

# USAID's Partnership with Africa

USAID Bureau for Africa

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In Africa, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is working to build regional stability, strengthen democratic institutions, preserve the environment, promote economic growth, advance food security, educate children, and ensure better health for all. By working with African governments; local, regional, and national organizations; and other development partners, USAID seeks to incorporate African experiences in all of these sectors to ensure sustainable and

locally appropriate programs and activities. By understanding Africa's diverse cultures and experiences, USAID can better design and implement successful strategies and programs. Strategies initiated by Africans such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), a new vision and plan of action for African development launched last year,

present new models for USAID to collaborate with other donors and African leaders.

USAID provides long-term development and emergency humanitarian assistance throughout sub-Saharan Africa through field missions in 22 countries and three regional development offices, supported by the Bureau for Africa and three technical pillar bureaus in Washington, DC. Four initiatives were recently created to fight hunger, increase trade and economic growth, strengthen education, and fight

corruption throughout Africa. These initiatives build on USAID's existing programs and enhance the Agency's ability to work in partnership with Africans to address their most immediate challenges. By developing and strengthening African capacity in all sectors, and placing special emphasis where the need is greatest, USAID is helping Africa reduce its dependency on development assistance and better position itself to compete in the global marketplace. In addition, funding for HIV/AIDS programs has been greatly expanded to fight this serious threat to Africa's ability to grow and prosper.

## Cutting Hunger in Africa

Hunger in Africa is widespread and worsening. An estimated one-third of Africans currently are undernourished and Africa has the highest mortality rate for children under five years old. Widespread poverty and the spread of infectious diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS all compound the problem of hunger and increase the challenges to finding lasting solutions. African farmers require science and market-based strategies to produce sufficient food to feed their families as well as to sell products locally, regionally, and globally.

A major new presidential **Initiative to End Hunger in Africa** will help the United States work toward fulfilling its pledge to help Africa cut hunger in half by 2015. The initiative calls for a partnership with African leaders, especially from the private sector and governments, to work

**"We Americans want to be more than spectators of Africa's progress. We want to encourage a brighter future through policies that nurture and support freedom and democratic reform."**

President George W. Bush  
May 16, 2001

and invest in a smallholder-oriented strategy for agricultural growth. The primary objective of the initiative is to rapidly increase sustainable agricultural growth and rural incomes in sub-Saharan Africa. Increased emphasis will be placed on programs to improve the use of modern technologies, expand credit to farmers, strengthen producer associations, improve the functioning of markets, and enhance economic incentives for farmers and small-scale entrepreneurs.

The initiative will encourage a focus on crops, livestock, and environmental goods and services where African farmers and firms have a competitive advantage. Emphasis will be placed on traditional and nontraditional exports and food commodities that have the potential to attract private investment and that lend themselves to smallholder production and technical innovation.

### Farmers Increase Income by Planting Improved Varieties

Many poor farmers in Kenya's low and medium potential agricultural areas are growing higher-yielding crops and increasing their incomes from the sale of seeds and other farm products with assistance from USAID/Kenya's Agribusiness Development Support Project. Small-scale seed growers are proving that they can produce seed varieties that meet inspection and certification standards set by the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services.

Two thousand Kenyan farmers are now planting improved seed varieties and using new farm practices. Their efforts are creating greater awareness among other farmers and increasing market demand for certified seeds. Despite their greater cost, improved seed varieties yield 50 to 80 percent greater harvests compared to traditional seeds. Local certified seed production is giving farmers access to improved varieties closer to home and reducing marketing and transportation costs, with 150 individual seed distributors currently passing on these savings to farmers through reduced prices. The project also works with private seed

wholesalers, distributors, and community-based organizations to improve collaboration, trade, and marketing of agricultural inputs and farm products.

One such group is the Kyeko Self Help Farmers Group, a successful seed enterprise of 114 men and 77 women that has integrated seed production, processing, and marketing into its operations. In the October 2001 to March 2002 growing season, Kyeko farmers increased seed production ten fold, from 1,985 kg to 19,800 kg and grew new varieties of maize and beans. Overall income for the group from the sale of certified seed varieties increased from US\$2,036 in 2001 to \$14,077 in 2002. These gains show that the farmers are putting their new knowledge to work and improving their households' security in the process. Farmers report that greater incomes have enabled them to purchase additional livestock, improve their houses, and pay school fees for their children.



*A group of Kenyan farmers learning about seed and fertilizer varieties.*

**“As Americans, we are not content to sit idly by while people suffer from starvation, disease, and tyranny. We want to try to solve those problems, and we want people to be able to build their own societies and take advantage of economic opportunities. USAID’s work to address health challenges and promote broad-based economic and social development in Africa goes to the heart of American values. And by encouraging participation in the global trading system, addressing the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and building stability by setting the foundations of democratic governance, we also support U.S. national interests in Africa.”**

USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios

May 17, 2001

## **Fostering Greater Trade and Economic Growth**

The United States has strong political, economic, and humanitarian interests in supporting greater agricultural growth and trade in Africa. Without such growth, hunger, poverty, and the spreading burden of HIV/AIDS threaten the stability of

Africa and hinder its ability to join the global marketplace.

The presidential **Trade for African Development and Enterprise** (TRADE) initiative will support the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and regional integration and efficiency, and expand trade to enhance global competitiveness.

AGOA, which was enacted in May 2000, is

already expanding trade in selected goods between the United States and more than 70 African and Caribbean countries. Three regional TRADE “Hubs for Global

Competitiveness” in west (Ghana), east (Kenya), and southern Africa (Botswana)—[www.satradehub.org](http://www.satradehub.org)—will coordinate programs and services and support country-based activities. TRADE focuses on six areas: 1) promoting U.S.-African business linkages, 2) enhancing the competitiveness of African products and services, 3) expanding the role of trade in African poverty reduction strategies, 4) improving the delivery of public services supporting trade, 5) building African capacity for trade policy analysis, and 6) strengthening the enabling environment for African businesses. Increasing African capacity in business and trade, building inter- and intra-regional linkages, and enhancing the competitiveness of African products are key to Africa’s ability to compete globally.

## **Ensuring Africa’s Future through Education and Training**

Economic growth depends on an educated workforce capable of taking advantage of economic opportunities. Africa lags far behind the rest of the world in the investment in people necessary to achieve such



*Djenabou Kanté, a beneficiary of USAID/Guinea small business training, displaying her fabric products, some of which she exports to the United States.*

growth. Education is also important to sustaining democracy, improving health, increasing income, and conserving environmental resources. USAID supports African education by helping to improve the quality of and access to education and training. USAID programs focus much of their efforts on improving basic education for girls, because of the proven positive impact that educated girls have on economic and social development.

President George W. Bush recently announced a new five-year **Africa Education Initiative** to improve basic education for children in Africa. The initiative challenges African education professionals to find new ways to provide children with opportunities to learn and become productive members of society.

"Literacy is the foundation of the future and

John F. Kennedy  
George W. Bush

### Back to Basics in Ethiopia: The Community Instructor

Across Africa, ministries of education, donors, and partners have struggled for decades to use locally relevant content in primary schooling, but have had limited success. USAID's Basic Education System Overhaul Program in Ethiopia, through its Community School Grants Program, is finding innovative ways to include community participation into the local curriculum. The Popular Participation in Curriculum and Instruction Project (PoPCI) has brought teachers from over 75 schools together with local, indigenous experts to develop and deliver lessons to primary students on topics such as carpentry, pottery, traditional mediation, and agriculture. Under the PoPCI model, the local experts and teachers jointly design a text and lesson on a local topic that the community expert delivers as a special class. The teacher then folds these lessons into the conventional curriculum. Teachers and experts at local schools have created and delivered over 300 lessons, with texts. At one school, a blacksmith's workshop and a weaver's loom were installed for an entire month as part of the PoPCI curriculum to merge demonstration with classroom presentations.

One fourth grade student at Hibret School said that he has learned from these local expert sessions that legitimate professions do not lie only in the cities. A female classmate explained how the sessions not only broadened her employment horizon to include local professions, but also strengthened her learning.

Mr. Kebede, a blacksmith who served as a local expert, lives close to Hibret School. Previously, students passed by his house on their way to school without giving him a thought. After his lesson, students began to congregate at his workshop after school to watch and learn from him. And a group of parents in Sodo explained to some visiting local education officials that, thanks to PoPCI, their children would now grow up to be more creative, more productive farmers than they had been themselves.



*Ethiopian students working on their lessons.*



## NGOs Take on Corruption in Benin

The Front des Organisations Nationales Anti-Corruption (FONAC), a local alliance of NGOs in Benin, conducted a series of anti-corruption awareness campaigns with support from USAID/Benin. Customs agents, teachers, medical staff, and representatives of unions of education, health, and finance sectors were invited to workshops on ethical behavior in their respective sectors. Presentations focused on the negative impact of corruption and

how it directly affects the workplace and the economy. The heated debate that followed each presentation showed that citizens want their government officials to enact legislation that will protect whistle blowers. Many people currently refrain from reporting corruption cases because they are afraid of reprisals from above. FONAC promised to lead efforts to draft new legislation to address these problems.

There are currently 40 million children out of school in Africa, and 60 percent of these are girls. Because girls are often kept out of school due to a lack of school fees, the initiative will provide scholarships for girls who would otherwise be unable to attend. The initiative also addresses the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS on

education systems by increasing the capacity of African education ministries to confront the loss of skilled teachers to the epidemic. The initiative will target improved access to and quality of education through teacher training, the development and distribution of textbooks and other learning tools, greater use of information technology, and the increased involvement of communities and parents in their children's education. At the same time, USAID will

continue to support its long-term programs that address country-level education system reform throughout Africa.



*Senegalese local government officials and civil society representatives learning about local government budgeting regulations.*

## Strengthening Democracy and Reducing Corruption

It is now widely recognized by the donor community and by African leaders themselves that good governance, political stability, and economic development are closely intertwined. USAID supports the application of democratic principles and good governance by promoting representative political processes and institutions, the rule of law, the growth of civil society, and a respect for human rights. In countries undertaking decentralization of governmental functions, USAID promotes policy dialogue between citizens and public officials at the local level, as well as technical training. Particularly promising are efforts to build principles of participation and good governance into USAID's programs in other sectors. The Bureau for Africa is also launching an initiative to address one of the region's greatest development challenges, corruption. The relationship between corruption and poor governance is very strong. Fragile public institutions, weak civil society, poorly paid civil servants, and the lack of an

independent judiciary all create a climate in which corruption can flourish.

A new five-year **Anti-Corruption Initiative** aims to reduce corruption in sub-Saharan Africa by addressing the enabling environment for corruption. To achieve this goal, the initiative will promote public access to information, civic participation in government action, transparent and efficient government procedures, and effective government oversight institutions. The initiative reflects the good governance principles put forward under the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and will support current "African grown" anti-corruption

efforts by organizations such as the African Union and the Southern Africa Development Community.

### **Fighting HIV/AIDS and Improving Maternal and Child Health**

Healthy people are also critical to Africa's ability to grow and compete globally. USAID's efforts to improve health in Africa focus on increasing the quality as well as the availability of



*AIDS orphans in Lesotho.*

### **Traditional Midwives Deliver Essential Health Services in Liberia**

In order to fill the gap caused by the shortage of professionally trained health workers in remote communities of Liberia, traditional midwives have been trained in the delivery of essential community based maternal and child health services since the 1950s. Statistics from 1,307 remote communities in Liberia showed that traditional midwives performed about 75 percent of deliveries occurring outside the health facilities, making this training critical in areas with limited access to health services.

With support from USAID, these traditional midwives receive six months of structured training in how to become health promoters, community mobilizers, and change agents for health development. The training follows an approved curriculum from the Ministry of Health and topics include malaria prevention and control, STI/HIV/AIDS prevention and control, sanitation, community participa-

tion and development, immunization, diarrheal prevention and control, identification of high risk pregnancy, benefits of prompt and appropriate referrals, and child rights issues. Following the completion of this structured training, these traditional midwives are then awarded licenses as trained traditional midwives, which are renewed annually through their supervisors, by the Liberian Board of Nursing and Midwifery.

Professionally trained certified midwives, who tend to be younger women based in clinics, make periodic outreach visitations to the homes of trained traditional midwives and provide on-the-spot training. As a result of this collaborative relationship, the traditional midwives have promptly referred complicated deliveries to the certified midwives in clinics for appropriate management, thus reducing maternal mortality in these remote communities.



*Young beneficiaries of USAID programs.*

health care services. With the death of more than 19 million Africans from HIV/AIDS-related causes to date, and 13 million African children orphaned by the disease, AIDS has moved well beyond being just a health problem in many countries in the region. It is now a major development issue that threatens economic and

social progress across a broad front. Programs that support children and adults affected by AIDS are being expanded to address this growing threat to Africa's future. In fiscal year 2002, the United States provided nearly one billion dollars for global HIV/AIDS assistance, a 36 percent increase over the previous year. President George W. Bush has also pledged \$500 million to the United Nation's

Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, making the United States the largest contributor to this fund.

One of the tragic—and preventable—consequences of the HIV/AIDS epidemic is mother-to-child transmission of HIV. Transmission can occur during pregnancy, at delivery, or through breastfeeding. Worldwide, more than 2 million women with HIV give birth each year, resulting in 720,000 babies who become infected with HIV, and the majority of these children are born in Africa. USAID places special emphasis on efforts to reduce and prevent mother-to-child transmission. In addition, USAID places high priority on reducing the alarming rate of mortality among African women from maternal causes, as well as ensuring that more families have access to the family planning services and information they need to have smaller, healthier families.

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