



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## RWANDA

# U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PERFORMANCE PUBLICATION Fiscal Year 2009

### FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

The United States Government (USG)'s core interests in Rwanda are to act with the Government of Rwanda (GOR) and its people to advance democratic good governance, improve standards of living, promote economic growth, and increase national and regional stability through security cooperation and economic integration. FY 2009 saw Rwanda and other countries of the Great Lakes and East Africa improve their cooperation dramatically in addressing common security threats and increasing regional economic cooperation. This was symbolized by the August 6, 2009 meeting of the presidents of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the border town of Goma, and by their countries' subsequent exchange of ambassadors for the first time since the 1994 genocide. It was also reflected by the East African Communities' adoption of a customs union effective July 2009. The USG will continue to support these developments through advocacy and assistance.

Rwanda's specific challenges are to ensure that economic development outpaces population growth and the rise of public expectations, to meet its urgent social needs with declining reliance on donors, and to ensure that all its citizens have equal access to opportunities and services as a result of improved governance and increasing democratic participation. To meet these goals, Rwanda needs to continue to enhance regional peace and stability, and promote economic integration and access to global markets and investment. For Rwanda to expand its economy, it must continue making domestic reforms, improving the rule of law, and promoting entrepreneurship. USG assistance is helping Rwanda – Africa's most densely populated country and one of its poorest – meet the urgent needs of its population, increase social cohesion and good governance, put its population to work, and give all Rwandans reason to see themselves as stakeholders in the greater national good. In tandem with GOR leadership and strategies, USG assistance helps to move the country toward the economic and social development goals the GOR has set for Rwanda.

The health sector continues to be the predominant area for USG assistance with key interventions in malaria prevention, maternal and child health services, family planning, and HIV/AIDS under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. In the democracy and governance sector, the USG works with all of the country's political parties to help them develop organizational expertise, and seeks to enhance the capacity of local governments and civil society organizations, strengthen the

rule of law, and protect individual human rights. To help increase economic growth and agricultural productivity, USG assistance supports rural agricultural enterprises, particularly coffee, pyrethrum, and dairy cooperatives. USG efforts also protect Rwanda's environment and biodiversity, while simultaneously spurring economic growth.

## **HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE**

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### **Investing in People**

The GOR, with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), has improved Rwandans' health status and embarked on a series of innovative health reforms. In the past eight years, infant, under-five, and maternal mortality rates have all decreased, childhood immunization coverage has increased, and the use of modern contraceptives has increased almost sevenfold. Between 2005 and 2007, the average female fertility rate dropped from 6.1 to 5.5. Below are specific ways USG assistance supported these achievements in FY 2009.

- During its third year in Rwanda, the U.S. Presidential Malaria Initiative (PMI) supported two indoor residual spraying rounds covering 500,544 households in 7 targeted districts, distributed 500,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated nets to clinics and very poor households, promoted community case management of fever, strengthened the monitoring and evaluation capacity of district and health ministry staff, and trained field technicians in the collection and identification of mosquitoes for ongoing entomological monitoring. As a direct result of USG support through the PMI, malaria no longer remains the leading cause of morbidity and mortality of children under five.
- In maternal and child health, USAID continued to support the provision of an integrated package of quality and high-impact maternal, neonatal, and child health services; contributed to the first national child survival policy and strategy; and provided facilities and equipment support to Rwanda as it became the first African country to introduce the pneumococcal vaccine as part of its national routine immunization program
- In 2009, the President of Rwanda launched an emergency program to address child malnutrition, and USAID introduced a monitoring and evaluation system for improved infant feeding practices. Poor nutrition remains a concern, and future support will link not only to health goals but also to food security.
- USAID support enabled more women to access antenatal care and deliveries by skilled attendants, and entire families benefited from the promotion of key hygiene practices, such as household water treatment, hand washing with soap, and safe waste disposal.
- USAID continued to build the capacity of nurses and community health workers. As a result of the increase in trained providers, 162,848 children under 12 months of age received their third dose of DPT3 (Diphtheria-Pertussis-Tetanus) vaccine, and 747,176 children under five received Vitamin A supplementation.
- USG supported Rwanda's impressive progress in family planning through policy level advocacy and by improving quality and access to services, supporting demand creation, and ensuring availability of family planning commodities. In partnership with the GOR and other development partners (UK Department for International Development; Global Fund

for AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and the United Nations Population Fund), USAID procured a full range of contraceptives that met 45 percent of the public sector's needs.

- The Title II food assistance program entered its final year, with notable success in meeting and exceeding targets. For example, 86 percent of people living with HIV/AIDS reached or exceeded the recommended Body Mass Index after 6 months as beneficiaries. USG also supported income generating activities and capacity building at all Title II benefiting institutions.
- USG is beginning to expand assistance to the education sector, which will support the GOR's ambitious goal of transforming the country from an agrarian to knowledge-based economy by 2020. In FY 2009, the USG initiated a youth livelihoods project designed to provide work readiness skills and job training to 12,500 youth over the next 4 years.

### **Economic Growth**

USG-supported activities in the economic growth sector focus on improving community based rural enterprises, mainly cooperatives, as the building blocks for sustained rural economic growth. USG efforts in the environment have helped to protect Rwanda's environment and biodiversity, while spurring economic growth. Many challenges remain in the agriculture sector, including small farm sizes, erratic rainfall, poor soil fertility, and high post harvest losses. The Global Food Security Initiative will target many of these challenges for interventions. Below are key areas of USG assistance in economic growth in FY 2009.

- In the coffee sector, USG supports training to cooperatives on leadership, fair trade coffee, and cooperative management with the aim of establishing long-term sustainability. With USG support, 4 coffee support laboratories now promote, monitor, and control the quality of coffee at washing stations, and 12 "cuppers" help ensure the quality and reputation of specialty Rwandan coffee on the international market.
- The production of specialty coffee increased approximately 25 percent in 2009 (from 2,454 metric tons in 2008 to 3,045 metric tons in 2009); a tremendous achievement, particularly in the face of the global economic crisis
- To promote increased specialty coffee exports, USAID and the Rwanda Coffee Board organized the African Fine Coffee Conference and Exhibition
- In another initiative to support export promotion, USAID launched a Global Development Alliance with S.C. Johnson to improve the volume and quality of pyrethrum, a natural insecticide. Twenty-four pyrethrum cooperatives comprised of 1200 members were formed, with the goal of tripling pyrethrum flower production
- USAID continued to be the primary donor for the conservation of the Nyungwe National Park through the Destination Nyungwe Project (DNP). The Nyungwe forest is a biological hotspot with more than 75 mammal, 278 bird, 120 butterfly, 100 orchid, and 200 tree species. The DNP uses a community-based approach to promote biodiversity conservation, offering health programs alongside environmental and conservation education at schools, factories, and government and civil society offices throughout the park.
- As part of this community based approach, USG provided grants and management assistance to 10 micro-enterprises (in beekeeping, community tourism, handicraft, livestock,

and energy saving stoves) in the Nyungwe neighborhood to create alternative sustainable livelihoods for the community and promote natural resource conservation

- In support of the GOR's tourism strategy, USG assistance initiated an ecotourism development center at Nyungwe, which will include a visitor interpretation center, a canopy walkway, tented camp, and an observation tower
- USG also provided support to communities living next to the Volcanoes National Park – an important source of foreign exchange for the country – helping to launch two new ecotourism ventures: the Kinigi Community Walk and the Kinigi Cultural Centre
- As part of USG assistance under Title II Food Aid, food-for-work projects entered their final year. Using improved conservation practices for farming on hillsides, a total of 8,460 hectares were terraced, exceeding the target of 5,263 planned. Title II support also strengthened agricultural cooperatives, including those involved in wheat development. One Title II-supported wheat cooperative increased its wheat production from 13 metric tons in 2008 to a record 120 metric tons this year as a result of increased yields and expanded hectares.

### **Governing Justly and Democratically**

In the aftermath of the 1994 genocide and subsequent violence by “genocidaire” insurgents in Rwanda, the country has achieved noteworthy success advancing reconciliation. In the process, it has resolved hundreds of thousands of cases alleging genocide-related crimes, restored its economy, and advanced democratic good governance. The transition towards full and open partisan political competition in Rwanda has been gradual. The pace reflects Rwandan concerns to build and sustain national unity, and to avoid the political partisanship infused with ethnic tensions that precipitated the genocide. The GOR is committed to strengthening the rule of law and protecting individual human rights by enhancing the overall capacity of the justice sector and establishing a durable and transparent legal framework. Despite significant GOR efforts to increase the capacity in the justice sector and other government departments, many government positions remain unfilled or have staffs that are under trained. Highlights of USG support aimed at helping Rwanda address these challenges are described below.

- In support of political party development, the USG funded several activities that brought together all of Rwanda's legally recognized political parties to reflect on ways to strengthen political competition in Rwanda and increase intraparty dialogue. There were a total of 14 workshops and activities, including 1 post-election roundtable, 5 workshops on the roles and functions of political parties, 5 workshops focusing on party outreach to women and youth, and a workshop on campaign management.
- The USG also supported a peace-building project to build trust among Rwandans by discussing and debating sensitive political topics respectfully. The project facilitated these discussions with citizens at the national, provincial, and local levels, as well as Rwandans living abroad. Debates were organized in 25 schools in Rwanda on issues related to reconciliation and national unity.
- In FY 2009, the USG supported the GOR's national decentralization plan through two health governance projects that strengthened the capacity of local government and counterpart civil society organizations, while also improving health care quality and access

- USG assistance provided legal aid to the poor and other vulnerable groups (including orphans and vulnerable children and people living with HIV/AIDS) at project-supported legal aid centers, through mobile legal consultation, and to detainees at three prisons
- USG support strengthened the legislative process through technical assistance to core legislative drafters, the development of a legislative drafting handbook for key ministries, and the development of a master's program training syllabus for the Institute for Legal Practice and Development
- USG provided technical assistance and mobile prosecutors to the National Public Prosecution Authority and the Supreme Court to assist them in addressing the case backlog in Rwanda
- USG assistance also contributed to national consensus building by supporting radio programs to educate Rwandans about land tenure and land conflict issues

### **Peace and Security**

The missions of the Rwandan Defense Forces (RDF) are to defend Rwanda's territorial integrity, work with law enforcement to safeguard public order, provide disaster response services, contribute to the country's development, and participate in international peacekeeping operations. The RDF contributes to the security and stability required in order for Rwanda to develop economically, helping to propel Rwanda from a developing to a transitional country. In addition, Rwanda is the world's sixth-largest contributor of troops to international peacekeeping missions, most notably to the United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur, where a Rwandan officer serves as overall force commander.

The International Military Education and Training (IMET) program supports the RDF by strengthening the capacity of national leadership and supporting the professionalizing of the military. The number of U.S.-trained personnel at the national leadership level of the RDF continues to grow.

- During FY 2009, the USG trained 50 Rwandan military students, including U.S. Coast Guard Mobile Training Team instruction for 20 Rwandan Marines in basic preventive maintenance and advanced troubleshooting techniques for outboard boat motors. Another 16 marines were trained in counternarcotics, including intensive instruction and practical exercises in defensive tactics, and 14 students were sent to the United States for training. There are now 79 U.S.-trained personnel among RDF leadership. That number will increase to 109 by the end of FY 2010.