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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS (ODP)

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FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

Strategic partnership is recognized as a key component of successful development. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s ambitious agenda to tackle the unprecedented global challenges facing the world demands partnerships and alliances to expand and magnify the impact of the Agency's development resources and programs. The Administration has clearly articulated its commitment to partnerships as a fundamental way of doing business for the United States Government (USG) – partnerships with the private sector, non-profit organizations, governments and multilateral institutions, and many others. This commitment is reflected in the words of Secretary of State Clinton, who has stated that there is no "...substitute for having seasoned, experienced professionals and experts leading our efforts on diplomacy and development and working, where possible, in partnership and coordination with the private sector and the not-for-profit sector." In FY 2007, the Office of Development Partners (ODP) was created to bring under one Agency Operating Unit the core elements of a comprehensive engagement with other key actors in the international development arena. ODP provides leadership, leverage, and innovation to build and expand the Agency's use of strategic partnerships, and expand the pool of strategic partners through capacity development and innovative forms of outreach to achieve transformational development.

The Agency continues to expand its use of alliances as a way to do business and to achieve its development goals, with greater focus on strategic and innovative partnerships. To support these outcomes, ODP has enlarged USAID's engagement to the broadest possible spectrum of development actors, helping orchestrate the use of innovative global alliances with targeted mission level activities.

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HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Resources devoted to promoting greater collaboration with traditional donors and emerging donors as well as multilateral donors and aid recipient countries continued to pay dividends to the USG's transformational diplomacy and development goals. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Supported bilateral dialogues between the USAID Administrator and managers of the Arab and Kuwait Funds during the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Doha, Qatar in November 2008. Agreement was reached on further consultations through the ODP Development Counselor for the Arab donor community.
- Provided financial and in-kind support to restructure and launch a new work program within the Working Party on Aid Effectiveness of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) to facilitate implementation of the commitments in the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action. ODP provided oversight to assure that the U.S. position or perspective was reflected in program activities and work streams.
- Helped organize and fund the China-DAC Study Group, which has two broad themes for an initial work program: a joint review of poverty reduction in China and the contribution of international development cooperation to those efforts, and a joint review of selected aspects of China's development cooperation in Africa and its impact on reducing poverty

The Partnership for Democratic Governance (PDG) is a three-year multilateral initiative promoted by the United States to address more effectively the issue of weak states, and to examine how the international community can effectively help those states strengthen their institutions of governance and core policy functions. Through the PDG, a group of OECD countries, middle-income countries, and international organizations have agreed to act together to identify, develop, and test new ways of working in post-conflict and fragile states whose institutional capacity is weak or limited. In FY 2009, USG assistance, through ODP's collaboration with the Department of State, resulted in greater synergy between development and diplomatic resources on the issue of governance and fragile states. This was done by focusing on new research and emerging trends in support of service delivery, supporting fragile and post-conflict states' efforts to improve service delivery to their citizens, and building strong partnerships and networking with a variety of stakeholders.

The Cooperative Development Program (CDP) addresses the issues of law and regulation, governance, management, self-reliance, scale, and salience that limit the ability of cooperatives to play a role in building economic returns and social capital in the developing world. Cooperative development focuses on building and strengthening institutions that can plan, mobilize, apply, and evaluate the use of resources in ways that satisfy the evolving needs of their members. In FY 2009, USG assistance reached more than 2,700 civil society organizations using CDP funds to improve internal organizational capacity focused on advocacy for reform of cooperative law and regulation (CLARITY). The CLARITY principles for sound cooperative law and regulation and supporting guidance for advancing legal and regulatory reform form the centerpiece of this advocacy. CLARITY principles have now been introduced in 10 countries, forming the basis for constituency building and advocacy. Efforts are underway to build constituencies of cooperators, other opinion leaders, media, and business allies in support of reform of cooperative law and regulation.

Investing in People

USAID continues to expand its use of alliances as a way to do business and to achieve its development goals with greater focus on strategic and innovative partnership approaches. The Agency has been successful in ensuring such alliances undergird many critical agency initiatives. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Supported a broad-based relationship with the World Economic Forum (WEF) to promote multi-stakeholder public-private partnerships in India and South Africa in pursuit of a solution to the complex challenges of access to water. WEF has expanded and consolidated their corporate consortia to build more regional alliances to address this challenge by launching the World Water Forum V, selecting three pilot countries to initiate work, brokering in-country relationships between USAID Missions and local Rotarians, developing specific joint program designs for each country, and getting commitments of \$2 million combined per country from the USAID Missions and Rotary partners.
- Through the Development Grants Program (DGP), funded six water supply awards to U.S. private voluntary organizations (PVOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to support the agency water initiative
- Provided \$1 million to an alliance with Intel for an education program in USAID/Kenya, working with the Ministry of Education, Intel, Cisco, and Microsoft to improve the quality of primary and secondary education through the effective use of technology through combining and taking to scale a variety of programs offered by these partners. The project deploys 1-to-1 education technology in 60 schools across Kenya through the creation of 120 mobile computer trolleys and e-classrooms. Learning from this project will be captured in a School Technology Innovation Center that Cisco, Intel, and Microsoft have established at the Kenya Institute of Education, where curriculum developers, teachers, and students from across East Africa can come to learn and experiment with cutting-edge educational technology.

Economic Growth

As a result of the global food crisis in 2007-08 and growing recognition that Green Revolution technologies alone will not guarantee a safe, secure, and sustainable global food supply, the United States is reestablishing its leadership in agricultural development and science and technology (S&T) capacity building. In FY 2009, USG assistance played a key role:

- By revitalizing the role of S&T in agricultural development through an expansion of USAID partnerships with agricultural universities. ODP sponsored meetings, working in partnership with the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development, bringing together both agricultural universities and each of the USAID bureaus to focus on strategic S&T-related food and agricultural development interventions in five USAID priority areas.
- By supporting introduction of new agricultural technologies and working with seven agribusiness firms and cooperative associations that, in turn, served several hundred cooperatives and thousands of primary members. One CDP partner worked with cooperative organizations in Ghana to lead the effort to relax informal trade barriers in the West African Region, permitting the free movement of exports in accordance with trade agreements.

- By increasing the capacity of nascent U.S. PVOs and local NGOs to meet food security aims through five DGP awards for dairy development

Technology and innovations for international development through knowledge sharing, partnerships, and collaborative problem-solving is a necessary approach to meet today's global challenges. In FY 2009:

- ODP executed the Development 2.0 Challenge Program that created a venue for the public to participate in execution of mobile technology in development. The competition received 115 applications for ideas using mobile technology to meet challenges in development. An expert panel narrowed the participants to 15 finalists and the final three winners were determined by the crowd.
- The website www.Globaldevelopmentcommons.net was created to improve the dissemination and sharing of development knowledge with members of the development community, and connect members of the development community to each other
- The CDP supported community and cooperative telecommunications programs in Nigeria and Ethiopia while adding a new activity in Malawi. This included work with telecommunications policy in all three countries and resulted in the establishment of a pilot cooperative telecommunications service in the Ethiopia. An estimated 260,000 individuals enjoyed access to internet services as a result of CDP assistance. More than 100 public institutions gained access to telecommunication services and work continued with strengthening of the telecommunications regulatory authority in Nigeria.

In FY 2009, ODP supported specific countries in their pursuit of other economic growth partnership opportunities:

- The Private Sector Alliances Division provided \$500,000 to the Agency's new Development Counselor in Sofia, Bulgaria to leverage private sector partnerships in that country. Innovation in general, and information technology (IT) specifically, require strong secondary, university, and technical education tailored to modern workforce requirements for the business sector. There is a similarly important gap in inculcating lifelong learning to maintain competitive skills. In Bulgaria, partnership proposals leverage existing philanthropic and business supported educational programs that contribute to the sustained expansion of technically well-qualified candidates in the IT sector, including the development and introduction of new curricula, innovative research and development approaches, etc. The results of the proposed partnership activities shall be enhanced IT knowledge and capacity of the Bulgarian labor force to meet the 21st century technological, economic, social, and financial challenges of the Bulgarian economy.
- Phase II of the CLARITY cooperative law project was initiated in Mongolia, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic. In these countries, efforts are underway to build constituencies of cooperators, other opinion leaders, media, and business allies in support of or to reform cooperative law and regulation. CDP partners are working with 7,000 cooperatives and credit unions and 13,000 enterprises, both directly and through their work with federal cooperatives. Significant numbers of these organizations have increased member equity as well as access to commercial finance.

- The Development Grants Program-funded Microenterprise awards for U.S. PVOs and local NGOs, both directly and within the rubric of Women's Empowerment. Ten awards were made for Microenterprise, while 9 of 13 Women's Empowerment Awards focused on economic rights for women, property rights for the poor, and entrepreneurship development.