Caucus.

Water (\$2,000,000)

Only 38% of Ethiopians can access clean water; only 13% in rural areas. Through its large community works program, USAID promotes access to safe water through education about boiling water and other hygiene practices. Under the Millennium Water Alliance, and working with other partners, USAID develops local water schemes and forms water committees for access to and testing of water. Capitalizing on a public-private alliance, USAID also partners with Coca-Cola and local water committees to increase community access to water and protect local watersheds. USAID requires that 50% of all water committees are women, those most responsible for bringing water to their families. The Mission's activities for pastoralist populations improves access to water by rehabilitating traditional watering points and establishing traditional water management committees, focusing on multiple-use water sources for both potable human and livestock consumption.

Dairy (\$250,000)

Ethiopia has several million smallholder dairy farmers, and the dairy sector has significant income generation potential in both urban and rural areas. USAID's Dairy Development Program is a market-driven program that helps stakeholders improve their dairy production, processing and marketing, input supplies and the increase of artificial insemination. A recent USAID-sponsored dairy demand study indicated that a very large unmet demand exists in Ethiopia for processed dairy products and packaged traditional products. Major FY07 results include dairy sales by assisted producer groups increasing

from \$631,457 to \$1,104,633, and the percent change in the value of the sale of targeted input supplies (artificial insemination, feeds, etc.) increasing from 5.2% to 15%. Dairy production is also integrated with natural resources management; the program increased land area under improved resource management practices from 800 hectares to 3,450 hectares.

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MADAGASCAR

USAID Madagascar's Strategic Objective to protect biologically diverse forests is specifically focused on protecting and increasing the assets and livelihoods of the poor to promote rural development and mitigate unsustainable practices. The program currently supports sustainable alternative livelihood activities in and around these forests, including indigenous farmer organizations and micro-enterprises focused on agriculture and natural resources. Microenterprise in Madagascar is severely limited by access to capital inputs and credit, particularly for women.

Microenterprise (\$700,000)

USAID/Madagascar is interested in activities that support and strengthen local microfinance institutions in order to further stimulate microenterprise development in targeted areas *where USAID has complementary programs underway in environment and rural development sectors*. This would specifically include technical assistance to microentrepreneurs to secure financing in targeted areas where access to credit is limited. Applications may provide complementary support and technical assistance to build the capacity of existing indigenous farmer associations and other relevant local institutions to consolidate microenterprise activities and get their products to market. Emphasis should include opportunities to support the expansion of participation and leadership of women in these associations and microfinance activities. USAID anticipates funding at least one grant for microfinance support for up to \$500,000 and potentially a second grant of up to \$300,000 for microenterprise development. The life of program for these agreements should be between two and three years. Synergies with existing Mission funded programs in environment and rural development sectors should be clear in the application.

Environment (\$400,000)

Climate change also threatens to jeopardize gains in livelihood and environmental programs. USAID is interested in supporting local capacity to generate sustainable funding for community conservation and environment objectives through supporting management of natural resources and expanding the use of renewable energy sources. USAID invites applications of local grant-making entities to develop and implement strategies for climate adaptation working with local community associations. This would include expanded activities for reforestation, support for technological adaptations within existing and proposed microenterprise programs, renewable energy initiatives and other related adaptation activities. Activities should be implemented in geographic areas where USAID has existing environment and rural development programs. USAID anticipates funding one cooperative agreement or grant with a local institution for up to \$400,000, with a life of program between one to three years.

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MALAWI

Background

The Development Grants Program (DGP) has funds available for support of dairy, women’s empowerment and microenterprise in Malawi. This document supplements the APS guidelines with information on USAID/Malawi and DGP programming priorities.

Women’s Empowerment (\$800,000)

Malawi is a poor economy dependent on agriculture most of which is subsistence and susceptible to vagaries of weather and lack of or high-priced inputs. Women form most of the labor force in the production of crops for food and cash income. However, beside the above cited problems, women and girls suffer the burden of reproductive responsibilities including the time spent in caring for people suffering from HIV/AIDS robs them of productive time and means. The need to diversify to better agriculture technologies and diversify into value adding industry is acute among the female gender labor force. However, literacy is low for women compared to men and there is lack of business and vocational skills for better empowerment. Thus most women and girls dwell on traditional means of livelihood to support themselves and their households. Current statistics indicate that poverty is high in Malawi with a poverty headcount at 54 percent of the population and income inequality is also relatively high with a Gini coefficient of 0.38. In view of the situation faced by women and girls in Malawi, USAID/Malawi seeks to promote the empowerment of women and girls with its development assistance programming through, among other activities, the provision of

training in business skills development, literacy, leadership and other areas that will improve women's capacity to participate in income generating activities.

Mission and DGP priority objectives and activities on Women's Empowerment – Property Rights for Poor Women are:

- Provide training in business skills development, literacy, leadership and other areas that will improve women's capacity to participate in income generating activities
- Provide training that support or expand women's production from land, timber, forest products, fish, pasture, water and other natural resources
- Empower women through knowledge of the rights to property
- Improve administrative and legal channels that assist women on their property rights
- Improve access to justice for women on land policy, law and enforcement of equitable property rights
- Advocate support for reform of legislation governing property and usufruct rights for women

Microenterprise (\$400,000)

USAID/Malawi is striving to and has demonstrated success in increasing access to credit to Malawi's small and medium sized enterprises. Expanding on this success and providing viable economic opportunities and access to credit to the most impoverished in Malawi is a need that the Mission does not have the funding to address. A successful micro-enterprise activity in Malawi has the potential to lift thousands of vulnerable people out of difficult situations and could alleviate chronic food insecurity for many. Activities may include micro-credit schemes for women and at-risk youth, business training and skills development, and other business start-up activities.

Mission and DGP priority objectives and activities on Microenterprise are:

- Provision of credit to small and medium sized enterprises
- Provision of business-development services to microentrepreneurs
- Provide technical advice on upgrading in the value chain
- Improve relationship between buyers and sellers
- Promote linkages among micro-enterprises for meeting quantity and quality thresholds of buyers
- Identify and address constraints being faced by micro-enterprises

Dairy (\$350,000)

Supporting the dairy sector in Malawi is a key component of the Mission's economic growth portfolio. The Mission currently have a successful Global Development Alliance partnership with Land O'Lakes that has had tremendous impact on income-generation, small-business development, nutrition, school attendance and performance, amongst other things. In addition, the Missions is seriously considering expanding that public-private alliance with Land O'Lakes for several more years and development grants in this sector would provide opportunities for synergies, mentoring, among other issues. Innovatively, Land O'Lakes will work with a newly formed "Malawi Dairy Development Alliance (MDDA)" bringing together a consortium of private firms, dairy producer

associations and the Government of Malawi's Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development (DAHLD) to work towards increasing incomes for rural dairy farmers and participating stakeholders. Providing development grants to US or local PVOs would further stimulate a sector that has demonstrated considerable promise to impact the quality of life of many Malawians.

Mission and DGP priority objectives and activities on Dairy are:

- Dairy business development training for smallholder farmers with emphasis on gender equity
- Cow distribution to farmers
- Training for smaller farmers
- Improve milk production

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MOZAMBIQUE

Water (\$500,000)

USAID Mozambique is interested in receiving proposals from qualified applicants to design and implement a small-scale water revolving fund (the Fund). The Fund will be capitalized with up to \$500,000 minus operating costs that should be kept to a minimum. Initially, the Fund will operate in the Maputo province of Mozambique. The Fund will request proposals that increase sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation services. Proposals may be for new activities or to re-habilitate existing infrastructure. The Fund will operate through a Board of Directors of which members will be selected from within the sector and one permanent seat will be reserved for USAID. All proposals will be evaluated for technical merit, revenue recovery potential, and for results to be achieved. A recommendation will then be issued by the Fund to the Board of Directors for approval or disapproval.

Similarly, USAID Mozambique is not limited to water revolving fund proposals. The Mission is also willing to receive innovative solutions to limited water and wastewater access in Mozambique. All applications should respond to indicators found in this APS, be sustainable to the extent possible, and leverage existing donor activities/funding in-country.

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NIGERIA

Microenterprise (\$700,000)

USAID/Nigeria has existing programs facilitating access to financial services for rural peoples, particularly loans for small-holder farmers. The USAID-funded MARKETS project has provided technical assistance to the Lift Above Poverty Organization (LAPO), Nigeria's largest microfinance institution (MFI), which has enabled 40,000 new clients to receive loans. In the coming year, USAID anticipates leveraging an additional 20,000 loans to small-holder farmers through LAPO with a net value of \$2 million.

USAID/Nigeria would like to build on its recent achievements in deepening access to financial services for smallholder farmers and agro-processors. In particular, USAID/Nigeria is interested in soliciting proposals from US PVOs that can work with existing microfinance institutions in one or more of Benue, Kogi, Nasarawa, Anambra, Kano, and Bauchi States, and on-the-ground technology providers such as, but not limited to, eTranzact and Interswitch, to improve lending efficiencies through:

1. Improved payment collection methods
2. Development of new savings and withdrawal products
3. Electronic payments

Proposing organizations should have experience implementing electronic and mobile banking projects similar to those in East Africa. US PVOs with experience working in Nigeria will be more competitive in the selection process. Proposals should demonstrate clear value to Nigerian MFIs, value to rural customers, potential to increase customer bases, and significant impact on poverty reduction in rural communities of selected Nigerian States.

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RWANDA

Dairy (\$600,000)

Rwanda's population is estimated to be 9.2 million, with an annual population growth of 2.3%. As one of the world's most densely populated countries, and the most densely populated in sub-Saharan Africa, all arable land is cultivated to meet the caloric needs of its people. Livestock is one of the major agricultural sub-sectors in the country, and plays a very important role in addressing poverty in one of the poorest countries in the world.

The government of Rwanda has sought to increase dairy production via several initiatives. The most notable initiative is through the "one cow, one family" program which seeks to provide a milk producing cow to every adult-led household in the country. In addition to increasing the national herd-size, efforts have also taken place to improve the dairy yield of cows by an extensive cross-breeding exercise. The East Africa Dairy Development Project funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation plans among other objectives to distribute one or two cows to 24,000 dairy farm families and 8,000 to

10,000 crossbred cows from 16,000 units of selected bull semen. EADD is implemented in Rwanda by Heifer International and Technoserve. Several other organizations are also involved in the dairy sector.

USAID is partnering with Land O'Lakes in a five year \$5m program to promote dairy competitiveness in Rwanda. USAID/LOL will work primarily on improving milk quality and the marketing aspects of the dairy sector with EADD focused on the production-side. USAID/LOL also has a special objective to improve the livelihoods of people living with HIV/AIDS by involving them in the growing dairy sector. USAID/Rwanda would prefer that proposals under this solicitation coordinate with existing USAID funded activities. The contact for Land O'Lakes in Rwanda is lolrwanda@gmail.com

- **Proposed activities** All proposals should show a link to improving the lives of small-holder milk producers and/or people living with HIV/AIDS. USAID is interested in partnering with organizations to improve milk conservation and milk transportation issues. Support to cooperatives/producers associations based in districts around the main milk market of Kigali in procurement of cooling centers and transportation infrastructures and marketing of milk and milk products will be important.
- USAID is interested in partnering with private individuals, companies or organizations who would like to set up a commercial milk testing laboratory. A reliable commercial lab would need the equivalent of a Combi-Foss, Bentley, or similar equipment to conduct routine component, somatic cell and bacteria counts. The lab should be capable of processing 800 samples daily and willing to charge less than \$5 per test.
- USAID is interested in partnering with private companies or organizations in developing in-country capacity of firms to process milk into cheese, yoghurt, ice-cream or other products.

Women's Empowerment (\$1,000,000)

Women's empowerment is the cornerstone of USAID/Rwanda's work which provides an integrated approach to women's equality, empowerment and improved livelihoods, from land rights to health interventions. Women also play a strong link in the reduction of rural poverty in Rwanda in part due to the high prevalence (34%) of female-headed households.

In the areas of Technical/Vocational Training, Entrepreneurship Development, and Equal Economic Rights for Women, USAID/Rwanda is particularly interested in grants supporting efforts in these areas for female youth from ages 13-24. The Mission plans to expand youth programming, specifically on youth-focused training in market-relevant job skills and basic skills including literacy, numeracy, critical thinking and communication. The ratio of women completing secondary school, in comparison to men is low, therefore complementary interventions focusing on life skills, vocational education and remedial education for women are encouraged. For all Technical/Vocational Training the Mission emphasizes the need for linkages to existing or anticipated market demand that is strongly supported by the private sector.

Efforts to support property rights for women is also an area of particular interest to the Mission and will support ongoing efforts, particularly in the areas of improving awareness of equitable property rights; training of lawyers, elected officials, and administrators; and reform of legislation. Linkages with HIV/AIDS affected women and children is an area of

particular interest. Associates in Rural Development (ARD) with the Rural Development Institute (RDI) have been implementing a program geared toward improving the property rights of all Rwandans, and particularly women and those impacted by HIV/AIDS, through policy advice and technical assistance. The UK's Department for International Development (DFID) is also very active in this area.

Current USAID/Rwanda entrepreneurship and microenterprise development programs are focused on coffee, dairy, and expanding economic opportunities for People Living With HIV-AIDS (PLWHAs). We encourage proposals that build on these existing or similar sectors and activities in support of the Government of Rwanda's efforts to move from subsistence-level agriculture. Support is currently provided through different means, including the training and development of cooperatives, which are growing in number due to a law converting associations to cooperatives. Women's cooperatives lack capacity, access to microfinance, and linkages to markets in these and other traditional and non-traditional sectors. All microenterprise and entrepreneurship development proposals should be driven by market demands.

USAID/Rwanda seeks to support women countrywide, yet particularly encourages interventions in communities surrounding Nyungwe National Park to leverage existing community-level interventions in sustainable development and health.

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SENEGAL

For Senegal to maintain its decades-long stability and continue advancing towards Transformational Development goals, it needs to address key governance and conflict issues, promote economic growth and address deficiencies in the social sectors that can potentially contribute to instability and certainly perpetuate government abuse and inefficiency. The USG's approach to programming foreign assistance in Senegal is structured to address these issues. Promoting private sector-led economic growth is a very high priority for USAID/Senegal, particularly in the agriculture and natural resources management sectors. USAID/Senegal is also beginning work in the Water and Sanitation sector and hopes to expand activities in the sector. In addition, USAID/Senegal would like to encourage the Government of Senegal's progress in decentralization and in strengthening the ability of local government and civil society organizations to increase transparency and provide public services.

Women's Empowerment (\$600,000)

Beginning next calendar year, partner banks in Senegal will begin disbursing microloans to Senegalese clients with the support of a Development Credit Authority (DCA) agreement with USAID. The DCA program will increase access to credit for micro and small enterprises active in the Natural Resources Management and Agriculture sectors that are not well served by the commercial banks because of a lack of credit history, the

banks' lack of knowledge of these sectors' potential or just the absence of the banks' presence in the target areas. Given that the Government of Senegal has stated in their 2006-2010 Poverty Reduction Strategy that building women's capacity in utilizing microfinance is a priority, the DCA program would be especially complemented by an activity that could build the capacity of women entrepreneurs to access and utilize microloans.

Over the past five years, USAID/Senegal has worked with rural communities, including women organizations, to improve natural resource management through the production and marketing of non-traditional agricultural and forest products. As part of this work, USAID provided business and management training to 210 business women associations. While the program succeeded to transform most of the target women community-based associations into businesses, further support is needed to reinforce women's small and micro enterprises access to credit for agricultural production and natural resources management.

To this end, under the Development Grants Program, USAID/Senegal would like to enlist the support of a local NGO to manage activities for women entrepreneurs to build their capacity to access and effectively use Microfinance.

DG/Civil Society (\$250,000)

USAID/Senegal promotes policy reform at the national level and demand for accountability and transparency at the national and local levels. Poor governance is an obstacle that is keeping Senegal from achieving higher economic growth and improved social service delivery. A lack of transparency and accountability are characteristics common to all sectors in which the Mission works. In addition to undermining the credibility of government institutions, lapses in transparency and accountability discourage foreign investors from coming to Senegal. It is expected that through a local NGO the work under the Development Grants Program will help increase transparency and accountability across sectors in order to improve service delivery and reduce corruption. Activities may also strengthen networks and form linkages among national and local organizations seeking to improve governance and increase transparency.

Water (\$2,500,000)

This year, The "Senator Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act, Report to Congress" identified Senegal as a priority country for FY08 U.S. Water and Sanitation Activities. Senegal is making progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) for urban water supply, with lesser prospects for rural water supply and sanitation (both rural and urban). Funding under the Development Grants Program for a US-based and local NGOs to implement activities in the Water sector would significantly strengthen USAID/Senegal's ability to help Senegal meet MDG goals by building local capacity to meet the sector's needs.

USAID/Senegal promotes an integrated approach in water supply and sanitation development activities. Ideally, programs should use a holistic approach to address the interrelated social, governance, economic, ecological, sustainability and capacity challenges in the sector. Current priority areas for USAID/Senegal include rural areas in the regions of Tambacounda, Kedougou, Kolda, Ziguinchor, Koalack and Fatick. USAID funded water activities should coordinate with the Government of Senegal, Programme d'eau potable et d'assainissement du Millenaire (PEPAM), other donors, and other

United States Government funded activities, including DOD Humanitarian Assistance plans, and potential investments with Millennium Challenge Corporation.

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SIERRA LEONE

USAID/Sierra Leone's 2006-2008 Country Strategy has one Strategic Objective, 'Enhancing Democratic Governance'. The primary focus on governance will continue for the foreseeable future, since governance issues remain the largest constraints to sustainable economic growth and stability in Sierra Leone.

Microenterprise (\$400,000)

While women and youth in Sierra Leone constitute 70% of the labor force, most of them are unemployed and have no access to economic opportunities. USAID strategy strives to improve youth and women's economic empowerment as equal partners in development. The DGP activity will support USAID strategy to expand economic activities especially for marginalized youth and women.

Access to financing in business and agricultural development is perhaps the most serious constraints to economic development in Sierra Leone. Existing financial institutions do not always have appropriate financial products for farmers and small business groups who often lack credit worthiness in the eyes of financial services providers.

The Development Grant Program activity will support increased access to financial services by strengthening indigenous microfinance institutions and services to provide business training and loans to farmers, agribusiness units and small and medium enterprise owners. It will draw on the experiences of previous USAID programs in micro-finance for rural and peri-urban youth and women groups. Support in this DGP activity will achieve increased agricultural productivity, farm incomes and sustainable national food security and improved health.

The Development Grant Program activity will contribute to results in the Program Areas - Economic Opportunity and Program Element Strengthen Microenterprise Productivity in FY 08 Operational Plan.

The microenterprise proposal may have a primary focus on;

- a. Microfinance support to improve access to financial services with financial products tailored to the needs of rural and peri-urban youth and women groups, including small and medium enterprise owners and agribusinesses.
- b. Enterprise development, to improve productivity and market potential for microenterprises targeting the marginalized groups of women and youth.
- c. Improving policies and regulations that promote anti corruption, transparent and good ethics standards in financial services microenterprise development and financial service delivery will promote growth of microenterprise development and expand access to financial services by rural households especially women and youth in post conflict rural Sierra Leone.

The Microenterprise program should be harmonized as much as possible with USAID’s “transform Sierra Leone for democracy, economic growth and natural resource management, while empowering and engaging women and youth and building institutional capacities.” It will be also good to collaborate with existing national or sectoral strategies, policies or plans and relevant institutions, such as the Government of Sierra Leone’s Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, National Youth Employment Policy and the National Anti-Corruption Strategic Plan.

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TANZANIA

Women’s Empowerment (\$500,000)

In Tanzania, women have worse health and fewer educational and economic opportunities than men. They are less likely to pursue higher education, less likely to access the media, and they have fewer decision-making powers. Tanzanian women also have higher rates of poverty than do Tanzanian men. Under the Development Grants Program, USAID/Tanzania envisions making approximately one to three awards, for a combined total of \$500,000 over a three-year period, to support women’s empowerment in Tanzania. USAID/Tanzania is particularly interested in forming directing funding relationships with indigenous NGOs that have limited or no experience partnering directly with USAID.

Women’s empowerment is very much integrated into most USAID/Tanzania’s programming- from leadership training of women parliamentarians, literacy and

numeracy training for pastoralists, to improving the business development skills in our agriculture and biodiversity conservation programs. In particular, USAID/Tanzania would welcome proposals that would fall within the following areas cited below:

Technical/Vocational Training: Build numeracy, literacy, computer literacy, communication, analytical, creative and employability skills.

USAID supports empowering adult Maasai females through an innovative and community integrated literacy program in order to improve their socio-economic conditions. The literacy program uses both Maasai and Kiswahili language and focuses on three main areas:

- *Literacy classes on adult and youth education*
- *Income Generating Activities*
- *Gender issues relating to ownership of land and access to education.*

Entrepreneurship Development: Build the skills and attitudes required for entrepreneurial success; and design and deliver microenterprise and motivational training that empowers women.

Women, who produce about 70% of food crops and also bear substantial responsibilities for export crops and livestock production, as well as women working in conservation-related business enterprises, are a key focus in this program area. Both USAID/Tanzania's Natural Resources Management and Economic Growth activities create employment for rural women in cash crop production, processing, and conservation business enterprises. In FY 2007, over 95,000 women directly benefited from USAID assistance in improving their economic livelihoods and/or conserving their natural resources.

Equal Economic Rights for Women: Engage constituencies in support of advocacy for equal economic rights for women; and identify and address cultural barriers that limit women's ability to exercise their economic rights.

USAID/Tanzania supported the women's legislative caucus, the Tanzania Women Parliamentarians Group, to develop a five year strategic plan for Women Parliamentarians (MPs). The Women MPs have shown a keen willingness to champion the issues of HIV/AIDS, access to health services, trafficking in persons, disability, domestic violence, and equal labor rights. USAID also provides support to a Legal Aid Network Secretariat, which helps women and children to receive better access to justice and better protection of their civil rights.

Property Rights for Poor Women: Advocate support for women's inheritance and related property rights and the enforcement of laws that protect women's rights; target micro-credit, agricultural, artisan and other extension and training that support or expand women's production from land, timber, forest products, fish, pasture, water and other natural resources based on usufruct rights; offer legal aid services and/or training of paralegals to assist women and children with asset-related dispute resolution as well as in legal cases to protect property rights; and advocate support for reform of legislation governing property and usufruct rights for women, including closing the divide between customary and statutory law.

Under the recently USAID-funded Business Climate Legal and Institutional Reform analysis, USAID would be interested in supporting the development of a Secured Transaction Law. The proposed law will facilitate use movable property as guaranties for accessing credit for both men and women. Movable assets include inventory, equipment, accounts receivable, bank deposits, securities, intellectual property rights, rents, contractual rights, and much more.

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UGANDA

Uganda is accepting concept papers that fit with the priorities identified in **Water** sector of the APS. **(\$1,000,000)**

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WEST AFRICA REGIONAL

USAID/WA will consider proposals in any West African country or countries. If the proposal covers an activity to occur in a country with a bilateral USAID Mission, then USAID/WA will request the Mission indicate that they have no objection. Some ideas that link up with current USAID/West Africa (WA) programs are as follows:

Environment (\$400,000)

West Africa is already subject to drought and floods and could greatly benefit from programs that work to increase West Africa's capacity to adapt to climate change. Such programs can involve cooperation with the CILSS (the Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, based in Ouagadougou in Burkina Faso), one of USAID/WA's major partners, which has worked for decades on, among other things, improving knowledge on climate change and its impact in the Sahel zone; building the capacities of the Sahelian and West African populations and countries to cope with climate change; and collecting data on adaptation strategies in the agricultural, livestock, and water resource sectors. USAID/WA has also supported for over ten years a Land Use/Land Cover program that produces regional and national agro-ecological maps using high resolution satellite images from 1972 to 2005. Proposals involving innovative uses of this knowledge base, especially to run future scenarios that would help in

formulating sound and sustainable policies conducive to better management of natural resources, will be welcome.

USAID/WA would especially welcome programs with an emphasis on improving energy efficiency, that is, that involve ways to save energy and reduce operational costs. Such programs could complement USAID/WA work in the water sector in Burkina Faso and Niger or the transport sector, where USAID/WA is trying to reduce transport delays in agricultural trade, especially at border posts along the Central Corridor of West Africa (i.e., the major roads running from Ouagadougou in the Sahel to Tema and Lomé on the Atlantic coast).

USAID/WA is considering initiating activities to improve the ways that selected municipalities finance their water systems, with a view to eventually linking those efforts to the use of a new Development Credit Authority mechanism in the region.

USAID/WA welcomes programs that promote renewable energy technologies, especially if those programs can be linked to geographical areas where USAID is promoting agricultural development.

USAID/WA welcomes offerors proposing to introduce new energy-saving technologies, as long as they are able to demonstrate that the activity has the potential to be sustainable, that the technology is proven, and that there will be a demand for the product within a short period of time without future subsidies.

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ZAMBIA

Note: To ensure that proposals align with ongoing activities supported by USAID in Zambia, offerors are encouraged to review the USAID/Zambia web site at <http://www.usaid.gov/zm/>.

Women's Empowerment (\$700,000)

Proposed activities in support of women's empowerment will help meet the unique economic needs of women affected by HIV and AIDS, and survivors of gender-based violence in selected districts of Zambia. The project will be aimed at increasing women's access to and control of income and productive resources for asset accumulation and wealth creation. The project will complement ongoing USAID/Zambia HIV/AIDS programs working to fill the economic empowerment gap, which increases the vulnerability of women to gender-based violence and risk of HIV infection. The offeror might refer to PACT's WORTH model of economic empowerment that helps women form community-based self-help savings, lending and literacy groups. Members access loans from group savings for individual and group micro businesses, and group-based microfinance evolves into self-sufficiency through interests paid on loans. The proposed project will also aim at building the capacity of women in business management, and management of savings-led credit systems. The project will be implemented through local organizations whose role will be to mobilize communities. Linkages for technical support and learning purposes will be built with organizations already using the WORTH model (PCI and PACT) and the Own Savings for Assets and Wealth (OSAW) model (PLAN International) promoting the economic empowerment of women.

Microenterprise (\$1,000,000)

Microenterprise interventions in Zambia will address value-chain development, with a focus on crop production, service delivery, value addition and market access. Proposed activities must contribute to industry development by linking microenterprises (agribusinesses) to larger firms; improved relationships between buyers and sellers; and consolidation of production to meet quality, quantity, timing and pricing requirements of the markets. The offeror will clearly articulate how the project will work with smallholders and product/service providers to reduce transaction costs for both sides of the transaction, and to increase market access options through increased efficiencies, productivity and competitiveness. The project methodology must promote and facilitate local capacities to provide competitiveness-enhancing services and products to value-chain participants. Proposals must also demonstrate that proposed activities will be conducted in collaboration with those projects. Please refer to USAID/Zambia web site.

Water (\$1,500,000)

USAID/Zambia recognizes that one of the key challenges in promoting equity of access to quality of education delivered in a school is directly dependent on the state of its available water and sanitation facilities. Access to adequate safe water and sanitation remains an immense development challenge in Zambia, where many small, rural communities lack access to both clean water and sanitation. Although 89 percent of families living in urban areas can access safe water, only 37 percent of families in rural areas have such access. Schools without access to safe water and adequate sanitation are unable to support robust learning environments and successfully retain teachers, especially in rural areas. While affecting all school children, clean water and adequate sanitation are especially crucial for girls and female teachers for whom personal hygiene, security and self esteem are seriously compromised in their absence. Clean water and adequate sanitation are as important for promoting equity in education as scholarships or responses to gender bias in the learning process and text books. Improved water and sanitation are therefore keys to increased access to and quality of education. Proposed water interventions will complement USAID/Zambia’s existing Community Water and Education program focused on increasing access to water and improving hygiene and sanitation in school settings, primarily in rural areas. With these funds, the proposed project will support construction of latrines and maintenance of water points. The desired impact of the project is that schools have appropriate and long-lasting water systems and that their sanitation and hygiene conditions are improved. They will be healthier environments contributing to less illness and death as a result of water-borne disease and infections.

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ZIMBABWE

Democracy and Governance (\$800,000)

An area of critical focus for the USAID Zimbabwe Governing Justly and Democratically (GJD) team is the support of indigenous civil society organizations (CSOs) or institutes which have a commitment to, and track record in, working with coalitions of CSOs in the pursuit of promoting citizen participation to advocate for a democratic political culture.

In the present context in Zimbabwe, as the country enters a transition period, the mission is placing particular emphasis on supporting those local organizations which express a capacity and interest in pursuing activities in the areas of *transitional and restorative justice* and in *promoting effective and responsive local councils and a national Parliament*. Organizations with an interest and ability to work with Zimbabwe’s various religious communities and churches, as well as those working with youth are of critical importance because of the historical relevance of both the churches and the youth movement in efforts aimed at social change in the country.

Zimbabwe is now emerging from an exceptionally violent and traumatic chapter in its history when, during a period of 3 months this year, hundreds of pro-democracy and opposition members and activists have been killed, thousands “disappeared” and tens of thousands others displaced. CSOs working in the area of treatment for victims of torture estimate that there may be as many as 1 million victims and 250,000 perpetrators who are in need of psycho-social counseling, care and rehabilitation. Unfortunately, this period of violence was only the most recent episode in a long history of violence and trauma which has been inflicted on the citizens of the country, stretching back to the period before independence. A comprehensive plan for transitional justice, therefore, addressing past abuses and dealing with both victims and perpetrators, will be a sine qua non to a successful democratic renaissance in the country.

Parliament and all city councils across the country, save one, are in the hands of democratic political parties for the first time in history. Both the institution of Parliament and local councils have in recent years been co-opted by a powerful executive and rendered nearly powerless as a result. The present increased representation of democratic political parties at both the local and national level presents an opportunity for civil society to contribute to promoting more active citizen participation and accountability and transparency among newly elected officials as well as to training and capacity building of newly elected officials (many of whom are coming to their new positions with little or even no relevant previous professional experience).

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ASIA

INDIA

Environment: Climate Change Adaptation and Clean Energy (\$700,000)

Mission Priorities:

India is the world's fourth largest emitter of greenhouse gases in absolute numbers and these emissions continue to grow at a rapid pace. Moreover, although India generates 600 billion KWH of electricity annually, between 30 to 40% of it is lost along the delivery chain, a majority in the last mile of the distribution system. Currently much of the electricity produced comes from high-ash coal, which generates global and local air pollution. The quest to reduce distribution losses, improve power supply and end-use efficiency, develop and adopt clean coal technologies and advance markets for renewable energy has been the core of the USAID/India clean energy program priorities in India. Success in mitigating greenhouse gas emissions through technical assistance and capacity building in India will set the pace and direction for international efforts that have a global impact.

Types of Activities Desired:

Activities to address the multiple energy and environmental challenges faced by India in key reform states such as Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, include:

1. Advancing energy security through the rapid market and business development of alternative energy technologies.
2. Development and commercialization of clean coal technologies to improve coal conversion efficiencies in thermal power plants.
3. Establishment of an India-wide energy efficiency and renewable energy association that advocates for and helps to develop the alternative energy sector.
4. Build the central and state governments' capacity on policy, regulatory and market development by training regulators, utility and financial institutions to increase the share of green power in India's energy mix.
5. Pilot demonstration of a privately owned renewable energy-based electrical utility that advances rural energy access.
6. Market driven technology development and commercialization of renewable energy technologies, including capacity building and training of policy/regulatory bodies
7. Advancing green and clean technologies, practices, standards and codes in major end-use sectors such as the buildings and the SME sector.

Applicants are encouraged to demonstrate their ability to engage other partners to collectively contribute significant resources to the proposed program that are at a minimum equal to the level of resources sought from USAID.

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KAZAKHSTAN

Democracy and Governance (\$300,000)

While Kazakhstan has a large number of registered non-governmental organizations (approximately 28,000) and ostensibly independent media outlets, civil society operation and freedom of information have been constrained by a complex and unsupportive legal environment, self-imposed censorship, and occasional government harassment and interference. Direct and indirect government ownership and control of the most successful media outlets with the greatest national coverage further complicate the situation. However, a number of recent governmental legislative changes have improved the framework for civil society operations, providing increased opportunities and incentives for public and private financing and contracting of non-governmental groups.

USAID would place a high priority for proposals which seek to address the following types of initiatives:

- To monitor freedom of speech violations, nationally and in selected regions (Aktau, Semei, Ust-Kamengorsk & Kyzyl-Orda), in which there are no groups that do media advocacy and monitoring of free expressions;
- To run access to information campaigns;
- To raise awareness of the role of press in Kazakhstan and to find ways to engage the public on the issue of freedom of speech;
- To advocate on behalf of specific individuals whose rights have been violated, and to provide legal and freedom of expression training to think tanks, judges, and media lawyers;
- To conduct monitoring of public funds allocated for provision of services to older people, such as pensions, healthcare, and recreation (computer literacy, for example) in several regions of Kazakhstan, including Taraz, Astana, Ust-Kamenogorsk, Karaganda, and Stepnogorsk;
- To work in Astana with the Parliament and the Ministry of Social Protection on issues of older people's rights and improving services for elderly people;
- To participate in the law drafting work that involves issues that are of concern to the older people; or
- To hold a national annual conference to discuss findings of the monitoring and discuss issues of the elderly in Kazakhstan in general.

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TIMOR-LESTE

Microenterprise (\$800,000)

Timor-Leste is a country with very few entrepreneurs or businesses. It is an import dependant country with over 90 % of all commodities imported. The Microenterprise sector makes up the vast majority of all businesses in the country. There is very limited micro-financing, business development services, value chain development, market linkages or support of any kind to businesses. Local NGO's are available to assist this sector but they need capacity building, training and technical assistance to be able to deliver meaningful services to microenterprises. There is no food processing, value added or commercial manufacturing in the country. The service sector is limited primarily to the capital in Dili. USAID is working hard to develop an entrepreneur sector to engage in a variety of types of new business, especially in the rural areas. Agriculture is engaged in, by over 85% of the population with this being an area where microenterprises can grow and flourish with the right assistance and capacity building, especially through rural based NGO's. Funding will help these NGO's / PVO's to assist in developing business skills, BDS's, entrepreneurship, employment creation, business development and integration into a value chain.

Dairy (\$300,000)

Traditionally, Timorese have been engaged in very limited dairy production. Dairy cattle and dairy goats were introduced many years ago but are not wide spread. Research indicates that local communities and villages welcome dairy production but lack the knowledge to develop smallholder dairy enterprises. Farmers have no access to dairy breed stock or information regarding management and production with extension services being non-existent. Women in the village traditionally have responsibility for animal care. Dairy is seen as an area where the capacity for women to participate in enhanced, could have major economic impact on women, create employment, generate income from milk production while bringing much needed nutrition to the family's diet. 40% of all Timorese are considered under nourished or having mal-nutrition. Education regarding the benefits of milk and nutrition could go a long way in alleviating the nutrition problem. Formation of cooperative organizations to produce and market milk would have a major economic impact for women.

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EUROPE AND EURASIA

AZERBAIJAN

Dairy (\$500,000)

USAID will work with a US PVO and an indigenous NGO to promote the sustainable dissemination of technology transfer, input supply management and marketing practices designed to promote value chain development through effective associative alliances in the dairy sector. Furthermore, USAID will increase the competitiveness of milk production in selected regions of Azerbaijan and contribute to the development of robust value chains in rural areas of Azerbaijan characterized by strong comparative advantage potential in the dairy sector. This will in turn jumpstart sustainable growth in private investment and employment in this sub-sector, which has significant import-substitution potential in Azerbaijan.

Total raw milk production in Azerbaijan is roughly one million tons per year (2006), which includes production from the handful of large-scale dairy farms which currently exist. There are reportedly five large-scale dairy processors and over 50 small-scale dairy processors in Azerbaijan that produce and distribute pasteurized milk and other dairy products. Nearly seventy percent of the raw milk is consumed non-pasteurized, whether at the household level or through products sold at local bazaars. The remaining milk is pasteurized and processed by other enterprises. In all, local production satisfies only 45 percent of the national demand for dairy products; the rest is imported, mostly in powdered milk form. There are a variety of other competitiveness gaps facing the dairy sector. Dairy processors, through their collectors, have difficulties obtaining sufficient quantities of raw milk. Collection is complicated by the disaggregated supply from small-scale farmers who often live in remote, hard to access locations. The existing number of collection points is also insufficient to capture this supply. In addition, small-scale livestock farmers often lack adequate market information about where and at what prices they might sell their livestock to be slaughtered for beef. Organizing transportation to these locations is a further challenge, again because of the remoteness of many farmers in relation to their markets.

To achieve the dairy sector competitiveness enhancement goals enumerated above, USAID will select an experience U.S. PVO and a local NGO to implement a strategic technology transfer and market development support program targeted to high potential dairy production enterprises. This will focus on the broadened dissemination of improved cattle-breeding techniques; improved milk production and quality control techniques/practices; and expanded operation of milk collection centers. It will also entail enhanced production/quality control/storage techniques for high value added dairy products. This will entail both direct farm and enterprise-level technical support and training of specialists and executive staff of milk production enterprises and service organizations. The project will improve the skills and knowledge of dairy producers on best practices-consistent dairy product hygiene and quality standards both to promote expanded local production and to expand regional sales to neighboring countries.

The project will link up with the Trade/Investment Reform Support Program (TIRSP), which is promoting a range of legal/regulatory reforms designed to promote Azerbaijan's accession to the WTO. The project will build on critical legal/regulatory reform work TIRSP is currently engaged in which encourages the adoption of HACCP-consistent production/storage/processing standards for food safety purposes, by actively promoting

the adoption of practices which reflect these standards within the dairy sector at the regional value chain level. The project will work with dairy farmer associations and with milk storage agents and processing enterprises in promoting dissemination of improved production/storage/processing practices; and will help improve market linkage networks in the dairy sector. Through these strategic institutional development interventions, the program will contribute to a significant improvement in the institutional capacity of small-scale dairy producers to expand production and incomes by driving competitive value chain development; and will help facilitate a sustainable expansion in private investment and employment in a key high potential sub-sector of the agricultural economy of Azerbaijan.

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GEORGIA

Environment (\$800,000)

Proposed programs should focus on conserving biodiversity in natural and managed ecosystems within Georgia’s protected areas and forests to maintain/increase carbon stocks sequestered in these ecosystems and reduce threats to global climate change. The program is expected to work hand-in-hand with the Ministry of Environment of Georgia, as well as USAID/Georgia Mission-funded environmental program. Examples may include efforts to redeem the catastrophic environmental effects caused by the recent conflict, in which as many as 500 ha of unique forests were destroyed by fire, including parts of the Borjomi-Kharagauli National Park. The program should seek innovative approaches to encourage the participation of local NGOs, private sector, communities and volunteers in various efforts to rehabilitate, plan and operate protected areas and forests. In addition, the program may focus on promoting trans-boundary cooperation on environmental issues, leveraging further support from Georgia’s neighboring countries. The program may involve technical assistance, training, commodity support (e.g. procurement of sapling) and sub-grants.

Women’s Empowerment (\$700,000)

Proposed programs should accelerate private sector growth through the development of core entrepreneurial skills necessary for women to find jobs and start up new businesses. Interventions may focus on: providing free business development services and legal consultations to women who are willing to start up their own business; facilitating women’s access to financial services; providing demand-driven professional training and re-training for women, and developing sustainable linkages between training institutions and potential employers to facilitate women’s employment following completion of professional training programs; and creating new job opportunities for women through setting up new enterprises. A particular focus should be placed on targeting women-IDPs to address the economic effects of the recent conflict, help revitalize economic activity and rebuild livelihoods in the affected regions. The program

should work closely with the Government of Georgia, as well as USAID/Georgia Mission-funded economic growth programs.

Microenterprise (\$700,000)

The proposed programs will aim to assist local microenterprises to further develop their human and production capacities. Interventions may include: dissemination of best practice models; introduction of new technologies that increase productivity; development of training programs; strengthening linkages between the rural producers and larger-scale buyers in regional centers; facilitating access to credit by linking micro-enterprises with financial institutions; and providing targeted grants to micro-enterprises engaged in various strategic value chains. The project will work closely with Government of Georgia representatives to target interventions throughout Georgia that meet currently identified needs and development objectives. The program should also work closely with USAID/Georgia Mission-funded SME, rural development, and agribusiness activities in order to integrate targeted microenterprise interventions with other USAID activities.

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MACEDONIA

Democracy and Governance (\$350,000)

With the advancement of the decentralization process in Macedonia into its second phase, municipalities have been given more responsibilities in providing services to their citizens and shaping the environment for local economic development. Although these new roles are intended to bring local governments closer to citizens, they also open potential venues for corrupt and non-transparent practices, particularly in the area of public procurement. Continued NGO and citizen involvement in local governance and decision-making remains crucial. NGOs have important role to play both in providing oversight of municipal management and partnering with local government and public/private entities to provide services and expertise.

As part of the USAID's Development Grants Program, USAID Macedonia seeks proposals from indigenous NGO's in order to award one, three-year grant in the area of Democracy and Governance, focusing on local/national governmental accountability and the prevention of corruption. The grant (NTE \$350,000 for the life of the project) will support one NGO, or a coalition of NGOs, whose activities will be aimed at:

- Transparency in public procurement procedures at the local level and increased competition during public tenders;
- Establishment of multi-stakeholder partnerships to improve municipal budget allocations and expenditure controls;
- Citizens and business participation in priority setting and decision-making;
- Promotion of anti-corruption practices in public management;
- Other activities that support citizen involvement and transparent and accountable practices at the local level.

Applicants must demonstrate commitment from the local government to cooperate in their efforts, and must have a plan for sustainability.

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MOLDOVA

Women's Empowerment (\$500,000)

Through the Development Grants Program's Women's Empowerment Sector, USAID/Moldova anticipates providing grants to indigenous non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that provide services and support to vulnerable populations, especially women. The purpose of the grants would be to support the implementation of income-generating activities that would enhance the sustainability of the NGOs themselves, increase the resources available to the NGO for providing services that address the social-economic vulnerability of women; and provide workforce development opportunities for vulnerable women. The income-generating activities could be conducted through separate social enterprises or in collaboration with the business sector.

Illustrative results include the following:

- Increased income generated for the NGO for covering operational expenses and cost of providing services to vulnerable women;
- Marketable skills of vulnerable women improved;
- New jobs created for vulnerable women, including through self-employment;
- Services to vulnerable women improved;

Geographic Priorities

USAID/Moldova anticipates providing grants to indigenous NGOs operating outside of the capital city of Chisinau, where rural poverty and lack of economic opportunities increase the vulnerability of women.

Concept papers shall be submitted in hard copy. They can be sent by mail or courier directly to USAID/Moldova at the address below:

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| USAID/Moldova Susan Kutor Project Development Office 57/1, Banulescu-Bodoni Street ASITO Building, 5th Floor Chisinau, Moldova 2005 | Susan Kutor skutor@usaid.gov Mission Telephone: (373-22) 201-800 |

RUSSIA

Women’s Empowerment (\$500,000)

USAID/Russia seeks applications from qualified organizations for implementation of a project to advance Women’s Empowerment in the Russian Federation. The project will be implemented over the course of two years (estimated total cost \$500,000). The objective of the Women’s Empowerment Project is to expand women’s participation in social and economic development in select target regions and to integrate gender equality and issues affecting women into the public policy agenda, thereby achieving a balance that more accurately reflects the composition of society.

The development challenge to be addressed by the project is that although women enjoy constitutional equality in Russia, there is a critical lack of consideration of women’s rights by various levels of government, community, and the general public. The women’s agenda, as officially proclaimed in national programs such as the *Year of the Family*, is often limited to reproductive and family caring roles. A key task of the program will be to capitalize on the potential of current reforms in Russia’s public policy, administration, economic and social spheres to expand the women’s agenda into decision-making and policy implementation at the regional and local level.

Project components and relevant illustrative interventions may include:

- 1) Promoting and protecting the economic and human rights of women, through the full implementation of all legal protections. Proposed interventions may include: seeking equality and non-discrimination under the law and in practice, particularly in cases of violence against women; taking measures to ensure women’s equal access to and full participation in public service; challenging employment discrimination and subordination in domestic life; and promoting women’s economic rights.
- 2) Increasing the capacity of women’s organizations and activists to participate in decision-making and leadership through productive collaboration with government, business, and a broad spectrum of civil society organizations. Proposed interventions may include: the transfer of tested mechanisms for participation and collaboration, training in advocacy, and capacity building in sectors such as equal economic rights.
- 3) Enhancing general public awareness of gender equality and defying discriminatory biases in employment. Proposed interventions may include: promoting a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media to counter a prevailing stereotype of

women’s “biological predestination”; eliminating cultural stereotypes regarding girls in education and skill-building, training journalists and government officials, and raising youth awareness.

Project Approaches: Projects should include a plan for long-term impact and replication; networking among women’s groups and organizations; collaboration with government, businesses, the media, and a wide spectrum of NGOs and existing USAID projects; empowerment of rising women leaders and women’s rights advocates; and building on best practices from USAID and other programming.

Regional Aspect: The project should include no less than two regions (oblasts) of Russia to be proposed by the applicant based on a strong justification addressing criteria such as a favorable environment, institutional capacity, previous donor efforts, and others.

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LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Environment: Clean Energy (\$200,000)

The Mission intends to support a Dominican NGO to promote the adoption of cost-effective renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and practices. The activity is aimed primarily at assisting small agriculture and tourism businesses with technical assistance leading to the adoption of these technologies and increasing the firms' economic competitiveness. Interventions will include:

- Assistance to improve small business energy efficiency use;
- Assistance in developing renewable energy systems for small business use:
- Microhydro
- Wind
- Solar

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ECUADOR

Women's Empowerment: (\$100,000)

These funds will be used to promote USAID/Ecuador's anti-Trafficking in Persons (TIP) efforts targeting women. The award will be made to an NGO(s) in Ecuador with a program that addresses job training for this population segment.

USAID/Ecuador is committed to helping vulnerable groups of the population, especially women who have been victims of Trafficking in Persons, by reinserting them into society. The major challenge for reinsertion and staying away from sexual and labor exploitation is the lack of opportunities for income generation. Young victims do not have access to formal training that would allow them to enter into the labor market. This award will promote Mission efforts by assisting Ecuadorian NGOs that are implementing anti-TIP programs that help women access labor opportunities and social empowerment.

USAID/Ecuador works directly with local NGOs that promote women's social, political, and economic empowerment. The Mission has extensive experience in the management of grants and small grants in the area of Gender Equity, Human Rights and Trafficking in Persons. In addition, the Mission has finance, contract, and technical staff who manage grants with local NGOs.

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HAITI

DG/Civil Society (\$300,000)

A critical element in solving Haiti's long-term governance problem is increasing the voice and representation of the urban poor, rural populations and opposition parties. USAID also provides assistance to a wide range of civil society and public service associations so that these institutions are able to carry out anti-corruption research and advocacy, and corruption monitoring. Work will continue to enhance the ability of citizens to positively influence the central and local government; expand outreach by civil society organizations; expand civic education and civic initiative programs undertaken locally with newly elected local government officials; and support civil society advocacy with emphasis on justice and anti-corruption. Civic participation goals include: citizens with increased civic knowledge, democratic values, and civic skills who are: (1) advocating for issues of interest to themselves, their constituencies or the general public, so that those issues become part of the public agenda and are reflected in public policies and (2) participating in non-violent democratic political processes. Media support is provided to reinforce regional journalist associations, improve media rights advocacy, promote better public outreach by officials, establish a studio for radio production materials, and for community radio journalist training. Media support goals include: complete nationwide coverage for community radio, better equipped journalists playing a positive role in a democratic society, and enhanced media rights advocacy.

Microenterprise (\$1,000,000)

To enable market players to overcome constraints and exploit opportunities, the USAID will continue programs to reinforce the capacity of financial institutions to offer diversified products and assist in establishing an appropriate enabling environment to facilitate the sustainable evolution of the micro-enterprise sector. To strengthen enterprise productivity, the program will support the start-up and expansion of micro, small, and medium productive enterprises. Activities will focus on supporting and identifying market oriented linkages opportunities for these enterprises with a focus on rural-based enterprises and on information technologies. To help respond to the food security crisis,

the program will also support new savings and credit products aimed at those rural enterprises engaged in agriculture production and transformation. Haiti's market activity is dominated by women; it is therefore important that products and services provided by micro-finance institutions reflect this reality and that the enabling environment is developed in a way that fosters gender equity and women's leadership. Expected results are self-sufficient market based financial institutions or intermediaries; new financial products and services offered to rural MSMEs and effective linkages between value chain participants and financial services across the USAID Economic Growth portfolio.

Environment (\$300,000)

Most of the work in the environment sector is focused on natural resource-related infrastructure (such as rehabilitating irrigation works), reversal of land degradation through watershed management, disaster prevention, and opportunities for improved rural livelihoods. Funds under the DGP would be utilized to bring the expertise of international and local NGOs to build local capacity for conservation, strengthen the national protected area system, expand zones of marine and coastal protection, and assist Haiti in acceding to CITES membership. Extensive technical assistance comes to CITES member countries from donors and environmental groups worldwide. DOI, the lead USG agency on CITES, and its NGO partner TRAFFIC could offer technical assistance to overcome hurdles to membership. One potential incentive would be removal of barriers to the export of Queen Conch through reestablishment of this fishery on a sustainable basis.

Currently, very few donors are active in biodiversity conservation and none are working in marine and coastal conservation. UNDP is currently providing support for institutional strengthening to the Ministry of Environment, with a special focus on installing an environmental observation facility for environmental information management in thematic areas such as water and land use. The EU is considering funding for a proposed tri-national biological corridor including Dominican Republic, Haiti, and Cuba, which would provide a framework for collaborative conservation efforts in the Greater Antilles. The first priority for site-based work under this proposal are the high mountain protected areas along Haiti's southern peninsula. The Spanish Cooperation agency is funding some species inventory work in the Pine Forest Reserve. The World Bank is working with the Ministry of Environment on developing carbon credit pilot projects under the Clean Development Mechanism. Some NGOs, such as CARE are working on replanting of mangroves and sustainable charcoal production on the north coast of Haiti.

Women's Empowerment (\$500,000)

Two focus areas are recommended: 1) Helping to develop female entrepreneurship in areas that have been affected by natural disasters. There have been limited efforts to help economic redevelopment in areas affected by natural disasters - including in Gonaives since the passage of Hurricane Jeanne 4 years ago. Work is encouraged to support women's groups throughout the country (including groups that have been affected by the storms that have come through in the 2008 hurricane season) to see how to stimulate economic development. 2) Value Chain development. Helping to develop women's associations and businesses. An example includes organizing trade shows that brings exposure to women-owned and operated enterprises, from throughout Haiti, to local and international buyers. Key sectors for shows have been handicrafts and agri-business. The DGP could enable local NGOs to expand their outreach and assistance to enterprises in areas such as product development, marketing, etc.

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PERU

Environment (\$400,000)

Peru has one of the most diverse environments on the planet. Its ecosystems range from some of the driest deserts on Earth on the Pacific coast, to snow-covered Andean peaks, reaching 22,000 feet, to the eastern Andean forests, and finally, to one of the wettest environments on Earth, the Amazon basin. Its rainforest is among the largest of any country, extending 700,000 square kilometers. In terms of numbers of species documented within its borders, Peru occupies first place for butterflies and second place for birds and for most classes of animal and plant species, it is among a handful of mega diverse countries in the world.

As a lower middle income country, Peru faces important choices about how to manage its environment responsibly, while leveraging it as an asset for economic growth and poverty reduction. Without an environment ministry, implementation and enforcement of Peru's relatively strong environmental legal framework rests on a national environmental council and sectoral ministries. This model however has allowed environmental abuses and non-sustainable practices to occur. Logging promises to be an important contributor to a growing economy: currently, while 60% of Peru is under forest, forestry contributes only 1.4% to its GDP. However, illegal logging is a major threat-in 2005, it is estimated that 70 - 90% of all exported mahogany from Peru originated from illegal sources. The national system of parks and protected areas is potentially a tremendous base upon which to expand ecotourism, however weak management and illegal activities, such as logging, poaching, and coca cultivation, threaten these lands and their inhabitants, indigenous people. Finally, a significant backdrop in the environment sector is the successful ratification of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the United States. The FTA includes an environmental chapter as well as a related Environmental Cooperation Agreement.

The USAID/Peru program works to address these challenges. Forestry activities support international timber certification standards for forest concessions, in an effort to combat illegal logging and promote economically- and environmentally-sustainable forest enterprises. The activity works with concession holders, from the private sector as well as from indigenous communities, to inventory forests, create sustainable logging plans, attain standards for workplace practices, and achieve international certification. Other activities in the promotion of licit forestry work directly work with the government and private sector to strengthen institutional capabilities and effectiveness so they can assume their duties and responsibilities in environmental management. For example, USAID sponsored a study proposing changes in organizational structure and procedures to make the forestry authority more transparent and effective. Close coordination with the GOP on this issue helped the government to re-examine its concession process, fully endorse forest certification as a national strategy and suspend mahogany exports because of evidence of illegality.

USAID recently launched its Amazon Basin Conservation Initiative (ABCI), which is a five-year, \$65 million, USAID and partner-supported program to build conservation capacity and commitment across the Amazon Basin for effective stewardship of the Basin’s globally important biological diversity and environmental services. ABCI’s two complementary components are: conservation consortia to address critical conservation issues at the sub-Basin level; and a Secretariat to support Basin-wide program management and facilitate regional collaboration for conservation. Together, the sub-Basin conservation consortia, the Secretariat, USAID, and key regional partners will form a community of practice that will support the multi-scale interventions needed to promote comprehensive responses to transnational threats such as environmental degradation caused by major infrastructure development, illegal logging, wildlife trade, and habitat conversion.

Decentralization of government functions is an important undertaking across most sectors of the Peruvian government. Decentralization in the environment sector will result in more effective environmental management and help the GOP to meet its international commitments, such as those contained in the FTA and environmental protection responsibilities contained in Peruvian law. In many sectors, the challenge of devolving authorities is to ensure first that local governments are ready to take on these new responsibilities. The environment sector is dealing with this challenge by certifying municipalities for sound environmental management practices through the country's National Environmental Council (CONAM). USAID is providing crucial support in this new certification program through direct funding to CONAM. With this funding, CONAM is producing the program materials for this national program (guides, CDs, etc.) and providing direct support, along with several environmental NGOs, to municipalities to make the changes in regulations and upgrades needed to become certified.

This targeted program is showing important results:

International certification of forest concessions is expanding: To date, more than 600,000 hectares of concessions have been certified and the GOP has adopted international certification as part of their management strategy, setting certification targets for coming years.

Park management is showing measurable improvements: According to the government's park management scorecard, management performance improved over 2006 in the five parks or protected areas where USAID worked.

The municipal certification program is building a critical mass of municipalities applying for and receiving certification: From its first year, where nine municipalities received certification, the program currently has certified 41 municipalities and is focused on improving municipalities’ project management capabilities for a variety of needed environmental projects, such as those for solid waste disposal.

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