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GHANA

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FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

The United States Government (USG) supports the Government of Ghana (GOG)'s efforts to shift the nation to middle-income status by 2020, and to solidify its status as a regional leader in an area known for civil strife and economic stagnation. As a result of Ghana's demonstrated commitment to peace, democracy, and a market-driven economy, this transforming country is well positioned to advance U.S. foreign assistance objectives. In Peace and Security, U.S. assistance supports the GOG's efforts to decrease Ghana's role as a narcotics trafficking corridor and its efforts to maintain a strong international peacekeeping force. In the Democracy sector, the USG supports activities that increase citizen participation in local government. In Health, U.S. assistance focuses on reducing child and maternal mortality, increasing family planning practices, educating most-at-risk populations about HIV/AIDS prevention, decreasing malaria-related deaths, and improving water and sanitation conditions. The Education sector is improving quality of and access to primary education while relying increasingly upon host country systems to implement programming. Finally, the USG promotes Ghana's economic growth and improves regional food security by increasing agricultural productivity and reducing barriers to trade.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Peace and Security

Ghana is a significant transshipment point for illegal drugs, particularly cocaine from South America and heroin from Afghanistan. Ghana's national airport, seaports, and border posts are the major spots for drug trafficking activities. Elected in December 2008, President John Evans Atta Mills expressed his intention to reduce Ghana's role as a narcotics transit corridor. As a result, the USG assists Ghana in achieving this goal through deterrence of traffickers and strengthened capacity of the investigation and prosecution departments to catch and prosecute large-scale traffickers. In order to accomplish this, the USG:

- Purchased a narcotics x ray screening machine for the airport, which will decrease and deter small-scale narcotics trafficking

In addition, the USG supports Ghana's attempts to be an influential regional and continental player in the Peace and Security arena. Consequently, the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) are active in many military exercises and events. A strong supporter of United Nations peacekeeping efforts, Ghana consistently ranks in the top 10 nations providing forces for peace operations. In FY 2009, the USG supported Ghana peace and security efforts by:

- Providing training to 28 senior GAF personnel at U.S. institutions. Over the course of the program, several of the senior GAF leadership attended intermediate and senior level military education programs. As a result, the senior leadership has a solid grasp of U.S. policy and priorities, the decision-making cycle, and U.S. organizational structure, which will help further strengthen the ability of Ghana's armed forces to maintain peace and security.
- Providing training and training support for individual and collective engagement in Integrated Peace Support Operations through the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping and Training Center

Governing Justly and Democratically

Ghana has held five credible sets of national elections since its return to democracy in 1992. These elections have demonstrated Ghana's growing commitment to democracy, and its increasing political maturity. The 2008 Ghanaian presidential and parliamentary elections marked the second significant transitional election that resulted in a peaceful transfer of power between political parties. The United States, along with other development partners, supported efforts to ensure that the political process was free, fair, transparent, and perceived to reflect the will of the Ghanaian people. Contributing to this democratic achievement, USG assistance:

- Trained 4,000 domestic election observers. Owing to a close election, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) supported 500 more participants than originally planned. These election observers played an important role in building public confidence in the election results and keeping the threat of electoral fraud in check.

The 2008 elections have created new opportunities for engaging with GOG partners on local government issues. The GOG has renewed efforts to implement a national decentralization policy. The USG has supported activities aimed at increasing citizen participation in local government by:

- Providing trainings to 828 individuals from local government staff and citizens' interest groups in resource mobilization and participatory budget processes, ethics and accountability, and participatory approaches. Because of these trainings, local governments conducted 34 citizen participation-focused activities ranging from town hall meetings to municipal negotiations. Ultimately, increased citizen participation in local budget decision-making led to increased local government revenue mobilized in FY 2009 through fees, licenses, and rates.

Investing in People

The USG is working with the GOG to address persistent challenges in the health sector: high rates of maternal deaths and deaths of children under five, high rates of illness and death from malaria, high rates of HIV/AIDS among most-at-risk groups, and low use of family planning. As a result of USG and other development partners' assistance, some significant successes were reported last year. The 2008 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey, a primary source of information on health status, illustrated dramatic progress under Millennium Development Goal 4: reducing infant and child

mortality by 22 percent, and reducing under-5 mortality by 28 percent since 2003. In order to improve the health status of Ghanaians, the USG health program focused on improving key GOG health services at the household level and on addressing management and system challenges within the health sector in service delivery by:

- Providing 127,000 women with a skilled delivery attendant and almost 123,000 newborns with essential newborn care through USG-supported programs
- Reaching 45,000 people with HIV/AIDS prevention interventions. HIV/AIDS in Ghana is strongly linked with sex work, with sexual transmission accounting for well over 80 percent of new infections. High rates of HIV prevalence have been found among female sex workers and men having sex with men. In FY 2009, the USG developed multiple evidence-based, comprehensive behavior change support materials for sex workers, their clients and partners, men who have sex with men, and people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Providing Indoor Residual Spraying (IRS) to over 141,000 houses, reaching 708,103 people. In 2009, the USG expanded indoor residual spraying operations from five to six high-burden districts in Northern Ghana. Over 520 spray operators and 200 community volunteers were trained and deployed. IRS coverage rates in those areas well exceeded the 85 percent target, reflecting effective advocacy and community mobilization.
- Distributing 490,000 Insecticide Treated Nets (ITN). The USG promoted ITN ownership and use through procurement, a voucher scheme, logistics support, and behavior change communications (BCC). In 40 high-risk districts, BCC activities resulted in a significant increase in ITN use among children under five.
- Training 148 people in Directly Observed Treatment Short course, an internationally recommended strategy for tuberculosis (TB) control that has been recognized as a highly efficient and cost-effective strategy
- Increasing access to improved drinking water supply and sanitation facilities to 16,000 people in target areas, exceeding the target of 10,000 set for the year. In addition, the USG trained 40 water and sanitation committees made up of 316 persons to improve their skills in operation, maintenance, and monitoring and evaluation of facilities. This training was conducted to ensure that the facilities provided are efficiently operated and maintained at the community level over the long term, providing much-needed support to the local government, which often does not have the resources or means to provide the oversight itself.

The goal of the USG Basic Education program is to ensure that Ghana's education system enrolls more children at the primary school level and that children completing primary school receive a quality education. There are visible increases in Ghana Education Service (GES) commitment and participation in USG-supported activities, partly due to the shift in emphasizing national programming through host country systems. For example, the USAID-designed mother-tongue literacy program is being expanded nationally and implemented by the GES. In FY 2009, activities included:

- Transitioning 9,619 non-traditional education program graduates, including 4,350 girls into the formal school system, contributing to greater enrollment rates and gender parity. USAID interventions in the northern regions of the country contributed to the rise in

primary school enrollment from 71 percent of girls and 83 percent of boys in FY 2005, to 90 percent of girls and 97 percent of the boys in FY 2009. Similarly, the rate of primary school completion rose during the year from 75 percent of boys and 55 percent of girls in FY 2005, to 80 percent of boys and 83 percent of girls.

- Training 3,899 teachers and educators in improved literacy instructional practices
- Provided management training, technical support, and funding to 20 District Education Offices, and local government capacity-building through the use of host country systems to enable education offices to adapt and function effectively in an increasingly decentralized education system

Economic Growth

In FY 2009, Ghana was selected as a focus country for the President's Food Security Initiative due to its potential to become a regional food provider. USG assistance contributed to the following outcomes:

- Increase in the value of commodities for export by 263 percent since last year – from \$37.6 million in 2008 to \$70.3 million in 2009. Agriculture is a driving force of Ghana's economy, employing more than half of the labor force and contributing approximately 38 percent of GDP in 2008. Still, the potential for agricultural development in Ghana is largely untapped. USG assisted the agriculture sector by introducing 11 new technologies and good agricultural practices to 65,825 rural households and 2,420 farmer-based organizations. In addition, 71,135 individuals received short-term agricultural training, and 13 firms obtained certification with international and environmental quality-control agencies. All of these activities led to an increase in the value of export commodities and enhanced Ghana's overall competitiveness in the international market arena.
- Creation of a Tariff Advisory Board (TAB), a major accomplishment in the trade and investment area. Prior to USG support for the TAB, the GOG was unable to exercise its rights as a World Trade Organization member, as it had no laws or agencies to administer trade remedies and had no mechanism for performing cost-benefit analyses on specific tariffs. The USG supported the creation of the TAB and helped the Ministry of Trade and Investment draft legislation that provided the basis for public/private sector dialogue on trade and investment policy issues.