

# Trip Report

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**To:** Tanou Diallo  
**CC:** Joellen Lambiotte, Steve Redding  
**From:** Chevenee Reavis, Sr. Communications Associate  
**Date:** 16 October 2006 (trip: 07–20 August 2006)  
**Re:** Documentation of USAID’s support of improved health through a democracy and governance focus

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## **Purpose**

The purpose of the TDY was to investigate and document impacts of the current PRISM project and support the team in submitting an application for a project cost extension. Documentation of the project’s impacts is meant to support the project and the USAID Mission in “telling its story” and communicate to targeted audiences the intent and results of USAID’s work in Guinea. The content prepared is to be repurposed for a variety of means including but not limited to: success stories, case studies, USAID Mission and MSH web sites, reports, brochures, presentations, etc.

## **Background**

The USAID/Guinea Mission has been actively supporting a new strategic foreign assistance direction of improved democracy and governance. Management Sciences for Health’s PRISM project has been one of the leading USAID supported projects in Guinea to support and implement this strategy as it relates to health. To date, the PRISM project has shown how improved democracy and governance can both directly and indirectly improve health.

Over the past year the PRISM project has worked to improve access to quality health services in the Upper region of Guinea. In doing so, the project has focused extensively on strengthening the foundation of democracy and governance in the rural health system while supporting other components such as service delivery, access to medicines, training and education, etc. Specific to improved governance, PRISM’s work has focused primarily at the community, grassroots level, to empower communities to better know their health rights and utilize relevant tools in improving their own health care system through increased transparency, accountability, and legitimacy. This particular TDY focused on documenting the impact of PRISM’s work in this capacity. Results are to be shared with the Mission and other audiences to support similar strategies being implemented under USAID’s foreign assistance strategy, focused on transformational diplomacy.

## **Activities:**

- Meetings with the following groups and individuals took place in an interview format to understand and define the impact of PRISM’s work related to improving health outcomes via mechanisms which strengthened democracy and governance systems:
  - Members of the Bata Nafadji CPSC, Chef d’Post of Bata Nafadji Health Post, Bata Nafadji Mutual Treasurer and community health worker, Bata Nafadji

Immam, Bata Nafadji Health Center Director, CPSC President of Banako Cissela, Mutuelle member and health worker from Banako Cissela, Chef d'Post of Banako Cissela, Banako Cissela Immam, Women's Association of CBD Workers of Dabola, USAID Mission CTO and Communications Officer, Chef d'Post of Saraya, contraceptive beneficiaries in Saraya (4), cervical cancer screening program beneficiaries in Kankan (3), Kankan Regional Hospital Director, Kankan Regional Hospital nurse, Kankan Regional Health Director, Dr. Alpha Oumar Barry, Chef d'Post of Missamana, Mutuelle President of Missamana, Missamana mutuelle beneficiaries (4).

- Visits were conducted to the following communities:
  - Bata Nafadji, Banako Cissela, Missmana, Saraya, Dabola, Balandou, Kankan
- Project support was provided and focused on the following activities:
  - Submitting the 9<sup>th</sup> quarterly report
  - Submitting the 2<sup>nd</sup> cost extension application

**Deliverables:**

- Over 300 photographs of project activities and beneficiaries to be provided to the PRISM Project and USAID/Guinea
- A case study of the USAID/PRISM's "Democracy and Governance Strategy"
- Three success stories of USAID/PRISM's work related to the cervical cancer program, the community mirror tool, and the expanded CBD program
- The 9<sup>th</sup> quarterly report and cost extension application for PRISM to USAID/Guinea, which provides results and extensive program description of PRISM's work in improving health through improved democracy and governance
- Investigate opportunities for USAID/Washington Brown Bag on related topic

**Recommendations and Next Steps:**

The PRISM Project is a noble example of how USAID is supporting and investing in improved health in Guinea through the new strategic direction of increased democracy and governance. Experiences and results should be shared with relevant USAID and NGO audiences to support USAID's shifting foreign assistance strategy.

Documentation of PRISM's work can and should be repurposed for the Mission website, newsletter, marketing materials, and relevant dissemination activities in Guinea such as NGO workshops. Documentation will also be shared with USAID/Washington for use which may include a USAID Brown Bag event or similar technical seminar.

It is important to note that there are limited resources available at both the PRISM Project and the Mission to focus on promoting lessons learned and results. Content should be repurposed as much as possible to save on costs and time.