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News, Updates, and Resources from USAID's Bureau for Africa

Replacing Conflict Diamonds with Peace Diamonds in Sierra Leone

By Julie Koenen-Grant and Laura Lartigue

The Kono Peace Diamond Alliance hopes to help change the image of Sierra Leonean diamonds from one of fueling a brutal war to one of benefiting local communities. Funded by the USAID Global Development Alliance, the Diamond Alliance is an organization that seeks to improve the management capacity of Sierra Leone's diamond resources and ensure that more benefits from the mining and sale of the gems flow back to local communities. It also attempts to prove to Sierra Leoneans and the world that words often associated with Sierra Leone's diamond industry in the past—exploitation, corruption, abuse, and conflict—do not have to be part of its future.

Accomplishing these difficult goals requires the combined efforts of private and public sector actors, as well as the involvement of local communities and watchdog agencies. Management Systems International, USAID's implementing partner, brought together more than 80 national and international attendees for the two-day inaugural meeting of the Diamond Alliance in December 2002. They identified key constraints and problems—such as too few benefits at local levels, exploitation of labor, and illegal export (smuggling)—and possible solutions.

The attendees then committed to instituting these solutions. For instance, local organizations pledged to establish an information outreach hub to ensure that community input reaches the Diamond Alliance and that important information reaches every village. The Government of Sierra Leone pledged to work with the alliance members to improve mining-sector policies and monitor the flows of royalties and fees. Representatives of the international private sector such as DeBeers and Branch Energy pledged to build knowledge and skills among regulators, dealers, and miners, and to finance the training of local people in agriculture skills. The British Department for International Development (DfID) pledged to disseminate technical information. And



Mining in the Kono District of Sierra Leone.

L. Lartigue/USAID

Using Technology to Reduce Hunger in Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa has the highest rates of malnutrition and hunger in the world and African farmers have among the world's lowest agricultural production rates. Africa is the only continent where the number of malnourished people and the share of population that lives with the threat of hunger continue to grow. To reduce hunger, African farmers must have access to better technology to improve the quality of produce, reduce post-harvest losses, relieve pressure on natural resources, and respond to markets. USAID has launched a series of initiatives that focus on agricultural technology—especially biotechnology—to increase agricultural productivity and enhance food security in Africa.

Biotechnology is an integral part of the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA), which was launched at last year's World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa. The initiative calls for a wide-ranging partnership that includes

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African leaders from the private sector and governments, civil society, donors, and private companies to work and invest in a small-scale oriented agricultural growth strategy. More than 70 percent of all Africans obtain their food and earn their living through small-scale farming, so IEHA places emphasis on programs that help these farmers improve agricultural productivity.

For more than 25 years, USAID has been working with African researchers to develop improved crop varieties and other technology to help Africa meet its growing food needs and enable African farmers to produce sufficient crops not only for local use but for regional and global export as well. Improved crop varieties have great potential to improve the performance of agriculture. Biotechnology tools are helping to develop plants better adapted to the conditions African farmers face such as dryness, salinity, and harmful insects, as well as to grow crops with greater nutritional qualities. USAID's approach is to work in concert with African organizations at all levels to define the

priorities for a biotechnology agenda that responds to African concerns and needs.

It is important that African leadership be involved from the start in biotechnology programs. USAID has received letters from the presidents of Kenya and Nigeria requesting assistance with biotechnology development in their countries. And the African-led New Partnership for Africa's Development explicitly calls for greater attention to the development of biotechnology capacity for African agriculture.

At the World Food Summit held in Rome last year, USAID announced the Collaborative Agricultural Biotechnology (CABIO) Initiative, which will help developing countries worldwide access and manage modern biotechnology to improve agricultural productivity and reduce hunger. The initiative will help countries in Africa and elsewhere become better equipped to make informed decisions about the use of biotechnology. CABIO's three components are:

- ◆ **Agricultural Biotechnology Support Project (ABSP) II.** This U.S. university-led effort brings together a consortium of partners from the U.S. public and private sectors, international research institutions, and developing countries for collaborative technology development and scientific training. ABSP focuses on safe and effective development and commercialization of biotechnology crops to complement traditional and organic approaches. In Africa, ABSP has established a partnership with seven



A researcher in a Ugandan cassava field.

Southern African Development Community countries (Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) to provide technical training in biosafety implementation.

- ◆ **Program for Biosafety Systems (PBS).** This program helps developing countries create the infrastructure needed to use biotechnology safely, build policies and capacity for science-based regulations, and examine biosafety in the broader context of economics, environment, science, and trade issues.
- ◆ **Biofortified Crops to Combat Micronutrient Deficiency.** This joint program of the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research and U.S. and other international universities addresses micronutrient deficiencies by raising vitamin A, iron, and zinc content in crops such as sweet potatoes, beans, and maize.

Under the CABIO initiative, USAID is working with governments in six African countries—Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, South Africa, Uganda, and Zambia—to build African centers of excellence in biotechnology. Crops being researched include

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sweet potatoes, maize, and cowpeas in Kenya; beans in Nigeria; potatoes in South Africa; bananas in Uganda; and cocoa in several West African countries. In addition, livestock vaccines against diseases that threaten to wipe out cattle in Kenya and elsewhere are under development.

Another new partnership to boost food crop production through greater access to biotechnology is the African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), which will be launched this September in Nairobi, Kenya. AATF is a public-private partnership between USAID, the British Department for International Development, the Rockefeller Foundation, and U.S. companies to develop and disseminate new varieties of Africa-specific crops to small-scale farmers in sub-Saharan Africa. The foundation will link the needs of resource-poor farmers with potential technological solutions that are available in the private sector. AATF will also negotiate and manage licenses and assume legal liability for licensed biotechnology used by African farmers.

These biotechnology initiatives all emphasize an integrated approach to address biosafety policy, technology development, policy and property rights, and private sector capacity building and business applications. In addition, USAID is supporting seminal work assessing the environmental impacts of bioengineered crops in Africa as well as economic studies to assess the potential value of these crops to African producers and businesses. As long as proper biosafety and environmental protections are observed, biotechnology has the potential to increase food security in Africa and make a significant contribution to alleviating poverty and hunger.

For more information, visit www.afri-sd.org/Agriculture/Biotechnology/biotechnology.htm, or contact Jeff Hill, Africa Bureau agricultural technology advisor, at jehill@usaid.gov or (202) 712-5256.

Regional TRADE Hubs Build Business Capacity

Expanding its share of global trade is critical to Africa's economic growth. The Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE) Initiative was designed to help governments improve the environment for entrepreneurship and growth in their countries and increase trade opportunities.

The TRADE Initiative helps eligible countries effectively use the benefits of the 2000 African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and increase their competitiveness in the global marketplace. AGOA reduces barriers to trade, such as duties and tariffs, between the United States and countries that have demonstrated their eligibility by making progress towards free-market economies, the rule of law, and efforts to fight corruption, among other qualifications. TRADE also provides technical assistance in building capacity for economic policy formation.

TRADE will work primarily with governments through three Regional Hubs for Global Competitiveness in Gaborone, Botswana; Nairobi, Kenya; and the newest in Accra, Ghana. Each hub acts as a central point where African and U.S. government agencies, donor and civil society organizations, and the private sector can find information and technical assistance on trade, investment, and business activities in the region, including training opportunities. The hubs will also work with regional economic organizations—the Southern Africa Development Community, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, and the Economic Community of West African States, respectively—to increase regional economic integration and reduce barriers to regional trade.

Each hub is staffed by a team of experts in various trade-related fields, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service plans to place a representative in each

hub to assist with agricultural export standards.

The TRADE hubs will also:

- ◆ Coordinate with Washington-based U.S. government agencies, including USAID/Washington, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, and Treasury, to ensure that trade policies and development programs are complementary and mutually reinforcing;
- ◆ Establish working links with other donor-funded hubs in the region, including the World Bank and IMF hubs, to ensure consistency in technical assistance and policy recommendations and capitalize on overlaps among donor efforts;
- ◆ Collaborate with other multilateral and bilateral donors, including the African Development Bank, on related trade and investment issues and programs; and
- ◆ Establish strong links to additional expertise that will be placed in the region as part of the USAID/Africa Bureau's anti-corruption and agriculture initiatives and exchange relevant programmatic information with other region-wide programs such as the trafficking in persons and HIV/AIDS initiatives.

In addition, each hub is responding to region-specific needs. For example, the Nairobi hub is working to increase regional transportation efficiency from Kenya through Uganda and Rwanda to the Democratic Republic of Congo. The Accra hub will be focusing on the business development of handcrafted textiles under AGOA.

For more information, visit the regional hubs at www.watradehub.com, www.ecatradehub.com, or www.satradehub.org, or contact Bob Siegel at rsiegel@usaid.gov or (202) 712-1226.

Kimberley Process Aims to Eliminate the Trade of Conflict Diamonds



Miners in Kono District, Sierra Leone.

The United States has worked together with over 30 governments, the European Union, the diamond industry, and civil society groups for more than two years to control the trade of conflict diamonds while protecting legitimate producers through the Kimberley Process. The Kimberley Process calls on participating countries to set up national certification schemes to control the trade in rough diamonds. On November 5, 2002, the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme was launched at a ministerial meeting held in Switzerland. The process is named after the town of Kimberley, South Africa, where the concept for this certification scheme was

created in May 2000. Countries participating in the Kimberley Process agreed that as of January 1, 2003, they would not allow the import or export of rough diamonds to or from nonparticipating countries in an effort to keep conflict diamonds from entering legitimate diamond trade channels.

Less than 4 percent of the world's diamonds are considered to be "conflict diamonds," however these diamonds have had a significant impact in fostering and prolonging armed conflict and instability in countries across Africa, including Angola, Sierra Leone, Liberia,

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USAID pledged to provide technical assistance and equipment to the Ministry of Mineral Resources, to strengthen the capacity of interested community-based organizations in Kono, and to conduct feasibility work for a credit scheme.

USAID's democracy and governance programs have improved diamond-sector management by assisting the Government of Sierra Leone and local communities in monitoring the mining sector. For the first time, USAID technical assistance and policy dialogue made it possible for local diamond mining communities to receive direct financial benefits in proportion to the legal mining taking place within their chiefdoms. In 2002, legal exports increased from \$25 million to \$37 million, and proceeds to mining communities nearly doubled. The challenge will be to contain corruption and to nurture well-meaning and dedicated stakeholders from both the public and private sector to continue the positive momentum.

As a follow-on action, DfID, with support from USAID, conducted a major mining policy workshop in Freetown in

March 2003, at which several key points were discussed. For example, there are still many gaps in public awareness—or at least acknowledgment—of the scope of illegal diamond-related activities. This indicates the need to develop appropriate strategies for disseminating more information about the industry. Also, the Lebanese community, which is active in the buying and selling of diamonds in Sierra Leone, must be part of the diamond reform process. Finally, mining of commercial kimberlite, ore that contains diamonds, will be underway in Kono by August 2003, necessitating the formulation of a strategy to ensure wider community participation in the benefits of such commercial mining activities.

One of the main contributions of the March workshop was to let all players know that the diamond mining business in Sierra Leone is important to the outside world, and that the old "business as usual" will no longer be possible. However, the enormity of the task the Diamond Alliance faces cannot be overstated. Kono District—the major

diamond-mining area in Sierra Leone—and Koidu town were nearly totally destroyed during the war and must be rebuilt. Confidence and trust come with time, and the alliance has recognized that local residents need to feel that they are both benefiting from and have a stake in the development of the local diamond industry. In a country in which a brutal war is now spoken of in the past tense, the Diamond Alliance hopes to introduce "peace diamonds" from Sierra Leone to the rest of the world.

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For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/gn/sierraleone/index.htm or contact Julie Koenen-Grant at jkoenen-grant@usaid.gov.

Teachers Get Connect-ED in Uganda

The Government of Uganda realized early on the importance of not being left behind in the information age, so Uganda was among the first in Africa to get Internet connectivity. USAID's Connectivity for Educator Development (Connect-ED) project is helping Ugandans to more effectively use this connectivity and bring the benefits of the Internet to the Ugandan education system.



LearnLink local Assistant Coordinator Hawa Nyede instructing teachers in basic computing skills.

Implemented by the Academy for Educational Development with close cooperation from the Ugandan Ministry of Education, Connect-ED is increasing computer literacy among teachers, providing teacher training colleges with information and communication technologies (ICTs), preparing an online teacher training curriculum based on a student-centered learning approach, and developing teacher and student-teacher skills to integrate ICTs into the classroom.

The project has trained faculty and staff members at the Institute of Teacher Education Kyambogo (ITEK), the country's main teacher-training institute, in the use of computers and ICT applications. They,

in turn, will train prospective teachers. Trained staff members are also now in place at eight primary teacher colleges (PTCs) throughout the country.

To upgrade facilities, the project helped ITEK construct and equip a new multimedia user lab building and a refurbished teacher training development lab with ICTs. The ITEK labs are being used to develop and test multimedia training

methods and materials. The 8 PTCs each received 10 computers, which are already being used for training. Project organizers hope to eventually open these computer labs to the public.

Connect-ED responded to the specific requests of Ugandan teachers by developing the Digital Resource Library (DRL), a set of six CD-ROMs of supplemental teaching materials to bolster

the national PTC curriculum. Subjects include mathematics, science/health, languages, foundations of education, culture education, and social studies, which teachers can refer to when creating their lesson plans.

Another way Connect-ED is enhancing learning and teaching for educators is through its Online Multimedia Curriculum, which includes activities, images, and quizzes for interactive participation and self-evaluation. Visit this site at www.itek.ac.ug/curriculum/homepage/Index.htm. The Online Curriculum enhances the existing Uganda PTC syllabus, the national curriculum, and provides worldwide access to the content on

the Internet, making it easier to update than the current printed curriculum and saving time and printing costs.

The Professional Development Learning Environment (PDLE), the third component of Connect-ED, is a website specifically designed to assist Ugandan educators in using ICTs to build their professional capacity. Visit the PDLE at www.connected.ac.ug/pdle/index.html. The lessons are geared to specific tasks, such as teaching an educator how to use Microsoft Word to create an exam, or to use Excel to record end of term marks. As with the DRL, Ugandan educators developed all of the materials. The PDLE also includes ITEK's online chat rooms, discussion boards, and e-mail so that primary educators can share ideas and teaching practices.

When their teachers are trained in ICT, students benefit. For example, Connect-ED hosted an Internet chat session in May 2002 for female students. Girls from Belize, Bulgaria, The Gambia, Ghana, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Namibia, Romania, South Africa, Uganda, and Ukraine came together virtually to chat about everything from the cost of Internet time to women's roles, themes that cut across cultures.

Uganda is now leading the way in preparing better-qualified teachers in Africa. The Connect-ED project offers improved ways for training teachers to meet the expanding school-age population. The project also broadens the process of educational reform in Uganda and offers a potential model for other countries.

For more information, visit www.connected.ac.ug or contact Angelique Mutombo Davis, program officer, at adavis@aed.org or (202) 884-8932.

African Network Facilitates Judicial Exchange

USAID has long recognized that a predictable and just legal environment is a vital pre-condition for sustainable development in Africa. Without it, contracts are not uniformly enforced, civil rights

levels. USAID's Education for Development and Democracy Initiative (EDDI) is bringing these rule of law champions together in the African Judicial Network (AJN).



An AJN conference presenter in Bamako, Mali.

are irregularly applied, and legal decisions are subject to the influence of corruption.

Challenges to the rule of law in Africa tend to be three-fold: 1) structural challenges are typified by a lack of balance of power, typically in over-powerful executive branches; 2) institutional challenges are present nearly everywhere and point to the endemic lack of resources for judicial processes, infrastructure, and institutional development; and finally, 3) individual challenges are manifest in poorly trained judges and other legal professionals, as well as the general public who are often unaware of their legal rights and responsibilities. Under such circumstances the justice sector in many African nations sometimes contributes to the breakdown of the rule of law rather than its maintenance.

In spite of these challenges, there are exemplary judicial professionals in many African nations who are working to improve their judicial systems at the structural, institutional, and individual

Prior to February 2002, when the AJN development committee met for the first time, there were no regional organizations that assembled the various actors in the judicial system. AJN was founded to fill that void and provide a forum for judges, magistrates, lawyers, representatives of civil society organizations, and the media to share experiences, information, and opinions. This kind of multi-disciplinary, multi-

country exchange allows individuals to focus on both the policy and the political aspects of judicial reform in Africa. In addition, members are inspired to showcase their countries' progress, share lessons learned and best practices, and leverage others' ideas and strategies for their own work. AJN currently boasts nearly 250 members from Angola, Benin, Burundi, Central African Republic, Congo (Brazzaville), Eritrea, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda, as well as interested observers from the United States, and continues to grow.

To achieve effective networking with a group this size, AJN members meet periodically at conferences and use the AJN website and e-mail for communicating when they are not face-to-face. The use of Internet-based tools provides an arena for the written contributions of individual members, reinforcing the personal networking aspect of AJN activities. To date, there have been two international AJN conferences. The first

conference was held in June 2002 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, organized around the theme, "Easing Access to Justice." A second conference was held in Bamako, Mali, in February 2003, where papers and discussions focused on "Assuring Quality Justice for All." In addition to information exchange and communication facilitation, these conferences allow time for members to develop concrete plans for the sustainability of AJN once EDDI support ends in September 2003. In February, members discussed follow-on activities at the national and regional levels, fund-raising and proposal writing, and managing the website. National-level meetings or conferences have been conducted in five AJN countries and more are planned before September.

AJN's online discussion forum, a membership listserv, has been active since February 2003 and has already seen a tremendous response from members. Topics discussed to date have ranged from the detention of judges in Zimbabwe, to the use of TV cameras in the courtroom, to combating judicial corruption. Additionally, several U.S. organizations, notably the American Bar Association and the National Bar Association, have expressed interest in supporting the next phase of AJN's development.

By strengthening individual capacity, building networks of like-minded reformers, and providing a means to share best practices, the AJN can serve as an important tool in finding solutions to the three-fold challenges of structure, institution, and individual that confront contemporary rule of law systems in many African nations.

For more information, visit the AJN Web site at <http://ajn.rti.org> or contact Aleta Williams, USAID program manager, at alwilliams@usaid.gov or (202) 712-1516, or Zoey Breslar, program manager at Management Systems International, at zbreslar@msi-inc.com or (202) 484-7170.

Using Radio to Spread HIV Prevention Message

With over 30 million people in sub-Saharan Africa infected with HIV/AIDS, innovative methods are needed to spread messages of HIV infection prevention throughout the continent. The use of radio is one of these methods. A recent report by the United Nations found that radio is a major source for HIV/AIDS information, with about half of females and 70 percent of males hearing about AIDS on the radio.



Students participate in a USAID-sponsored youth radio show in Conakry, Guinea. This show uses a “call in” format and peer educators to discuss a range of issues on the minds of Guinea’s youth, from the problems of early pregnancy to prevention of HIV transmission.

As a result, the Africa Bureau funds several different radio-based HIV-prevention approaches. The following programs in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Nigeria are just a few examples.

“Journey of Life,” a 26-week radio soap opera in Ethiopia, centered on preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS and practicing family planning. Public health messages about these issues were strategically inserted into the story of Askale, a female police investigator, and her husband, Bahiru. This entertainment-education approach illustrates the positive and negative impacts of certain behaviors through the characters. For example, Askale’s sister ignores warnings about abstaining or using protection when having sex and learns she is HIV-positive after infecting others.

According to an evaluation conducted by researchers from the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, the institution that provided technical assistance to the Ethiopian National Office of Population in developing the radio series, nearly 96 percent of respondents said the show influenced them to protect themselves against HIV/AIDS. Over 90 percent reported the show influenced them to use family planning methods. Before the show aired, most of the youth surveyed said they did not believe they were at risk for HIV infection. Personal risk perception rose to over 66 percent after listening to “Journey of Life.” While almost all listeners now believe HIV/AIDS is a serious health threat in Ethiopia, they also believe strongly that they have the power to avoid infection.

With this sort of success, and nearly 86 percent of listeners saying they wished the series had lasted longer, the creators of “Journey of

Life” are planning a second season.

Meanwhile, another approach is being used in Kenya and Nigeria. The Local Voices program seeks to foster a more supportive social environment for preventing and mitigating the impacts of HIV/AIDS through an enlightened and committed local broadcast community. The Africa Bureau has contracted Internews Network, an international nonprofit organization that supports open media, to improve the ability of broadcast media in Kenya and Nigeria to effectively cover the HIV/AIDS epidemic over the next two years. Effective reports on the dramatic effect that AIDS has had on virtually every aspect of social and economic life can stimulate policy responses and action.

The Local Voices program will:

- ◆ provide intensive training of journalists, talk show hosts, and radio DJs;
- ◆ engage station owners and managers early on to facilitate management support of high quality reporting and programming on the pandemic;
- ◆ develop and strengthen national associations of journalists concerned about HIV/AIDS to help these local institutions take over responsibility for ongoing programs in their countries;
- ◆ spur reporters toward greater innovation and thoroughness by awarding prizes through regional and national competitions;
- ◆ offer modest equipment grants and travel opportunities, allowing journalists to research and investigate stories on HIV/AIDS throughout their country; and
- ◆ establish new media resource centers or strengthen existing ones in each country with additional resources, including radio production facilities, Internet access, and print and audio libraries that contribute to up-to-date and accurate stories.

By providing local broadcasters with the information, resources, and professional support they need to effectively cover the AIDS pandemic, Local Voices will enable journalists to make a significant contribution to limiting the spread of the epidemic and helping society cope with its consequences.

These two programs, and others like them, help inform the public about HIV and can help erode the taboos against discussing HIV/AIDS, which makes the message of prevention that much easier to spread.

For more information, visit www.internews.org/local_voices or www.jhuccp.org/africa/ethiopian_journey.shtml.

Bringing Digital Freedom to Senegal

Hundreds of millions of people lack the skills, knowledge, and market access that the Internet and other information technologies (IT) can provide. The worldwide Digital Freedom Initiative (DFI) will begin to help bring some of those people into the mainstream. During the next three years, 200 cyber cafes and 360,000 small businesses across Senegal will benefit from a \$6.5 million DFI pilot project.



Children being introduced to computers for the first time at a TechnoFair in Tambacounda, Senegal.

USAID teamed up with the Departments of Commerce and State; the USA Freedom Corps; the U.S. Peace Corps; leaders of Senegal; and Cisco Systems, Hewlett Packard, and other large U.S. firms in this public-private partnership for development. At the launch of the program in March 2003, USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios said, “Each partner in this alliance will bring his own ideas to the table and play an active role in the decision-making process.

That is what real partnership is about.”

The Senegal pilot program has four main objectives. First, it will place over 100 computer expert volunteers to assist both small businesses and entrepreneurs with expanding their businesses through IT and to assist the government of Senegal with regulatory reform. Second, the program will leverage nearly 200 cybercafes and 10,000 telecenters to generate in-

formation and services that provide business opportunities. Third, IT access and training will benefit 360,000 small businesses and more than 500,000 Senegalese. Finally, the program will train and equip the 130 Peace Corps volunteers in Senegal who require laptop computers and other technology in their work.

To illustrate the potential benefits of the program, Natsios spoke of one of the problems facing banana farmers. “One of the challenges in banana production is getting the product to market at the right time and in the right condition,” he said. “Traditionally, up to half the produce is lost or spoiled in transit. Modern IT-driven supply chain management has solutions for these problems and can give an important boost to the country’s agricultural producers and farm workers.”

For more information, visit www.dfi.gov or contact Lane Smith, Africa Bureau information technology specialist, at (202) 712-0826 or lasmith@usaid.gov.

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and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Diamond-fueled conflicts in these four countries have resulted in more than 4 million deaths and the displacement of millions of people from their homes.

The Kimberley certification process includes forgery-resistant certificates, tamper-proof shipping containers, internal controls, and effective enforcement to ensure that rough diamonds are traded through legitimate channels, with tax revenue returning to exporting countries. USAID has provided assistance to the Government of Sierra Leone to develop a certification system that provides a secure, legitimate channel for diamonds to be exported in accordance with the Kimberley Process.

USAID has also worked with Sierra Leone to improve the capacities of local communities and the private sector to effectively manage the diamond sector, including helping local diamond-mining communities recover some of the revenue generated by diamonds for local development.

On April 25 of this year, President Bush signed the Clean Diamond Trade Act, which bans the import of illegally mined or traded diamonds into the United States, in support of the Kimberley Process. The United States imports more than half of the finished diamonds sold worldwide, but only a small portion of the world’s rough diamonds.

Issues and challenges for the successful implementation of the Kimberley Process

include legislation in participating countries, a system for independent monitoring, and the collection of trade and production statistics. But by keeping conflict diamonds out of the global diamond marketplace, the significant wealth that legitimate mining and trade of diamonds generates can be used to improve the economic and social development of diamond-producing countries in Africa, rather than to fund rebel movements, purchase illicit arms, and prolong wars and conflicts.

For additional information on the Kimberley Process, visit www.kimberleyprocess.com.

New Approach May Streamline Environmental Assessment Process

USAID/Mali has launched a new partnership with a private Louisiana-based corporation, Shaffer & Associates, and other stakeholders, including the Government of Mali (GOM), to develop sugar cane and sugar production in that country. This project, called the Markala Sugar Project, is based on the Global Development Alliance (GDA) business model of combining nongovernmental, governmental, and private partners. It is expected to meet Mali's domestic sugar needs as well as supply exports to neighboring countries, creating hundreds of jobs in the process.

This project represents a \$253.6 million investment that will be borne largely by Shaffer and other potential investors, including the African Development Bank, the World Bank, a Chinese agricultural company, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. Sugar

Because existing assessments were used in this combined approach, it was possible to address all the legal requirements of the Agency and complete the USAID assessment in less than four months.

operations will be located on lands provided by the GOM and Mali's Office du Niger (ON), one of the oldest and largest irrigation schemes in sub-Saharan Africa. Similarly, irrigation canals and facilities provided by the ON are an expansion of the existing irrigation system. The USAID contribution will be \$892,000 during the pre-investment phase to support research and the establishment of research facilities. Results from this phase will provide important technologies and materials that will be crucial for the future success of commercial operations that follow.

But before USAID funding for the project could be released, U.S. federal

law mandated that the Agency conduct an environmental assessment in order to ensure that any negative impacts from the project could be mitigated. These assessments are generally demanding and time consuming, often taking two to three years to complete and costing thousands of dollars. However, this time the Africa Bureau took a different approach.

The assessment team followed the required USAID environmental regulations, but in this instance, these were combined with the environmental audit guidelines developed by the International Standards Organization (ISO), an international NGO based in Geneva, Switzerland, which are more familiar to the private sector. Drawing heavily upon environmental assessments that had already been done to ISO standards by the ON, the team conducted site visits and gathered background information on potential impacts from irrigation, fertilizer and pesticide use, as well as the introduction of genetically improved planting material. Because existing assessments were used in this combined approach, it was possible to address all the legal requirements of the Agency and complete the USAID assessment in less than four months.

By using an environmental assessment process that many companies and organizations are already familiar with, USAID is hoping to facilitate private sector participation in development



A sugar cane nursery in the Markala Project.

C. Gallegos

projects, says Dr. Carl M. Gallegos, the Africa Bureau Environmental Officer. "We're trying to promote private investment by using international standards. We hope to eventually use this combined approach in projects throughout the Agency."

Of the 32 upcoming GDA projects in sub-Saharan Africa, six will need detailed environmental assessments; the other 26 are not expected to have the potential to cause adverse environmental effects. The Africa Bureau plans to complete these six assessments using the Markala model. One, for a sunflower oil production project in Benin, has just been completed. This assessment took six months, a little longer than the Markala project because there was not as much pre-existing research, but still considerably shorter than the previous assessment norm.

For more information about the GDA, visit www.usaid.gov/gda/. For more information about USAID environmental assessment procedures, visit cdie.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNABY696.pdf or contact Carl M. Gallegos at cgallegos@usaid.gov or (202) 712-5535.

AFRICA RESOURCES

A selection of recent USAID-funded publications on Africa

Scarcity and Surfeit: The Ecology of Africa's Conflicts

Jeremy Lind and Kathryn Sturman, eds. African Centre for Technology Studies; Institute for Security Studies; John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation; Swiss Directorate for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid; Swedish International Development Agency; USAID/AFR/REDSO. 2002.

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The African continent has been stage to 10 high-intensity conflicts in the past 25 years, each with up to 155 million people affected directly or indirectly by war. This compilation of essays explores the complex relationship between ecology and conflict in sub-Saharan Africa, focusing broadly on two volatile regions: the Greater Horn of Africa and the Great Lakes Region. The six chapters analyze, respectively, the relationship between conflict and: 1) land scarcity and distribution in Rwanda; 2) coffee production in Burundi; 3) exploitation of the metallic ore coltan in the Democratic Republic of Congo; 4) competition for oil and water resources in Sudan; 5) water distribution and use in Ethiopia; and 6) control over land resources in Somalia.

Examining HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa through the Eyes of Ordinary Southern Africans

Alan Whiteside, Robert Mattes, et al. Michigan State University; Swedish International Development Agency; USAID/RCSA; USAID/South Africa. August 2002.

PN-ACQ-910

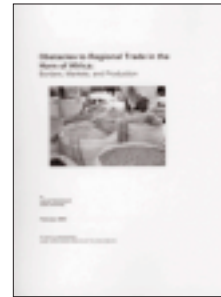
This paper marries public opinion survey data from the Afrobarometer series with epidemiological data about HIV/AIDS in seven Southern African countries—Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe—to examine the degree to which people are aware and are willing to speak of the pandemic and whether the public opinion data corroborate, broadly, the epidemiological data. Also examined is the degree to which HIV/AIDS affects southern Africans' political priorities and participation and expectations for government action. The study finds that epidemiological estimates of AIDS deaths and popular experiences of AIDS deaths are closely correlated. However, even where HIV/AIDS has reached severe levels, very few place HIV/AIDS high on the agenda for government action. Rather, the epidemic is superseded by demands for the government to create jobs and improve security, or is masked by demands for overall improvements in health-related services.

Obstacles to Regional Trade in the Horn of Africa: Borders, Markets, and Production

Laura Hammond. USDA; USAID/DCHA/OFDA. February 2003.

PN-ACS-368

In 2003, the Horn of Africa (Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Sudan) will face what could very well be the most serious food shortage in the last 30 years. Yet there



are pocket areas in all three countries where surpluses are available. Of particular importance is the Mazega, an area of fertile land that crosses northwestern Ethiopia, southwestern Eritrea, and eastern Sudan. This paper, based on an analysis of current food shortages in the Horn, argues that failure

to take advantage of local surplus markets in the Mazega triangle will exacerbate the food shortage in areas of northern Ethiopia and throughout Eritrea. The future of these markets depends on the smooth passage of food commodities across the borders. Recommendations focus on improving market information systems, strengthening the private trade sector through increased access to credit, infrastructural support, continued support for a program to develop the Ethiopia/Eritrea border region, and promotion of options for regional purchase.

CBNRM and AIDS in Bushbuckridge, Northern Province, South Africa: An Exploratory Geographic Analysis

Peter H. Freeman. Peter H. Freeman & Associates, Development Ecology Information Service; USAID/AFR/SD. September 2002.

PN-ACR-372

A study of the intersection of HIV/AIDS and community-based natural resources management (CBNRM) was carried out in early 2002 in Bushbuckridge, South Africa to explore the possibility of using geographic analysis and geographic information system tools to reveal the interactions of the two themes. The report recommends making local data on HIV/AIDS available for CBNRM planning and conducting research on the way households with members afflicted by HIV/AIDS are coping with needs to grow food, tend livestock, gather fuelwood, and related livelihood tasks.

Urban-Rural Inequality in Africa

David E. Sahn and David C. Stifel. Cornell Food and Nutrition Policy Program; USAID/AFR; USAID/EGAT. September 2002.

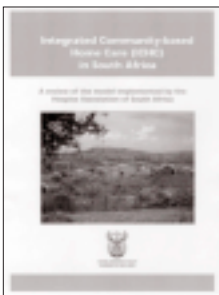
PN-ACR-742

This paper examines the inequalities in poverty and living standards in sub-Saharan Africa and the extent to which they stem from inequalities between (rather than within) urban and rural areas. Demographic and health survey data are used to shed light on the urban-rural disparities in welfare indicators for 24 African countries. The study analyzes the levels, trends, and urban-rural differences of primary school enrollment, gender disparities in primary and secondary education, infant mortality, neonatal care, use of reproductive health services, and child and women's malnutrition, in addition to a wealth index based on household assets. Major findings are that rural living standards lag behind urban standards dramatically, and that there is no overall evidence that the differences are declining, despite the fact that for nearly two decades rural development has been a central strategy to generate sustainable growth and reduce poverty.

Integrated Community-Based Home Care (ICHC) in South Africa: A Review of the Model Implemented by the Hospice Association of South Africa

Susan Fox, Cally Fawcett, et al. Centre for AIDS Development Research and Evaluation; The Futures Group International, Inc.; South Africa Department of Health; USAID/GH/PRH; USAID/South Africa. August 2002.

PN-ACR-944



This report reviews the activities of seven South African hospices implementing the Integrated Community-based Home Care (ICHC) model of community-based care for AIDS sufferers. The document compares the hospice ICHC model and other home-based care models used in South Africa. The

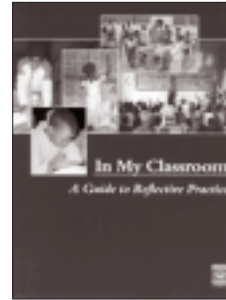
distinctive element of the ICHC model is that it specifically includes a hospice as a coordinating and management body, which works closely with local hospital and clinic facilities in providing services to community members living with AIDS and their families.

In My Classroom: A Guide to Reflective Practice

Joy du Plessis, Mona Habib, et al. American Institutes for Research; USAID/AFR/SD. 2002.

PN-ACS-247

This manual is designed to help teachers, school administrators, and others who facilitate education to think in new ways about teaching, learning, and classroom practice. In addition to discussing how to become a good facilitator of learning, it addresses specific topics, such as classroom management, teaching and learning materials, continuous assessment, gender issues, and life skills, and includes hands-on activities and group discussion items.



USAID's Approach to Poverty Reduction: The Case of Uganda

Joseph Lieberman, Diane Ray, et al. USAID/PPC. January 2003.

PN-ACR-354

Uganda is a rare exception to the decline in personal income across sub-Saharan Africa over the past two decades. Starting in 1986, the Ugandan government introduced broad economic reforms, eliminating government economic regulation and control and liberalizing both the domestic economy and international trade. In the mid-1990s, the government adopted poverty eradication as its overarching objective. From 1993 to 2000, GDP increased at a remarkable average annual rate of 6.7 percent, and the proportion of the population living in absolute poverty declined dramatically, from 56 percent to 35 percent. Uganda demonstrated that sound economic policies can accelerate economic growth and reduce poverty. Uganda also showed that implementing pro-poor budget and social policies can accelerate poverty rates even faster.

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Food Insecurity Reduction Efforts Continue in Famine-Affected Areas

USAID continues to provide relief to those suffering from famine in Africa. The current drought in Ethiopia and Eritrea, which has occurred just two years after the previous drought, has exhausted the coping mechanisms of millions of pastoralists and subsistence farmers, making 12.6 million of them completely dependent on food assistance for their survival. In response, USAID has given or pledged over 1 million metric tons (MTs) of food to these two countries since 2002, as well as an additional \$32.7 million in humanitarian relief funds for emergency health and nutrition, water and sanitation, and agricultural recovery activities. The Agency is also working with the Ethiopian government to increase long-term food security through irrigation and agricultural development programs.

Concerns continue regarding the crisis in the north of Uganda resulting from the ongoing terror campaign by the

Lord's Resistance Army. The World Food Programme estimates that the food security situation among the 843,000 international refugees and internally displaced persons in the area is the worst it has been in 16 years of conflict. USAID has pledged a total of 45,000 metric tons of food aid since December 2002.

In the meantime, the food security situation in parts of Southern Africa shows signs of improvement. More favorable weather conditions in Malawi and parts of Zambia have led to increased crop production. However, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Angola, Lesotho, Swaziland, and the rest of Zambia still require assistance, particularly in areas where HIV prevalence is high—a total of over



USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios meets with village elders in Ethiopia to discuss famine and other issues.

15 million people. Since 2002, the U.S. government has provided 505,000 MTs of food aid to the region. Further contributions are planned until the harvest in 2004.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/about/africafoodcrisis.

USAID in Africa

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