



White House Council on Women and Girls Recent Accomplishments of U.S. Agency for International Development March 2014

Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in the Democratic Republic of Congo. USAID's GBV care and treatment programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo increase access to medical, psychological, social, legal, and economic support services for survivors. These programs also seek to improve community awareness of the types and consequences of GBV. In FY 2013, USAID's social protection programs alone reached 9,264 GBV survivors with social services, trained 4,258 service providers working with GBV survivors, and strengthened 926 local organizations that serve GBV-affected populations.

Empowering Yemen Female Leaders During Historic Political Transition. USAID is helping Yemen pursue its transition to democracy by supporting the historic National Dialogue Conference. USAID provided targeted orientation training and mentoring for 129 female delegates to the National Dialogue Conference, including sessions on communications and advocacy, technical information about the Dialogue process, strategic planning, and a meeting with the Dialogue Technical Committee. The female delegates played a leading role throughout the Dialogue and were able to successfully negotiate a 30% quota for women across branches of government.

Changing the Way Women Access Justice in Guatemala Through new 24 Hour Court. In Guatemala, USAID is providing technical assistance, training, and equipment to operationalize a new specialized 24-hour court for cases related to violence against women, exploitation, sexual violence and human trafficking. The new model, one of the first in Latin America, includes a criminal court, a public defense office, a police substation, and a forensic clinic, and is staffed by prosecutors, psychologists, doctors, and lawyers. This integrated approach ensures victims receive the timely assistance they need and strengthens criminal investigation by using scientific evidence. Since the 24-hour court opened its doors, 846 protection measures for women and 307 arrest warrants have been authorized. In total, 125 people have been sent to prison for violence against women and sexual exploitation.

Strengthening USAID Staff Capacity in Gender Awareness and Sensitization. To date, more than 1,000 employees have been trained through a new on-line Gender 101 course or in-person regional trainings on the importance of addressing gender equality in programming to enhance development outcomes. In addition, through a mandatory orientation for new Civil Service and Foreign Service employees, more than 500 USAID personnel have been trained on the Counter-Trafficking in Persons policy and the Code of Conduct.

Developing Innovative Public Private Partnerships using Media and Engagement for Social Change. USAID has developed three new innovative Public Private Partnerships using multi-media tools such as documentary film, mobile games and short videos along with local grassroots engagement campaigns to promote global gender equality. These three campaigns – Half the Sky, Women and Girls Lead Global, and Girl Rising – aim to spur public dialogue; create positive shifts in attitudes and behavior; and nurture institutional policy changes to support gender equality. Altogether, the campaigns will be implemented in 11 different countries—India, Bangladesh, Jordan, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Congo, Malawi, Colombia, Peru, and El Salvador with the support of 16 resource partners including Goldman Sachs, Intel, Johnson and Johnson, CNN, Ford Foundation, Pearson Foundation, UN Foundation, The Documentary Group, Independent Television Service, and others.

Creating New Opportunities for Women and Girls in Afghanistan. USAID is launching a new five-year initiative, Promoting Gender Equity in National Priority Programs (2014-2019) to target the education, training and empowerment of a new generation of Afghan women, aged 18-30. The program will increase women's contributions to Afghanistan's development by bringing more women into decision-making positions in Afghanistan's public, private and civil society sectors. The program will achieve this objective by strengthening women's rights groups, boosting women's participation in the economy, helping women gain business, management and leadership skills, and more. The program is designed to empower a critical mass of Afghan women by solidifying the gains achieved over the past decade as the country enters a critical period of transition. It builds upon earlier USAID investments in education, health, democratic governance, civil society strengthening and economic growth. Through those investments, and of others, Afghanistan has seen one of the most rapid declines in maternal mortality anywhere in the world and an increase in life expectancy of 15-20 years. Girls now account for more than a third of all school children, compared to virtually none in 2002. More than 120,000 young women have finished secondary school, and 40,000 are working on university degrees. Women have also entered the business and political arenas with women now making up more than 25 percent of the Afghan parliament.

Making Pregnancy and Childbirth Safer in Uganda and Zambia. The USAID-led “Saving Mothers, Giving Life “ (SMGL) public-private partnership has reduced the maternal mortality rate in target districts in Uganda by 30% and SMGL facilities in Zambia by 35% by strengthening country district health systems through health worker training, infrastructure improvements, and linkages to transportation. Through these interventions, the partnership has increased the number of births taking place in a health facility (by 62 percent in Uganda, and 35 percent in Zambia); increased the number of facilities offering basic emergency obstetric and newborn services; (by 200 percent in Uganda, and 100 percent in Zambia), and expanded testing and treatment for HIV/AIDS for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (by 28 percent Uganda, and 18 percent Zambia).