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USAID IN AFRICA

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

USAID Supports the Global Polio Fight

To combat the recent resurgence of poliovirus, back-to-back immunization campaigns were held this past October and November, reaching nearly 80 million children in 23 African countries. Poliovirus, which at the end of 2003 was endemic to only Nigeria, Niger, Afghanistan, Egypt, India, and Pakistan, has since spread to 12 countries that were previously polio-free.

These immunization campaigns are part of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, launched in 1988 when polio paralyzed as many as 1,000 children a day. Polio is highly infectious and spreads through a virus that invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours. The disease mainly affects children under age five. There is no cure; it can only be prevented.

USAID provided \$31.5 million for the global fight against polio in 2004. These funds were used to combat the polio outbreak in West and Central Africa and Sudan; to immunize children in the remaining endemic countries of India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan; and to maintain surveillance and laboratory networks in more than 20 countries. USAID has been a strong contributor to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, providing nearly \$300 million since 1988.

In the first round of the immunization campaign in October, a huge volunteer force staffed with community and religious leaders, teachers, parents, health workers, and other volunteers worked systematically to go village to village and house to house to deliver the oral polio vaccine (OPV) to every child under age five. In what may have been the largest public health initiative ever undertaken, the volunteer force covered 23



Routine immunizations are critical to children's health.

R. ZURBAV/USAID SOUTH AFRICA

Tourism Rewards Conservation

By Kathryn Stratos

Beautiful, well-run national parks, clean beaches and thriving coral reefs, and healthy and abundant wildlife populations draw tourists from around the world. Tourism is one of the world's largest industries and is the biggest source of economic growth in many developing countries. When sustainable use of the environment is kept under consideration, tourism can enhance people's lives and conserve wildlife. Communities that earn a living from tourism and understand the connection between their livelihood and conservation are motivated to protect their environment.

Polio continued on page 8

Tourism continued on page 2

In this Issue of USAID in Africa...

| | | | |
|--|---|---|----|
| Giving Youth a Second Chance in South Africa | 3 | Transforming Garbage into Power in Rwanda | 7 |
| Rural Community Lends Value to Education | 4 | Using Radios for Change in Mali | 9 |
| Uganda Expands Agricultural Exports | 5 | Africa Resources | 10 |
| MCC Selects Threshold Countries | 6 | New Assistant Administrator for Africa Bureau | 12 |

Tourism from page 1

With this in mind, USAID projects have worked with people at the grassroots level to help them earn a living, govern their community, or manage their business more efficiently, while protecting the environment. Since 2000, USAID has funded 98 projects in 72 countries worldwide that primarily address environmental conservation as well as poverty, gender, education, and governance, and above all, economic growth. In Africa, some of the countries with tourism projects include Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Namibia, and Tanzania.

The transformation has been impressive. In Namibia, for example, until the 1990s, many people said they were killing or not protecting local wildlife from poaching because they were competing with it to survive.

“They were having problems with elephants raiding crops and lions killing

cattle,” said Brian Jones, a conservation specialist with USAID/Namibia.

Black Namibians surveyed said that white farmers on “freehold” land earned money from trophy hunting and tourism, and had the right to manage wildlife on their land, unlike communal area residents. “Communal area residents said they wanted to keep wildlife and wanted to benefit the same way as white farmers from it,” Jones said.

That desire led to new legislation in 1996 creating conservancies—geographically bounded areas with a membership, elected leadership, and a charter—that channel income earned from hunting, photographic safaris, and travel lodge concessions back into communities.

To launch tourism in the new conservancies, USAID/Namibia funded World Wildlife Fund and local organizations to advise conservancy board members on how to negotiate contracts with the private sector or set up joint ventures to run lodges, safaris, and other concessions. They taught residents how to set up camp sites and traditional villages for tourists and also taught wildlife guards how to discourage poaching and monitor wildlife.

As of October 2004, there were 31 registered communal area conservancies covering over 70,000 square kilometers, 10 communal conservancies were nearing registration, and 40 more were being formed. Direct income and benefits surpassed \$1.8 million. Community-based enterprises employed nearly 550 people full-time, and 3,000 part-time.

Conservation benefits included maintenance of wildlife habitat, successful reintroduction of game animals, fewer losses to poaching, and recovery of wildlife populations due to stewardship.

In the Nyae Nyae conservancy, a San or bushman community in northeast Namibia, for example, springbok, blue

wildebeest, red hartebeest, gemsbok, eland, and kudu—different types of antelope—were reintroduced. With better water management, less poaching, and 2,100 animals brought in from elsewhere, the number of game in Nyae Nyae jumped from fewer than 1,200 in 1995 to about 6,300 animals in 2004.



A coastal mangrove forest in Kenya shelters a boardwalk, built and maintained by the local community to attract tourists. Revenue from the project has enabled community members to pay school fees for their children.

The challenge was “legal structures and training to conserve the wildlife—not persuasion. It was almost literally a question of being able to afford wildlife,” said Jones of the Agency’s decade-long experience of promoting sustainable tourism in Namibia.

Combining tourism and managed hunting with traditional agriculture has helped communities enhance their livelihoods and protect the environment.

Kathryn Stratos is a communications specialist in the Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade Bureau. For more information, contact Roberta Hilbruner in EGAT’s Natural Resources Management office at rhilbruner@usaid.gov or 202-712-5688.

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Giving Youth a Second Chance in South Africa

By Reverie Zurba

A single mother of two, Sharon Daniels said that her teenage son's arrest was one of the worst days of her life.

"Police came to the door of our small cottage and arrested Delano. He looked so helpless in the handcuffs, yet so guilty. Here was the child I raised alone for 16 years, through many hardships, having taught him all the values and morals necessary to fit into society—things like honesty, the difference between right and wrong, integrity, good manners."

Delano had helped his friend "revenge" the owner of a bar who had refused to serve liquor to the under-age teen. The boys broke into the tavern when it was closed and stole money from the cash register. Sharon was unable to persuade the victim to drop the charges.

Rather than spending time in jail, Delano entered a criminal rehabilitation program, funded by USAID and run by a local NGO, known as *Khulisa*—Zulu for "let the young child grow." *Khulisa's* prevention and rehabilitation services steer young South Africans away from crime and target places where young people are in jeopardy of becoming hardened criminals.

USAID and *Khulisa* are working with the South African Department of Justice to help reform youth who take the dangerous step into crime. In its brief 6-year history, *Khulisa* has directed more than 500 youth back into productive society. More than 80 percent of them have remained crime-free. The successful program has the capacity to handle thousands of young people and will soon branch out into several new communities.

USAID gave *Khulisa* a grant in 2002 to pilot a new rehabilitation program for young offenders, ages 12-18, in the Alexandra Township outside Johannesburg. The project, referred to as "New Directions," is an alternative to

the formal criminal system of prison sentences. Programs are based on the principles of "restorative justice," focusing on the mediated settlement of conflicts arising from crime and resolving underlying problems that caused the crime in the first place. Mentors and positive role models, who themselves are reformed offenders, are part of *Khulisa's* strategy, helping to instill a sense of value in the young participants.

The 15-week program emphasizes community service so the youth can pay back society. Participants also learn to talk about their experiences publicly as they recount their crime and what they have learned to avoid repeating their mistakes. Life skills training, self-esteem, and self-discovery exercises help the adolescents and their families cope with the pressures constructively. Public apologies are made when victims can be located and are willing to give the offender a chance to speak.

South Africa has more than 50,000 offenders between the ages of 12 and 25. The repeat offences rate is exceptionally high, with an estimated 85 percent of released offenders relapsing into crime within six months of release. However, this downward spiral is being reversed through *Khulisa's* outreach to young people. Hostility and contempt are being replaced with respect for the law and human rights.

Founder and managing director, Lesley Ann van Selm, said "USAID funding has provided the base for *Khulisa* to become a recognized service provider in the area of diversion. We are delighted that [South Africa's] government now supports *Khulisa*, ensuring long-term sustainability of the program."



Sharon and her son, Delano, are living proof that South Africa's crime problem can be reduced.

USAID project development specialist for democracy and governance, Venda Modise, considers this early intervention vital in helping youth recognize the option to step away from crime. "Adolescents act from their feelings. *Khulisa* is teaching them not to let their emotions control them, but to channel them positively. Restorative justice is about apologizing and forgiving so the teenagers can move on."

Now that Delano has graduated from *Khulisa's* program, his mother says, "Without this rehabilitation, Delano would never have learned remorse and how to take responsibility for his actions, even when making a wrong decision." Delano says his first offense against the law will likely be his last. He has changed his attitude and started a new way of life, including passing his high school final exams. He has decided he would like to be a film-maker.

The young man has prepared several home-made programs that have come to the attention of industry professionals. A South African Department of Education

Khulisa continued on page 8

Rural Community Lends Value to Education

By Richard Nyberg

Who says you can't teach a child to dream? In rural Senegal, they are doing just that. In 2002, teacher Ahmet Fall asked students in the village of Pété Ouarack in northwestern Senegal what they hoped to do when they grew up. "Most girls," he explained, "wanted to be maids, and most boys wanted to be vendors in the capital, Dakar."

The schools in Pété Ouarack do not go beyond the elementary level, and five of the seven schools are temporary shelters built with wood and millet stalks. Four children squeeze onto benches made for two. Only one school has potable water or latrines. No one in Pété Ouarack ever earned a high school diploma. In the 2001-02 school year, only one pupil passed the elementary school leaving exam, and none passed an exam to enter middle school. Without local role models, students could not imagine anything beyond low-skilled jobs requiring minimal education.

"We have succeeded. This partnership with USAID has been sincere, and it has allowed us to better engage with teachers. We see a high level of enthusiasm of students and parents. There has been a change in mentality of the population."

—Djibril Seck, Deputy Inspector of Primary Schools, Region of Louga

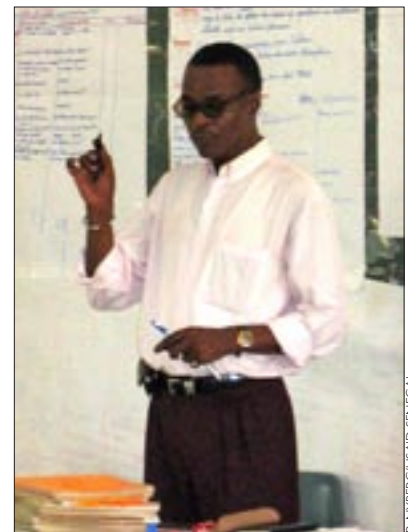
When USAID's decentralization and local governance program initiated a partnership with Pété Ouarack in 2002, representatives of the local council and community leaders quickly confirmed that their top priority was to improve the quality of educational services. At the request of the newly elected council president, Mor Samb, USAID organized a training session in Pété Ouarack to clarify the council's responsibilities and

possibilities for action with regard to education under Senegal's 1996 decentralization law.

Through contact with school administrators and teachers, parents, women's associations, and local organizations, President Samb learned that the entire community had innovative ideas and was eager to participate in improving education. School staff, parents, and community leaders formed an education corps committed to identify, plan, and implement a school charter. Some of the corps' main goals are to build new schools and facilities such as toilets and washrooms, raise funds to buy textbooks and school supplies, and promote adult literacy. The education corps includes a vibrant teachers' association and a parent-teacher association (PTA) that provide important opportunities for dialogue and sharing of skills and ideas. The corps developed an education action plan, which outlines practical

actions to improve schools and educational quality, such as parent involvement and public education campaigns. With this comprehensive plan in hand, the rural council has also found it easier to approach government and donor partners for assistance.

The success of the education improvement project has changed the attitudes of Pété Ouarack's residents, who now clearly understand that education holds the key to their community's future. Through the revived PTA, parents and teachers easily discuss children's progress—previously an intimidating process for parents. This involvement is slowly paying off. During the 2002-03 school



Teacher Ahmet Fall was frustrated by students' lack of ambition.

year, three pupils passed the elementary exam, and two went on to pass the middle school entrance exam.

Community organizations are donating funds to cover such projects as fees for students entering junior high school, and the rural council's office now helps students obtain necessary identity papers that allow them to take exams to further their education. In July 2004, the community celebrated academic achievements of its students, giving certificates to outstanding students. Students and parents recognize the value of school achievement, and they have begun to dream of previously unimaginable careers. Bator Diaw, a 10-year-old girl, wants to be a minister of the state, and Balle Dieng hopes her 4-month old daughter will one day be president. These are laudable dreams that dynamic local government and civic leaders in Pété Ouarack are helping to foster.

Richard Nyberg is the outreach advisor at USAID/Senegal. For more information, visit www.usaid-sn.org or contact Nyberg at rnyberg@usaid.gov.

USAID Helps Uganda Expand Agricultural Exports

USAID/Uganda's nine-year, \$30 million Investment in Developing Export Agriculture (IDEA) project wrapped up in June 2004. As the name implies, IDEA was designed to encourage farmers to think beyond subsistence agriculture and develop export markets for both low value crops, such as maize and beans, and high value crops, such as vanilla, flowers, and fresh produce. During the course of the project, exports in low value crops increased from \$11.4 million to \$34 million. High value crop exports increased from \$9.5 million to \$63.7 million.



M. HERRICK/CHEMONICS

Nearly \$26 million in roses and plant cuttings were exported from Uganda in 2003, up from almost no such exports in 1995.



M. HERRICK/CHEMONICS

Vanilla farming favors small-scale farmers because of the careful hand pollination necessary for the beans to achieve maturity. Proper care can increase incomes from less than \$3,000 to more than \$12,000 per year from cultivating just one acre of vanilla.



M. HERRICK/CHEMONICS

FICA, Uganda's first successful indigenous seed and inputs sales company, is producing and shipping rice and maize seed at full capacity. In 2001, just after FICA approached IDEA for assistance, the company set a moderate goal of selling 1,000 metric tons of maize seed per year. They are now selling more than 2,500 metric tons and plan to expand to produce 5,000 metric tons in the future, creating more jobs along the way.



M. HERRICK/CHEMONICS

Women account for approximately 60 percent of employees in Uganda's flower industry. Many of them are the sole wage earners in their families. Some nurseries offer day care facilities to their employees so they can be sure their children are well cared for while they are working. Clinics are also available on site for family health care.

For more information, visit www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PDACA210.pdf.

Millennium Challenge Corporation Selects “Threshold Countries”

The Millennium Challenge Corporation’s (MCC) Board of Directors has declared seven African countries eligible to apply for MCC Threshold Program assistance: Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, Sao Tomé and Príncipe,

Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. The Threshold Program was established to help countries that narrowly missed qualifying for Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) assistance but have demonstrated a significant commitment

to improving their growth conditions and their prospects for qualifying for the MCA. Announced by President Bush in 2002, the MCA seeks to roughly double the U.S. foreign assistance program by committing an additional \$5 billion annually to countries already taking serious steps towards helping their citizens lead better lives.

Threshold Program assistance will be used to help countries address the specific policy weaknesses indicated by their scores on 16 policy indicators in three general categories—ruling justly, investing in people, and encouraging economic freedom—that are central to the MCA eligibility criteria and methodology. In considering countries for the FY2004 Threshold Program, the Board favored those committed to policy reform that had to improve upon only one or two indicators to qualify under the MCA eligibility criteria.

USAID, in partnership with MCC, will take the lead in implementing the Threshold Program. The Agency will have flexibility to work with host country governments to develop meaningful reform proposals.

As with the core MCA program, being declared eligible for Threshold Program assistance does not guarantee a country will receive such assistance. Further, participation in the Threshold Program does not guarantee future selection for the MCA. In fact, it is not necessary for countries to participate in the Threshold Program to improve their performance on the MCA indicators. Qualifying for the MCA will continue to depend on a country’s performance on the selection criteria. Improving performance on the MCA indicators will require strong political commitment and leadership over a sustained period.

For more information, visit www.mcc.gov.

West Africa Gas Pipeline Project Begins

The lack of clean, reliable power is a major constraint to economic development in West Africa. The West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP), now under construction, is a 693 km, \$617 million project that will deliver natural gas from Nigeria to Benin, Ghana, and Togo. This gas will initially be used for electrical power generation and later for other commercial and industrial purposes.

USAID provided over \$6 million of support for WAGP during the planning phase of the project. This support included advisory services to the Economic Community of West Africa States and the four countries involved to understand the technical, environmental, commercial, and legal issues pertaining to the construction and operation of the pipeline.

The pipeline, which will be laid mostly offshore, will be constructed by the privately-owned West Africa Gas Pipeline Company. This newly formed entity is a consortium of ChevronTexaco, the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, Shell Overseas Holdings Ltd., and the Volta River Authority of Ghana. WAGP is the first regional project developed under the New Partnership for Africa’s Development.

Frank Young, deputy assistant administrator for USAID’s Africa

Bureau, attended the ground breaking ceremony for the pipeline held in Ghana in early December. “This pipeline,” Young said, “will transform the economies of much of West Africa by providing reliable, low-cost energy while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Equally important, the pipeline represents an unprecedented cooperation between African states.”

A study commissioned by ChevronTexaco estimates that 10,000 to 20,000 jobs will be created in the region by WAGP. New power supplies fueled by gas from the project could stimulate the growth of new industry in the region.

A number of local environmental groups oppose WAGP, arguing that the potential environmental impacts of the pipeline were not sufficiently studied during the feasibility phase of the project. Measures are in progress, therefore, to provide additional information from the exhaustive environmental impact assessment to all stakeholders. Potential environmental benefits of the project include burning cleaner fuel in power stations in Benin, Ghana, and Togo, while reducing the amount of harmful gas emissions released during petroleum mining in Nigeria.

For more information, visit <http://wagpco.gap.chevrontexaco.com>.

Transforming Garbage into Power in Rwanda

By Mussolini Kithome

Development associations in Kigali, Rwanda, are transforming their communities by integrating the best in traditional wisdom and practices with cutting-edge solid waste management and biomass processing technologies. These groups, often run by women, manage the community's household garbage by converting it into fuel biomass briquettes for household use and compost organic fertilizer useful in crop production. The SAM Muhima community-based organization enterprise is one such group.

Séraphine Hagenimana, a primary-school dropout, founded the SAM Muhima Women's Group as a convenient forum to share her frustrations with other widows like her, left suffering by the 1994 genocide. Like many others, she lost her husband and several of her relatives during the genocide. She had no source of income and could not afford basic school requirements for her five young children.

Hagenimana and SAM Muhima had tried other income-generating activities before, such as selling vegetables, home-brewed beer, and garbage collection and processing, but it was only in 2004

that their luck changed. They received a grant of \$73,500 from USAID through Associates in Rural Development Inc. (ARD), a U.S.-based international development organization, for solid waste recycling and biomass energy development. The grant funded training, equipment, new technology development, and sensitization campaigns. They started collecting garbage daily from over 5,000 households, sorting and processing the waste into high quality fuel biomass briquettes for household and industrial use, and compost organic fertilizer for agricultural production. Demand for SAM Muhima's briquettes and organic fertilizer is now higher than the organization's production capacity.

This pilot solid waste recycling and biomass energy project currently has 117 full-time workers and as many as 25 part-time workers. Close to 90 percent of these workers are women, with little or no formal education. The enterprise has three steady sources of income: monthly service delivery fees from the households where garbage is collected daily, selling of fuel biomass briquettes, and selling of compost organic fertilizer. Within three months, the organization's bank account skyrocketed from zero to 5,157,500 Rwandan Francs, or approximately US\$9,350. Every worker has opened a bank account, where his or her salary is deposited.

Within its first eight months, the project has already created a significant economic



M.KITHOME/ARD

Séraphine Hagenimana organized other genocide widows into an income-generating group.

and environmental impact in Kigali. It has contributed to a reduction in deforestation by providing an alternative source of cooking fuel in the form of fuel biomass briquettes for the 98 percent of the Rwandan population that uses charcoal and/or wood fuel for cooking. It also has significantly reduced the amount of garbage transported to the landfill, decreasing the money spent by the local authorities on solid waste management by almost 50 percent.

Hagenimana and her group are now full of smiles. Whenever they have visitors, they perform a song of joy they wrote. "We were in the streets begging... but now we are dressed in a working uniform. Now we have a salary and a bank account.... Thank you USAID and ARD!"

Mussolini Kithome is the director of the ARD City of Kigali solid waste recycling project. For more information, contact him at mussolini_kithome@yahoo.co.uk.



M.KITHOME/ARD

Neighborhood garbage is collected and sorted.

Polio from page 1

nations in West and Central Africa and Sudan, making their rounds on foot, horseback, bicycle, and in boats and cars. During the same week in South Asia, another 3 million volunteers and health workers aimed to immunize 220 million children. The second round of the house-to-house campaign took place in West and Central Africa in November, with more than one million people helping to immunize 80 million children.

The goal of such massive synchronized campaigns, known as National Immunization Days (NIDs), is to interrupt circulation of poliovirus by immunizing every child under five years of age with two drops of OPV. The idea is to catch children who are either not immunized or only partially protected, and to boost the immunity in those who have already been immunized. Healthy, well nourished children each need three to four doses of OPV to be fully protected. Children who are malnourished, or who live in unsanitary conditions or where routine immunization is very low may need 6-10 or sometimes more doses to achieve the immunity levels needed to interrupt virus transmission. Additional rounds of immunizations will continue into 2005. In 2003, 415 million children under 5 years old were immunized during NIDs in 55 countries using over 2.2 billion doses of the polio vaccine.

In 2004, 1,185 children in 17 countries were needlessly paralyzed, with nearly 75 percent of them in Africa, primarily in Nigeria. "This is a tragedy for African children," said Ellyn Ogden, USAID Polio Coordinator. "This makes us more determined than ever to halt the spread of polio as quickly as possible. No child or family should suffer from this preventable, debilitating disease."

The northern Nigerian state of Kano became the epicenter of a resurgence of polio after immunizations there were

suspended for close to a year following unfounded rumors about the safety of the vaccine. As a result, poliovirus spread beyond the borders of Nigeria into a number of other countries including Chad, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Sudan, and as far away as Botswana. The resurgence of polio in countries that were once polio-free led to a mass mobilization campaign, which helped convince community, traditional, and religious leaders who were once suspicious to allow immunizations to resume.

Countries are striving to improve training of vaccinators and supervisors, mobilizing health ministries, and involving local and religious leaders to ensure that as many children as possible are vaccinated, USAID's Ogden said.

As a partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, USAID works closely with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund, Rotary International, U.S. nongovernmental organizations, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the UN Foundation, and others who are spearheading these immunization efforts. The initiative has invested \$5 billion in the campaign in a combination of external donor support and contributions directly from affected countries since the global initiative began in 1988. U.S. assistance to the polio initiative through USAID and the CDC has accounted for 40 percent of the initiative's funding.

When the Global Polio Eradication Initiative began its effort to rid the world of the disease in 1988, poliovirus was found active in 125 nations. Immunization campaigns have reduced polio cases worldwide from 350,000 in 1988, to 784 cases at the end of 2003. As a result, more than 5 million cases of polio-related paralysis have been averted. In support of these efforts, ministers of health of the key polio-affected coun-

tries in Africa have recommitted to stop transmission of polio by the end of 2005.

For additional information, contact Ellyn Ogden, USAID worldwide polio eradication coordinator, eogden@usaid.gov or visit www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_health/mch/ch/techareas/polio_brief.html or www.polioeradication.org.

Khulisa from page 3

official saw two of Delano's videos and hired him to film a conference. After watching Delano's video about gangs and violence, the director of the "Shaping the Learner" company commissioned Delano to prepare a safety and security video for an international conference scheduled for March 2006.

Delano has been accepted to the South African School of Motion Pictures and Live Entertainment in Johannesburg. He has also been offered a tuition scholarship to attend a video production training institute in southern California. Since he would prefer to study in the United States, Delano and his mother are trying to raise funds for transportation and living expenses.

Delano says he has been "busted and then blessed" in his experiences so far. He hopes to show other juveniles that crime doesn't pay, but rehabilitation does.

Reverie Zurba is USAID/South Africa's public information officer. For more information, visit www.khulisaservices.co.za or contact Zurba at rzurba@usaid.gov.

Radios, Radios, Radios Everywhere!

By Julie E. Fischer

Throughout rural Mali, access to information largely depends on access to a radio. Radios, which are owned by over 64 percent of rural households, remain the only reliable way to receive information. Yet women often lack direct access and control over the family radio. Even when women have access to a radio, the money for batteries is often not available. In April 2004, the USAID-financed Women in Governance or WING Project, conducted by Winrock International began distribution of more than 500 Freeplay radios in 16 communities in four Malian regions.

The Freeplay radios help women to overcome barriers to the information they want and need. Freeplay radios were created for use in rural areas and harsh conditions and are designed to function without conventional batteries. Seventy turns of a manual crank in 30 seconds will provide the listener with 30 minutes of playtime or the radio can be placed in direct sunlight to charge the permanent internal battery. When fully charged, the radio can play up to 24 hours.

Over 500 radios were distributed within the WING project zone, thereby touching the lives of thousands of

women. The Freeplay radios are used for collective listening by groups of women and are not given to individuals for personal use. Each recipient women's group selected a Freeplay radio guardian and signed agreements to ensure that both the guardian and the group are fully aware of the role of the guardian and purpose of the listening group. The Freeplay radio remains the property of the listening group.

In WING-organized "Leadership for Change" workshops women are learning that they too can play a role in public life and decision-making for the good of themselves and their families. WING field agents are observing a quick rise in the number of women willing to speak out, commit themselves to change, and fully participate in the public sphere of community development.

The WING project recognizes the direct link between information and positive change. Information—getting information, discussing information, reacting to information, acting on information—and its role in democracy and development are all messages women have been hearing during WING training and information sharing sessions.

The project was designed with radio in mind, incorporating radio messages into its training modules and producing local programs for and by women in the WING-targeted communities. With their new radios they will have better access to this all-important medium.

As a result, women are speaking out. Many ran in the May 2004 local elections. As a result, the number of elected women almost doubled in the targeted communities, from 21 to 42 women. These women are accustomed to facing the challenges that life presents them so they will not be deterred easily from becoming active in public life and creating a better future for their communities. The radio is an essential instrument on this road to change.

Julie E. Fischer is the WING project director. For more information, visit <http://mali.viky.net/usaaid>, or contact Kadidia Dienta Toure on USAID/ Mali's Democratic Governance Team at kdienta@usaaid.gov or +223 223-6826.



J. FISCHER/WINROCK INTL

Crisis Continues in Darfur, USAID Continues Assistance

In Darfur, western Sudan, one of the world's worst humanitarian crises continues. Violence associated with the Government of Sudan (GOS), GOS-sponsored militia known as Jingawit, and opposition groups—the Sudanese Liberation Movement/Army and the Justice and Equality Movement—has forced 1.84 million people from their homes within Darfur and an additional 213,000 people to cross the border into neighboring Chad.

The U.N. estimates that more than 2.6 million people have been affected by the crisis. In general, the security situation continues to deteriorate throughout Darfur, forcing some aid organizations to leave and hindering the ability of remaining organizations to provide humanitarian assistance.

The USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (USAID/DART) for Darfur is expanding in size and technical expertise in 2005. At present, the USAID/DART is composed of 20 members, including specialists in health, security, water and sanitation, engineering, logistics, food issues, information, and protection, and are based in Khartoum, El Fasher, Nyala, Geneina, and eastern Chad.

To date, the U.S. Government has provided more than \$559 million in humanitarian assistance to the crisis in Darfur. Of the \$559 million, nearly \$78 million has gone to help those refugees from Darfur who are now located in eastern Chad.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/locations/subsaharan_africa/sudan/darfur.html.

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

A selection of recent USAID-funded publications on Africa

Sub-National Distribution and Situation of Orphans: An Analysis of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief Focus Countries

Florence Nyangara. Jorge Scientific Corp; USAID/AFR/SD; USAID/GH. March 2004.

PN-ACX-650

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACX650.pdf (5,137 KB)

This study analyzes the sub-national geographical distribution of orphans in the African and Caribbean countries targeted by President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The analysis provides information about the communities where orphaned children reside and about their living situations.

The study reveals considerable variations across and within countries in the living circumstances of orphans. Specifically, the study highlights where high proportions of orphans live within each country and how their living circumstances—such as orphan status, sex and age of head of household, household socioeconomic status, sex and age of child, and household size—may influence their schooling.

This analysis generates useful information about the communities where orphaned children reside and explains the link between orphan status and school enrollment in 13 of the 14 countries identified for special assistance by the President's plan. The identification of "hot spots" in orphan prevalence is of particular importance for decision-making regarding the allocation of scarce program resources towards sub-regions with high proportions of orphans.

Baseline Study on the Status of Women in the New Sudan: Report for Mundri and Yei Counties, Western Equatoria, Southern Sudan

Tumushabe Joseph. USDA; USAID/REDSO. July 2004.

PN-ADA-532

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADA532.pdf (615 KB)

In southern Sudan, the situation of women has been exacerbated by civil and ethnic conflicts for two decades. In the absence of male family members during war times, women often take on the role of food producer and provider of security for the household, in addition to their traditional roles. These new roles place additional demands on women's time and resources, making it very difficult for women to participate effectively in the social, economic, and political issues that affect their lives.

This baseline study covers Mundri and Yei Counties in Western Equatoria. It specifically addresses the resources needed in society to highlight the social contributions of men and women, the investment of incomes among men and women, and the current legal status of women and men in both customary and statutory laws. It also examines the impact of the strategies and policies of government institutions and NGOs concerning women's access and full participation in activities that affect their families, communities, natural resource utilization, and conservation.

Nutrition and HIV/AIDS: Evidence, Gaps, and Priority Actions

Ellen Piwoz, Patricia Bonnard, et al. Academy for Educational Development; USAID/GH; USAID/AFR/SD. April 2004.

PN-ACY-055

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACY055.pdf (180 KB)

In Africa, where more than 25 million people live with HIV/AIDS, malnutrition and food insecurity are endemic. Nearly 40 percent of African children under age 5 are stunted due to chronic nutritional deprivation. This document summarizes the evidence and gaps related to nutrition and HIV/AIDS and discusses the complex relationship between HIV/AIDS, livelihoods, and food and nutrition security.

Food insecurity and poverty may lead to high-risk sexual behaviors and migration, increasing the risk of HIV infection. HIV/AIDS, in turn, significantly undermines the ability of households—and of entire communities—to provide for basic needs. Livelihoods are diminished when HIV-infected adults cannot work and, as a result, food production or earnings decrease. HIV further constrains the capacity of already food-insecure households to absorb the costs associated with HIV-related illnesses, provide enhanced nutritional support, and participate in community programs, sending many into a rapid downward economic spiral. This spiral is made worse when disabled parents are unable to pass on practical farm knowledge, or when children are withdrawn from school because they must care for ill family members or because there is no money to pay school fees. Priority actions and a summary of nutrition interventions according to HIV disease progression are noted in the conclusion.

Estimating the Cost of Providing Home-Based Care for HIV/AIDS in Rwanda

Rudolph Chandler, Caytie Decker, and Bernard Nziyige. Abt Associates; USAID/GH; USAID/Rwanda; USAID/REDSO. June 2004.

PN-ACY-510

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACY510.pdf (171 KB)

Home-based care (HBC) for HIV/AIDS is increasingly looked to as a more accessible and affordable alternative to in-patient care, both for patients who are unable to travel to or pay for in-patient care, and for governments that must fund in-patient facilities. Partners for Health Reform^{plus} estimated the cost of HBC for HIV in Rwanda, based on an early 2004 sample of eight facility- and community-based programs that implement the medical care recommended in the Ministry of Health guidelines for HBC. Facility-based care focuses on health care, utilizing a combination of health professionals and volunteers, delivering higher levels of care and offering referrals to facilities with which they are associated. Community-based care offers a more holistic approach including psychosocial support, not only to people living with HIV/AIDS but to entire households. The study found that facility-based care has higher estimated costs than community-based care, with monthly costs per client ranging from approximately \$31.20 to \$36.01 per month against \$12.75 to \$24.53 per month for community-based care. Up to 50 percent of program costs are attributed to food assistance, highlighting the poverty faced by many households. Staff and per diem costs account for 12-37 percent of total costs. Drugs and medical supplies costs account for an average of only 2 percent of total costs. Both types of program rely on volunteer assistance, and staff attrition is a concern.

Trans-Kalahari Corridor Implementation of a Common Transit System—Introduction of an International Customs Guarantee: Mission to Botswana, Namibia, and South Africa

Ranga Munyaradzi and Des Grimble. Chemonics International; USAID/RCSA. June 2004.

PN-ACY-606

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACY606.pdf (146 KB)

To facilitate trade in the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) region, in November 2003 the ministers of transport of three SADC countries—Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa—signed

a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the Trans-Kalahari Corridor (TKC). As a result of this commitment, the customs administrations of the three countries, with USAID technical assistance, have simplified and harmonized their customs procedures. The three countries have also agreed to implement long-term arrangements in compliance with the SADC Trade Protocol to allow cross-border movements to proceed under the cover of guarantees mutually accepted by all three customs administrations. This report examines the customs, legal, and financial guarantee environments in Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa and makes proposals for an international common customs bond guarantee chain for the TKC, with particular attention to its capability of being rolled out to other SADC countries and corridors.

Trading for Peace: An Overview of Markets and Trading Practices, with Particular Reference to Peace Markets in Northern Bahr El Ghazal, South Sudan

Shannon Fraser, Caroline Gullick, et al, eds. Sudan Production Aid; Bahr El Ghazal Youth Development Agency; Concern Worldwide; USDA; USAID/DCHA/OFDA. September 2004.

PN-ADA-531

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADA531.pdf (2,117 KB)

Trade represents a mutually beneficial activity that can unify warring peoples and provide outlets for communication, while requiring each side to realize their need for the other's products. The so-called "Peace Markets" of Northern Bahr el Ghazal, located in the transition zone of Sudan, exemplify this situation. This paper explores the present Peace Market trade situation on the ground, examines the potential gains of increased trade, and highlights constraining factors, such as lack of administrative and physical infrastructure, the impact of food aid, and restrictive societal norms. Areas covered include trade and markets in general and peace markets in particular, women and trade, labor, currency, revenue, credit, transportation, and humanitarian relief.

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-ACX-650, in the field search option.

New Assistant Administrator for Africa Bureau Sworn In

Lloyd O. Pierson was sworn in on December 13, 2004, as USAID Assistant Administrator for Africa and as the government representative on the board of directors of the African Development Foundation. Pierson was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on November 21, 2004.

As the head of the Africa Bureau, Pierson will provide overall regional and country expertise, manage USAID programs in the field, and represent

USAID on Africa to the U.S. Congress.

He will also be responsible for communication at the regional and country level with other international donors and financial organizations.

Prior to joining USAID, he

was chief of staff/chief of operations for the U.S. Peace Corps. Shortly after the inauguration of President Bush in 2001, Pierson was named a member of the transition team at Peace Corps. As chief of staff/chief of operations, he was responsible for the day-to-day operations of all Peace Corps programs abroad, headquarters staff, and the 11 domestic regional recruiting offices.

He previously served in the Peace Corps Director's Office as associate director. From 1984-1991 he was the country director in first Ghana and then Botswana and served an interim assignment in Swaziland. He was named the first Peace Corps country director in Namibia following that country's independence from South Africa. He subsequently assisted with establishing Peace Corps programs in Armenia, Bulgaria, and Uzbekistan.

Prior to returning to Peace Corps in 2001, Pierson was director of the Africa

Division for the International Republican Institute, a Washington, D.C. based nonprofit organization that works to advance democracy and good governance abroad. He has testified before the U.S. Congress on Angola, Nigeria, and Zimbabwe and has been quoted in the media and academic journals on issues related to Africa.

From 1982 to 1984, Pierson was a staff associate on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations. He also served as administrative assistant for former members of Congress Mickey Edwards (R-OK) and Bill Archer (R-TX).

He is a graduate of the University of Houston and has done post-graduate studies at the South Texas College of Law and Lamar University.



Lloyd O. Pierson.

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