

Making Progress in Africa 2004



United States Agency for International Development
Bureau for Africa

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On the cover:
Guinean women in a USAID-
sponsored computer literacy
course.
Photo by L. Lartigue/USAID
Guinea

With the world's highest rates of poverty, illiteracy, hunger, and disease, sub-Saharan Africa faces numerous and complex challenges. Yet there is cause for optimism that increased economic growth and new development opportunities will herald a better future for Africa's people.

For the United States, African development assistance represents a vital investment in global security and market growth. Reducing poverty and hunger, mitigating conflict, promoting democracy, and fighting the spread of HIV/AIDS are all critically important to U.S. national security, regional stability, and our efforts to both encourage worldwide economic growth and combat transnational security threats.

USAID supports a broad range of programs to address sub-Saharan Africa's most pressing development needs and strengthen Africa's ability to solve its own problems. Common themes in USAID's approach are to:

- Increase Africans' capacity to design and manage their own programs;
- Help African countries and partners improve their policies, programs, and strategies for development;
- Connect more programs across sectors such as health and education to multiply their effects; and
- Create new partnerships with other development organiza-

tions and the private sector—U.S., African, and world-wide—to maximize the impact of USAID resources.

USAID works in several sectors in Africa in its effort to address the challenges that face the continent. The Agency supports greater access to basic education and health services because investing in people is perhaps the single most important factor in economic growth. Raising small-scale farm productivity and income is critical to reducing poverty and increasing food security. The HIV/AIDS pandemic, which threatens economic, social, and democratic gains, is USAID's top health priority in the region. Violent conflict and instability will remain a serious risk for almost half of the countries in Africa for the foreseeable future, yet there are positive signs that democracy is putting down roots across the continent. And protecting Africa's rich, yet threatened, biodiversity is vital to preventing irreparable damage to Africa's, and the world's, environment.

Central to USAID's efforts in Africa are four ongoing presidential initiatives: the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa, the Trade for African Development and Enterprise Initiative, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, and the Africa Education Initiative. In addition, the recently launched President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief will dramatically expand USAID's existing HIV/

AIDS programs. USAID's portfolio also includes the African Anti-Corruption Initiative, the Africa Conflict and Peace Building Fund, and the Leland Initiative, which fosters access to information and communications technology.

Agriculture

Since the livelihoods of so many Africans depend on agriculture—nearly 70 percent of all Africans rely on farming for all or some of their income—increasing agricultural productivity is vital to the region's efforts to achieve food security and reduce hunger and poverty. Hunger remains one of sub-Saharan Africa's most significant problems, with one in every three people undernourished, and Africa is the only continent worldwide where hunger is getting worse.

Nearly all of USAID's Missions in Africa implement programs to boost agricultural productivity and rural incomes. Agricultural yields in Africa remain the lowest in the world. To escape poverty, the rural small-scale farmers that account for over 90 percent of the continent's agricultural production must be able to grow more crops, sell them at higher prices, and have better access to markets. At the local level, USAID's programs stress the use of improved technologies, better quality control, wider access to rural finance, stronger producer associations, increased access to information, better functioning

markets, and more effective national agricultural policies. Related efforts promote private sector diversification of the rural economy such as agro-processing and increase the production of nontraditional crops for export.

For instance, in Kenya, USAID helped train women in small-scale dairy production and marketing, facilitated the opening of a dairy processing plant to link farmers with a large Kenyan supermarket chain, and provided training to small-scale farmers to enable them to increase the quality, variety, and production rates of their crops.

The five-year Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA) channels significant new resources to increase agricultural productivity and make greater progress in the fight against hunger. IEHA focuses on programs that emphasize the use of modern agricultural technology to improve the quality of produce and increase agricultural yields and income for small-scale farmers.

In Uganda, for example, demonstrations of improved rice and maize technologies have benefited more than 140,000 small-scale farmers, enabling them to increase production and their



A South African pepper grower.

R. Zurba/USAID South Africa



Dorris Tetteh, a Ghanaian farmer, has found success through cultivating mangoes.

Food Vendor Turns Main Supplier of Mangoes

After five years of being a food vendor for customers who rarely paid for their meals, Doris Tetteh started cultivating corn to help meet the food needs of the family. When USAID introduced its food security program in 1996 in the Krobo district of Ghana's Eastern Region, Tetteh jumped at the chance to improve her livelihood.

The USAID program helped Tetteh and 1,000 other poor farmers like her with mango seedlings, corn seeds, and fertilizer. The farmers acquired skills in disease prevention and management, harvesting, post-harvest handling, and marketing. They were also trained in mango grafting, which enabled them to produce their own high-yielding and early-bearing plant materials.

Tetteh started with two acres of mangoes and intercropped it with corn for domestic use. She used the money from the sale of the extra corn harvested to expand the farm annually—she has acquired 26 acres of mangoes during the past six years. She also established a nursery to provide mango seedlings for sale to other farmers in the area. Tetteh harvests 200 tons of fresh mangoes a year, earning a gross income of \$100,000, and produces over 12,000 mango seedlings annually valued at \$18,000.

From the proceeds, Tetteh has purchased a pick-up truck for delivering the fruit to processing companies and customers and a tractor for her farming operations, which is hired out to other farmers when not in use. She has also begun diversifying into livestock farming with 17 cattle and 70 sheep and goats. Tetteh is now the main supplier of fresh mangoes and mango seedlings in the Krobo area. The remarkable improvements in the living standards of Tetteh and other USAID-assisted farmers have encouraged other farmers and organizations to establish large acreages on their own, making the Krobo district the most important mango-producing area in Ghana.

incomes. In East Africa, the USAID-supported Regional Agricultural Trade Intelligence Network provides real-time price and trade information through radio, web, and cell phone systems, which reaches more than 10 million listeners.

Economic Growth

Sub-Saharan Africa remains the world's poorest region with half of its population living on less than \$1 per day. It is only through increased and sustained economic growth that African countries will

meet the United Nations' Millennium Development Goal target of halving poverty by 2015. Building free markets in Africa and strengthening the ability of African countries to participate competitively in the global economy are critical to overall economic growth. USAID's economic activities focus on private-sector-led growth, trade development, and building skills, markets, and private sector institutions.

Africa has great potential to become a significant partner in international

markets, yet the region accounts for only 2 percent of current global trade. Through the four-year Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE) Initiative, USAID is working to increase Africa's global economic participation. The TRADE initiative supports these goals by strengthening the ability of African countries and businesses to develop their exports; promoting U.S.-African business links; and enabling African business to take better advantage of opportunities

under the African Growth and Opportunity Act. USAID provides technical assistance and training, policy advice, and economic analysis through three regional TRADE hubs located in Botswana, Kenya, and Ghana. The hubs also work with regional economic organizations to increase economic integration and reduce barriers to trade.

A variety of economic growth programs are implemented by USAID's Missions to support business development for small and

Telecommunications Reform Changes Lives

In 1999 Raphael Mathe, a struggling street hawker in Gaborone, Botswana, heard that one of the phone companies in the market had started selling wireless public phone packages. Raphael, the breadwinner in a family of six, decided to use his life savings and a loan to buy one—a decision that changed his life.

Following policy reforms that liberalized the telecommunications sector, Botswana Telecommunications Authority authorized new cellular service providers. These new developments opened doors for entrepreneurs who could now buy public phone service packages from retail outlets and airtime from the new cellular phone service providers.

Numerous privately run public phone stalls like those owned by Mathe are now part of the cityscape in Botswana, providing business opportunities and a vital service to many citizens who otherwise had no access to telecommunications services.

USAID's Leland Initiative has supported telecommunications reform in southern Africa since 1997 by helping some countries in the southern African region draft new policies and legislation to increase competition and efficiency in telecommunications. Later, support focused on building a strong network of regulators in the region and strengthening their systems and regulatory capacity. This model, cited as a best practice by the International Telecommunication Union, has been exported to East and West Africa, Eastern Europe, and the Middle East.

Mathe has high praises for telecommunications liberalization. "This business has given me financial freedom, allowing me to buy a house for my family, and a car to support my work. I have also learned new business skills, and now sell other small commodities alongside the public phone business."



A public phone kiosk in Gaborone, Botswana.

medium enterprises, and improve the capacity of businesses and farmers to serve local and regional markets. In Senegal, a program is helping the rural council in Diaobé better manage its regional market, leading to a quadrupling of monthly market revenues for the municipality and improvements in the market itself. USAID's program in Madagascar has helped rehabilitate that country's profoundly poor roads, which prevented farmers from getting their produce to market. It is estimated that 150,000 farmers along 136 kilometers of completed roads have now marketed \$1.2 million more produce than before the rehabilitation. Coffee farmers in Rwanda are now producing higher quality coffee and have created links with international buyers with help from USAID. These farmers are now selling their premium Maraba coffee at 350 supermarkets in Britain and the United States, and their profits have increased threefold.

Environment

Africa has a diverse and abundant natural resource base that, if prudently managed, can contribute to sustainable economic growth. Major challenges remain, however. The region contains 45 percent of global biodiversity yet has the world's highest rate of deforestation. And while most Africans currently live in rural areas, Africa is urbanizing rapidly, creating new environmental challenges. By 2016, half

of all Africans will reside in urban areas.

USAID's environmental programs in Africa link better management of natural resources with improved livelihoods. These programs focus on policy change and community-based approaches to natural resource management. USAID also supports efforts to reduce long-term threats to the environment, particularly global climate change and the loss of biodiversity.

Experience has demonstrated that community-based natural resource management programs can successfully preserve valuable environmental assets while extending economic benefits to a broader range of households. Involving local residents in planning and conducting ecotourism in Madagascar has generated a new group of stakeholders with a vested interest in protecting their parks and forests. Twenty-nine thousand hectares of natural forest were transferred to 25 community management associations, and USAID helped establish farmer associations in 882 villages where approximately 26,000 farmers have agreed to stop destructive slash and burn farming around critical biodiversity habitats.

In Namibia, community-based natural resource management enterprises contributed an estimated \$5.5 million to the national economy, and there has been an 81 percent increase in the number of

hectares under conservancy management since 2002. In Guinea, the national government has devolved the management of 87,247 hectares in five protected forests to local communities, who now share the responsibilities for and the benefits

of sustainable management with the Guinean Forest Service.

USAID's flagship environmental program is the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP), which supports efforts to conserve this invaluable forest and promote sustain-

Active Forest Management Restores a Cultural Symbol

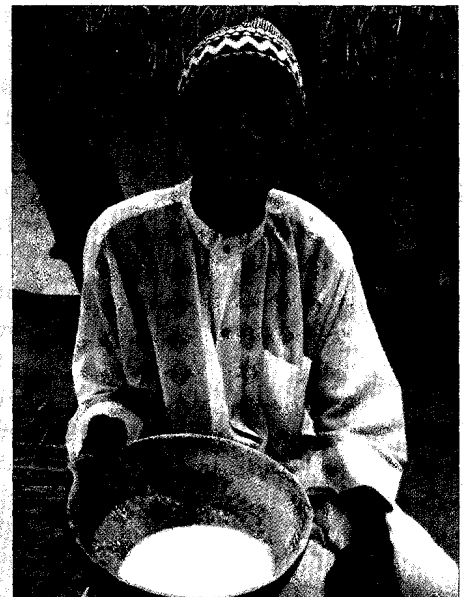
For the Pulaar ethnic group of Senegal, *kosam*, or curdled milk, is a dietary staple and a cherished symbol of health, purity, and prosperity. Eaten daily with millet and used in periodic traditional rituals, *kosam* was once a part of Pulaar society year-round, particularly in Saré Bidji and Ndorna in the southern region of Kolda. By early 2001, however, no one in the area could remember the last time their cows had produced milk beyond the six-month rainy season.

"The forest here used to be richer, there was more pasture, and the grasses grew back faster after forest fires," said El Hadji Woorá Baldé, a local village chief. "Each cow produced around four liters of milk per milking, whereas for many years now, even in the rainy season, we only get one liter at a time. The grasses they used to eat have disappeared."

During a USAID-sponsored local governance workshop in early 2001, forest management emerged as the number one shared priority among the 200 villages represented, so they proposed that USAID assist them in forming forest protection committees. USAID organized workshops to inform local citizens about their environmental rights and responsibilities under decentralization, including putting out fires, monitoring forest use, and reporting infractions to the Forestry Service. USAID also provided grants totaling \$54,000 in the form of bicycles, motorcycles, fire gear, and committee uniforms and badges.

A community budget was established through a transparent, democratic process and included new provisions for the upkeep and replacement of the forest committees' bicycles, motorcycles, and other equipment. The rural councils and committees set up a system for reporting and tracking infractions, as well as an inter-village communication strategy to ensure reliable coordination of preventive and emergency measures.

In 2003, for the first time in years, the villagers of Saré Bidji enjoyed *kosam* straight through the dry season. "This year our rural area has really seen the impact of USAID's local governance project," Bomelle Baldé, a 46-year-old Saré Bidji resident and mother of nine said. "There was grass for our cows all the way up until the rains came, and we have had milk all year. We are more conscious of the environment now... and we understand the role that our whole community plays in protecting the forest."



A Senegalese village elder with a sample of *kosam*, curdled milk.

able management of the forest's ecosystem and wildlife. The Congo Basin Forest, located within the boundaries of six countries, is the second largest remaining tropical forest in the world. The partnership supports a network of national parks, protected areas, and forestry concessions, and provides assistance to communities living in and near the forest. The Central African Regional Program for the Environment, initiated in 1995, is USAID's principal vehicle to achieve the goals of the CBF.

Education

The knowledge and skills fostered through education enable people to increase their incomes, improve their health and livelihoods, and become better prepared to participate in democratic processes. While access to formal education has risen in most African countries during the past several years, over 46 million children are currently not enrolled in school, more than in any other region of the world. Fifty-four percent of all girls do not complete primary school, and of those who do, one in three cannot effectively read, write, or do simple arithmetic. Education quality is poor, with large class sizes, poorly trained teachers, a severe shortage of textbooks and other supplies, and inadequate school facilities. In addition, HIV/AIDS further strains the education system as more and more teachers succumb to the disease.

USAID is working with schools, education ministries, and educators' networks to increase access to quality basic education for African children—especially girls—to respond to the effects of HIV/AIDS; to ensure that teachers are well trained for basic education and life skills instruction; to supply relevant and up-to-date textbooks; and to enable communities to become more involved in—and responsible for—their children's education.

One of USAID's major education programs is the African Education Initiative (AEI), which operates in more than 40 African countries. Over a five-year period, AEI will grant 250,000 scholarships for girls; provide 4.5 million textbooks, workbooks, and teachers' guides; and train 420,000 new and existing teachers. To implement this initiative, USAID works closely with African ministries of education and higher education institutions, local and international nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector.

USAID's country-level programs focus on educational policy and system reforms, community-based education programs, and increased parental and civil society involvement. In Mali, for example, USAID has focused on working with parents and communities in underserved rural areas to expand access to education through community schools. As a result, more than 160,000 children who would otherwise not have the opportunity are

Storybooks Help Children Learn to Read in Guinea

A USAID reading instruction program in Guinea, funded in part by President Bush's Africa Education Initiative, is showing teachers how to use storybooks, locally made classroom materials, and child-centered teaching approaches to get kids hooked on reading.

"The children in my class are all reading," says Aboubacar Touré, a grade 3 teacher in Mamou. "Some are even writing their own compositions." Touré is taking part in a national program to reinforce reading instruction in Guinea for primary school teachers sponsored by USAID. With an adult literacy rate of only 41 percent, the majority of Guineans are still unable to read or write. In an effort to ensure a higher rate of literacy among Guinea's young people, USAID in-service teacher training sessions are showing Guinea's teachers how to teach reading to children in a meaningful and engaging way. Touré says, "The training we've received helps us learn how to get children interested in reading and to love it. The strategies have children play games or work in groups. It's really wonderful to see in the classroom."

The first of its kind in Guinea, the program is ensuring that all children in grades 1 and 2 have their own set of story books to use in class, and to take home to share with friends and family.

The USAID reading instruction program, which trained nearly 15,000 educators in Guinea in 2003, encourages the creation of classroom reading materials designed to capture children's interest and imagination. Teacher's guides describe specific strategies for teaching reading skills in a way that children enjoy. The program has been well-received by Guinean teachers, 91 percent of whom are now using the reading program in the classroom. Of those, 96 percent say they have seen improvements in student's reading abilities since the introduction of the program in 2001.

The Government of Guinea has also shown strong support of the reading program by agreeing to fund the reproduction of all reading materials for children in grades 1 and 2, and to test students' reading abilities at the end of those grades. In addition, the Government will take the lead in conducting teacher training in reading instruction in 2004, support that will ensure the program's adoption and successful continuation within Guinea.

attending safe, effective schools close to home.

In Zambia, USAID supports the provision of interactive radio instruction to 29,723 orphans and other vulnerable children who had fallen between the cracks of the

formal education system. And in Benin, where USAID's program promotes greater access to education for girls, enrollment of girls increased from 53 percent to 66 percent after one year. In addition, girls are benefiting from activities



Aboubacar Touré and his enthusiastic grade 3 class in Mamou, Guinea.

L. Lartigue/USAID Guinea

such as peer tutoring and income-generating activities.

Health and Family Planning

A healthier population is essential to Africa's efforts to reduce poverty and improve living standards. However, during the past decade, health status gains have been undermined in many countries in the region by increasing poverty, civil unrest, and the rapid spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases,

such as tuberculosis, malaria, meningitis, and cholera. The disease burden in Africa is the highest in the world and life expectancy has continued to decline as a result. Immunization rates for children under one year are still below 80 percent, leaving significant numbers vulnerable. Investment in health systems and basic health interventions has not kept pace with need.

To increase the availability, effectiveness, and access to quality health



An Eritrean woman and her child receive health counseling from a trained practitioner.

Saving the Lives of Children in Eritrea

Having endured a 30-year struggle for independence and a recent border conflict, Eritrea's health system lacked facilities, supplies, and skilled health care staff. In 1995, just 41 percent of children aged 12-23 months were fully vaccinated and 38 percent had received no vaccinations at all. Infant and child mortality rates were 72 and 136 per 1,000, respectively.

USAID, through a \$2.3 million grant, helped to supply both equipment and training in the implementation and management of an expanded program for immunization. USAID also assisted the Ministry of Health (MOH) to begin the implementation of integrated management of childhood illness (IMCI), a comprehensive strategy to reduce child mortality. With USAID help, the MOH conducted a baseline survey to determine the ability of health facilities and health workers to implement IMCI. Over 500 health care providers at all levels of the health care system were trained in IMCI case management.

A follow-up assessment of health facilities was completed in 2003 and showed tremendous improvement in the availability of equipment and drugs necessary to implement IMCI. Assessment practices of health care providers also improved—checking for cough, diarrhea, and fever increased from 25 percent to 89 percent and checking immunization status increased from 19 percent to 58 percent.

The percentage of fully vaccinated children aged 12-23 months increased from 41 percent in 1995 to 76 percent in 2002. According to a Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), this level of immunization coverage is among the highest in sub-Saharan African countries in the past five years and the rate of improvement—83 percent over seven years—is remarkable at a time when immunization coverage has decreased in Africa on average.

The 2002 DHS also showed remarkable progress in the reduction of infant mortality—from 72 per 1,000 children in 1995 to 48 per 1,000 children in 2002; and under-five mortality—from 136 per 1,000 children to 93 per 1,000 children—during the same period.

care, USAID is implementing broad-based health programs in dozens of countries in sub-Saharan Africa. To address the leading causes of child mortality and morbidity—malaria, malnutrition, respiratory diseases, diarrhea, and vaccine-preventable illnesses—USAID supports programs that increase immunization coverage, build human capacity to provide quality care, and improve community and household practices for prevention and management of childhood illnesses.

A USAID-supported national measles immunization campaign in Senegal vaccinated 98 percent of children ages 9 months to 14 years. Similar results were achieved in a campaign in Zambia, with 95 percent vaccination coverage. In Malawi, sales of insecticide-treated bed nets to reduce the risk of malaria reached almost one million people in 2003—almost a five-fold increase over 2002—providing a proven model for future programming.

Although the majority of African women say they desire fewer children, contraceptive prevalence rates remain under 20 percent in all but five countries. USAID supports a broad range of family planning programs, including public education, training a broad range of service providers, dialogue with policymakers, outreach through traditional and community structures, community-based distribution

and private sector participation in service provision, and encouragement of child spacing practices.

HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS pandemic threatens to undermine Africa's capacity to develop and prosper. An estimated 25 million sub-Saharan Africans are currently infected with HIV/AIDS. Ninety-five percent of children made vulnerable by AIDS, or nearly 11 million, live in Africa. This number is expected to rise to 18 million by 2010. There are hopeful signs, however, that prevention measures are beginning to slow the spread of this disease. The experience of Uganda, where infection rates have decreased by 50 percent from 1997-2001, and promising results among certain groups in Zambia and elsewhere, demonstrate that strong leadership and a comprehensive approach to prevention can be effective in stabilizing or even reducing prevalence rates.

HIV/AIDS is the major health priority for USAID in Africa. The U.S. government's global AIDS program and policy are coordinated by the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator in the Department of State, which oversees the \$15 billion, five-year Presidential Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. USAID is playing a key role in the implementation of the Emergency Plan, whose goals are to support treatment for 2 million HIV-infected people, prevent 7 million new HIV



Children and staff at the Multi-Purpose Center in Walvis Bay, Namibia.

Fight Against HIV/AIDS Gains Local Support

Namibia has one of the world's highest HIV/AIDS infection rates. To curb the growth of the disease, which is still on an upward trajectory, programs aimed at reducing risky behavior are critical. An important target audience is the work force, both in terms of reducing rates of disease and protecting economic growth. Equally important is reaching work force managers to help them understand the consequences of the disease and steps that can be undertaken to mitigate its impact.

Since its inception in 2001, the USAID-supported Multi-Purpose Center (MPC) has been central to public and private efforts to fight HIV/AIDS in the coastal town of Walvis Bay. The MPC, which was constructed by the U. S. Department of Defense on land donated by the municipality, facilitates access to legal and other care and support services, manages a soup kitchen for orphans and vulnerable children, and sponsors a wide range of behavioral change activities, including an effort to take the fight against HIV/AIDS in Namibia into the workplace.

Today the MPC has one of Namibia's most successful workplace programs. The MPC has worked with 20 businesses to establish or strengthen peer counseling programs. By instituting a "fee for service" for its workplace initiatives, the MPC was able to recover an estimated 60 to 70 percent of its training costs during FY 2004. Over 4,500 workers in Walvis Bay were reached, representing 82 percent of the workforce within the targeted companies. Remarkably, the MPC has been able to reach out to regional government and private sector entities to fund other aspects of its operations as well. Currently at least 49 entities are making donations. Income diversification and cost recovery have allowed the MPC to expand its services to include voluntary counseling and testing and enhanced care and support for orphans and vulnerable children.

infections, and support care for 10 million people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS, including orphans and vulnerable children. Important activities within the program include anti-retoviral therapy for people infected by AIDS, expanded access to counseling and testing, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, palliative care, community based services for orphans and vulnerable children, and promotion of abstinence, faithfulness, and condom use for prevention of HIV/AIDS.

Many of USAID's programs use media to raise HIV/AIDS aware-

ness, often with great success. In Zimbabwe, for example, a television show that follows the story of a 19-year-old woman and presents social issues about HIV/AIDS is the most popular show in the country, reaching 2.5 million viewers. Other USAID efforts focus on preventive primary health care and expanded service coverage—including those for orphans and vulnerable children—and preventing mother-to-child transmission of AIDS.

The impact of HIV/AIDS is being felt in all sectors of development through the loss of teachers,

farmers, health care and government workers, and business owners and their employees. USAID Missions throughout Africa are integrating HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation elements into nearly all of their sector programming to increase their ability to address the wide-ranging effects of this disease.

Democracy and Governance

Weak or absent democratic governance inhibits social development and economic growth, can lead to civil unrest, and may provide fertile ground for the rise of extremist ideologies. Democratic governance and improved governmental accountability have continued to expand throughout the sub-Saharan region. Over the last decade, the number of democracies has almost tripled and more than half of the countries in the region are in the transition process toward full democracy. The rapid growth of new communication technologies and the expansion of the free press have empowered civil society to hold governments more accountable and made citizens more aware of their basic human rights. A major milestone was met in Nigeria when for the first time in its history a civilian government successfully and relatively peacefully transferred power to a succeeding civilian government. And this year South Africa held its third democratic elections since the end of apartheid 10 years ago, reelecting President Thabo Mbeki to a second term.

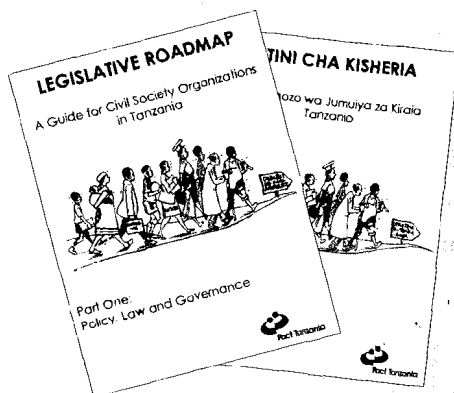
USAID democracy programs promote representative political processes and institutions, the rule of law, the growth of a vibrant civil society, and respect for human rights. Many USAID missions have integrated the democratic principles of transparency, participation, and accountability throughout their development portfolios in other sector programs such as health, environment, and education.

Corruption undermines democracy, weakens government institutions, increases the cost of doing business, and compromises economic gains by siphoning off funds needed for development. Twelve USAID Missions are participating in the Anti-Corruption Initiative, launched in 2003, which seeks to reduce corruption by promoting public access to information, citizen awareness, and participation, and increasing transparency in key government processes, such as procurement and budgeting.

In Ghana, USAID assistance has enhanced the interaction between civil society and local government and broadened public input to decision-making. Electricity, water, telephone services, judicial corruption, and health have been discussed in Parliament, and there is widespread interest in these issues among Ghanaian citizens. When public hearings on judicial corruption were held, more than 1,000 people attended.

USAID's Legislative Roadmap Strengthens Civil Society in Tanzania

As part of its efforts to ensure that citizens are able to participate in public affairs, USAID worked with Pact, a private voluntary organization leading USAID's civil society capacity building effort in Tanzania, and a local NGO, Lawyers Environmental Action Team, to research, write, and publish a guide on how NGOs and interested citizens can influence government policy-making.



The result is called *Legislative Roadmap: A Guide for Civil Society Organizations in Tanzania*, which provides an overview of Tanzanian law, public policy, and legal and institutional structures of the government. It defines the terms law and public policies, and explains their sources and how they are made. It provides information on how they relate to each other, but more importantly, how civil society organizations can use the information to influence change, and the most effective points for civil society to work within existing government structures. The *Legislative Roadmap* is printed in basic English and the national language, Kiswahili, and contains many visuals and a glossary of terms to make it comprehensible and user-friendly.

The *Legislative Roadmap* has been a remarkable success. While civil society was the primary target, it has been used by institutions that interact with laws and policies at various levels. Remarkably, the ruling party has used the document in their constituency-level civic education outreach programs. Partner NGOs report using the *Legislative Roadmap* as a tool for planning and executing advocacy campaigns, and some report that having the information available in such an easy-to-use format has stimulated activism by many civil society organizations. It has also been featured on television and in major English and Kiswahili daily newspapers. The first batch of 5,000 copies was quickly distributed through partner NGOs. Pact printed an additional 10,000 in response to popular demand. The Good Governance Coordination Unit in the Tanzanian Office of the President has requested copies to use in its civic education programs, as has the Ministry of Education for use in secondary school civics courses.

USAID provided community civic education training in Madagascar to a local youth sports association and other groups. The training enabled participants to confidently meet with community leaders to identify key public issues such as the community's discontent over the issue of polluted water and develop a future plan of action. Over time, the larger village community joined the cause and changes soon occurred: wells produced potable water, the village became cleaner, and the

number of waterborne diseases decreased tremendously.

Conflict Prevention and Humanitarian Assistance

Humanitarian crises in Africa, both natural and human-made, continue to challenge and confound development efforts. These emergencies threaten lives, disrupt livelihoods, uproot millions, and contribute to regional instability. This past year, however, has brought some extremely positive achievements in

conflict resolution with the movement towards restoration of peace in Liberia and continued progress toward reconciliation in Angola and Sierra Leone after years of bitter strife. The United States has played a seminal role in international efforts to assist these and other processes. In Senegal, USAID has supported efforts to stabilize the Casamance region—an area that has experienced conflict for more than 20 years—by working with civil society groups and local government partners in a wide range of peace building, conflict mitigation, and income generation activities.

USAID's regional crisis prevention and mitigation programs seek solutions to problems before they become acute and give African decision-makers the tools to identify and ward off approaching crises, lessen their impact, and help nations recover from crises. Through the Africa Conflict and Peace Building Fund (ACPF), USAID is implementing a multi-faceted approach to strengthen African conflict management and mitigation capacity. The ACPF supports programs that avert imminent violence, mitigate ongoing violence, and address the causes and consequences of conflict such as youth unemployment, ethnically based economic competition, and inequitable control over natural resources.

Over the last 50 years, USAID's Food for Peace program has provided food aid to nearly 3 billion people

in 150 countries. Last year, a major intervention by USAID and its partners in the international community averted a humanitarian disaster in Ethiopia by providing emergency food aid to approximately 13.2 million people. In addition, significant levels of food aid were needed to support vulnerable groups in many southern African countries. This year, portions of east and southern Africa will continue to need food aid to meet all or some of their food needs.

USAID is also supporting efforts to address the dire situation in Darfur, Sudan—the worst humanitarian crisis in the world today—through food assistance, emergency health, water, and sanitation, logistics, and coordination activities.

This year's locust invasion in the Sahel and Northwest Africa threatens to devastate crops in a region that was anticipating higher than usual crop yields. USAID is working closely with international partners and governments in the affected countries to monitor and contain this massive infestation.

Looking Ahead

Helping Africans find solutions to the complex political, social, and economic issues they face will remain a major priority for USAID. The Agency will continue to seek out new and innovative programs and solutions to address these and future challenges. Public-private partnerships, greater donor coor-

Ex-Combatant Youth Learn Carpentry through Training Program

Aiah Josiah, Manager of Carpentry at the Community Youth Training Center in Yengema, Sierra Leone, says the idea to teach youthful ex-combatants carpentry skills came to him during a USAID-sponsored Education for Peace training session. Josiah had undergone some training in carpentry in junior high school, and although the war interrupted his plans, he says he always dreamed of returning to the profession as an adult. "The Education for Peace training revived the idea in me," he says. With so many ex-combatant youth both unemployed and lacking skills to carry out economic activities, he decided to teach them what he knew.



Young ex-combatants in Sierra Leone are learning new trades.

Citizens like Josiah are slowly rebuilding their country, with support from USAID. The USAID Skills Training and Employment Promotion program works to mitigate lingering sources of conflict between communities and ex-combatants by promoting cooperation and creating mutual understanding and trust—first through training sessions, and then through collaboration on community rehabilitation projects that also bring about tangible economic benefits for participants. In 2003 alone, USAID helped 5,088 ex-combatants and war-affected youth participate in communal civic works projects, and 144 community organizations effectively managed and implemented self-selected development projects like the Yengema carpentry project. In addition, 34 high-impact infrastructure projects were completed, including the rehabilitation of schools, markets, roads, community courts, health clinics, and a major District hospital.

Says Josiah, "When we started, many of the young men still had very tough attitudes, and were still thinking of revenge and so on. But I told them directly to forget about it—that the war brought us only 10 years of misery." Josiah says that now he arrives in the morning and sees the young men already organizing themselves to set up shop for the day. "They've changed," says Josiah. "They have surprised me." The youth training center is now getting contracts from neighboring towns and is building the business little by little.

dination, and programs such as the U.S. Government's Millennium Challenge Account offer new avenues and additional resources for development assistance. It is vital that African governments, civil society, and local communities have a greater say in how the international community provides assistance. USAID is committed to helping Africa become more prosperous, democratic, self-sufficient, and better able to participate in the global economy.



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