

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The United States' strong trade and business partnerships with South Africa are hallmarks for the continent. In 2008, the United States is the third largest trading partner for South Africa, after Germany and China. Also in 2008, South African exports to the US totaled \$9.9 billion, an increase of nine percent from 2007. South Africa's AGOA exports to the U.S. were \$6.1 billion in 2008. The United States is the largest portfolio investor (\$51.6 billion) and second largest source of foreign direct investment in South Africa after the UK.

The US Embassy regularly sponsors workshops on entrepreneurialism, small and medium business management and financial planning for businesses. Four workshops for over 500 people were convened in FY 2008. Through the South African International Business Linkages (SAIBL) Program, the US Embassy provides technical assistance to enhance the competitiveness of historically disadvantaged small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the manufacturing, services and agricultural sectors and helps them to build commercial trade ties between larger, more established businesses in South Africa and around the world. This program has created over 18,000 jobs and generated \$1.7 billion in SME revenue over 10 years.

In September, U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu and South African Minister of Energy Dipuo



Peters signed a bilateral Agreement on Cooperation in Research and Development of Nuclear Energy. The Agreement will facilitate cooperation in the area of advanced nuclear energy systems. It will also augment efforts to promote and maintain nuclear science and engineering infrastructure and skills.

Entrepreneurial workshop at Tshwane City Hall, September 2009

MILITARY COOPERATION



The USS Arleigh Burke participated in joint exercises with the South African military in July 2009.

The U.S. Department of Defense and the South African Ministry of Defence manage their robust defense relationship via the U.S.-RSA Defense Committee (DEFCOM). Established in 1997, the 11th DEFCOM meeting took place in Monterey, California in July 2009 and involved discussions on Defense Policies, Military to Military activities, Military Health programs to include combating HIV/AIDS, Environmental Security programs, Military Education and Training to include training for Peace Support Operations, and Acquisitions and Technology.

In 2009, the total value of defense activities with the South African Ministry of Defence and the South African National Defence Force was approximately \$5.4 Million (R40 Million). In 2008, the U.S. Department of Defense was the single largest purchaser of defense materials from South African firms purchasing approximately R2.685 Billion worth of vehicles, spares, and artillery rounds.

United States Diplomatic Mission to South Africa

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UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA

PARTNERSHIPS AND INITIATIVES SOUTH AFRICA

2008–2009



SOUTHAFRICA.USEMBASSY.GOV

CONSULAR SERVICES

The US Mission's consular sections in Cape Town, Durban, Johannesburg, and Pretoria are front and center in maintaining a strong South Africa-U.S. relationship on the people-to-people level. Nearly 50,000 South Africans per year receive U.S. entry visas allowing them to visit, study, work, or perform in the U.S.A.

For South African visitors, the visa approval rate is close to 95% and most visas are valid for multiple trips for a period of ten years. Appointments for visa interviews are normally available in as little as two days' time and can be booked



via Internet or phone. The US Mission also offers visa services in Johannesburg for hundreds of South Africans seeking "green cards" to immigrate every year to join family in the U.S., as winners of the annual Diversity Visa lottery program, or in a small number of cases for specialized employment placements or large investments.

The most important consular responsibility the Embassy in Pretoria and the three Consulates General have is serving the estimated 22,000 U.S. citizens who live in South Africa and well over 200,000 who come here every year for tourism or business. The Mission also advises visitors on safety and security; the overwhelming majority experience this beautiful, exciting country without incident. In the small number of cases where U.S. citizens fall victim to an accident or crime or go missing, consular staffs provide a full range of support to the individuals and families affected with deeply appreciated help from the SAPS and other South African government offices, local hospitals and health professionals, as well as private organizations like the National Sea Rescue Institute.

PARTNERSHIP AND INITIATIVES

HEALTH

The United States supports a variety of health initiatives in South Africa with a focus on strengthening the country's health systems in order to manage the heavy burdens of HIV and AIDS and tuberculosis.

PEPFAR—the US President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief—is the largest globally and has contributed to putting more than 700,000 people on HIV treatment in South Africa. PEPFAR support from 2004-2009 totals over R13.8 billion. In South Africa, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) directs its 148 prime partners and more than 650 sub-partners, most of whom are South African non-governmental organizations, to support the South African Government's goals as established in *The HIV & AIDS and STI Strategic Plan for South Africa, 2007-2011*.



Ambassador Gips at a crèche in North West



**IN FY 2009,
THE US GOVERNMENT
PROVIDED OVER
\$551 MILLION TO
SOUTH AFRICA TO
SUPPORT PROGRAMS
TO COMBAT HIV/AIDS.**

In 2009, PEPFAR provided nearly \$551.1 million to South Africa, with 38% allocated to treatment programs; 25% to prevention; 25% to care; and 12% to other program areas. With PEPFAR support, an estimated 726,572 people are currently on anti-retroviral treatment and 1.8 million have received HIV-related palliative care. Nearly 528,117 orphans and vulnerable children received services.

PEPFAR works closely with the SA government to provide services and technical assistance for comprehensive HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment programs that include a focus on Orphans and Vulnerable Children and tuberculosis.

The US Mission also works with the SA government on Avian Influenza preparedness and outbreaks such as H1N1 influenza, cholera and other new infections providing support for specialized training, laboratory testing and planning.

EDUCATION

The US Embassy supports South African education through programs that target disadvantaged children and adults. Through partnerships with the South African Department of Education, the US supports peer education programs and other HIV prevention activities; provides support to universities to mitigate the impact of HIV and AIDS on campuses and surrounding communities, as well as scientific research.

The Embassy also supports 10 Information Resource Centers, American Corners and Reading Rooms across the country. Hundreds of young people use the centers DAILY for reference and research, homework assistance, information literacy training, and programs on a range of educational topics.

The Mae Jemison U.S. Science Reading Room is one example of focused learning support. The science and technology resources and programs at this Reading Room aim to raise interest and advancement in the sciences among secondary school students.

The English Language Office directly supports education in South Africa through the 140-student English Access Microscholarship Program, through book donations, training workshops and education exchanges such as the English Language Fellow Program, Fulbright English Teaching Assistants and Masters in TESOL program.

The US Mission also supports a three-year \$6.74 million workforce/skills development program to assist South Africa to create and sustain career-enhancing education and training programs that are responsive to the current and future labor needs of South Africa's employers. Through support of the Further Education and Training sector in Limpopo, Mpumalanga and Northern Cape, the program seeks to increase employability of students.

Academic exchange programs bring approximately 100 South Africans to the U.S. each year. These programs provide various opportunities for study and research at the undergraduate through postdoctoral levels. The programs include the flagship Fulbright Program for students, scholars, teachers and alumni to study, teach and research; Study of the United States Institutes for Global Student Leaders intensive academic programs for undergraduates to enhance leadership skills and their understanding of the United States; the Exchange on Music Composition and Performance to provide access to high quality music study and performance facilities for undergraduates; the Community College Initiative Program to enable individuals to spend one year studying at community colleges in the United States and earn a vocational certificate; and the Distinguished Fulbright Awards in Teaching to bring teachers to the U.S. for a semester.

AGRICULTURE

U.S.-South Africa bilateral trade in agricultural and food exports reached a record \$625 million in 2008, a 45% increase of the average trade value over the previous five years. In 2008, the United States ranked seventh as an export destination for South

African agricultural and food products.

The USDA-managed Cochran and Borlaug Fellowship Programs provide training in agricultural topics to promising young businesspeople, officials, and academics. South

Africa typically has about 20 Cochran Fellows each year and in 2009, USDA awarded Borlaug Fellowships for the first time to four South Africans. Education and training is a priority of the South African government and USDA's agriculture-focused programs are highly valued for building capacity along the entire agriculture and food value chain. U.S. government sanitary and phytosanitary activities ensured South Africa retained \$40 million in fruit trade to the United States, helped preserve \$4 million in regional fruit trade, and is promoting the development of harmonized technical standards that will facilitate business and trade development.

U.S. government sponsored agricultural biotechnology outreach programs are also helping to improve food security within the region.



The US Department of Agriculture provides training and technical assistance to farmers across South Africa.