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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

NAMIBIA

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FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

As a long-term development partner to the United States Government (USG), the Government of the Republic of Namibia (GRN) continues to make progress toward institutionalizing democratic principles, which is fundamental to its long-term vision of stability and prosperity. The United States has a significant national interest in helping Namibians fight HIV/AIDS, promote development, and strengthen democratic consolidation so that Namibia can continue to contribute to regional peace and security, and serve as a model of stability for other African nations.

The Namibian Defense Force (NDF) remains committed to participation in peacekeeping operations. In order to augment military professionalism and leadership ability, the USG endeavors to expose military personnel to United States-based training to gain professional leadership skills.

USG assistance seeks to strengthen the GRN's efforts to improve the quality of basic education in Namibia, and to provide education opportunities for orphans and vulnerable children. There is a broad concern about the growing numbers of orphans and vulnerable children and the challenges linked to meeting their health and education needs. While the USG and GRN work diligently to mitigate the peril of HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis (TB), these threats continue to impede Namibia's progress. The USG also provided support to train and deploy domestic election observers in preparation for Namibia's fifth Presidential and National Assembly elections held in November 2009.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Peace and Security

The USG granted International Military Education and Training (IMET) funds to help professionalize the NDF. The NDF has indicated that there exists a need for professional leadership training, separate from professional technical training. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Achieved full implementation of the IMET program whereby NDF personnel were sent to U.S.-based military leadership training courses

- Funded the training of one Sergeant Major from the Operations and Training division of the General Staff to the United States Sergeant Majors Academy and other Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) leadership courses
- Trained senior NCOs, consequently enabling the NDF to re-write NCO training doctrines, and allowing follow-on IMET funding to ground additional Sergeant Majors in best practices and procedures. The cascade effect of train-the-trainer efforts within the NDF will be utilized to maximize impact with limited resources.

Governing Justly and Democratically

Namibia continues to strengthen its democratic institutions and practices. The USG's democracy and governance programs have benefited from collaborative and open relationships with Namibian officials in key branches of government. Major program achievements were reported. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Established successful partnerships with seven civil society organizations (CSOs) planning to field domestic election observers to all 13 regions of Namibia on election day in November 2009.
- Established a Civil Society Elections Coalition concerned with gathering complaints regarding the electoral process to be filed with the Electoral Commission of Namibia.
- Supported the development of electoral guidelines and codes of conduct for domestic and international observers.
- Trained 12 political parties on ethical campaign strategies based on Namibia's electoral legislation. These political parties received training on electoral codes of conduct for political party agents who would be observing the election as well as ethical campaigning.
- Trained 202 people (90 men and 112 women) domestic election observers on electoral legislation, codes of conduct for domestic observers, and political party agents and the electoral process, including vote tabulation.
- Trained seven local CSOs to promote political participation and voter education.
- Trained international election observers slated to field observer missions throughout the country. European Union diplomatic missions and the United States Embassy in Namibia participated in this training.

Investing in People

Health: Tuberculosis

The USG remains a major donor supporting the strengthening and expansion interventions to prevent and control TB in Namibia. The program is jointly implemented by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the State Department, Peace Corps, and the Department of Defense through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Strengthened the capacity of the National TB Control Program to expand community-based directly observed treatment. Starting from the central training unit, the in-country training partner has increased its training capacity considerably by establishing regional training

centers for health workers. The Tuberculosis Control Assistance Program trained 187 people in collaboration with a local partner, including primarily health workers (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, pharmacy assistants) supported with Global Health and Child Survival funding.

- Expanded community TB care to Karas, Kavango, and Caprivi regions. One medical doctor and nurse with a special focus on TB were recruited and deployed to the Katutura and Walvis Bay TB units. During the same reporting period, the Ministry of Health and Social Services received further USG support to conduct an in-country drug resistant TB course for doctors and pharmacists, review and update a nurses' training curriculum with the latest information on drug-resistant TB, and finalize the infection control guidelines. The USG supported a Ministry representative to travel to the Netherlands to attend a course on Human Resources for Health that focused on TB as a public health problem.
- Supported the introduction of a nationwide electronic TB register, pending proper organization and commitment at the district level. However, the National TB Control Program has a well functioning paper-based recording and reporting system in line with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.

Namibia reported 13,737 cases of all forms of TB in FY 2009, which translated into a case notification rate of 665 cases per 100,000; 15,244 cases reported in the previous year (722 per 100,000 cases), indicating a downward trend in both the case notification rate and absolute numbers. According to estimates from the 2009 WHO Global TB Control report, Namibia detected 87 percent of all notified cases, which exceeds the global target of 70 percent. Despite this apparent achievement, there is still a need to intensify case finding efforts among specific high-risk groups such as people living with HIV/AIDS, congregate settings, and workplace settings.

Namibia demonstrated significant progress toward achieving the global treatment-success rate target of 85 percent for new smear-positive cases. In 2007, a treatment success rate of 83 percent in new smear-positive cases was achieved, a significant improvement from 76 percent the previous year. The impact of the latest improvements in treatment success rates resulted in a reduction of the defaulter rate from 4.8 percent to 3.2 percent, as well as death and transfer rates to 5.4 percent and 3.5 percent, respectively. These statistics reflect a significant improvement when compared to 7 percent and 13 percent for the previous year.

Education: Basic Education

Although access to education has improved considerably following USG intervention since Namibia's independence, quality and content remain a concern. As USAID completed 19 years of assistance to the Namibian education sector on September 30, 2009, the Agency embarked upon a new activity in FY 2010: enabling the GRN to complete the development and roll-out of an assessment tool for grades 5 and 7 to ensure that students' progress and needs are better identified and supported to prevent failures out of the system after grade 10. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Strengthened the Ministry of Education's capacity to ensure that the education sector is able to analyze national evaluation data effectively and to use such analyses to guide the teacher and school improvement processes. Technical advice was provided to the Ministry to document and produce training videos to train teachers and schools to carry out self-evaluations and make use of the evaluation data.

- Contributed to the improvement of the quality of education through a grant to the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH), which enabled them to provide hands-on technical assistance to four colleges of education and the National Institute of Educational Development (NIED). IFESH mobilized six volunteer education experts from the United States to work for one to two years to enhance the capacity of the colleges of education to provide well-trained primary school teachers.
- Augmented the Ministry of Education's capacity to ensure sustainability beyond USAID support. Through regional consultative conferences, four of the six target regions reviewed the performance of their students, identified strengths and weaknesses as well as challenges, and developed regional targets that will be used as a basis for schools to create their own school development plans.
- Strengthened pre-service teacher education through support to the NIED. Because of this support, the colleges of education developed strategic plans for continuous professional development and started implementation of those plans by training faculty members with technical input from Arizona State University.
- Provided in-service continuous professional development for teachers through assistance to appropriate Ministry officials (school inspectors, advisory and resource teachers) to conduct site-based training programs.
- Provided 1,700 scholarships to vulnerable boys and girls to enable marginalized students to remain in school and succeed academically.