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FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

Africa is vital to United States interests and the opportunities and challenges for Africa's development have never been greater. Africa's leaders and institutions are collaborating with the United States to achieve greater security, stability, growth, and better lives for their people. While still the world's poorest region with approximately 42 percent of its 700 million people living in poverty, Africa is increasingly linked to global markets, holds vast natural resources, and will soon provide 25 percent of U.S. oil imports. Growing cohorts of young people pose challenges for Africa's education and health systems, economic growth, security, and political stability.

Development must permit these young people the hope of education, employment, and a voice in the affairs of their countries. Failure will undermine Africa's progress to date and threaten the sustainability of major investments in social programs in Africa by the United States Government (USG) over the past several years.

The primary goal of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Africa Regional program is to provide overall direction, guidance, and intellectual leadership to address these challenges, and to strengthen African regional capacity. The program advances a broad range of sector programs and initiatives that cut across countries and sub-regions, including those countries in which there is no on-the-ground USAID presence. The program strengthens the capacity of African regional public and private institutions and organizations to promote democratic reforms, improve access to quality health and education systems, mitigate effects of HIV/AIDS, promote biodiversity conservation and environmental quality, mitigate the contributions to and effect of climate change, create wealth, improve food security, and expand trade-led, agriculture-based economic growth.

In addition, as part of the Africa Regional Program's support for effective program design and learning, the Africa Bureau is developing a gender integration model to be used by missions to integrate gender into their strategies and programs. This will facilitate mission compliance with the newly revised Automated Directives System requirements for gender analysis and the integration of gender in USAID program planning and implementation.

Programs discussed in this publication are funded through the U.S. Agency for International Development. The Department of State does not provide assistance to Africa Regional.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Peace and Security

The USAID Africa Regional Program's peace and security efforts support U.S. national security interests, as well as the long-term USG priorities in Africa of enhancing strategic partnerships, consolidating democratic transitions, bolstering fragile states, strengthening regional security capacity, and strengthening African counterterrorism cooperation and capacity. The program seeks to consolidate peace in post-conflict democratic transition states, particularly Liberia, where the United States continues to play a major role.

In FY 2009, the program contributed to improving conflict situations on the continent by continuing support for the Peace and Security mandate of the African Union (AU). Through a grant, the Conflict Management Division of the AU's Peace and Security Council is procuring hardware to support the functionality and security of the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS). CEWS is the primary tool for communication between the AU's central crisis identification unit and its regional operational arms to share relevant and timely information on potential conflicts and threats to peace and security.

To help inform the empirical foundation upon which development interventions addressing violent extremism are being designed, the program produced a set of studies that examine the drivers (or causal factors) that can lead to recruitment into, or community support for, extremism. This valuable information was made accessible to a wide audience of development practitioners, both within and outside of the USG, through the issuance of a programming guide that incorporated USAID programming examples and findings from risk assessments carried out in the Sahel, and through a series of workshops with USAID and other USG participants.

Governing Justly and Democratically

The USAID Africa Regional Program on governance focuses on anticorruption reforms, because corruption is a pervasive problem across Africa and an issue that often involves transborder transactions that cannot be addressed adequately through bilateral programs. The program engages young leaders across Africa by sharing best practices on the systems and strategies that U.S. federal, state, and local governments use to prevent, investigate, and punish corruption.

In FY 2009, the program commissioned a study to review the status of rule of law foreign assistance programs in Africa over the past 15 years, which assessed program results and effectiveness, identified weaknesses, and made recommendations for future programming. Weaknesses included the lack of coordination among USG agencies, a bias toward short-term approaches that address symptoms rather than longer-term system-wide reforms, and limited evidence of performance-based evaluation. Findings were shared within USAID and among other USG agencies and with implementing partners.

Twenty-seven African community service organizations and small businesses participated in the Afrobarometer Network as implementing partners in survey research, data collection and processing, and analysis and reporting. Afrobarometer conducted surveys in 11 countries, bringing the number of countries surveyed during the current round to 20. The network issued a worldwide release of results in May 2009, as well as country-level releases in each project country, targeting political leaders, journalists, and civic activists. This survey round represents the fourth time in eight years that Afrobarometer has gathered and reported public opinion on democracy and

governance issues, and provides the only source of time-series, multi-country data on these topics in Africa.

The program also supported governance training for emerging African leaders from Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda. Participants included 31 young African leaders, including 14 women, who visited the United States through the Les Aspin Center for Government.

Investing in People

Health

The USAID Africa Regional Program contributes to the reduction of mortality and morbidity of the most vulnerable groups – children under five years of age, pregnant and lactating women, and persons living with HIV/AIDS – by strengthening African capacity to plan, manage, and implement quality health services in 25 African countries. The program increases routine immunization coverage, supports the expansion and quality of family planning services, and promotes innovative approaches to providing family planning and maternal and child life-saving commodities and services in communities. The program assists 15 countries in promoting access to safe water, and in improving the quality and coverage of programs addressing pediatric AIDS and the health of orphans and vulnerable children programs. The program also improves country surveillance to certify polio eradication in 46 countries and increase epidemic preparedness and timely responses to epidemics in vulnerable countries.

In FY 2009, support to the World Health Organization (WHO) Africa Regional Office (AFRO) for routine delivery of vaccinations resulted in 90 percent of children in the region receiving their third dose of the diphtheria, pertussis, and tetanus (DPT) vaccine, the marker of a well-performing sustainable program. The resurgence of polio in Nigeria in 2008 is currently under control, and surveillance of polio has been maintained with 43 of 46 countries sustaining certification-standard polio surveillance indicators. The program engaged the Regional Center for Quality Health Care, AFRO, and the United Nations Children's Fund for a study in five countries to understand better the decline experienced in the use of oral rehydration therapy, and to develop tools for measuring progress in reversing this trend and for advocating that country and international leadership address the problems identified. The program also strengthened in-country capacity for the monitoring and evaluation of malaria programs by training 343 national officials in data management and post-campaign survey activities, and helped 10 countries update monitoring and evaluation plans.

A study done by the African Network for the Care of Children Affected by AIDS produced a simple clinical algorithm tool to detect pediatric AIDS for use where there is no ready access to confirmatory laboratory diagnosis. This tool will facilitate the early diagnosis of AIDS in children, who can then receive life-saving anti-retroviral treatment.

Support to scale up community tuberculosis (TB) care in five high-burden countries led to an increase in the number of districts covered in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and Kenya, and enabled Malawi, Uganda, and Zambia to achieve countrywide coverage. The program also supported the development of a regional system for the early detection and confirmation of cases of extremely drug-resistant TB. Support to AFRO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention continued to strengthen regional and country surveillance and response systems, including laboratories designed to control infectious diseases. Forty of 46 countries in the WHO/AFRO region produced timely monthly reports, 90 percent of reported outbreaks were responded to within two days following notification, and all outbreaks were laboratory confirmed.

In addition to working directly with regional African institutions, the program completed a major review of family planning programs in 11 countries. The review highlighted best practices and estimated resource requirements to meet the current unmet demand for contraceptives and has prompted several Missions to take proactive steps to increase their advocacy efforts.

The USG's program for orphans and vulnerable children trained 38 focal persons from 17 USAID missions and two regional offices. The program supported the development of a guide to help program staff develop standards, improve programming, and measure outcomes in child well-being. Results from the first pilot test in Ethiopia showed that applying service standards leads to more efficient and effective programs.

Six malaria operational plans were approved with strong USAID Africa Regional program engagement. Improved program management and technical support contributed to mortality declines in children under five by 23 percent in Madagascar, and by 29 percent in Zambia. With contributions from the program, the Alliance for Malaria Prevention is increasing the distribution and use of insecticide treated nets throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

USAID's Africa Regional water program directly supports the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005 to meet the Millennium Development Goals of providing affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation and promoting good hygiene practices. In FY 2009, almost 300,000 people had improved access to water and over 600,000 improved access to sanitation in 12 countries.

Education

The USAID Africa Regional program supports improvement of quality basic education and equitable access to education. In addition to strengthening country education programs, the program oversees the Africa Education Initiative (AEI). This initiative develops textbooks and learning materials, provides scholarships and mentoring to promote gender equality, and trains teachers and administrators.

In FY 2009, the program provided technical support and guidance to Missions in strategy development, program design, performance monitoring, and implementation. The program promoted new university partnerships between U.S. and African higher-education institutions with a regional consultative meeting in October 2008 on the role of education partnerships in promoting development and economic growth. The program exceeded FY 2009 targets in basic education and will exceed end-of-project targets for AEI by the time that the initiative ends in FY 2010. Through AEI programs, the training of 16,000 teachers and administrators was completed, education support was provided to over 238,000 learners, and 8.7 million textbooks and learning materials were distributed.

Support for Vulnerable Populations

Social and economic services and protection programs bridge the gap between humanitarian assistance and standard, non-emergency development assistance. Through the Special Self-Help (SSH) fund, co-managed by the Department of State Africa Regional Program, the USAID Africa Regional Program offers small grant support to community-based organizations that seek to create better lives for economically vulnerable populations. Similarly, the Democracy and Human Rights Fund (DHRF) is a small-grants program that enables U.S. Embassies in Africa to support grassroots-based civil society organizations (CSOs). In FY 2009, SSH program support to community-based organizations benefited over a million Africans, while the DHRF program supported capacity building for 57 CSOs in 23 African countries. Activities included radio dramas

on the dangers of child labor and prostitution in Ghana, civic and human rights education for Ethiopian citizens, and a shelter for vulnerable homeless children in the DRC.

Economic Growth

The Africa Global Competitiveness Initiative

The Africa Global Competitiveness Initiative (AGCI) is aimed at expanding the trade and export competitiveness of businesses in sub-Saharan Africa. AGCI has four objectives: improve the policy, regulatory, and enforcement environment for private sector-led trade and investment; strengthen the knowledge and skills of African private sector enterprises needed to take advantage of market opportunities; increase access to financial services for trade and investment; and facilitate investment in infrastructure. The USAID Africa Regional Program manages the overall initiative, as well as a number of continent-wide activities that support AGCI objectives.

AGCI trade and investment programs have facilitated over \$100 million in African Growth and Opportunity Act exports, provided export capacity building assistance to almost 10,000 firms, trained 95,000 Africans in trade capacity building, and saved \$79 million in annual trade costs through improved customs clearances. AGCI infrastructure programs have leveraged over \$835 million in infrastructure investment, enabled 250,000 Africans to access internet services, and facilitated access to telecommunications services for 25 public institutions.

In FY 2009, AGCI programs completed business enabling environment assessments for Burundi and Uganda and regional intellectual property protection workshops in West and Southern Africa. The AGCI infrastructure program leveraged a World Bank loan agreement for \$200 million and a commitment of \$400 million in partial risk guarantees to support the sale of natural gas by independent oil companies to three electricity sector projects in Nigeria. The AGCI information and communications technology (ICT) program provided capacity building to a network of six software development centers at universities in sub-Saharan Africa, facilitated capacity building of the West Africa Telecom Regulatory Association, and collaborated to establish an ICT and Business Center in Malawi. The financial sector program enabled re-integration of the South African real estate profession into a formal training and certification program that is improving access to and the professionalism of South African real estate markets. A workshop was conducted in Lusaka, Zambia, on the impact of the financial crisis in Africa, pulling together key financial sector stakeholders from across Africa.

A major assessment of AGCI was completed in FY 2009. The assessment recommends strategic and management improvements that are already being incorporated into the development of a new integrated economic growth framework for the Africa Bureau.

The Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA)

The Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA) is a market-oriented and smallholder-based growth strategy to increase rural incomes and improve food security in Africa. IEHA works directly with African entrepreneurs, including farmers, agribusinesses, and associations, to improve their business skills and their ability to participate in policy reform and access technology and finance, and to link producers to staple food markets. Following the food price crisis in 2008, momentum is building for global action to increase food security, with a special emphasis on Africa. At the 2009 L'Aquila G8 Summit, donors collectively committed \$20 billion to agricultural development and a new approach to global food security. IEHA provides the foundation for the Administration's Feed the Future initiative, documenting lessons learned and building the analytics that will prioritize investments to improve staple food systems and reducing hunger and poverty in Africa.

IEHA has contributed to successes in Africa. Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, and Uganda all maintained or increased agricultural growth in recent years. Of the seven IEHA countries, only Zambia did not meet the target of 6 percent agricultural growth rate set by the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Program (CAADP), an African-led plan for agriculture. In Ghana, dissemination of a new variety of maize and training of farmers in better production doubled per hectare revenues and profits. A similar effort on sorghum in Mali doubled average yields in just one year. Technical assistance and training of cocoa producers in West Africa boosted profits per hectare by 53 percent from 2007 to 2008. Over the last five years, more than 3 million IEHA-assisted farmers have adopted new technologies on more than 2.7 million hectares. Investments to expand private sector growth have enabled over 780,000 firms to access business-development services and over \$870 million in credit. During the same period, IEHA helped smallholders to sell more than \$500 million in targeted agricultural products in domestic markets and more than \$1 billion in regional markets.

In FY 2009, to prepare for a significant scale-up of USG funding for food security programs, the Africa Regional program assisted in the development of Agriculture and Food Security Implementation Plans for Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, and USAID's East Africa and West Africa Regional Programs. Important African planning conferences and workshops were supported, including the fourth CAADP Partnership Platform Meeting in March, the Joint Ministers of Agriculture Conference in April, the Heads of State Summit in July, and the Agriculture Donor Working Group meeting in September.

Environment

The USAID Africa Regional Program manages ongoing regional activities promoting improved natural resources management and protection of the environment, including conservation of biodiversity and mitigation of global climate change. The program oversees compliance with USAID's environmental regulations in Africa, avoiding negative environmental impacts from the Agency's investments while building host country capacity to manage natural resources and protect the environment.

In FY 2009, the program provided substantial biodiversity and tropical forestry conservation support through its grant to a consortium of eight U.S. conservation non-governmental organizations, the Africa Biodiversity Collaborative Group (ABCG). ABCG produced several significant workshops and conferences, conducted 11 analytical projects, received over 2 million page views on the ABCG website, and distributed more than 30,000 documents.

Climate-change mitigation and adaptation is a rapidly rising priority and growing part of the Agency's and the Bureau's environmental programs. The program developed a strategic framework for climate change activities in Africa, led a planning workshop with key mission staff across the region, helped train Africa Bureau and other staff in the mitigation of and adaptation to the effects of climate change, and is contributing to interagency planning for the Administration's whole-of-government response to climate change.

The program organized two field-based environmental compliance workshops for USAID staff and partners, provided extensive technical assistance to bilateral and regional units, and added to its body of guidance and training materials. The program also helped five missions implement an Environmental Compliance Best Practice Review audit of their status in implementing these procedures.