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ZAMBIA

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FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

Zambia's 45 years of independence and peace make it a beacon of stability in southern Africa. Yet despite almost a decade of 5 percent growth, almost two-thirds of Zambians live in poverty, while rural people persistently lag behind urban dwellers in most measures of social welfare. Though Zambia possesses significant mineral wealth and fertile soil, it remains one of the poorest countries in the world, and ranks 164 out of 182 countries in the 2009 United Nations Human Development Index. While the overall HIV/AIDS infection rate declined from 15.6 percent in 2001-02 to 14.3 percent in 2007, the number of new infections annually remains unchanged at close to 100,000, and Zambia faces growing challenges in meeting the basic health service needs of its people.

Zambia's narrow economic base constrains its development. Two-thirds of Zambians are small-scale farmers; over 80 percent of those live below the poverty line. Recent economic growth has been led by the mining, construction, and service sectors while agriculture, manufacturing, and other sector growth has remained stagnant. This slow agriculture growth is due to smallholder reliance on rain-fed production in low-value commodities. High freight costs, poor infrastructure, limited opportunities for education, and disease burden all restrain broad-based economic growth.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Peace and Security

U.S. foreign assistance and diplomacy work to obtain greater Zambian cooperation in multilateral fora and in handling regional instability and crises. Building Zambian police and defense forces' professional peacekeeping capacity through training supports U.S. regional stability goals and strengthens the United States-Zambia bilateral partnership.

U.S. programs help Zambia build its capacity to monitor and control the borders, serve effectively in peacekeeping operations, and fight terrorism. U.S. military and law enforcement training programs, including International Military Education and Training, and International Law Enforcement Academy, build skills, capacity, and professionalism in the security sector and support stronger law enforcement, military, and peacekeeping cooperation. In FY 2009, U.S. foreign assistance:

- Improved the skills, capacity, and professionalism of the Zambian military and thereby strengthened Zambia's ability to support regional peacekeeping operations and ensure its own territorial integrity
- Encouraged increased participation in peacekeeping operations. In FY 2009 Zambia deployed 726 peacekeepers to Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, and Sudan, an increase of 223 peacekeepers over FY 2008, due largely to a deployment of police to Darfur, Sudan.

Governing Justly and Democratically

Zambia's political stability cannot be taken for granted. While Zambian Government effectiveness is improving in certain sectors, regulatory capability, rule of law, and control of corruption are areas of concern that act as constraints to the inclusive growth required for continued stability.

The unexpected death of President Levy Mwanawasa in 2008 tested the electoral systems and democratic process of Zambia. Constitutionally mandated to hold a presidential by-election within 90 days, Zambia's Electoral Commission did not have funds budgeted to support such an effort. Donors within Zambia jointly developed an election support fund, managed by the United Nations Development Programme, to which the United States contributed \$1 million. The by-election was held in October 2008 and was generally regarded as free and fair.

The Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Threshold Program paid dividends during FY 2009, as Zambia was judged Compact eligible. However, the Government of the Republic of Zambia (GRZ) must demonstrate a continued commitment to anticorruption efforts and other key MCA indicators to remain so.

In FY 2009, U.S. assistance:

- Quickly responded to the GRZ's appeal for assistance with the unplanned by-election following the death of President Mwanawasa, including support for the printing of voter registers that were required at all polling stations. U.S. assistance was closely coordinated through a United Nations Development Program donor basket.
- Completed the MCA Threshold Program under an unfunded extension to finalize testing of a land-information database system at the Ministry of Lands. This database automated and increased security of the management of land deeds and titles.

Investing in People

The bulk of U.S. foreign assistance resources for Zambia are directed toward investments in Zambian people. U.S. investment helped Zambia reduce and manage its HIV/AIDS epidemic (14.3 percent HIV prevalence rate), care for AIDS orphans (numbering 800,000), control malaria (the cause of 40 percent of deaths of children under 5), and reduce the maternal mortality rate that is among the world's highest. Strategies and activities addressed HIV, tuberculosis, malaria (under the President's Malaria Initiative), family planning and reproductive health, and maternal and child health. The United States worked with the Ministry of Education, local governments, and communities to upgrade education quality and increase access to secondary education, especially for girls. The lack of educational opportunity beyond primary school hinders access to formal sector employment for Zambia's poor.

In FY 2009, U.S. foreign assistance:

- Expanded HIV/AIDS services throughout Zambia. U.S. partners provided antiretroviral therapy to 228,787 Zambian AIDS patients in 294 sites nationwide. U.S. assistance supported 500,029 HIV-infected adults and children with basic health care and support services in their homes, hospices, and clinics. U.S. assistance supported 444,052 AIDS-affected orphans and vulnerable children. Partners provided HIV testing and counseling to 931,780 people through mobile and static service delivery, a 46 percent increase from FY 2008. Testing and counseling increased steadily since the 2001 Demographic Health Survey, when only 9.4 percent of women and 13.8 percent of men had ever been tested. According to the 2007 survey, 35 percent of women and 20 percent of men have now been tested.
- Supported the Ministry of Health's efforts to expand access to reproductive health and family planning services through social marketing, procurement of commodities for the public sector, training of health workers, supply chain improvements, and communication for behavior change. U.S. reproductive health assistance procured 5,800,800 cycles of oral contraceptives for social marketing and 1,591,000 ampoules of Depo-Provera, 15,400 implants of Jadelle, and 24,000 intrauterine contraceptive devices for the public sector – valued at \$2,036,000 – contributing to increased Zambian use of family planning.
- Contributed to the President's Malaria Initiative's goal of reducing malaria mortality by 50 percent in the vulnerable populations of children under five and pregnant women by achieving 85 percent population coverage through key interventions by the end of 2010. A recent analysis of malaria data for 2000 to 2008 showed more than a 65 percent reduction in inpatient malaria mortality. The malaria program supported prevention initiatives through training in 36 districts and through supplies, including insecticides for indoor residual spraying, in 762,479 houses across 15 districts, reaching over 90 percent of targeted households. These 15 districts were targeted based on population density and prevalence to achieve maximum effect with available resources. In addition, malaria funds provided 433,235 insecticide-treated bednets for distribution in antenatal clinics, and 1,910,000 rapid diagnostic tests for malaria diagnosis.
- Provided training to 2,632 teachers and support to 1,693 underserved community schools, including more than 225,000 locally prepared books and learning materials with an emphasis on mathematics at the primary school level. Other programs improved school management with a focus on local level planning.
- Began to provide safe water and sanitation to rural schools. Using a community-based approach, the program repairs existing wells or installs new ones and constructs latrines. This program includes a school hygiene component that promotes a healthy school environment. By the end of FY 2009, the program had installed water points in 16 schools and constructed blocks of latrines in three schools, thereby improving access to water and sanitation for 6,765 learners.
- Provided materials and teacher training for 2,200 community schoolteachers in more than 3,000 marginalized community schools. U.S.-supported programs trained more than 2,600 in-service government teachers. More than 743,000 learners, 70 percent of whom are underprivileged, benefited from U.S. assistance. In addition, scholarships from U.S. programs kept nearly 10,000 orphaned high school students in school.

Economic Growth

Although Zambia has diverse mineral wealth, smallholder farming is the primary source of income for more than two-thirds of Zambian households. Agriculture offers the greatest potential to reduce rural poverty and increase food security in Zambia and the region. Targeting Zambian policies that contribute to poor market coordination and disincentives for investment, U.S. assistance programs supported and promoted key policy reforms that encouraged private sector-led growth, especially in rural agriculture. Programs worked to eliminate distorting agricultural subsidies and build on proven successes to expand exports and promote more efficient value chains that boost incomes for rural households.

In FY 2009, U.S. foreign assistance:

- Built the export capacity of over 105,000 firms, trained 208,838 entrepreneurs (mostly small-scale farmers) in trade and investment approaches, conducted 26 trade and investment environment diagnostics, and provided training and other assistance to 3,527 service providers, such as agriculture input sales agents
- Improved agricultural productivity through cultivating 55,703 additional hectares of land utilizing improved technologies. Programs reached over 158,000 small-scale farmers through agriculture input sales, private veterinary services, agro-chemical spray service provision, tillage services, and dairy production. Over 23,000 animals owned by 6,066 small-scale farmers, received private sector veterinary services, resulting in more than a \$2.5 million increase in profits.

Humanitarian Assistance

The United States worked closely with the Zambian Government to coordinate and implement programs that mitigate the effects of climatic shock on vulnerable populations and link vulnerable populations to opportunities for sustainable livelihoods. The United States also supported refugee feeding and repatriation programs. Among its FY 2009 achievements, U.S. foreign assistance:

- Trained nearly 5,000 vulnerable farmers in conservation agriculture practices.
- Trained nearly 3,000 vulnerable dairy farmers in dairy management and linked them to milk collection centers and cooperatives, increasing the average household income among participating farmers 125 percent.
- Provided 1,266 metric tons of food to 42,074 vulnerable Zambians.
- Supported disaster risk reduction efforts that included an integrated water management and crop diversification project in Southern Province benefiting nearly 230,000 people, and provided disaster relief supplies to the GRZ's Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit
- Assisted over 15,000 refugees' return to the Democratic Republic of Congo through the State Department's Bureau for Population, Refugees and Migration

The results described above are but a glimpse into the level of effort put forth by dedicated professionals – both Zambian and American – to address the development needs of Zambia while furthering U.S. foreign assistance objectives. These results demonstrate the close collaboration and shared commitment of Zambia and the United States and provide the foundation for continued shared success.