

Current Status of USAID Assistance to Rwanda

I. Background. In the wake of the return of over one million refugees in 1996, the United States pledged \$140 million in support of the Government of Rwanda's Emergency Reconstruction and Recovery Plan. Total support pledged has since increased to more than \$150 million. Of this figure, \$110 in humanitarian and development assistance was pledged by USAID, including \$21 million in emergency assistance from the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), \$72.5 million in food aid for the Great Lakes region, \$5 million in Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) resources, and \$11.5 million in development assistance.

In early 1997, a major planning exercise led to the development of an Integrated Strategic Plan to coordinate the use of resources and expertise from five offices within USAID. The plan was approved April 1997.

II. Emergency Assistance. OFDA has funded 22 grants in Rwanda, including two grants made directly to the GOR, for a total of \$21 million. Grants went to support unaccompanied children, shelter, health, water and sanitation, seeds and tools, and emergency food and non-food distribution for returning residents and other vulnerable people in every prefecture in Rwanda. Most grant activities should be completed by the end of this calendar year.

III. Food Aid. Of the 96,000MT programmed for refugees in the region, 38,400 (valued at approximately \$28 million) was programmed for vulnerable groups inside Rwanda during the recent period of intense repatriation. While general distributions to returnees will end when the current harvest is completed at the end of June, targeted assistance will continue to assist vulnerable groups with unmet food needs.

In addition, negotiations are underway with Ministry of Planning and Finance for an Memorandum of Understanding that would enable the monetization of up to \$10 million of high-value commodities. The proceeds will support increased agricultural productivity in order to narrow the post-repatriation food gap in Rwanda. Activities will be directed towards six prefectures which are traditionally food deficit or have experienced high resettlement rates. Estimated start up date is October 1997.

IV. Transition Initiatives. OTI's Women in Transition Project (WIT) has been operating within the Ministry of Gender, Family and Social Services to provide sub-grants to women's groups. To date, the Ministry has awarded 239 sub grants to 78 different communes in 8 Prefectures. \$335,000 was added to the project in March 1997 and the project will be amended with an additional \$1.597 million in June 1997. OTI is also planning to provide technical assistance to Ministry of the Interior to help

implement communal reform initiatives and monitor pilot activities from within the Ministry.

V. Development Assistance. The goals of the USAID Rwanda program are to increase stability and strengthen development capacity. The portfolio is targeted to three crucial sectors: 1) justice/civil society, 2) health, and 3) food security and increased productive opportunities. Total development assistance (FY 1997) planned to date, including reprogrammed funds, will be up to \$15 million.

In the **Justice** sector, the mission continues implementation of successful existing programs in police training, the development of new national identity cards without ethnic affiliation, training of anglophone lawyers, and support for local government initiatives.

Total FY 1997 support is programmed for up to \$8 million, including \$500,000 of Economic Support Funds for human rights monitors.

USAID is supporting demining activities under a contract with Ronco (\$2.1 million). In addition, the mission is planning over \$5 million in support for justice and civil society activities, including technical assistance and capacity development for the ministry of justice, the national assembly, the bar association, and the national judiciary council.

In the **Health** sector, USAID continues to work with NGOs to support the Ministry of Health in a number of important areas, including the AIDSCAP project, which is now integrated into the Ministry of Health's program. Support will continue throughout planning period (1997-99). To build health service capacity, a \$1 million grant has been signed with Samaritan's Purse to re-equip two health training facilities. A second grant in support of the Umutara Health District should be signed June or July. For 1997, the total mission health program is estimated at \$6.4 million.

A financial review of the Ministry of Health's management and financial systems was completed in May 1997, and recommendations are under consideration. The objective of the review was to assist ministries to develop the necessary financial and management control to receive and manage funds directly from donors.

For **food security and increased productive opportunities**, the Mission will combine resources from four different USAID funding sources to help meet the immediate and medium term needs of both the survivors of genocide and the returnees in highly impacted areas and build capacity within the Ministry of Agriculture. The emphasis will be on shifting assistance from saving lives to sustaining livelihoods. This emphasis is fully compatible with the GOR/UNDP/IBRD Emergency Reintegration and Reconstruction

Program (ERRP). Activities will promote increased productivity in rural areas, re-establish the Food Security Unit in the Ministry of Agriculture and increase farming expertise by refurbishing targeted agricultural training facilities. Total support for these activities is estimated at \$1.2 million.