



A NEW DAY IN AFRICA

Background and briefing materials prepared
by the U.S. Agency for International
Development for the President's trip to Africa



President Clinton's trip to Africa provides an excellent opportunity to look at the immense potential of a continent the American public knows little about. Africa today is far from the monolith of stark and barren images that the public has grown accustomed to from CNN reports of famine and crises.

Instead, today's Africa is marked by incredible diversity and tremendous potential. While the continent does face a range of challenges, it also remains the world's last great developing market and a region of long-term importance to the United States.

This presentation contains the story of U.S. foreign assistance to Africa, and it is a remarkable story indeed. The successes here represent the work of some of America's and Africa's best striving together in genuine collaboration: colleges, universities, private voluntary organizations, community groups, non-governmental organizations, governments, private firms, research organizations and many more. All of these accomplishments are tribute to the hard work, commitment and vision of the individuals and groups that we are proud to call friends and partners.

This presentation is not meant to be comprehensive, and we urge those of you who have similar experiences to realte to share them with us and others. Africa's story is simply too important not be told.

It is also important to point out that while literally tens of millions of lives have been touched by America's development programs in Africa, our total annual assistance to Africa costs far less than a single B-2 bomber or Seawolf submarine. America does need a strong defense, but modest and well-targeted investments in people, peace and prosperity are also clearly in our best interests.

We hope you enjoy this material. Please contact the [USAID Information Center](#) if you have any questions. If you'd like more information about the President's travels in Africa, the [White House](#) has created a special web site to chronical the trip.

OVERVIEWS GHANA UGANDA SOUTH AFRICA BOTSWANA SENEGAL OTHER PROGRAMS



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OVERVIEWS

[Promoting Economic Growth](#) | [Advancing Democracy](#) | [Supporting Education](#) | [Preserving the Environment](#) | [Improving Health and Promoting Family Planning](#) | [The Role of Women in African's Development](#) | [Support Agriculture in Africa](#) | [Overview of USAID Assistance to Africa in 1998](#) | [The Leland Initiative](#)

Promoting Economic Growth in Africa

Trends

Economic reforms in sub-Saharan Africa are resulting in sustained economic growth through increased trade and exports and increasingly attracting foreign capital.

- Economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa -- excluding Nigeria and South Africa -- reached 5.7 percent in 1996, and projected growth is in the 5 percent to 6 percent range for 1997-1998.
- The trend toward improved growth is broad-based, with an estimated 35 countries experiencing more than 3 percent growth in 1997. The number of countries with negative growth declined from 17 in 1992 to four in 1996. The number of countries with more than 3 percent growth increased from 17 in 1992 to 34 in 1996.
- Central government deficits in sub-Saharan Africa have decreased from an average 9.8 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1993, to 4.2 percent of GDP in 1996 and are projected to fall further to 3.1 percent in 1997.
- The number of countries with inflation rates greater than 10 percent has decreased from a peak of 35 in 1994, to 19 in 1996, and is projected to have fallen further, to 14 countries, in 1997.
- Exports are expanding rapidly, growing by 5.3 percent in 1994, 9.9 percent in 1995 and 14.5 percent in 1996. The projected rate for 1997 remains a robust 7.4 percent.
- Foreign investors are beginning to take notice of progress in Africa. Average net private capital flows, which were negative in 1990 and negligible in 1992, now average more than 2 percent of GDP, equivalent to 10 percent of total investment.

The Role of U.S. Foreign Assistance

Instituting sound economic policies plays a vital role in promoting economic growth. USAID works with both governments and the private sector in sub-Saharan Africa to encourage the reforms that make broader economic growth possible. USAID's private sector projects encourage private investment and growth of the economy and generate income for Africans, typically through a combination of economic policy and financial sector reforms, provision of credit and business advisory services, and training of local entrepreneurs.

- As a direct result of USAID's Grain Marketing Reform Program in Zimbabwe, over 15,000 micro-mills have sprung up, creating some 40,000 new jobs. At the same time, the price of corn, the country's staple, has dropped 20 percent, directly benefiting poor Zimbabweans who typically spend up to 70 percent of their income on food.
- USAID worked with Zambia to privatize 84 state-owned enterprises. Zambians acquired three-fourths of the assets.
- There has been an exciting expansion of microenterprises in Guinea through USAID programs.

Honey production increased 800 percent, and onion marketing jumped 1,300 percent. Two-thirds of the microenterprises that have received USAID-funded loans in Guinea are owned and operated by women, and the repayment rate on loans is 100 percent. Most significantly, the program participants' assets have doubled, and they are generating thousands of new jobs as their small businesses expand.

- USAID has achieved notable success in several countries in promoting non-traditional exports that benefit small producers and private enterprises, through policy reform and direct support. In Uganda, production of maize, vanilla, flowers and other non-traditional crops rose in value by nearly 8 percent during 1996 with the help of USAID programs -- reaching \$140 million. In Malawi, production of non-traditional crops rose by 9 percent during 1996. More than 160,000 farmers in Mozambique adopted new technologies for cashew production under USAID's strategy for promoting food security by increasing agricultural production and incomes among the poor. Subsequently, cashew exports jumped by 75 percent during 1996. These investments are critical, as they create new jobs, put money into poor people's pockets and diversify African economies so that lasting growth can be achieved.
- USAID helped promote reforms in agricultural marketing policies in Malawi. Small farmers responded rapidly to price signals and new crop and market opportunities by increasing production 170 percent and marketing their crops directly. The combination of increased production and higher prices gave small farmers a nearly 65 percent increase in real per capita income.
- Through new technologies that USAID helped develop and introduce in Senegal, land under rice cultivation expanded 20 percent and rice yields increased more than 20 percent. At the same time, some farmers have been able to start "double cropping," and others, especially women small farmers, are diversifying into higher-value cash crops. USAID encouraged Senegal to permit private importation of rice and head-to-head competition with its government-run rice marketing operation. Because the private sector was so much more efficient, the domestic retail price of rice declined, and Senegal decided to turn all rice production over to the private sector.
- In Guinea-Bissau, in just two years, a vibrant market of cashew production and exportation has been developed with USAID help. Policy reforms have allowed a substantial increase in the number of small exporters, and USAID-funded technical assistance has improved domestic processing of cashews, with women being the primary beneficiaries.
- USAID activities in Uganda contributed to increased use of financial services by rural businesses, including microenterprises. More than 5,000 individuals or enterprises received loans, a 38 percent increase over 1995. Exports of flowers increased 74 percent, and fruits and vegetables 53 percent during 1996 -- two high-value product groups that provide substantial income and employment to low-income rural households.
- Zambia, backed by USAID assistance, has liberalized its maize market, eliminated subsidies and decontrolled prices, resulting in new economic opportunities. One enterprising high school student started by buying one bag of maize from a surplus area and transporting it on his bicycle to a market in a drought area. He is now moving maize between districts, renting transport on large, 10-ton trucks. He has parlayed his initial investment of \$8.50 into a total gross sales revenue of \$574. This enterprising young Zambian increased his own income, while providing a valuable service to people in food-deficit areas.

Advancing Democracy in Africa

Trends

Overall, Africa has made major progress toward democracy in the past several years. While longer-term obstacles to democratic consolidation remain, widespread increases in freedom of speech and the media, freedom of association and assembly, competitive national and local elections and the growth of civil society have given more Africans greater freedom and stability in their lives than at any time in the recent past.

- In 1990, only four countries in Africa were rated democratic by the Freedom House. By 1997, 18 countries were considered democratic and many others had made significant progress in moving toward more liberalized political systems. From 1993 to 1996, the state of democracy in seven countries that receive U.S. assistance advanced, including Eritrea, Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. Of countries receiving U.S. assistance, only Niger saw its democratic rankings fall during this period.
- Numerous African countries that began the transition process after the fall of the Berlin Wall, such as Benin, Ghana, Namibia and Mali, have now instituted democratic political systems and are in the process of consolidating reforms. Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa and Tanzania continue to implement political reforms in the wake of their democratizing elections.
- Political transitions in Africa continued in 1997, with elections in Liberia, and with the fall of the Mobutu regime in the Democratic Republic of the Congo offering the first real opportunity for democratic development in that country in over 30 years. At the same time, some transitional countries have suffered setbacks, including political instability in Zambia as a result of a contentious electoral eligibility issue, ethnic clashes in the Rift Valley in Kenya, and a coup in Sierra Leone.
- While there remain several sources of conflict and instability, particularly in the Great Lakes area, the 1990s has seen stability come to important countries such as South Africa, Mozambique and Ethiopia -- countries in which 100 million Africans live.

The Role of U.S. Foreign Assistance

Democracy offers citizens advantages and opportunities that no other form of government can provide. The numerous dramatic transitions from dictatorship to democracy in Africa during the last decade offer powerful testament to the growing popular demand for democracy.

USAID helps advance democracy in Africa by promoting self-governance, human rights and informed participation, and by fostering broad economic growth and accountability.

- Eritrea, South Africa and Uganda publicized and then adopted new constitutions in 1996 and early 1997 with USAID assistance.
- In Ghana, USAID supported the registration of 9.1 million voters, 91 percent of those eligible to vote, for presidential and parliamentary elections in 1996.
- In Niger, the agency funded the training of 800 election observers. These observers drew attention to the government's manipulation of the election and its placement of some candidates under house arrest. When the government declared victory, the observers confirmed that the outcome was fraudulent.
- The agency's Women in Politics initiative in Africa reported noteworthy results in the effort to increase integration of women in the electoral process. For example, with USAID training, a women's group in Mali identified 132 potential female candidates for legislative and municipal elections.
- In South Africa, USAID worked on conflict prevention in KwaZulu Natal. The agency facilitated high-level political dialogue and provided extensive training on conflict resolution to 2,200 people from communities directly affected by violence. The agency also provided voter education and campaign training emphasizing non-violent methods of political participation.
- In Uganda, USAID supported the politically sensitive demobilization of 37,000 military personnel between 1992 and 1995, reducing the army size by approximately 40 percent.
- In Rwanda, USAID has helped that nation begin to rebuild its justice system after that nation's horrific genocide.
- In Namibia, USAID helped improve the dialogue between citizens and the legislature. Activities to increase the accountability of the legislature to Namibian citizens included opening up legislative processes for greater citizen participation in policy-making.
- The Human Rights Commission in Kenya, supported by USAID, persistently confronted the

government with documented evidence of police brutality.

- USAID has promoted respect for human rights in Angola, supporting training for 328 journalists, NGO workers and government officials in human rights over the past year. Among the government officials trained were the prosecuting attorneys of Huambo and Huila provinces. Following the training programs, the prosecuting attorneys of these two major provinces returned to their offices and expeditiously released all prisoners awaiting trial who had already been incarcerated longer than the maximum statutory terms for the crime of which they were accused. Eighty prisoners in Huambo and 50 in Lubango were released.

Mozambique's experience illustrates the challenges of organizing an election and building democracy following conflict. In September 1991, when USAID's Democratic Initiatives project was first authorized, Mozambique was in its sixteenth year of a brutal civil war, with non-combatants the primary targets and victims. A year later, in October 1992, the warring parties signed the General Peace Accords, which included a provision for general elections. The environment for elections was extremely problematic: Mozambique was suffering from famine and destruction; the nation had to resettle 1.6 million refugees and 3.7 million internally-displaced people; and nearly 100,000 soldiers and their families had to be demobilized. In addition, the country had no prior experience with multiparty politics or competitive elections.

USAID's role in the elections was critical to Mozambique's electoral process. As a result of USAID assistance:

- 52,400 election officers and 32,000 political party poll watchers were trained and deployed to 7,000 voting locations.
- Ballots were delivered to remote areas and, following elections, the majority of voters the taught importance of voting and how the process worked.
- Eighty-seven percent of registered voters cast their ballots in the 1994 presidential and legislative elections.

Supporting Education in Africa

Trends

Sub-Saharan Africa has made great progress in education, but enormous challenges remain.

- Half of Africa's primary school-age children are not in school.
- Less than half of those entering first grade will complete their primary education. Many will drop out before they acquire minimal levels of literacy and numeracy.
- Few sub-Saharan countries have higher than 60 percent enrollment. In Ethiopia and Mali, school enrollment is below 30 percent.
- In most countries, far fewer girls enroll and stay in primary school than boys. In Benin, only 62 girls attend school for every 100 boys who are able to do so.
- Adult literacy remains at about 50 percent in Africa, compared to 64 percent in Asia and 84 percent in Latin America.

The Role of U.S. Foreign Assistance

Basic education is especially critical to development. Investments in universal primary education have been widely recognized as a critical link to economic growth, reductions in poverty, improved health of women and their families and the enhanced status of women. Girls education, in particular, is considered the most important investment a country can make to improve economic and social development. USAID works to ensure that developing countries give every child access to an effective primary education. USAID provides about 80 percent of its basic education assistance to Africa.

- As a result of USAID assistance to Mali, girls enrollment increased almost 15 percent in 1997, to 38 percent. Enrollment in primary school increased nearly 10 percent, to just under 50

percent. Because of USAID efforts in Guinea, girls now represent more than 45 percent of all first-grade pupils, up from 38 percent in 1995.

- Just two years after project implementation, USAID's basic education program in Uganda has tackled the underlying constraints to rebuilding that country's shattered education system. Over 2 million children and 75,000 teachers have benefited from USAID assistance.
- With USAID support, now more than 95 percent of all primary school teachers in Ghana are certified to minimum standards through courses in math and English.
- In South Africa, the Curriculum 2005 program introduced innovative curriculum and learning-centered teaching methods. More than 350,000 teachers were trained in these new techniques.
- In Mali, the agency helped the student grade-promotion rate reach 76 percent in 1996, compared with 64 percent in 1994.
- With the help of USAID programs, the grade repetition rate in Guinea fell to 20 percent in 1996, a 6 percent decline from 1994. In Mali, the sixth-grade attainment rate rose from 41 percent in 1995 to 45 percent in 1996 with the benefit of U.S. assistance.
- One of the major constraints USAID's educational programs in Africa address is lack of institutional capacity. In Ghana, the agency supported the government in restructuring its basic education program to emphasize decentralization. Included were support for community identification of education objectives and the use of fundamental quality-level indicators to monitor progress toward these objectives. Three other countries, Benin, Ethiopia, and Guinea, adopted this model as a strategy for involving communities, improving accountability and increasing school effectiveness.

USAID has worked with African governments, other donors, professional organizations and regional institutions to develop its approach to education in Africa. The objective of USAID's efforts in education is to increase children's participation in quality basic education and to support African ownership of the reform process.

USAID support for primary education in Uganda exemplifies the powerful results that can be achieved through U.S. foreign assistance. By the end of the 1980s, Uganda's education system had collapsed from protracted civil strife and economic deterioration. Uganda had the lowest adult literacy rate in East Africa. More than half of teachers were untrained, school infrastructure had completely collapsed, and public expenditure on education was minimal. Only 53 percent of school-age children were enrolled, and about 50 percent of enrollees dropped out before mastering basic literacy skills. In 1986, a new government came to power and created an economic rehabilitation agenda stressing the importance of education.

USAID assistance was designed to facilitate the government's efforts to decentralize resources, strengthen management at the district and school levels and improve student mastery of basic literacy and math skills.

- As a result of USAID efforts, books are now more available in Ugandan schools than at anytime in the last 20 years. Over 4 million textbooks, teachers' guides and materials have been distributed to schools.
- Communities built more than a thousand new classrooms in 1995 alone.
- 4,000 head teachers have received school management training, while over 10,000 teachers have benefited from refresher courses.
- The ultimate outcome of all these interventions has been an unmistakable improvement in pupils' performance. Pass rates rose markedly for the third year in a row.
- When assistance began in 1991, teacher salaries were extremely low -- \$8 a month. After only four years, the government met an early project condition requiring it to raise teacher salaries to the living wage over a 10-year period. Real teacher wages rose 900 percent.
- The government reduced the teaching force by 10,000 untrained teachers. Savings exceeded \$1 million a year, and qualified teachers were distributed more equitably among rural and urban

schools. The proportion of qualified teachers in the system has risen to more than 60 percent. In 1997, President Museveni made a bold announcement of Universal Primary Education in Uganda -- allowing free education for four children in every family. Overnight the primary school population of Uganda doubled -- to 5.3 million students -- with the vast majority of new students entering the first and second grades. Scenes of up to 800 first grade children sitting under a tree with one teacher were seen in many places of the country.

Universal primary education sent shock waves through the system in terms of capacity. It is testimony to the dedication of thousands of parents, teachers, tutors, and administrators that the vast majority of students who entered the school system in 1997 remained there throughout the school year. While the challenges of providing a quality education to all Ugandan children are many, all partners in this effort share an optimism that Uganda's commitment to basic education will serve as a model of success for other African countries.

Preserving the Environment in Africa

Trends

The environmental situation in Africa is similar to that found in much of the developing world. Uncontrolled deforestation and exploitation of the environment have resulted in widespread habitat destruction and loss of biodiversity. Environmental degradation has made it harder for people to make a living, slowed agricultural production, encouraged urban migration and resulted in increased flooding and erosion. While Africa has experienced a number of local successes in sustainable use of the natural resource base, these successes have yet to reach the scale necessary to reverse these trends.

- The continent has one of the highest rates of urban growth in the world.
- Due to poaching in the North of Congo, up to 600 lowland gorilla are killed every year. In the Gabon, an estimated 20,000 chimpanzees are killed to due to increased logging.
- 2.4 billion acres, or 73 percent, of Africa's drylands are moderately to severely affected by desertification.

The Role of U.S. Foreign Assistance

Sound environmental management is key to fostering long-term development. Productive lands and waters provide the underpinnings for equitable economic growth and represent a cherished heritage and resource for generations to follow. USAID's environmental programs in Africa seek to find mutually beneficial ways to protect the environment while promoting economic growth.

- For example, for the first time in Guinea's history, the government and rural communities shared responsibility and benefits from jointly managing a national forest. USAID helped 15 villages work with the government to develop a management plan for a 24,000-acre forest. Community involvement increased local interest in managing the forest and helped build civil society institutions. The participation of women in this partnership enhanced its overall effectiveness.
- In South Africa, one of the continent's most urban nations, USAID helped provide housing and urban services for historically disadvantaged households. Nearly a quarter-million households were given access to shelter and urban services.
- From 1991 through 1995, the world lost an average of about 44,000 square miles of forest area annually. Tropical forest loss accounted for most deforestation. One of the largest overall positive trends for USAID-assisted countries is the development of forest management technologies. This has led to improved forest management as local communities have the greatest interest in protecting their natural resources for long-term use. USAID has supported community management of forest resources in countries such as Guinea, Malawi, Namibia, Niger and Tanzania.
- USAID's natural resource management portfolio in Africa emphasizes sustainable agriculture and community forestry. In Senegal, USAID's promotion of anti-salt dikes in the south

significantly increased rice yields and increased cultivatable land by 20 percent.

- USAID, with other donors, is supporting Madagascar's Environmental Action Plan, one of the first in Africa. The goal is to save 3.6 million hectares of land, an area about the size of Maryland, by conserving biodiversity, improving management of forests and national parks, and increasing economic opportunities for those living around the parks. One-half of park entrance fees go to the community, as do revenues from souvenir and handicraft sales. By defining national park boundaries with the community and hiring local field staff, villagers are encouraged to modify destructive practices in and around the parks. Village-level committees also have increased local environmental awareness and reduced illegal wood cutting.
- Since 1990, USAID has trained energy professionals from 91 developing countries. These graduates have played an important role in transferring environmentally sound technologies to their countries. For example, in Africa, Ugandan and Nigerian alumni were instrumental this year in liberalizing Uganda's oil pricing policies and facilitating the transition of Nigeria's energy sector to greater commercialization and privatization. In numerous cases, USAID-trained engineers have formed private consulting and engineering design firms that use the principles of energy conservation and environmentally sound technologies in construction and industrial design.
- In Malawi, USAID worked with the government to develop a sophisticated geographic information system to monitor and evaluate the environmental impact of new cropping patterns.

Improving Health and Promoting Family Planning in Africa

Trends

Improving public health remains an essential piece of the development challenge in sub-Saharan Africa.

- Over the last 15 years Africa has been experiencing the most rapid reduction in fertility rates that the world has ever seen. Nevertheless, fertility rates are still higher than anywhere else in the world, with annual population growth of 2.7 percent.
- Even with the AIDS epidemic and high prevalence of other diseases, Africa's high birth rates will guarantee rapid population growth well into the next century. Africa's population is expected to nearly double between 1997 and 2020, from about 614 million to more than 1.1 billion.
- Infant mortality continues to decline on the continent, yet infant mortality rates in the region are almost twice those found in Asia and Latin America. Unfortunately, AIDS is also reversing many improvements in infant mortality rates and life expectancy. AIDS is expected to decrease life expectancy in some African countries by as much as 20 years by the year 2000.
- AIDS prevalence continues to increase across Africa, with rapid increases in newly infected countries such as Botswana, Ethiopia and South Africa; in Uganda, the epidemic seems to have peaked, and the rate of new infections may be declining.
- Immunization coverage in sub-Saharan Africa has increased from an average of 30 percent in the 1980s to about 60 percent today.
- Health care reform is moving rapidly throughout Africa. These reforms are focusing on health care financing and decentralization. Innovative approaches for cost-sharing, health care insurance and protection of the poor are being developed and implemented in countries like Senegal, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Zambia and Mali.

The Role of U.S. Foreign Assistance

Rapid population growth, poor health and inadequate nutrition cause human suffering and serve as major obstacles to broader social and economic growth in Africa. Responding to these serious health concerns is a major part of U.S. assistance to Africa.

- USAID is one of the leaders in the effort to improve child survival, working closely with a

variety of bilateral and multilateral donors. These collaborative efforts have resulted in remarkable advances. Twenty years ago, fewer than 5 percent of children in developing countries were immunized against measles, diphtheria, polio and tuberculosis -- now, about 60 percent are immunized.

- In Africa, the increased use of child health services has led to remarkable decreases in infant and child mortality. From 1973 to 1996, both infant mortality and under five mortality rates fell by more than 40 percent in West Africa and by about 20 percent in the Southern Africa region.
- More than one-third of all births in the developing world result from unintended pregnancies. These unplanned pregnancies can often adversely affect the health and well-being of women and their families. When births are spaced too closely, newborns are at increased risk of illness and death. Family planning can prevent 25 percent of all maternal and infant deaths. USAID is the largest family planning donor in Africa.
- Africa's population is young: Nearly half of all Africans are under age 15. This demographic reality places tremendous burdens on family incomes and a range of social structures -- such as educational and health systems. A promising trend suggests that population growth is slowing in several African countries due to reduced fertility, including Botswana, Kenya and Zimbabwe. Fertility in Kenya, for example, dropped more than 20 percent in just four years with the help of USAID programs. In Zimbabwe fertility decreased 33 percent over 10 years. Ghana, Malawi, Madagascar, Tanzania and Zambia, though at earlier stages of the transition, appear to be moving along the same path.
- Another success story is Tanzania, where modern contraceptive use has reached 13 percent, up from only 7 percent in 1992. This rise has begun to affect fertility rates, which have dropped from 6.3 children per woman in 1992 to 5.8 in 1996. The rapid increase in family planning practice is attributable to USAID's doing what it does well -- strengthening program management, ensuring steady contraceptive supply, improving client choice, maintaining service quality and using strong technical evaluation.
- The agency participated in multinational efforts to prevent and treat malaria by launching the Africa Integrated Malaria Initiative in Kenya, Malawi and Zambia. In partnership with the World Health Organization, USAID has helped 18 countries adopt systems to evaluate and monitor malaria control. The agency has helped 39 countries establish or revise malaria control plans.
- Drawing on American research capabilities, and in close partnership with other U.S. agencies and international donors, USAID continues to contribute to improving the health care approaches and technology used in developing countries. In 1996, the vaccine vial monitor -- a simple heat-sensitive tag that indicates whether a vaccine has been kept as cold as necessary -- that was developed by USAID in partnership with the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health and other private sector partners, became required on all vials of oral polio vaccine procured through UNICEF. The World Health Organization estimates that the monitors will reduce vaccine wastage by almost 50 percent and save \$10 million to \$12 million a year.
- USAID-supported field tests showed that vitamin A supplementation, given to infants at birth, can reduce mortality by as much as 64 percent in the first year of life. Zambia is leading the way in Africa with Vitamin A distribution as part of national immunization efforts.
- Since 1986, USAID has led the international response to HIV/AIDS, with an emphasis on prevention. USAID's primary focus has been on decreasing HIV transmission by promoting safer sexual behavior. The agency's global AIDS prevention program provides education on behavior change and other interventions for more than 15 million people vulnerable to HIV infection. It has trained more than 150,000 educators and counselors and has distributed 400 million condoms.
- USAID and the World Health Organization helped 100 million children below age 5 receive two supplemental doses of oral polio vaccine. As a result, no poliovirus was found in East Africa, or throughout Southern Africa.

The Role of Women in Africa's Development

African women are a part of a growing worldwide women's movement for legal rights and political and economic empowerment. While the status of women varies greatly from country-to-country within Africa, on balance, women face a variety of challenges across the continent. African women shoulder a disproportionate share of crop production, are responsible for supplying household needs for water and fuel and handle the bulk of normal family duties and child care. Unfortunately, African women often lack access to education and training vital to improving their lives.

- With among the lowest income and educational levels in the world, young African girls often take on adult responsibilities for siblings from an early age, perpetuating a devastating cycle of illiteracy and poverty.
- Women typically have no legal rights to land, cannot receive inheritances and are otherwise widely discriminated against within legal systems.
- African women comprise nearly 70 percent of all refugees on a continent often beset by civil wars and mass migration. Too often these women lack the tools, resources and basic knowledge of how to improve their economic situation for themselves and their families.

USAID has demonstrated its commitment to addressing the needs and improving the lives of African women and girls by making programs targeted on women a central part of its development portfolio. USAID's efforts in this area build upon 20 years of leadership by establishing the institutional changes necessary to ensure that women's issues are addressed at every level, from policy formulation to implementation of programs in the field.

USAID's recognition of the key role of women in development has led to a variety of programs to address a spectrum of needs across the continent. Whether it is legal rights, political participation, AIDS, health, family planning, economic growth, agriculture, the environmental or education, USAID has programs that address the most crucial needs in targeted activities across the continent.

Education and Training

USAID's efforts in women and girls' education focus on three areas: enrollment, persistence and performance. Working actively in 11 countries, USAID actively addresses equity concerns through diverse strategies, such as targeted resource distribution to poorer schools, elimination of gender or other group biases through curriculum reform, and teacher training.

In adult basic and further education, most of the learners are women. Key issues for these women are the relevance of certification vs. attaining basic skills, gender bias in teaching materials, recognition of prior learning and receiving education that leads to employment.

- As a result of USAID assistance in Mali, girls' enrollment increased almost 15 percent in 1997, to 38 percent. Enrollment in primary school increased nearly 10 percent, to just under 50 percent. Because of USAID efforts in Guinea, girls now represent more than 45 percent of all first-grade pupils, up from 38 percent in 1995.
- Just two years after project implementation, USAID's basic education program in Uganda has tackled the underlying constraints to rebuilding that country's shattered education system. Over two million children and 75,000 teachers have benefitted from USAID's assistance.

Violence Against Women

Violence against women is the most pervasive form of human rights abuse in the world today. This abuse takes many forms -- from abortions based on sex selection to female infanticide, from rape as a weapon of war to female genital mutilation. Violence crosses social and economic strata and is deeply embedded in cultures around the world -- so much so that millions of women consider it a way of life.

- In sub-Saharan Africa, approximately 42 percent of women report being battered regularly by an intimate partner.
- In Rwanda, there were between 2,000 and 5,000 rape-related pregnancies in 1994. Over the past 10 years, mass rape has been documented in Somalia and Uganda.

- From November 25 to December 10, 1996, USAID supported 16 days of activism against gender violence in Kenya. Called "Breaking the Silence," this national campaign was aimed at raising awareness of the rising level of violence against women in Kenya, and will be repeated annually. At meeting places around the country, the campaign, organized by the Coalition on Violence Against Women/Kenya and partially funded by USAID, brought together hundreds of participants for a dialogue about gender-based violence. USAID has provided funding for the coalition since 1995.

Microenterprise

USAID assistance has been crucial in helping tens of thousands of women in Africa start small businesses or microenterprises.

- In Uganda, USAID microenterprise programs in agriculture that assist small farmers are expected to provide employment to about 120,000 families by 1999 -- 70 percent of these families are headed by women.
- There has been an exciting expansion of microenterprises in Guinea through USAID programs. Honey production has increased 800 percent, and onion marketing jumped 1,300 percent. Two-thirds of the microenterprises that have received USAID-funded loans are owned and operated by women, and the repayment rate on loans is almost 100 percent. Most significantly, the program participants' assets have doubled, and they are generating thousands of new jobs as their small businesses expand.

The Ghana Association of Women Entrepreneurs, with support from USAID, has developed a program that focuses on strengthening the capacity of small businesses owned by women to compete in international markets. The association was created in 1993 and is the brainchild of a small group of Ghanaian women who recognized the need for women entrepreneurs to become more actively involved in international markets and to advocate for more liberalized policies on trade and investment.

- Today, the association's 150 member companies make the presence of women entrepreneurs felt in virtually all economic sectors in Ghana.

The association's president, Mrs. Lucia Quachey, has forged close ties with international organizations, including the International Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, the Economic Commission for Africa, the National Association of Nigerian Women in Business, the West Africa Enterprise Network and the U.S.-based National Council of Negro Women. The association spearheaded the first Global Women's Trade Fair and Investment Forum in Africa, held in Accra in June 1996.

- Over 1,500 women entrepreneurs from around the world participated in the event and took advantage of the network to establish business links, encourage investment in women's businesses and learn critical skills concerning investment promotion, business development, and production and marketing. Panelists at the forum forcefully called on African governments to take action to remove trade barriers and encouraged manufacturers to add value to domestic products.

Female Genital Mutilation

- The practice of female genital mutilation is deeply embedded in the culture and economies of many African societies. Combating this practice requires addressing health and human rights concerns, cultural mores, economic interests and advocacy.
- Two years ago, the Foundation for Research on Women's Health, Productivity and the Environment in The Gambia devised and implemented an innovative plan for an alternative rite of passage that circumvented the practice of female genital mutilation. This alternative proved to be culturally acceptable to religious and community leaders and to the professional excisors and traditional birth attendants whose incomes and roles are affected by the changes.; With a USAID grant, the foundation will expand the new approach to two additional regions in The Gambia, document and evaluate its experiences, and make information about the alternate rite available for use by other groups in The Gambia and throughout Africa.

Women's Legal Rights and Political Participation

Women's legal status is closely linked with their political participation and ability to benefit from economic and social progress. Limitations on women's legal rights are widespread: African women suffer restrictions on land ownership; are frequently relegated to the status of minors under legal codes; experience discrimination under divorce and custody laws; and are subject to violence and intimidation to discourage attempts at legal redress. In short, women are legally disenfranchised, which in turn, limits their ability to provide collateral for business or housing loans or to invest in long-term farming technologies -- dramatically limiting their economic opportunity.sp;

Democratic governance relies on the participation of all citizens in determining who governs, as well as equality of all citizens under law.

- While women have the right to vote in all African countries, they are encumbered by a web of cultural, social, legal, economic and educational constraints that inhibit their political participation at all levels of decision-making.
- In Kenya, USAID-sponsored training for female political candidates has resulted in a marked increase in women's participation at all levels, and a female presidential candidate.
- For 10 years, USAID has supported the National Commission on Women and Development in Malawi, a coordinating body that joins private and public organizations working on women's issues. In 1994, USAID facilitated the commission's participation in drafting one of the world's most gender-sensitive national constitutions.
- In May 1995, more than 60 women leaders from 25 African countries attended a regional conference in Botswana on improving women's participation in political leadership, sponsored by USAID. One result was the formation of a regional Women in Politics Steering Committee to promote women's political participation Africa.
- The Women in Law and Development in Africa program in Zimbabwe is a network of organizations and individuals from 22 African countries supported by USAID that works to advance and protect the human rights of women in Africa.
- The Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa program funded by USAID has been in operation since the spring of 1993 at Georgetown University Law Center. Participants in the program are women lawyers active in women's rights leadership before coming to the United States. Each year, four to six participants from three African countries -- Ghana, Uganda and Tanzania -- begin the 16-month program in July, finishing it the following November. The graduates receive an LL.M. with a focus on women's rights, and each performs a six-month women's rights placement in a D.C.-based group before returning home. The program participants return to their countries with an enormous amount of vision and energy that they are, each and all, working in courageous ways to improve the status of women in their countries.

Integrating Refugee Women Into Organization, Planning and Management

Recognizing that women and children comprise at least 70 percent of refugee populations, it is clear that gender plays a key -- even a defining -- role in refugee and disaster assistance. The issues central to integrating women into disaster and refugee assistance are well known -- but not always effectively implemented.

- Research has clearly demonstrated that the participation of women is a key factor to the success of refugee assistance. To ensure the protection and well-being of refugees, women must be active participants in planning and developing programs and making decisions that affect them and their communities, through issues of food security, decision-making and economic opportunity.
- With over 100 countries involved in conflicts today, increasing numbers of women are affected by wartime and state-sponsored violence. This violence affects women's physical and psychological health, economic status and human rights. In 1994, Women's Rights International of Boston, Massachusetts, and the Women's Health and Development Program at Mother Pastern College of Health Sciences in Monrovia, Liberia, documented the experiences of Liberian victims of violence and developed local responses and preventive measures. As a

result, midwives -- respected elders of the community and health care providers -- were trained to address the multiple needs of women victims of violence. Through a USAID grant, these two groups will expand their research and training to include Liberian refugee camps in Guinea and Cote d'Ivoire.

- In the Women in Transition program in Rwanda, women's groups receive small grants and are trained in non-traditional income-generating activities such as housing construction, enabling them to rebuild their lives and their communities.

Providing Family Planning Services

Africa's population is young: Nearly half of all Africans are under age 15. This demographic reality places tremendous burdens on family incomes and a range of social structures -- such as educational and health systems. A promising trend suggests that population growth is slowing in several African countries due to reduced fertility, including Botswana, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

- More than one-third of all births in the developing world result from unintended pregnancies. These unplanned pregnancies can often adversely affect the health and well-being of women and their families. When births are spaced too closely, newborns are at increased risk of illness and death. Family planning can prevent 25 percent of all maternal and infant deaths. USAID is the largest family planning donor in Africa.
- Fertility in Kenya, for example, dropped more than 20 percent in just four years with the help of USAID programs. In Zimbabwe fertility decreased 33 percent over 10 years. Ghana, Malawi, Madagascar, Tanzania, and Zambia, though at earlier stages of the transition, appear to be moving along the same path.

Supporting Agriculture in Africa

USAID carries out a wide range of programs crucial to boosting agricultural productivity in Africa.

- Market reforms in maize supported by USAID in Kenya have benefited the poor, especially in urban areas, after government restrictions on maize trade were lifted. Small-scale maize millers multiplied, supplying meal at far lower prices. Market reforms not only reduced prices, they also provided the urban poor a wider choice of lower-cost nutritious foods.
- USAID's support for market liberalization in Malawi has significantly reduced the influence of the government-controlled marketing board, resulting in expanded access for small farmers to markets. The national share of fertilizer and hybrid maize seeds being sold through private channels also continues to increase because of efforts to privatize agriculture. USAID support was instrumental in the elimination of seed and fertilizer subsidies and the creation of a level playing field for all players in providing supplies to farmers.

USAID works with a number of regional research networks that have an outstanding track record in linking international research centers, national research institutes, policy-makers and the private sector in efforts to facilitate the development and dissemination of new technologies.

- Potato yields in East Africa over the last 15 years have increased by 40 percent due in large part to the research of the East Africa Potato Network implemented by the International Potato Center and the National Agricultural Research Systems of the region, both of which are supported by USAID.
- Improved technologies developed through the International Agricultural Research Centers, such as late blight-tolerant seed varieties, control of bacterial wilt and seed production and storage technologies, are valued at \$10 million annually in the region. Small farmers in the region have benefited the most from these breakthroughs.
- Production of cassava, a crop poor farmers grow in East and Central Africa, has been increased through the identification and rapid introduction of African Common Mosaic Virus-tolerant varieties developed by the International Institute for Agriculture, the National Agricultural Research Systems and the Cassava Network supported by USAID. In eastern Uganda alone, an estimated 50 percent of the cassava crop was being lost to this virus. The identification of

virus-tolerant varieties staved off massive cassava crop losses in Zaire, Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda.

Agribusiness development efforts in Ghana, Uganda and Kenya have increased incomes for small farmers, created new jobs and spurred local agribusiness investment by combining policy reforms, private-public technology partnerships, and facilitating services for private firms that are serving farmers.

- USAID support to non-traditional export crops in Ghana helped increase the value of these exports from \$62 million in 1990 to \$180 million in 1996. Firms receiving assistance under the USAID Trade and Investment Program, a public-private partnership, accounted for at least one-third of the total value of non-traditional exports since 1993.
- Uganda's non-traditional export sector averaged 35 percent annual growth between 1990 and 1995. USAID can take credit for helping Uganda improve production and post-harvest technologies, integrating information systems and more efficient marketing systems.
- In Mozambique, working with NGOs, private firms and government, USAID support has created a vibrant rural economy with food crops and cash crops supporting local incomes and the national economy. Over 160,000 smallholder farmers are using new cashew technology, and 80,000 are using more productive food crop technology.
- In Rwanda, Angola and other crisis situations, the food crop research networks and NGOs USAID supports, in concert with support for the International Agricultural Research Centers, has gotten the right seeds at the right time for planting as crises have wound down.
- In Zambia and Mali, USAID-assisted NGOs help organize farmers to take charge of fertilizer and seed supply and use better environmental practices in agriculture. In Tanzania and Mozambique, USAID helped the government improve rural roads to create better incentives for agricultural production and easier access to health and education by the rural poor.

Overview of U.S. Economic Assistance to Africa in 1998

Progress in Africa and the performance of USAID programs in Africa are real and encouraging. But challenges remain, and investments in economic growth, democracy and strong societies are required to ensure that gains continue. America's relatively modest investments in Africa help people help themselves, are building an important long-term market for the United States and are helping prevent crises and suffering.

Encouraging Broad-Based Economic Growth

\$207,167,000

Promoting broad-based economic growth is fundamental to the success of USAID's development strategy in Africa. For American assistance to be effective, it must stimulate the economic growth necessary for individuals to move beyond dependency upon the state and for the states to move beyond reliance on donors. For this equation to work, it is critical that USAID continue support for those sectors that offer greatest promise for the health and independence of African economies: agriculture and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Agriculture remains the backbone of most African economies, affecting the well-being of virtually all Africans in terms of household income, food security and the national economy. Small and medium-scale enterprises are also vital to the health of African economies as dynamic sources of job growth and diversification of production. Accordingly, USAID supports the expansion of non-traditional exports, market liberalization and small and medium-scale enterprise development.

In 1998, USAID -- through Development Assistance Funds, Economic Support Funds, regional programs in the Greater Horn of Africa Initiative, the Initiative for Southern Africa, and other regional support programs -- is supporting agricultural and small and medium-scale enterprise development in Angola, Benin, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Senegal, South Africa and Uganda, USAID is also providing an additional \$30 million in Food for Peace Title III assistance to Eritrea, Ethiopia, and Mozambique.

Food Security Initiative**(\$30,000,000)**

USAID's new Food Security Initiative in Africa is not a separate account but is significant in its intent and potential impact. Recognizing the increasing threat to food security in the region posed by trends in agricultural production and population growth, the initiative underscores the policy, technology and infrastructure constraints to enhancing food production and marketing. In this pilot year of a 10-year effort, USAID will highlight programs in Ethiopia, Uganda, Malawi, Mozambique and Mali to increase attention and resources on combating hunger, promoting agriculture and improving nutrition. These resources and programs will be supplemented by activities proven to enhance child survival. USAID's goal for this program over the 10-year period is to improve child survival rates by increasing access to food and essential health services as a means to protect Africa's most vulnerable.

Supporting Education and Training**\$68,908,000**

While USAID supports building human capacity at many levels, the agency focuses the lion's share of its education and training resources on basic education, particularly primary education, where social and economic returns are the greatest, especially for girls and other disadvantaged groups. Nine bilateral programs, in Ethiopia, Uganda, Malawi, South Africa, Namibia, Benin, Ghana, Guinea and Mali, bear this focus. These programs also share a common approach in that they are: 1) systematic, addressing the whole of the education system, not isolated problems; 2) strategic, opting for those investments most likely to result in real reform; 3) sustainable, ensuring that host countries bear the bulk of management and preparation; and 4) shared, involving a wide range partners in design and implementation.

Promoting Family Planning and Protecting Human Health**\$266,583,000**

Stemming Africa's high population growth rate has great synergy with other development objectives: unchecked population growth erodes economic potential, undermines food security, exacerbates environmental degradation, and fuels political instability. Thus, family planning and health efforts are critical both to sustainable development and crisis prevention.

Infant and child mortality rates in Africa remain the highest in the world, and USAID is continuing its significant assistance to strengthening health delivery systems and expanding immunization and oral rehydration therapy coverage. Of increasing importance, however, is the positive relationship between food security and child survival. Therefore, those countries selected to participate in the new Food Security Initiative are those where need and opportunity combine to suggest that important gains in child survival can be achieved. Since child survival is so important, USAID programs in this area are extensive.

Finally, AIDS is and will remain a major health and economic problem in Africa for the foreseeable future. USAID will continue its efforts to increase public awareness of its causes and of the behavioral changes needed to prevent transmission of this disease.

In population, child health and AIDS programming, USAID's 1998 budget funds activities in Angola, Benin, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe and regional support programs.

Protecting the Environment**\$81,351,000**

Africa's lands are fragile and subject to uncertain rains and drought, yet the continent still possesses vast and often untold natural resource wealth. Managing the natural resources of this immense continent is vital to agricultural production, economic growth, cultural heritage and beyond. USAID programs that have agriculture as an objective also commonly support development of sound environmental policies and host country capacity to monitor environmental changes and support early warning systems to prevent crop damage and famine. These programs also develop and demonstrate environmentally sound production and processing techniques. In 1998, USAID is funding major environmental programs in Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Senegal, South

Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe, and regional programs such as the Greater Horn of Africa Initiative and the Initiative for Southern Africa.

Building Democracy

\$75,919,000

Africa is changing. No longer a continent of dictatorships and authoritarian regimes, Africa's people are demanding increased transparency, accountability and greater participation in national economies and government. Across the region, governments are becoming increasingly free and democratic. USAID support for democratization and civil society includes electoral support; strengthening democratic institutions such as a free press and independent legislatures and judiciary branches; developing NGOs; and, promoting conflict resolution and demobilization of troops. For 1998, USAID is funding democratic governance efforts in Angola, Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda, and regional programs such as the Greater Horn of Africa Initiative and the Initiative for Southern Africa.

Humanitarian Assistance

\$292,288,000

USAID is providing \$262,288,000 in Food for Peace Title II assistance to Angola, Benin, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia and Uganda.

The Leland Initiative

The goal of the Leland Initiative is to bring the benefits of the information revolution to the people of Africa through connection to the Internet.

Since the launch of the Initiative in June 1996, it has:

- Achieved major policy reforms
- Ten countries -- Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Rwanda and Zambia - have adopted major changes in their telecommunication approaches, resulting in:
- Dramatic price reductions, for example wholesale Internet access lines cost \$2,000 or less, compared to up \$17,000 in non-Leland countries.
- Expanded the role of the private sector -- more than 30 private firms have established retail Internet access businesses in Leland countries, investing on average \$40,000, where none existed before.
- Monthly retail Internet charges of \$25, in countries where international long- distance calls can cost as much as \$20 per minute.

Expanded Internet availability

- Leland technical experts have installed high speed national Internet gateways in seven countries (Mali, Mozambique, Madagascar, Rwanda, Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, and Benin), and a national university gateway in Ghana.
- High speed access is on the drawing boards for Mali, Mozambique and Madagascar.

Enhanced use of the Internet for Development

The Leland Initiative is strengthening the ability of African societies to use the powerful communication and information tools of the Internet.

Leland information experts have trained representatives of more than 1,000 indigenous African development partners to use and appreciate the powerful information and communication tools of the Internet.

In addition:

- Ghanaian school children are using the Internet to collaborate on projects, share cultural experiences and conduct joint demonstrations with their sister schools in the United States.
- African businessmen are using the Internet to identify investors, source raw materials and serve customers throughout the world. One Malian businessman located key manufacturing equipment from an American firm via the Internet, and saved \$300,000 in the process.
- Citizens and local elected officials are using Internet to better identify local needs and tap community input.

[OVERVIEWS](#) [GHANA](#) [UGANDA](#) [SOUTH AFRICA](#) [BOTSWANA](#) [SENEGAL](#) [OTHER PROGRAMS](#)



A NEW DAY IN AFRICA

GHANA

[Overview](#) | [Private Sector Growth](#) | [Basic Education](#) | [Family Planning & Health](#) | [Democracy and Governance](#) | [Economic Growth](#) | [Women Exporters](#) | [Conservation & Economic Growth](#)

Assistance to Ghana

Vital Statistics:

Population	18,100,703
Population Density:	197 per sq. mile
Size:	92,098 sq. mile (slightly smaller than Oregon)
GDP: (1995 est.)	\$25.1 billion Per capita
GDP:	\$1,400
Life Expectancy: (1997)	54.5 male, 58.6 female
Literacy: (1995)	64 percent
USAID Assistance 1997:	\$49.8 million

Overview

Ghana is a leader in Africa in promoting economic reforms and establishing political stability. Ghana is also a key ally of the United States in promoting peace in the region and, after South Africa, is one of the most important trading partners for the United States in sub-Saharan Africa. With successful multi-party elections completed in December 1996, Ghana is now in the forefront of African countries that have made positive steps toward consolidating democracy. The historic elections -- the first held under a democratically elected government -- were recognized by the international community as being free, fair and transparent and expressing the will of Ghana's 18 million citizens. An ambitious economic transformation over the past 12 years has led to improved budget balances, realistic exchange rates and increased competition. A more favorable economic climate has also spurred both local and foreign private sector investment.

USAID's assistance to Ghana is helping to boost private sector growth, improve the primary education system, support family health through family planning, slow the spread of AIDS, improve child survival and enhance civic participation and accountable governance. U.S. assistance to Ghana has helped secure some important achievements.

Private Sector Growth

- The Government is doing its part to promote reform by reducing the national budget deficit, rationalizing the role of the Central Bank and identifying ways to increase domestic savings and foreign investment. USAID was instrumental in bringing over 300 representatives of the public and private sectors together to build consensus on priorities for economic policy reform in Ghana during June 1997.
- The economy is diversifying, with non-traditional exports -- a key part of USAID's economic growth strategy in Ghana -- increasing 32 percent in 1997 to \$300 million.
- Tourism became Ghana's fourth largest foreign exchange earner with a 16 percent increase in 1997, reaching a record \$290 million.
- USAID has worked closely with the government of Ghana to encourage sound environmental

management and the creation of parks as a means to spur ecotourism.

- USAID programs helped 10,000 women expand into the non-traditional export arena, including shea nut, cashew nut, palm oil, medicinals and black pepper.
- USAID has also helped streamline the registration process for investors, reduced clearance times for exports and assisted in the removal of foreign exchange controls.

Basic Education

USAID's partnership with the government of Ghana to promote reforms in the education system has achieved some notable results, particularly through the work of nongovernmental organization in northern Ghana:

- Passing grades for sixth grade students in math improved 55 percent from 1996 to 1997, while 18 percent more of these students received passing grades in English during this period.
- Nearly 590,000 text books were provided to schools, and 683 teachers were trained in 1997 through USAID programs.
- The number of subjects taught in primary schools was reduced from nine subjects to five important core subjects.
- Girls' enrollment increased by more than 16 percent in target schools. A remarkable 72 percent increase in girls' enrollment was achieved when girls received food rations as a reward for high class attendance.

Family Planning Health

With USAID's help, Ghana has made impressive strides in family planning and health.

- The 1997 fertility rate is estimated at 5.2 percent, down from 5.5 percent in 1993, and 6.4 percent in 1988.
- The contraceptive prevalence rate is estimated at 22 percent, up 46 percent since 1995. Long-term methods of contraception rose 8 percent in 1997, and condom sales increased 11 percent, to 5.1 million, in 1997.
- The HIV positive portion of the populace has remained stable at 2 percent to 4 percent.
- About 370,000 infants received immunizations last year, raising to 49 percent the number of children under two fully immunized.

Democracy and Governance

Ghana had successful December 1996 presidential and parliamentary elections. USAID supported the Electoral Commission and monitoring of the election process. USAID also worked closely with Ghana's political parties to ensure the voter registration process was open and fair, an important step in building faith in the electoral process.

- Nearly 4,000 representatives of various Ghanaian NGOs were organized into the Network of Domestic Election Observers and trained and dispatched to monitor the elections. An unprecedented civil society and local government assessment of all 10 regions was conducted providing a wealth of information for programming and comparative purposes.
- USAID helped initiate 20 district activities designed to enhance civic participation and accountable governance at the local and national levels.
- USAID programs helped train over 100 members of parliament in legislative and procedural processes to improve parliament's operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Economic Growth in Ghana: Vitality Through Reform

Over the past six years, Ghana has made major strides in promoting private investment and diversifying its economy. Ghana has embraced a wide range of important economic reforms and has enjoyed about five percent annual economic growth since 1983. USAID's efforts were key in helping Ghana improve

customs procedures to facilitate both imports and exports, eliminate cumbersome licenses and fees for producers and exporters, and in fostering macroeconomic reforms that encouraged trade and investment.

Ghana has traditionally relied on the export of gold, timber and cocoa to drive its economy. USAID's program in trade and investment in Ghana has concentrated on promoting non-traditional exports, such as wood products, handicrafts, household accessories, processed foods, and African textiles and garments as a means to foster broader economic growth.

- USAID's efforts helped boost Ghana's non-traditional exports from \$68 million in 1992 to \$280 million in 1997. During this period, the share of non-traditional exports as a percentage of Ghana's total exports more than doubled, from 7 percent to 15 percent. This economic activity directly helped create 38,000 jobs.
- USAID has also assisted Ghana's central region in expanding its potential through tourism. USAID's assistance in the rehabilitation of three historic monuments and the establishment of the 330 acre Kakum National Park helped increase tourism revenue from \$118 million in 1991 to \$248 million in 1996.

While this progress is significant, Ghana still faces considerable challenges to meet its goal of becoming a mid-level-income country by the year 2020. This ambitious objective, embodied in the Government's Vision 2020 document, requires Ghana to pursue an outward-oriented growth strategy and increase its exports by 10 percent a year. USAID is directly involved in providing assistance to help achieve this objective through a trade and investment reform program that is encouraging broad reform and helping private sector enterprises increase their competitiveness.

- USAID helped sponsor an unprecedented conference in North Carolina that convened a broad cross-section of the Ghanaian and U.S. public to discuss critical economic choices facing Ghana. This was followed by a National Economic Forum in Ghana, which further set out an agenda to address Ghana's most pressing economic problems, such as the national budget deficit and ways to increase domestic savings and foreign investment.
- Future goals include increasing non-traditional exports to \$640 million by 2001, creating 55,000 additional jobs in the export sector and doubling private sector investment as a share of gross domestic product.

Plugging Ghana's Women Exporters Into the Global Economy

The Ghana Association of Women Entrepreneurs, with support from USAID, has developed a program that focuses on strengthening the capacity of small businesses owned by women to compete in international markets. The association was created in 1993 and is the brainchild of a small group of Ghanaian women who recognized the need for women entrepreneurs to become more actively involved in international markets and to advocate for more liberalized policies on trade and investment.

- Today, the association's 150 member companies make the presence of women entrepreneurs felt in virtually all economic sectors in Ghana.

The association's president, Mrs. Lucia Quachey, has forged close links with international organizations including the International Federation of Women Entrepreneurs, the Economic Commission for Africa, the National Association of Nigerian Women in Business, the West Africa Enterprise Network and the U.S.-based National Council of Negro Women. The association spearheaded the first Global Women's Trade Fair and Investment Forum in Africa, held in Accra in June 1996.

- Over 1,500 women entrepreneurs from around the world participated in the event and took advantage of the network to establish business links, encourage investment in women's businesses and learn critical skills concerning investment promotion, business development and production and marketing. Panelists at the forum forcefully called on African governments to take action to remove trade barriers and encouraged manufacturers to add value to domestic products.

USAID has funded the participation of association members in business development training as well as in the agency's Entrepreneurs International Program. The entrepreneurs program provides an opportunity for foreign entrepreneurs to spend up to a month in the U.S. with American business

counterparts learning about a particular business sector, including how to procure appropriate equipment and improve efficiency in production and management.

- The association's most innovative initiative to date is to establish a central processing unit that will provide the facilities for women exporters to standardize their products, increase production and ensure quality control to meet international requirements. USAID is funding the development of the initial stages of the processing unit. In addition, USAID is providing support to ensure that the association can effectively manage the processing unit. USAID is also funding the networking of the association's member organizations in all 10 regions of Ghana and the development of a Web site to promote the products of women entrepreneurs.

Conservation and Economic Growth: Hand-in-Hand in Ghana

A USAID-funded project in Ghana's central region has shown how the conservation of historic monuments and natural forests can spur economic growth. For the past six years, USAID has supported a unique and innovative partnership between Conservation International, the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. chapter of the International Committee on Monuments and Sites, the University of Minnesota Tourism Center, the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities and three Ghanaian agencies. This collaborative effort has helped turn Ghana's central region into a growing international tourism destination.

This creative partnership has helped rehabilitate three World Heritage Monuments -- Cape Coast Castle, Elmina Castle and Fort St. Jago -- and established Kakum National Park. These sites have focused on two niche markets -- ecotourism and cultural and heritage tourism -- as a means to generate economic growth. Kakum National Park is a 360-square-kilometer tropical rainforest representing one of the few remaining vestiges of the Upper Guinea forest with much of its flora and fauna intact. The park contains isolated populations of six globally endangered species, including the forest elephant and Diana monkey, and is the headwater of four major rivers that supply water for over 300,000 people.

The Cape Coast and Elmina Castles are the two most historically significant European trading fortifications built along the West African coast between the 15th and 18th centuries. Elmina, built in 1482, was the stopping point of Vasco de Gama on his voyage to discover a trade route to the East Indies and was probably visited by Columbus before he sailed in search of a trade route to the West Indies. Elmina is also the site of the first Christian church in sub-Saharan Africa. Cape Coast Castle was built in 1655 and served as the administrative headquarters of the British Gold Coast Colony until 1874. Both castles served as central facilities in the transatlantic slave trade for almost two centuries.

- New tourism facilities developed by the project include a world-class visitors center with a major permanent exhibit and a 1,000-foot-long, 100-foot-high, canopy walkway -- the only one of its kind in Africa -- a major museum, an exhibition entitled Crossroads of People, Crossroads of Trade, museum shops and other tourism infrastructure at the castles. Visitation at Kakum National Park has grown from its inception in 1992 to 40,000 people in 1997. Combined visitation at the two castles over the same period has grown from 20,000 to 60,000.
- The USAID grant of \$8.6 million has been the principal catalyst of \$25 million in private sector investment and a \$100 million government of Ghana investment in complementary infrastructure. Ghana's foreign exchange earnings from tourism have more than doubled, from \$118 million in 1991 to \$248 million in 1996. Over 2,000 permanent jobs and thousands more construction jobs have been created as a result of this project.
- The Kakum National Park's 360 square kilometers of tropical forest have been spared any further logging. Wildlife poaching and expansion of farming activities within the reserve have been checked.

One critical aspect of the project is the great effort that has been made to ensure that these achievements continue even after Ghana stops receiving foreign assistance. USAID helped establish the Ghana Heritage Conservation Trust in 1996. In 1998, this institution will be endowed with \$2 million by USAID to enable it to continue to finance the critical aspects of the facilities and program maintenance in perpetuity and to spread the benefits of the increased tourism to the communities surrounding the sites.

[OVERVIEWS](#)

[GHANA](#)

[UGANDA](#)

[SOUTH AFRICA](#)

[BOTSWANA](#)

[SENEGAL](#)

[OTHER PROGRAMS](#)



A NEW DAY IN AFRICA

UGANDA

[OVERVIEW](#) | [THE AIDS STORY](#) | [AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES WORKING WITH AFRICAN FARMERS](#) | [EDUCATION IN UGANDA](#)

Assistance to Uganda

Vital Statistics:

Population	20,604,874
Population Density:	221 per sq. mile
Size:	93,070 sq. mile (slightly smaller than Wyoming)
GDP: (1995 est.)	\$16.8 billion
Per Capita GDP:	\$900
Life Expectancy: (1997)	39.3 male, 40.1 female
Literacy: (1995)	62 percent
USAID Assistance 1997:	\$67.6 million

Overview

Uganda is an excellent development partner, with political leaders willing to make the tough reforms required for lasting development. The effort is paying off. Aggressive macroeconomic reforms, for example, have resulted in economic growth of more than 6 percent over the past three years.

The USAID program is designed in close consultation with the government of Uganda, Ugandan private sector leaders, other donors and U.S. private voluntary organizations. USAID's program for 1997-2001 has five strategic targets: 1) increasing rural income; 2) promoting environmental protection to sustain biological diversity and generate income for the poor; 3) increasing the percentage of Ugandan children who receive quality basic education; 4) increasing the use of services related to reproductive, maternal and child health (including combating AIDS); and 5) expanding civic pluralism and constitutional checks and balances.

Uganda's accomplishments to date are truly impressive.

Economic Opportunity

- In Uganda, USAID microenterprise programs in agriculture that assist small farmers are expected to provide employment to about 120,000 families -- 70 percent headed by women by 1999.
- Spending by Ugandan households, the best available measure of household incomes, increased 25 percent in 1995.
- Non-traditional exports, a key part of USAID's strategy for promoting economic growth, grew -- on average -- 35 percent annually between 1990 and 1995. Vanilla production doubled in 1995.
- The USAID-supported Cooperative Bank added 37,000 new savers in 1995, and new loans were made 3,800 new micro-entrepreneurs.

Environmental Management

- The elephant population in the Q.E. National Park has doubled to 1,100 over past four years.
- With the help of U.S. assistance in environmental management, six national parks have been

created since 1990, raising the total to 10, an increase of 3,483 sq. kilometers.

Basic Education

- USAID's basic education program in Uganda has tackled the underlying constraints to rebuilding that country's shattered education system. Over 2 million children and 75,000 teachers have benefited from USAID assistance.
- The government's allocation for primary education increased from \$10 to \$30 per student in four years from 1992.
- USAID has financed the purchase and distribution of 1.5 million primary school textbooks, 750,000 in 1996 alone.
- In 1995 and 1996, USAID funded in-service, refresher and management training in 39 districts to 2,400 untrained, 5,000 trained and 2,400 head teachers, respectively. The program was a huge success, with student pass-rates improving in every district. The program has now been extended to all of Uganda's 45 districts.
- Uganda's primary enrollment has doubled since President Museveni's declaration of free primary education for up to four children per family.

Health and Family Planning

- Condom sales increased from 6 million to 10 million between 1995 and 1996.
- HIV prevalence at pre-natal clinics dropped from 30 percent in 1992 to 15 percent in 1996, in part because of an aggressive AIDS prevention program supported by USAID.
- In 1996, USAID trained 319 nurses and 139 physicians and medical assistants. As a result, nurse-assisted deliveries have increased by 15 percent, and sexually-transmitted disease diagnosis and treatment skills have improved.
- USAID also trained over 220 staff from 27 health clinics in fee-for-service policies. As a result, the meager clinic revenues increased by 30 percent, helping to ensure continued operation.

Democracy and Governance

- With U.S. and other donor assistance, Uganda has put a functioning constitution in place and successfully conducted parliamentary and presidential elections in 1996.
- Through several non-governmental organizations, USAID has funded training for thousands of civic educators and election monitors, as well as 214 constituency coordinators.

The AIDS Story in Uganda

Though AIDS was only recognized as a new disease in the United States in 1981, by 1982 Ugandan physicians began observing unexplained deaths in young adults. This mysterious wasting condition was soon called "slim," and that nickname for AIDS still sticks in Uganda today. Soon after taking over leadership of the country in 1986, President Museveni confronted the growing epidemic with candor and activism, and by the end of 1986, the Ministry of Health had established an AIDS Control Program, which began collecting data and conducting public information campaigns.

By 1988, USAID began providing assistance to Uganda and the fledgling non-governmental organizations struggling to respond to the dual needs of preventing further infections and caring for those already infected with the virus. The National Institutes of Health began providing research grants to American scientists investigating various aspects of the epidemic, including mother-to-child HIV transmission, the link between HIV and tuberculosis, and the epidemiology of AIDS in rural communities.

- This 10-year collaboration between Uganda and the United States has produced remarkable results. The AIDS Support Organization, TASO, now recognized as the premier agency in sub-Saharan Africa providing care to persons living with AIDS, was first given USAID assistance in 1988, and TASO continues to receive USAID support.
- By the end of 1997, TASO had cared for over 40,000 clients and their families and had trained

hundreds of AIDS counselors in Uganda and elsewhere in Africa. TASO has also provided national leadership in reducing the stigma and discrimination typically associated with AIDS.

By 1989, it became apparent that many Ugandans were knowledgeable about AIDS and were eager to learn whether they had already been infected. In the absence of HIV counseling and testing sites, people were donating blood to learn their HIV test results, creating a serious problem for the national blood transfusion service, which was not equipped to provide intensive counseling.

- Once again, USAID responded quickly, and in February 1990, the AIDS Information Center opened, the first program in Africa offering voluntary and anonymous HIV counseling and testing.
- By the end of 1997, over 350,000 clients had been served, an astonishing accomplishment not yet matched elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa. The important role of HIV counseling and testing in helping people adopt and maintain risk-reduction behaviors has now been documented not only in the United States but also in Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Zambia.

USAID provided leadership and assistance for other AIDS prevention efforts in Uganda as well, including the first "AIDS in the Workplace" project in Africa and one of the first "AIDS in the Military" projects.

- By 1992, USAID was also funding community AIDS education activities implemented by churches and mosques, and by 1995, these projects had recorded contacts with over 1 million individuals, most of them living in rural areas.
- Condom distribution has also been funded by USAID since 1987, and sales of USAID-subsidized condoms increased to almost 10 million by 1996.

The cumulative impact of these intense and widespread efforts became apparent in 1994 and 1995, when behavioral surveys began documenting that Ugandans were reporting fewer casual sexual partners and increased condom use, and young people were reporting a delay in becoming sexually active. Social norms were also changing, with peer reinforcement of abstinence, faithfulness and condom use. Religious leaders and parents began demanding that young couples get tested before marriage, and now one-third of the clients at the AIDS Information Center come as couples for pre-marital counseling and testing.

- Most encouraging has been the documented decline in HIV infection rates in young pregnant women. Based on routine testing of pregnant women attending antenatal clinics in a number of locations in Uganda, beginning in 1989 and continuing to the present, there is increasing evidence that HIV prevalence in Uganda is declining, especially among young women.
- The declines are particularly pronounced among pregnant women age 15 to 19, but are also observed in women 20 to 24. For example, in one site in Kampala, 15- to 19-year-old women had an HIV prevalence rate of 26 percent in 1992, but this declined to 9 percent in 1996. Demographers believe this decline could not have occurred without a decrease of about 50 percent in the rate of new infections in these young women.

What are the factors contributing to Uganda's remarkable success in responding to the AIDS epidemic? Perhaps most important has been the leadership provided by President Museveni, creating a national environment that encouraged the development of innovative and pioneering programs such as the AIDS Support Organization and the AIDS Information Center.

The courage shown by many people living with AIDS, who publicly talk about how they became infected, the importance of getting tested, and how they "live positively" with AIDS, has made a dramatic and emotionally compelling key to the success of HIV prevention programs. The commitment and professional competence of Ugandan public health workers, AIDS educators and activists, and health care workers has helped these programs achieve successful results. Finally, the early, intense and sustained level of USAID assistance given to these Ugandan partners has enabled them to achieve a first in Africa: a decline in new HIV infections in young people.

American Universities Working with African Farmers

Ohio State University was the lead university and prime contractor in the Uganda Manpower for Agricultural Development project funded by USAID. The project rebuilt the infrastructure and retrained the people necessary to revitalize agricultural research and instruction after 14 years of neglect and decay. Over the course of nine years the project rebuilt, rehabilitated, retrained and reoriented Uganda's capacity to conduct agricultural research. Highlights of this nine-year project include:

- Perhaps the most lasting contribution made to Ugandan agricultural research was in the area of training and education. Thirty-eight Ugandans received Ph.D. or Masters degree training at 11 U.S. universities -- 17 participants were trained at Ohio State.
- A strong relationship has been established between Ohio State University and Makerere University. Ninety-seven individuals received short-term training in the United States at Ohio State, other universities or international agricultural research centers. Thirty-five candidates sponsored by the project received M.S. degrees at Makerere University. Ohio State University, largely in the form of fee and tuition authorizations, contributed nearly \$2 million to the project, and Ohio State University continues fee and tuition waivers for Ugandan students to this day.
- Four primary research units were physically rehabilitated, including the Kwanda Agricultural Research Institute, Namulonge Agricultural Research Institute, the Makerere University Agricultural Research Institute at Kabanyolo, and the Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry Building at Makerere University. This early rehabilitation program laid the foundation for later efforts to rejuvenate agricultural research in Uganda.
- Over 60 research projects and national commodity research programs were implemented, from which over 70 new technologies, crop varieties, production practices and policy recommendations have been generated.
- As a product of Manpower for Agricultural Development research, new varieties of maize, soybean and sunflower were introduced to Uganda that generate yields 25 percent to 60 percent higher than local varieties.
- On-farm research reached over 3,500 farmers and trained 90 extension agents.
- Participating farmers increased their overall farm productivity by 31 percent; their farm income by 300 percent; and their farm size by 83 percent.
- All total, the research effort produced over 200 journals, extension bulletins, abstracts and research monographs. As a result of Manpower for Agricultural Development alone, 54 peer-reviewed journal articles were produced.
- Rate-of-return analysis demonstrates that for investments in research and extension activities during the project period 1987 to 1993, returns will range between 30 percent and 42 percent by the year 2003.

The integrated pest management Collaborative Research Support Program in Uganda has primarily involved Ohio State and Virginia Tech Universities, working with Makerere University Faculty of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Research Organization, to develop new environmentally-friendly and cost-effective practices for controlling major pests on food crops.

All phases of research are carried out in cooperation with organized groups of farmers. This provides a direct linkage between public sector research and development and small farmers. Since small farmers comprise 84 percent of the Ugandan labor force, working directly with this group to help them learn how to solve their own problems promotes independent, sustainable agricultural development.

Ohio State University, working with USAID and World Bank funding, continues its efforts to link the Makerere Faculty of Agriculture and Forestry to the private sector through the development of student internships with the private sector and research oriented toward private sector priorities. The new department of Food Science and Technology in the Faculty of Agriculture has all of its students develop value-added products and business plans to help bring these activities to life.

Education in Uganda

USAID support for primary education in Uganda exemplifies the powerful results that can be achieved through U.S. foreign assistance. By the end of the 1980s, Uganda's education system had collapsed from protracted civil strife and economic deterioration. Uganda had the lowest adult literacy rate in East Africa. More than half of teachers were untrained, school infrastructure had completely collapsed, and public expenditure on education was minimal. Only 53 percent of school-age children were enrolled, and about 50 percent of enrollees dropped out before mastering basic literacy skills. In 1986, a new government came to power and created an economic rehabilitation agenda stressing the importance of education.

USAID assistance was designed to facilitate the government's efforts to decentralize resources, strengthen management at the district and school levels and improve student mastery of basic literacy and math skills.

- As a result of USAID efforts, books are now more available in Ugandan schools than at anytime in the last 20 years. Over 4 million textbooks, teachers' guides and materials have been distributed to schools.
- Communities built more than a thousand new classrooms in 1995 alone.
- 4,000 head teachers have received school management training, while over 10,000 teachers have benefited from refresher courses.
- The ultimate outcome of all these interventions has been an unmistakable improvement in pupils' performance. Pass rates rose markedly for the third year in a row.
- When assistance began in 1991, teacher salaries were extremely low -- \$8 a month. After only four years, the government met an early project condition requiring it to raise teacher salaries to the living wage over a 10-year period. Real teacher wages rose 900 percent.
- The government reduced the teaching force by 10,000 untrained teachers. Savings exceeded \$1 million a year, and qualified teachers were distributed more equitably among rural and urban schools. The proportion of qualified teachers in the system has risen to more than 60 percent.

In 1997, President Museveni made a bold announcement of Universal Primary Education in Uganda -- allowing free education for four children in every family. Overnight the primary school population of Uganda doubled -- to 5.3 million students -- with the vast majority of new students entering the first and second grades. Scenes of up to 800 first grade children sitting under a tree with one teacher were seen in many places of the country.

Universal primary education sent shock waves through the system in terms of capacity. It is testimony to the dedication of thousands of parents, teachers, tutors, and administrators that the vast majority of students who entered the school system in 1997 remained there throughout the school year. While the challenges of providing a quality education to all Ugandan children are many, all partners in this effort share an optimism that Uganda's commitment to basic education will serve as a model of success for other African countries.



A NEW DAY IN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

[OVERVIEW](#) | [BLACK ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT](#) | [PROMOTING BUSINESS LINKAGES FOR THE DISADVANTAGED](#) | [FRANCHISES FOR GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY](#) | [THE TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION](#) | [BUILDING AFFORDABLE HOUSING](#) | [URBAN RECONSTRUCTION AND HOUSING](#)

Assistance to South Africa

Vital Statistics:

Population	42,327,458
Population Density:	89 per sq. mile
Size:	470,693 sq. mile (a little less than three times the size of California)
GDP: (1995 est.)	\$215 billion
Per capita GDP:	\$4,800
Life Expectancy: (1997)	54.4 male, 58.2 female
Literacy: (1995)	82 percent
USAID Assistance 1997:	\$65.6 million

Overview

The political situation in apartheid-era South Africa prompted most countries of the world to suspend aid or impose economic sanctions in the mid-1980s. U.S. sanctions were accompanied by an expansion of USAID assistance to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in South Africa as a means to facilitate a peaceful change to majority rule.

In April 1994, South Africa entered a new stage of non-racial democracy with the election of Nelson Mandela as president. To support that change and help redress the legacy of apartheid, USAID's South Africa program, which is planned to continue through 2005, broadly supports the objectives of South Africa's reconstruction and development program. The overall goal of the reconstruction program is a "sustainable transformation" that helps South Africa consolidate democracy and support basic social services. USAID assistance focuses on six strategic objectives: democracy and governance; education; health; economic policy capacity; private sector development; and housing and urban services. U.S. assistance has helped facilitate some important successes in South Africa.

Democracy and Governance

- USAID supported the training of over 300,000 South Africans in democracy and human rights; at least half of these were women, a traditionally marginalized group.
- With USAID support, 97 black lawyers were provided with internships at well-established law firms, and about half these lawyers were apprenticed, helping to move South Africa closer to a more representative judicial system.
- USAID supports conflict resolution activities that continue to contribute to a culture of tolerance in the violence-ridden province of KwaZulu Natal, where politically related deaths have fallen from over 2,000 in 1994 to 318 in 1997.
- USAID-funded national human rights awareness campaigns reached tens of millions of urban South Africans with human rights radio messages. As a result, 45 percent of a nationally representative sample of South Africans are aware of their rights.

- USAID activities support increased public participation in the formulation of national policy in South Africa. In 1997, 20 of the 99 bills enacted by parliament had important constituent input.
- USAID's support to the historic and healing work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission continues and has enabled the publication of dramatic 1997 hearings such as those on the Stephen Biko murder case.

Education

- USAID supported orientation and advocacy training for provincial education officials who have, in turn, trained all South African teachers (350,000 teachers total) to adopt the national Curriculum 2005, which will be introduced in 1998.
- USAID scholarship programs have trained over 5,000 black South Africans at the undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate level since 1985.
- USAID assistance to the Ministry of Education has helped to strengthen 15 historically disadvantaged universities and technical training schools through staff training and linkage grants to U.S. universities.

Private Sector Development

- The USAID loan portfolio guarantee program has been a model for the South African government's new Khula Credit Guarantee Facility, which provided \$20.6 million in credit guarantees during 1997.
- More than 4,300 loans have been leveraged through USAID's Loan Portfolio Guarantee program.
- Loans made through USAID's micro-finance programs have totaled over 25,000 in 1997. Ninety-two percent of these loans were made to women.
- Since October 1996, the Equity Access Systems program has leveraged \$ 8.9 million in financing for historically disadvantaged small and medium-sized enterprises in South Africa.
- One hundred ninety one business leaders, of which 30 percent were women, were sent to the United States for a short-term intensive course on organizational change management and financial strategies at Wharton Business School, in conjunction with Merrill Lynch and Morgan State University or to Arthur D. Little and the University of the District of Columbia.
- The Business Linkages for Underutilized Enterprises Project (BLUE) has worked with 160 corporations and government departments to implement small supplier programs. \$9.3 million in contracts with 171 suppliers have been successfully executed as a result of BLUE's linkage program. 20 percent of the supplier firms have been women-owned firms.
- USAID's Black Integrated Community Support Network Project was the driving force in introducing franchising to the black and disadvantaged community in South Africa. Franchise ownership among disadvantaged groups doubled between 1992 and 1995, and in 1996 disadvantaged groups owned almost 14 percent of franchises in South Africa -- up from 9 percent in 1995. The project also broke new ground in facilitating the entry of historically disadvantaged entrepreneurs into new business sectors, including life insurance, health services, publishing, advertising, chemical manufacturing, and the automotive and oil industries.

Health

- With USAID technical assistance, a data base has been developed that will allow the Eastern Cape Provincial Department of Health and the national Department of Health to manage the acquisition and distribution of drugs more effectively and better ensure that clinics have appropriate supplies. This data base will now be shared with other provinces.
- USAID assistance has allowed the Eastern Cape Province to unify its reporting systems -- eight different monthly reporting systems were operating simultaneously -- which now allows for more useful and less time-consuming reporting.
- Management planning has exceeded expectations in the Eastern Cape. With USAID support, 21 districts, 5 regions and the Provincial Health Headquarters of the Eastern Cape will generate the first uniform set of plans for the entire province by March 1998. These will serve as road maps for future reforms.
- A nationwide demographic and health survey, sponsored by USAID and other donors, is under way. This survey will give health sector planners (as well as others) a clear picture of the health and living status of the

people of South Africa. This is the first such study undertaken that includes the entire country.

Housing and Urban Development

- USAID assistance has made credit for housing available to over 271,000 historically disadvantaged households.
- Approximately \$400 million in credit has been made available by USAID partners, primarily through direct loans, for the provision of housing and urban services destined for low-income communities.
- Over 280,000 households were given access or helped to obtain access to shelter or urban services as a result of USAID's support.
- USAID has supported the creation of a secondary mortgage market and programs to facilitate the flow of private capital for municipal infrastructure.
- USAID is assisting municipal associations in the training of city managers in a host of technical areas, including environmental management.

Black Economic Empowerment in South Africa

U.S. assistance to South Africa is helping new entrepreneurs shape a better future for themselves and their country. Moses Moloele was born in Soweto and lost his parents at an early age. In 1988, after serving as a traffic policeman for 10 years, he was employed in bulk kerosene distribution with Shell South Africa. Three years later, he was given responsibility for a new gas station in the Alexandra township of Johannesburg. Two years later, the station rated in the top 10 for area sales.

- In 1994, Moloele formed a regional Shell committee for managers. Soon thereafter, he made it national, then formed the National Black Fuel Retailers Association with other corporations. Group members quickly focused on the need to create a black-controlled oil company. They raised funds, supported fact-finding missions overseas and began looking for joint venture targets.

During a dinner honoring former U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown, Moloele met the Black Integrated Commercial Support Network chief of party, Fernando Bertoli, and subsequently entered into a series of contracts under the network project supported by USAID. With this assistance, the Naledi group -- which Moloele had helped found -- began negotiating with Sasol Oil, culminating in a R300 million transaction.

- 450 black gas station owners contributed the equity for Naledi's 51 percent stake in the transaction. Powerlib, representing the other 49 percent interest, was backed by Sanco Investment Holdings, Hostel Dwellers Association, African Renaissance Investments, Sasol, Engen and others.
- Assistance provided by the Black Integrated Commercial Support Network included a petroleum expert to write a strategy and lead negotiations on the client's behalf; a legal expert to create the legal structure; a financial expert to advise on capital structure, budget constraints, financing and potential investors; and a regulatory expert to assist in negotiations.
- Today, Naledi Petroleum is the first black business to hold a state contract for diesel and petrol distribution. The company competed against international giants, including Shell, to win the R48 million contract to supply local police and defense operations, railways, hospitals and local governments. The award makes Naledi a R160 million business. The company is now building a chain of franchised gas stations.

Promoting Business Linkages for the Disadvantaged in South Africa

USAID's Business Linkages for Underutilized Enterprises (BLUE) project, carried out in conjunction with South Africa's National Industrial Chamber, is helping to create commercially viable, long-term relationships between corporations and small and medium-sized supply firms where historically disadvantaged South Africans have a majority interest.

- After two years, 160 corporations have contracted with small suppliers as a result of BLUE initiatives. The value of these contracts is approximately \$9.8 million.
- These contracts include a \$145,000 contract for the refurbishment of the luxurious Blue Train and a \$520,000 contract from the Department of Correctional Services to manufacture 105,000 garments. A consortium has been formed with six small manufacturers to supply the garments. With a year still to go, BLUE's achievements have already surpassed its targets.

To improve supplier firms' business skills, the BLUE initiative has trained more than 3,400 people in obtaining contracts, negotiating skills, purchasing, marketing to meet the needs of large customers and improving quality control in a small business environment. Further, BLUE has engaged Eastman Kodak to help develop a quality leadership program for large South African corporations and historically disadvantaged small and medium-sized enterprises. In addition, BLUE staff are presently providing input to the South African Quality Institute to develop a small and medium-sized enterprise business excellence model.

- BLUE is consistently reported to be the premier and most successful affirmative procurement initiative in South Africa. As a result of BLUE, 508 contracts have been awarded to 171 small and medium-sized supplier firms.
- Approximately 20 percent of the firms receiving assistance under BLUE are women-owned enterprises.

The project has clearly demonstrated that, given the opportunity, historically disadvantaged small and medium supplier firms can deliver quality products and services on time.

Franchises for Growth and Opportunity in South Africa

The Black Integrated Commercial Support Network in South Africa, supported by USAID in conjunction with the American firm, Chemonics, focuses on three key financial activities in advancing the previously disadvantaged population: franchising; affirmative procurement; and growth, mergers and acquisitions. Only four years ago, franchising was a poorly understood concept with limited application in South Africa's disadvantaged communities. The Black Integrated Commercial Support Network project helped change that, making franchising a sought-after mechanism for business ownership and growth, and creating a momentum with results evident throughout the country's economic landscape today.

- Franchise ownership among disadvantaged groups doubled between 1992 and 1995, according to Parker Gordon Associates, a South African consulting firm.
- In 1996, disadvantaged groups owned almost 14 percent of franchises in South Africa, up from 9 percent in 1995.
- "In South Africa, franchising is a fast-growing sector and is considered a good way for new business to grow with less risk -- due to the presence of support systems and the marketing and pricing backups of the franchisor," said Trevor Fourie, marketing manager at FutureBank, a South African bank that targets historically disadvantaged clients.

Many franchising experts are quick to credit the Commercial Support Network project as a driving force in this development. They say the project almost single-handedly introduced franchising to the black and disadvantaged community in South Africa and praise its aggressive efforts to increase awareness of the opportunities franchising offers.

- South Africa's formal introduction to black franchising came in 1992 with an International Franchise Conference sponsored by the project. Attended by more than 300 business representatives and individuals, the conference was a keystone event for the franchising community in South Africa.
- The Commercial Support Network complemented the conference with a range of educational programs on franchising -- roughly one-and-a-half events per month in every commercial center of South Africa during a 27-month period. Educational events of this kind are the life blood of franchising. Those who attend are empowered to take the next step by formulating a concept and contacting professionals to advance them.

The Black Integrated Commercial Support Network project sparked the following seminal developments in what is now a widely accepted business model:

- Developing model systems for the first two black franchising companies in South Africa;
- Helping historically disadvantaged groups obtain franchise agreements with U.S. companies; and,
- Promoting black franchise ownership in business sectors and geographic areas where they had been excluded.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa

The transformation of South Africa from a security state that fomented hatred between people to a

rainbow nation symbolizing peace and reconciliation is nothing short of a modern miracle.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was established in 1995 to achieve national unity and reconciliation. The commission's mandate is to hear and investigate the atrocities that occurred during the apartheid era and grant amnesty for acts, omissions and offenses associated with political objectives. Although not a court of law, for it does not pronounce a verdict, the commission can recommend to the judiciary that it investigate allegations made.

- The commission operates on the assumption that only when the whole truth is known from both victims and perpetrators can true reconciliation begin. To date, 14,000 statements on rights abuses have been taken by the Commission and approximately 7,000 people have applied for amnesty.
- The commission will complete its formal work by April 30, 1998, and present its final report to President Mandela on July 31, 1998. It is expected that this report will lead to the formulation and passing of relevant human rights legislation to ensure that such abuses do not happen again.
- The U.S. government provides support to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission through a USAID assistance agreement signed in 1994 with the South African Ministry of Justice to improve and transform the system of justice.
- U.S. assistance has supported research, workshops, equipment, travel and technical assistance for the commission. USAID assistance has also provided for audiovisual recording and projection equipment that is used in documenting and disseminating the proceedings of the commission.
- The U.S. government is contributing additional funds to provide the necessary TV and radio broadcasting coverage of the commission proceedings, that otherwise would have ceased by December 31, 1997. These funds will also allow the commission to record the proceedings for inclusion in the national archives and will fund a team of field workers to assist the victims of human rights abuses fill out forms for applications for reparations. USAID's assistance to the commission follows the support it has provided to victims of human rights abuse since 1985.

President Mandela has approved the preparation of a popular version of the official report of the commission to be made available to the public at large. Amnesty hearings will continue through June 30, 1998, and Amnesty Committee findings will be incorporated into the final report. The commission has acknowledged that while efforts to complete the Amnesty Committee's work need to be intensified, it will not complete its work. Therefore, discussions involving the commission's leadership and the Amnesty Committee on options for completing the amnesty process are under way. The proposals will also be discussed with the Ministry of Justice.

Truth and Reconciliation Commission officials have repeatedly stressed that the process is the outcome of a political compromise, and that its mandate is to examine abuses by all sides and not just those by the former government. Nevertheless, controversy has often surrounded commission proceedings.

- The commission has asked a court of law to review the amnesties granted to 37 African National Congress leaders, including Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Minister of Defense Joe Modise, as well as Trevor Tutu, son of Archbishop Tutu. The National Party and the Democratic Party have voiced concern about the ruling, calling it a "blanket amnesty," something the commission legislation was designed to prevent. Commission officials have stated their understanding that the law does not provide for blanket amnesty, but requires full disclosure of individual acts. As the Amnesty Committee enjoys autonomy, however, its rulings may not be reversed by the commission but are open to judicial review.
- Commission officials vowed to seek prosecution against former President P.W. Botha should he fail to appear before the commission. Botha ignored earlier subpoenas ordering him to testify about the activities of the State Security Council that he headed. By failing to appear, Botha faces a fine or jail term.
- The commission held public hearings on the activities of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela and the Mandela United Football Club. Over nine days, numerous witnesses accused her of human rights abuses, including being an accessory to the kidnapping and/or murder of several Soweto youths and a Soweto doctor, Dr. Asvat.

Building Affordable Housing in South Africa

South Africa has a severe shortage of affordable housing. Since its inception in 1987, the non-governmental

organization People's Dialogue, in partnership with the Homeless People's Federation, has been the standard-bearer for South Africa's alternative housing movement. People's Dialogue, with USAID support, helps community-based organizations take ownership of the housing delivery process and successfully address their housing needs. People's Dialogue is one of the most independent, people-centered and sustainable institutions of its sort, since its strength lies in its deep community-based roots and the quality of its product -- not in its ability to attract donor funds. The organization has three key activities:

- Building Information and Training Centers, where members are trained in all aspects of the housing delivery process -- accessing government support, materials and building technology, construction skills, and financial management, to name but a few;
- Saving collectives, where members, 87 percent of whom are women, organize themselves into savings groups. Funds collected provide a source of quickly accessible short-term loans for emergencies and for longer-term income-generating activities; and,
- A revolving fund plan, the Utshani Savings Plan, that provides "bridge" financing for housing construction for members while they wait for the arrival of government support.

The Homeless People's Federation currently has several hundred savings plans involving thousands of low-income families functioning throughout South Africa. Victoria Mxenge is one of the federation's most successful and well-known sites. As in most of the Homeless People's Federation projects, the participants come together to discuss problems, monitor the savings plan and make key decisions on the size, quality and level of services for their dwelling. They also take part in the construction of their own homes and those of their neighbors.

- To date, the members of Victoria Mxenge have built 97 houses and laid foundations for 10 more.
- The project's crowning achievement is a large, two-story Building Information and Training Center, which will serve as a creche, health center, convenience store and meeting hall. The site is a monument to what people with few resources, yet a high degree of resourcefulness, can accomplish on their own.

Urban Reconstruction and Housing in South Africa

The National Urban Reconstruction and Housing Agency is a Presidential Lead Project under the South African government's Reconstruction and Development Program. The agency is a non-profit organization with the objective of overcoming the barriers inhibiting the successful delivery of low-income housing projects. The National Urban Reconstruction and Housing Agency's specific agenda includes three related programs:

- First, the organization provides capacity building grants to low-income communities so that they can organize and package housing projects for financing, often from the Republic of South Africa's Housing Subsidy Program;
- Second, the agency offers financing guarantees for lower-income households in order to reduce the risk to private lending institutions; and,
- Finally, the agency provides guarantees to private lending institutions offering bridging, or construction, financing to emerging housing developers. The guarantees are capped at 70 percent of the total value of the construction financing.

The agency was originally capitalized with a R20 million grant from the South African government and \$5 million from the Open Society Foundation. Since that time further resources have been committed by the Swedish Development Agency, the Rockefeller Foundation and USAID.

- The Open Society Foundation matches USAID contributions for the emerging developer program on a 1:3 basis. To date, the National Urban Reconstruction and Housing Agency has not had to pay out against any of the USAID-funded guarantees.
- USAID's resources have supported a total of 36 housing projects with over 5,100 housing units completed or under construction.
- The total value of the projects is in excess of \$15.5 million.

[OVERVIEWS](#)

[GHANA](#)

[UGANDA](#)

[SOUTH AFRICA](#)

[BOTSWANA](#)

[SENEGAL](#)

[OTHER PROGRAMS](#)



A NEW DAY IN AFRICA

BOTSWANA

[OVERVIEW](#) | [WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT](#) | [SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAM](#)

Vital Statistics

Population:	1,500,765
Population Density:	7 per sq. mile
Size:	224,607 sq. mile (a little smaller than Arizona and New Mexico combined)
GDP: (1995 est.)	\$4.5 billion
Per capita GDP:	\$3,200
Life Expectancy: (1997)	43.5 male, 45.6 female
Literacy: (1995)	70 percent
USAID Assistance 1997:	\$0.0

Overview: A Graduation Success Story

In September 1995, Botswana was "graduated" from U.S. development assistance -- the first African country to achieve a sustainable level of development. Over the course of 30 years, USAID made important contributions to the economic and social advancement of that country, including strengthening the voice of private enterprise, enhancing environmental management, slowing the population growth rate and improving basic education and training.

- USAID stimulated private sector-led growth and development. The Botswana Private Enterprise Development project generated investment totaling \$43.6 million in 1993 and \$29.6 million in 1994 -- 10 times the amount of U.S. concessional aid. The project helped generate 3,886 new jobs in 1993 and 2,663 more in 1994. Moreover, USAID efforts to strengthen the local chamber of commerce enabled it to take a strong advocacy role on issues of importance to the private sector.
- USAID's efforts to increase access and quality of basic education made the country's public school system an African showcase. Over a 10-year period, the number of primary schools increased 42 percent, while enrollment expanded 62 percent. USAID supported development of a new curriculum, and over 80 percent of the country's educators have been trained at various teacher training colleges constructed and equipped by the United States.
- Primary and junior secondary school enrollment is more than 90 percent and adult literacy is over 80 percent.
- Botswana has the second highest contraceptive prevalence rate (33 percent) and second lowest total fertility rate in Africa (5.0), as a direct result of USAID's leadership and assistance to family planning. USAID also strengthened primary health care delivery through establishing nursing education programs and forging an integrated delivery of maternal and child health and family planning services.
- With USAID support, the government of Botswana has taken a bold approach to wildlife and land management by placing direct control over the resources in the hands of the local community. The response has been tremendous, as local populations now have economic incentives to protect their natural resources rather than exploit them.

The agency believes this type of success story can be replicated elsewhere on the continent. Toward this end, USAID is formulating accelerated development strategies for several other African countries to enable them to graduate from U.S. assistance over the next five to seven years

Wildlife Management in Botswana

The Chobe Enclave and the surrounding Chobe National Park are home to Africa's largest herd of elephants. Situated on the northern border of Botswana, the Chobe Enclave remained isolated and impoverished for years. The government of Botswana selected the area as the first major trial of its new policy to decentralize wildlife management for the economic improvement of local communities.

- In 1989, USAID began to work with the government of Botswana and local residents in Chobe. Today, the enclave is Botswana's flagship demonstration of community-based natural resources management and is the longest-running project of its kind in the country.
- In 1992, residents of the five villages of the Chobe Enclave came together to form the Chobe Enclave Conservation Trust, with all permanent village residents as members. The Chobe Trust received the right to manage the wildlife quota from the area.
- The trust also negotiated a joint venture with a private safari operator, which helped create 55 jobs for community members. The Chobe Trust has earned around \$226,000 for members of its five villages and has produced about \$100,000 in employment and goods.
- Management at the local level has also reduced trophy-hunting licenses by 75 percent, reflecting the growing importance of wildlife-based tourism to the local economy and helping conserve the area's important biological diversity.

The principles that were developed in Chobe now form the core of Botswana's natural resources management program. To qualify for the right to manage an area's wildlife, a community must have a representative, accountable management group; plans for managing resources; and abide by the national guidelines on community-based management of natural resources.

- As a result of the success of community management in Chobe, 34 areas in Botswana -- one-fifth of the land area outside national parks -- now have been set aside for management by trusts. Six trusts have been established for managing wildlife, and three for managing other forest products.

Southern Africa Regional Program

The Initiative for Southern Africa was announced by USAID Administrator J. Brian Atwood in 1993. The initiative reflects USAID's vision of the promise of the southern Africa region with South Africa's transition to democracy, the end of armed conflicts in Mozambique and Angola, and the movement toward more open economies and political systems throughout the region.

The Initiative is implemented by USAID's Regional Center for Southern Africa, located in Gaborone, Botswana. The target funding level is \$300 million over the five-year period 1995-2000. The goal is to help achieve equitable, sustainable economic growth in a democratic southern Africa. Within this goal, USAID's strategy for the region focuses on three areas: building democracy, promoting broad-based economic growth and protecting the environment.

USAID's regional democracy program helps promote regional peace and stability and encourages the growth of democratic institutions and political systems. For example, the program has stimulated creation of a regional network of human rights non-governmental organizations.

USAID's regional economic growth program builds the foundation for an expansion of exports and regional trade. USAID's investments have improved rail and road infrastructure efficiency and have accelerated privatization and restructuring of telecommunications and railroads, both of which are critical to development. Examples of USAID's accomplishments in promoting economic growth include:

- USAID is working with the Southern African Development Community on a trade protocol that will expand regional trade.
- The \$100 million Southern Africa Enterprise Development Fund, established in late 1994, is financing indigenous small and medium-sized enterprises ranging from ostrich production to asset management and the financing of home mortgages.
- USAID has assisted several southern African countries with the establishment of improved management of national telecommunications regulatory bodies.

- USAID has assisted with the preparation of model legislation for telecommunications and transport sector restructuring. The legislation is currently being applied in three southern African countries.
- USAID is assisting with the privatization of the Zambia national telephone company.
- USAID has assisted with preparatory accounting and asset management work for privatization of Malawi Railways.

USAID's environmental program is reducing degradation resulting from the expansion of livestock and crop production into fragile lands and growing competition and conflict over the management of trans-boundary resources.

Considerable progress has been made:

- USAID is providing assistance to a regional network of environmental NGOs, governmental organizations and universities collaborating on development of sound environmental policies and strategies and is addressing critical needs for policies and training for managing transboundary natural resources.
- Community-based natural resource management initiatives supported by the agency have provided hundreds of thousands of dollars for communities from successful tourism ventures and the marketing of non-traditional forest products.
- USAID and SADC collaborative efforts with the World Conservation Union have resulted in the expansion of its more than 60 governmental and NGO members into environmental policy development, monitoring of trade in wildlife products and development of new environmental education materials.
- USAID supports the Southern African Center for Cooperation in Agricultural Research (SACCAR) and finances three regional agricultural research networks. Since their inception, these organizations have facilitated the release of more than 30 improved sorghum and millet varieties from among hundreds introduced and the selection of appropriate cassava and sweet potato lines for several agricultural zones.
- The heartwater disease control project is producing effective vaccines and tick repellents, technologies needed to control this disease, which attacks cattle.

OVERVIEWS GHANA UGANDA SOUTH AFRICA BOTSWANA SENEGAL OTHER PROGRAMS



A NEW DAY IN AFRICA

SENEGAL

[OVERVIEW](#) | [AIDS CONTROL](#) | [FREE MARKETS, RICE & SENEGAL](#) | [NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT](#)

Vital Statistics:

Population:	9,403,546
Population Density:	123 per sq. mile
Size:	75,951 sq. mile (about the size of Nebraska)
GDP: (1995 est.)	\$14.5 billion
Per capita GDP:	\$1,600
Life Expectancy: (1997)	54.2 male, 59.8 female
Literacy: (1995)	33 percent
USAID Assistance 1997:	\$21.3 million

Overview

Located on the edge of the Sahara Desert, Senegal exists at the constant mercy of capricious weather patterns, suffering major droughts in the 1970s and 1980s. Climate is a major cause of Senegal's continued need for development assistance. The United States and Senegal have a long history of productive cooperation. The U.S. is currently Senegal's fourth largest aid provider after France, Japan and Germany. Senegal is in many respects America's most important French-speaking partner in sub-Saharan Africa. It is one of the few stable, multiparty democracies in Africa. U.S. assistance has an impressive track record in Senegal.

Economic Progress

- Senegal's recent macroeconomic progress is robust - - gross domestic product rose by 5.2 percent in 1996 and inflation was lower than 3 percent.
- Senegal is privatizing its national airlines and oil processing industry.
- Price controls for rice have been dismantled as part of USAID-assisted economic reforms. Rice prices are now subject to the forces of supply and demand, and the elimination of subsidies is saving the Senegalese government more than \$20 million annually. The private sector has now taken over rice processing, importation and distribution.

Health and Family Planning

- USAID's family planning efforts are starting to make a difference in Senegal. Fertility rates have decreased from 6 percent in 1992 to around 5.7 in 1996. During this same period, use of modern contraceptives increased from 4.8 percent to 9 percent nationwide.
- Infant deaths decreased in four regions targeted for USAID support, from 72 per 1,000 in 1992 to 65 per 1,000 in 1996, a 9.7 percent improvement.
- The rate of HIV infection (about 1 percent), though slowly increasing, remains one of the lowest in all of Africa and continues to follow "best case" scenarios due to a very effective national AIDS prevention program supported by USAID.

- Thanks in part to USAID education programs, the number of Senegalese mothers who breastfeed exclusively for four months more than doubled in five years, a key effort in improving child survival.

Natural Resource Management:

- Rice yields in 22 valleys have increased 50.5 percent last year, due to the expanded use of environmental management techniques supported by USAID.
- USAID assistance has helped Senegal formulate a National Environmental Action Plan and establish local natural resource management committees. USAID is collaborating through a university consortium with 50 of Senegal's 320 Communautés Rurales -- administrative units corresponding roughly to a county -- to improve natural resources management and local governance. For example, a program with Africare has helped set up enterprise-based cooperatives in 56 communities. Most are headed by women, who for the first time, manage enterprises and commercial credit.
- USAID has worked with the government to institute a new forestry code. Farmers now have the right to make forestry land management decisions, and an increasing number of communities have established woodlots for the sale of fuelwood and poles for construction.
- USAID is also promoting land reclamation through two very successful programs. In the south, anti-salt and water retention dikes have led to a 20 percent increase in cultivated land. In the north, encroaching sand dunes have been stabilized through tree-planting. Other donors expanded on USAID's success so that, today, much of the northern coast -- covering 4,000 hectares -- has been reforested and is now Senegal's primary vegetable production zone.

Democratic Governance

- Senegal held its first-ever local elections in 1996. USAID helped with a voter education effort that led to the creation of the National Observation of Elections, a neutral body supported by all of Senegal's major parties. The body will monitor all the nation's elections to assure they are transparent, open and fair.

USAID's Senegal strategy for 1998 through 2006 has three key targets: catalyzing the private sector to become the engine of economic growth; empowering local people through decentralization; and improving child survival, maternal health, family planning and AIDS prevention.

AIDS Control in Senegal

Senegal has one of the lowest levels of HIV prevalence, about 1.4 percent, and incidence of HIV infection in Africa. These low levels are largely due to early, aggressive control efforts and AIDS prevention measures that have been in place in Senegal since 1985. USAID has been a key partner in this effort. The AIDS prevention effort has helped reduce high-risk behavior within target groups and strengthened service delivery to reduce the spread of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. USAID has supported the National AIDS Control Program in a number of ways.

- USAID is funding radio and television spots, distribution of posters, information and education conferences, sporting and cultural events and meetings of political, administrative and religious leaders to raise awareness about AIDS and encourage behavior change to reduce HIV transmission. Training manuals in different local languages have been developed to reach youth and sexually active men and women throughout the country.
- There have been three major ground breaking efforts in addressing AIDS and health policy in Senegal. The first two events were separate two-day colloquiums organized for Muslim and Christian religious leaders to provide basic information on AIDS and to assist them in defining their roles and responsibilities in the fight against AIDS. Several recommendations were made by the religious leaders themselves to intensify AIDS-related community information, education and communication activities. The religious leaders themselves have called for a partnership between Christian and Muslim leaders. The third major event was a two-day conference for more than 50 parliamentarians that took place at the National Assembly in 1996 to sensitize these decision makers to the AIDS epidemic.
- Aristide Le Dantec Hospital AIDS Laboratory (the laboratory of Bacteriology and Virology) is a leading West African research facility and serves as a training site for the entire region. The lab is in charge of epidemiological surveillance of HIV infections in Senegal, and it has received USAID support in the form of equipment. The lab has sentinel surveillance sites across the country and maintains a close collaboration with

off-shore universities, including Harvard. The lab is headed by the internationally respected Professor Souleymane MBoup, one of the key investigators to discover HIV-2.

- Since 1985, USAID provided the National AIDS Control Program with more than 10 million condoms for distribution to commercial sex workers, patients with sexually transmitted diseases, youths and adults. In addition, since 1995, USAID has been promoting social marketing efforts through an NGO to get pharmacies and other vendors to more widely and consistently stock condoms.

Free Markets, Rice and Senegal: A Success Story

Over the past 30 years, the people of Senegal grew accustomed to inexpensive government-controlled prices for imported rice. In fact, the affordability of rice was often viewed as an indicator of an urban worker's standard of living in Senegal. During the past 30 years, there were also substantial investments in infrastructure for domestic rice production, particularly in the delta portion of the Senegal River valley. However, the cost of the Senegalese rice remained high compared with world prices.

Until four years ago, two state corporations dominated imports, distribution, production, prices and marketing for rice in Senegal. Government agencies ran an overall rice supply system that was cumbersome and inefficient. The two state rice corporations were also consistently money losers for the government. To help Senegal remove these constraints, USAID designed a reform program within the framework of the World Bank-led, multidonor agricultural program designed to establish a private market for rice.

- The result: Today, the rice market in Senegal is not only privatized, but is functioning smoothly. Senegal has completely privatized the collection, purchasing and processing of paddy rice. Government-controlled rice prices and subsidies have been eliminated. Prices are now determined by supply and demand.
- Similarly, the rice marketing board has been liquidated and its tasks are now entirely in the hands of the private sector.
- A new information system, established with the help of U.S. assistance, provides timely, reliable and regular information to all market participants on international and domestic rice markets.

The rice policy reforms have had a major positive impact on traders and producers alike.

- Preliminary analysis suggests that the annual cost-savings from eliminating government rice subsidies is about \$20 million.
- The reforms have also led to increased income for rice traders. For example, the state-run rice marketing board contracted to buy rice from only three foreign exporters. In contrast, private importers contracted with 15 foreign exporters to buy rice immediately after the reforms, diversifying the base of supply and assuring competitive prices for Senegalese consumers.
- The elimination of the inefficient government subsidy for rice production in the Senegal River Valley has allowed farmers, particularly those with larger farms and high water costs, to diversify and grow several new crops, such as cotton, peanuts, potatoes and other vegetables, which have boosted their incomes. In addition, local rice has become more competitive on the market as farmers have become more efficient.
- In times of drought, the Senegalese have had to import and stock huge quantities of rice to provide food aid. Now sufficient private stocks are in the country at all times to meet such emergency needs.

The success of these rice reforms supported by USAID contrasts sharply with difficulties experienced in the past in restructuring various other commodities in Senegal. This successful model of reform will be very useful as Senegal looks to expand the role of the private sector as the engine of economic growth.

Natural Resource Management in Senegal

Community-based natural resource management supports democracy at the local level and preserves the environment for future generations. USAID has worked for several years with the U.S. non-governmental organization Africare on community-based environmental approaches in over 60 villages in the province of Kaolack, in Senegal. USAID is collaborating through a university consortium with 50 of Senegal's 320 Communautés Rurales -- administrative units corresponding roughly to a county -- to improve natural resources management and local governance.

Community environmental management offers many women their first opportunities to play significant roles in community decision-making. While many talk about the rights of women and other disenfranchised groups, these environmental programs have often been the first to demonstrate to communities that everyone would be better off if women played a greater role in politics and the economy. Senegalese women are making the most of it by proving that they are competent managers of both businesses and the environment.

- For example, the Africare program has helped set up enterprise-based cooperatives in 56 communities. Most are headed by women who, for the first time, manage enterprises and commercial credit.
- As one woman who is a member of such a cooperative said: "This is the first time in my life that I have stood up in front of a group of people from outside the community and talked about what I do."

USAID is supporting a consortium of American institutes of higher learning that aims to empower local communities to better manage their natural resources, improve their economic productivity and, thus, better develop their responsibilities in the democratic process.

A local environmental committee is democratically elected in each of the rural communities, including representatives of all local interest groups such as women, youths and herders. The local committee works together with a wider support team, which includes non-governmental and extension agents who provide services for water, soil, forestry, agriculture, livestock and home economics. The local teams' capacities are strengthened through training sessions in literacy, administrative management, building consensus, rural appraisal and nursery management.

To define and achieve their goals, committees use a land-use management plan, developed by each rural community in collaboration with the partners in the project. The hands-on, participatory, diagnostic exercises preceding formulation of the land-use management plan are part of an ongoing process of local-level appraisal. This approach is designed to progressively empower local populations to make significant decisions with respect to their natural resources.

- One critical aspect of the plan is the contribution by the local population. No assistance is provided unless the community puts up resources first. This increases the ownership of the effort by the local population.
- This natural resource management program includes collaboration with the Peace Corps. Peace Corps volunteers serve in some rural communities, and three training centers serve farmers' training needs in improved environmental management.
- Currently, under the university-led program, 15 rural communities have developed their land use management plans, and five of these are already implementing priority activities identified under the plans.



A NEW DAY IN AFRICA

OTHER AFRICA PROGRAMS

[ECONOMIC GROWTH](#) | [DEMOCRACY](#) | [EDUCATION](#) | [ENVIRONMENT](#) | [HEALTH & FAMILY PLANNING](#) | [HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE](#)

The U.S. Agency for International Development has activities in many other sub-Saharan African countries. The following information provides you with a brief overview of some of these activities. In each instance, the link leads you to a more complete description of the item.

Economic Growth:

- [A Woman Grows a Small Business Large in Kenya](#) USAID assistance has been crucial in helping tens-of-thousands of women in Africa start small businesses or "microenterprises." In December 1993, Mrs. S.W. Wanjohi was an elementary school teaaacher in mathematics, science and religious education. She loved working with the students, but that month, with downsizing, she resigned. The following month, with the assistance of her husband, an accountant in Nairobi, Mrs. Wanjohi started a microenterprise business.
- [Restucturing Malawi's Economy](#) With USAID help, Malawi is privatizing its economy, disbanding inefficient state-run enterprises and introducing free-market reforms in agriculture. Malawi's economy is primarily agricultural. The government is privatizing state-run agricultural corporations and has eliminated the exclusive role of the agricultural marketing board in pricing commodities. Government intervention is now limited to the maize market, where a wide price band has been established, and small farmers are now free to cultivate more lucrative cash crops and a wider range of food crops.
- [Cutting Red Tape in Mozambique](#) Fundamental changes are occurring in Mozambique as economic and political reforms proceed hand-in-hand. One striking example of the synergy between economic and political reform is found in the improving environment for doing business.
- [Empowering the Private Sector in Zambia](#) Zambia is a good case study of USAID's effort to empower the private sector in Africa. USAID has assisted the Zambian government in privatizing state-owned enterprises, in ending inefficient subsidies and in providing business know-how -- including banking, legal analysis, marketing and public relations -- to nascent small and medium-sized enterprises.
- [Easing Zimbabwe's Housing Shortage](#) Zimbabwe's major cities have growth rates of 6 percent to 7 percent annually. By the turn of the century, 40 percent of Zimbabwe's people will live in urban areas.
- [Building Microenterprises in Zimbabwe](#) According to surveys, microenterprises are the sole source of income for well over half of Zimbabwe's households. USAID is stimulating this critical sector of Zimbabwe's economy through Zambuko Trust, a Zimbabwean non-governmental organization providing microfinancing to small start-up businesses. Zambuko's average loan is about \$150. The largest loan it has made to date is \$2,500, to a woman who operates a thriving transportation company. Zambuko's clients are frequently women who run informal, shoestring operations with fewer than 10 employees.
- [The West Africa Enterprise Network](#) The West African Enterprise is a regional association of 300 businessmen and women from 12 countries in West Africa, including nine francophone countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo;

and three anglophone countries: Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria.

- **Roads to Growth in Tanzania** Since 1988, USAID Tanzania's Agricultural Transport Assistance Program has helped improve rural roads in Tanzania. Through a process of leveraging foreign currency for policy reforms, the project has consistently encouraged Tanzania to adopt policies, implement new procedures and commit funding for improving road access into Tanzania's key agricultural regions.
- **Financial Reform in Tanzania** USAID's financial sector reform program has played a pivotal role in Tanzania's transformation from a centrally planned, socialistic economy to a private sector-led and market-based approach.

Democracy:

- **Supporting Democracy in Malawi** After 30 years of repressive one-party rule, Malawi joined the family of democratic nations with free and fair national elections in May 1994. One of USAID's major objectives in Malawi is to increase Malawian participation in transparent and accountable political and economic institutions. Malawi's new democratic institutions are young and fragile, and the executive branch is the dominant arm of government.
- **Human Rights Training in Angola** USAID and World Learning, an American NGO based in Brattleboro, Vermont, have been working together to strengthen Angola's judicial system. In the past, most Angolan prisoners spent years in jail before being brought to trial, and pre-trial jail time often still exceeds the maximum statutory prison term for a prisoner's accused crime.

Education:

- **Strengthening Basic Education in Malawi** Malawi's potential for economic growth is slowed by that nation's high levels of illiteracy. Free primary education was introduced in 1994, dramatically increasing school enrollment but exacerbating problems of overcrowding, poor teacher training and inadequate teaching materials. USAID supports decentralization of education in Malawi as a means to improve financial accountability while improving the quality and efficiency of public education, with a special focus on improving the relevance of the curriculum for girls.
- **The Link Between Education Reform and Democracy in Mali** Djeneba, an adolescent girl listens as the discussion by the village elders gradually gets to its real point: the moment has come for the village to decide what to do with their children after primary school. Djeneba and her classmates, now in the fifth grade, will take an exam next year to be eligible to enter intermediate school. Some will pass and leave the village to go to the nearest intermediate school, 15 miles away. Others will not pass, or will decide that they wish to stay with their families in Yeredonbougou.

Environment:

- **Preserving a Natural Paradise in Madagascar** The creation of Masoala National Park in Madagascar offers a good example of the importance of USAID's environmental work in Africa. The first decree signed by Madagascar's newly elected President Didier Ratsiraka created the 840-square-mile Masoala National Park in March 1997. Masoala represents the largest protected area in Madagascar to date. The establishment of this biodiversity-rich park results from a seven-year team effort between Malagasy environmental institutions and international non-governmental organizations, with funding from USAID and strong support from the U.S. Embassy.
- **Fighting El Nino in Southern Africa** El Niño is recognized as a potential harbinger of drought in many parts of the world, including southern Africa. As El Niño awareness rises, so does the concern about its possible effect on food supply over the next few years.
- **Namibia's Nyae Nyae Conservancy** The "Bushmen," also called Ju/Hoansi, in southern Africa are among the world's most disadvantaged indigenous peoples. The Ju/Hoansi trace their ancestry back 30,000 years and are believed to descend from the world's oldest inhabitants. Before independence, the Ju/Hoansi's of Nyae Nyae in eastern Namibia had a history marked

by loss of land, deliberate marginalization from the social and economic mainstream, and endemic poverty.

Health and Family Planning:

- [Combating Polio in Madagascar](#) U.S. Public and Private Efforts in Madagascar Help Achieve 99 Percent Coverage in First Polio Eradication Campaign About 16 percent of young children in Madagascar die before their fifth birthday. These children die primarily from common childhood diseases in Madagascar such as measles, pneumonia and polio, and from infections that kill them because they are malnourished. Many of these children die because their parents don't always have the means to feed them properly and to make sure they are vaccinated. Many die because basic health services are not available to almost 50 percent of Madagascar's 13.8 million people living in isolated, mountainous towns and villages.
- [Meeting Malawi's Health and Family Planning Challenges](#) Malawi faces daunting health and family planning challenges.
- [Zimbabwe's Commitment to Family Planning](#) Zimbabwe's family planning program is considered to be the most successful in sub-Saharan Africa. The results are impressive.

Humanitarian Assistance:

- [Conflict Resolution in the Greater Horn of Africa](#) Though often eclipsed by the conflicts ongoing elsewhere in the region, the Horn of Africa provides one of Africa's best examples of both good news and of African attempts -- and successes -- in resolving African conflicts.
- [Angolan Orphans Restore Hope to Farm Families](#) With USAID support, Angolan orphans from the Gaiatos Home have worked with the U.S. non-governmental organization World Vision to multiply and harvest 11 metric tons of improved-variety maize seed. These seeds have then been used to enable more than 3,600 vulnerable Angolan farm families to begin production again after the disruption of that nation's protracted civil war.
- [Mozambique's Peace Dividend](#) Ten years ago, Mozambique was a failed state, bankrupt and slipping into chaos and self-destruction as a consequence of civil war and Marxist policies. Today, that country has moved beyond crisis. Although daunting challenges remain, a fundamental political and economic transformation is taking place due in part to American leadership and effective assistance.
- [Rebuilding Rwanda's Devastated Farm Communities](#) Rwanda is a fertile country, but the devastating 1994 war almost destroyed the country's farming base. Land was left to grow wild, homes were destroyed and tools stolen. A season's growth was lost and returning farmers lacked the seed stock and tools they desperately needed to rebuild their lives. USAID has responded to the crisis and is partnering with the private voluntary organization World Vision to provide hundreds of thousands of peasant farmers tools and seeds and to help reorganize farm associations.
- [The Africa Food Security Initiative](#) The Africa Food Security Initiative (AFSI) is part of a broad collaboration between African governments and the United States to promote agriculture and food security as a means to improve childhood nutrition, generate income for rural families and combat hunger. The Africa Food Security Initiative is an important complement to the President's Greater Horn of Africa Initiative that is working to promote regional cooperation and prevent crises and conflict in the Greater Horn.

U.S. Agency for International Development A Woman Grows a Small Business Large in Kenya

USAID assistance has been crucial in helping tens-of- thousands of women in Africa start small businesses or microenterprises. In December 1993, Mrs. S.W. Wanjohi was an elementary school teacher in mathematics, science and religious education. She loved working with the students, but that month, with downsizing, she resigned. The following month, with the assistance and expertise of her husband, an accountant in Nairobi, Mrs.Wanjohi started a microenterprise business.

Mrs. Wanjohi describes it as a wholesale business that, at first, had very few items in the inventory -- such as maize and BAT cigarettes. She really did not know where to get materials, she confesses. Mrs. Wanjohi transported items to retail shops in the area and took them by bicycle to customers farther away. Mrs. Wanjohi had to make trips to the manufacturers to get the supplies for the store. She says it was very hard at first.

Toward the end of her first year in business, Mrs. Wanjohi found out about the Kenyan Rural Enterprise Program supported by USAID and the possibility of a loan that would enable her to purchase more supplies for her store and increase her meager inventory.

Mrs. Wanjohi joined the a microenterprise group, applied for a loan through the group from the enterprise program, and shortly afterward was given a \$330 loan. She paid it back within three months, and then applied for another for \$1,000. This one also was repaid within three months.

Mrs. Wanjohi says it was the third loan from the enterprise program that "really helped me." It was for \$5,000 and enabled her to start distributing a popular traditional liquor. This loan was repaid within 12 months, in 1997.

Last year, Mrs. Wanjohi was awarded a \$8,300 loan to start a transport business. She bought a truck and can now transport building materials and general hardware to merchants and construction companies. She sells everything to anyone who builds anything, she proudly states. Now Mrs. Wanjohi is saving for another truck. The truck enables increased sales on big-ticket construction items. One of her big challenges continues to be knowing where to get supplies. It was necessary, she states, to devote lots of time to research in marketing and search for outlets with good quality products at competitive prices.

Fifteen employees now work for Mrs. Wanjohi. She is very pleased that she is able to provide employment for so many others.

Mrs. Wanjohi said it has been hard, the hardest part being overcoming the competition. That is why she has diversified. In the beginning she concentrated on five products, now its 10. She says one business strategy that helps is being quick to respond to clients. When customers call for supplies, she wants to deliver them right away. The truck, therefore, has helped a great deal. But for the smaller jobs, bicycles are more cost-effective since they require no overhead.

Advice from Mrs. Wanjohi, a soft-spoken woman, is, "Do not fear. Work hard, and see yourself succeeding -- not failing. There is a lot of sacrifice at first, until things get going." Mrs. Wanjohi also said, Please tell more women about the Kenyan Rural Enterprise Program. Many want to start a business, but do not know how to go about it, and usually lack the capital to start. The enterprise program is the only way to get going." Mrs. Wanjohi noted that she has always had excellent responses and opportunity through the enterprise program and is grateful it is part of her microenterprise business and thankful, also, that USAID began its support for microenterprise entrepreneurs.

U.S. Agency for International Development Restructuring Malawi's Economy

With USAID help, Malawi is privatizing its economy, disbanding inefficient state-run enterprises and introducing free-market reforms in agriculture. Malawi's economy is primarily agricultural. The government is privatizing state-run agricultural corporations and has eliminated the exclusive role of the agricultural marketing board in pricing commodities. Government intervention is now limited to the maize market, where a wide price band has been established, and small farmers are now free to cultivate more lucrative cash crops and a wider range of food crops.

A significant reduction in transportation costs, essential to improving financial returns to Malawi's small farmers, was achieved by restructuring Malawi Railways and by developing a transport policy to encourage domestic and regional competition. With USAID assistance, Malawi Railways formally privatized and restructured itself in 1995 and is now operating without government subsidy. Substantial savings in transport costs have resulted as competition between rail and road routes increases.

Malawi's 2.2 million small farmers are clearly evolving from subsistence farmers to participants in a dynamic exchange economy. This agricultural revolution is revitalizing the rural economy and laying the foundation for accelerated economic growth. Small farmers are responding rapidly to price signals and new market opportunities by adjusting cropping patterns to maximize profits.

Rural trade is rapidly expanding as private traders respond to the elimination of subsidies and price controls. Between 1995 and 1996, agricultural sector gross domestic product increased by 38.9 percent due both to good weather and the impact of reforms. While growing conditions were only average in 1996, Malawi's crop production increased significantly.

Private sale of fertilizer reached 57 percent of the market in 1996, reducing prices due to increased competition.

By the end of 1996, the new government of Malawi had balanced the budget, lowered interest and inflation rates, increased foreign reserves, stabilized the market-determined value of the currency and lowered deficits.

In 1995 and 1996, Malawi registered 9.0 percent and 9.5 percent overall gross domestic product growth, respectively, and is now poised for even better private sector-led performance.

The government, working in partnership with USAID, continues to expand its commitment to health, primary education, agriculture and the environment. USAID's role in that change has been pivotal, particularly in small farmer agriculture and basic education.

U.S. Agency for International Development Cutting Red Tape in Mozambique

Fundamental changes are occurring in Mozambique as economic and political reforms proceed hand-in-hand. One striking example of the synergy between economic and political reform is found in the improving environment for doing business.

In 1994, in a very early test of post-war democratization, the Commercial Association of Beira, Mozambique's second largest city, launched a broadside through the independent media alleging that the government's budget policies viewed successful businesses as criminal. The initial government reaction was typically old-school, with a spate of raids by tax authorities on the business community. But the association's willingness to speak out publicly quickly led, with USAID's encouragement and assistance, to a formal dialogue between the private sector and government.

- For the first time ever, the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism held a conference with the private sector in 1995 and promised a series of reforms. Soon after the conference, a simplified and more rational tariff schedule was introduced.

- Another result of the conference was a "Red Tape Analysis" outlining government-imposed roadblocks faced by the private sector. The study included a comparison that became a reform mantra widely reported in the press: A company wishing to incorporate in Mozambique and invest \$500,000 would spend at least six months and up to \$50,000; incorporation in Delaware would take less than a month and cost \$110.

In the wake of the report, the ministry asked private sector leaders to begin discussions with a government group charged with policy reform, and an inter-ministerial group was promised to pursue actions involving labor, law and finance. Impressive progress has been made since 1995. The process of government-private sector dialogue is well under way and beginning to show concrete results.

- One of the most exciting developments is the establishment, with USAID assistance, of a Mozambican system for alternative dispute resolution, a voluntary non-governmental arbitration approach for commercial disputes with far-reaching implications for broadening access to legal protection in Mozambique. Sparked by the private sector, aired and debated by the independent media, responded to in innovative ways by an elected government, these changes in the business environment are truly a remarkable example of how a more open civil society and forward-looking leaders working together can reinforce economic reform.

U.S. Agency for International Development Empowering the Private Sector in Zambia

Zambia is a good case study of USAID's effort to empower the private sector in Africa. USAID has assisted the Zambian government in privatizing state-owned enterprises, in ending inefficient subsidies and in providing business know-how -- including banking, legal analysis, marketing and public relations -- to nascent small and medium-sized enterprises.

One way USAID provides this business expertise is through the International Executive Service Corps (IESC), a group that sends volunteers from many of America's best companies to help other businesses around the globe.

- In Lusaka, Zambia, an IESC volunteer helped the Oven Fresh Bakery in Lusaka modernize and develop a long-term business plan. Within three years, the bakery's revenue increased from \$57,000 to over \$1.2 million, and employment increased from an unskilled work force of eight in 1992 to a skilled work force of 60 by 1995.

For years Zambia's approach to agriculture cost the government millions of dollars in subsidies. With technical support to Zambia's Ministry of Agriculture, USAID helped Zambia develop non-subsidized approaches. In 1993, Zambia liberalized its maize market, eliminated subsidies and decontrolled prices.

- In 1994, USAID officers interviewed Fabian Mungule, a high school student selling 28 bags of maize in the Monze market, one of Zambia's drought-hit areas. Fabian had brought the maize from Kabwe, a maize-surplus area. During the school vacation, this student had started small -- marketing one bag in the Kabwe district market, using his bicycle for transport.

- Fabian was now moving maize between districts, renting transport on large, 10-ton trucks. He parlayed his initial investment of \$8.50 into a total gross sales revenue from his 28 bags of \$574. More importantly, he responded to free-market incentives by broadening his own employment and income opportunities, while providing a valuable service to consumers in areas suffering a food shortfall due to poor rainfall.

Zambia reflects USAID's belief that economic development can be driven by national-level reforms and grassroots efforts to encourage entrepreneurship.

U.S. Agency for International Development Easing Zimbabwe's Housing Shortage

Zimbabwe's major cities have growth rates of 6 percent to 7 percent annually. By the turn of the century, 40 percent of Zimbabwe's people will live in urban areas.

- At present, over a million families lack adequate shelter. More than 600,000 individuals are on housing waiting lists, 100,000 of those in the capital of Harare.

- Prior to USAID's Private Sector Housing Program, Zimbabwe's housing production levels were 79 percent lower than the average for sub-Saharan African nations. This, combined with a lack of access to mortgage financing, blocked low-income families from home ownership.

Since 1992, low-income mortgages have increased 13-fold, with more low-income families becoming home owners than ever before. Serviced low-income plots have tripled, and the construction price of a minimum standard house has decreased by 96 percent.

- Over \$35 million in private sector resources have been mobilized for low-income housing; two new Zimbabwean building societies and six new Zimbabwean land survey firms have been formed.

On the policy level, the government has agreed to redirect its National Housing Fund resources away from the production of middle-income housing toward more low-income units.

- U.S. firms have entered the Zimbabwean low-income market, bringing in new American technology and importing approximately \$1 million of U.S.-made equipment.

USAID support began in 1980 with two Housing Guaranty loans totaling \$50 million. USAID uses loan guarantees for housing loans rather than providing dollar funding. The program has financed over 19,300 serviced plots, more than 7,500 core houses, approximately 17,000 self-help housing construction loans and a variety of community and commercial services. USAID launched a comprehensive program in 1992, the largest shelter construction program in the history of Zimbabwe.

U.S. Agency for International Development Building Microenterprises in Zimbabwe

According to surveys, microenterprises are the sole source of income for well over half of Zimbabwe s households. USAID is stimulating this critical sector of Zimbabwe s economy through Zambuko Trust, a Zimbabwean non-governmental organization providing microfinancing to small start-up businesses. Zambuko's average loan is about \$150. The largest loan it has made to date is \$2,500, to a woman who operates a thriving transportation company. Zambuko's clients are frequently women who run informal, shoestring operations with fewer than 10 employees.

- Over 6,000 people, primarily women, owe their possibilities for business survival and success to the small loans from Zambuko.
- Over 95 percent of the loans are repaid in a timely fashion.
- As a result of the Zambuko loans, many of the women expect to be able to expand their businesses from less than four paid staff to around 10. This will allow them to become registered taxpaying enterprises with access to previously unavailable formal lines of credit.

As a result of a USAID-funded study, the Zambuko board of directors has decided that it would like to continue to be a people s bank, providing economic opportunities to poor businesspeople. Although USAID recently facilitated a loan of \$50,000 to Zambuko by Barclays Bank for lending capital, Zambuko's goal is to raise \$5 million in equity financing so it can become a registered bank, lending accumulated savings rather than depending on donor support.

Zambuko was the result of a partnership between Opportunity International, a U.S. non- governmental organization, and a newly formed Zimbabwe NGO. Opportunity International is a consortium of 52 U.S. NGOs focusing on microlending as a way to stimulate the economy, attract investment and promote indigenous ownership.

The West African Enterprise is a regional association of 300 businessmen and women from 12 countries in West Africa, including nine francophone countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo; and three anglophone countries: Gambia, Ghana and Nigeria.

The network was created in 1993 and has quickly grown from an informal association of 35 members in seven countries to a legally registered and formally chartered organization of 300 members in 12 countries. The West African Enterprise Network pursues a dual mission: to improve the business climate in West Africa and to promote cross-border trade and investment in the region.

West African Enterprise Network membership is comprised essentially of second-generation West African entrepreneurs who have invested their own equity in their own enterprises. Membership is selective, to ensure unity of purpose among members. However, each of the national networks strives to obtain a diversity of sectoral representation within its membership.

The West African Enterprise Network is legally registered in Accra, Ghana, as an international NGO. Its headquarters also houses the West African Enterprise Network Regional Trade Information Center which publishes a quarterly bilingual newsletter and a monthly Trade Flash of business opportunities for members.

The West African Enterprise Network has organized three major regional events. The first, a regional conference held in Accra, Ghana in November 1993, addressed four obstacles to private sector development in West Africa:

- Insufficient dialogue with government;
- A lack of competitiveness;
- Low levels of national entrepreneurship; and,
- Inadequate means for financial restructuring of indigenous firms.

The second regional conference was also held in Accra, in November 1995, and addressed obstacles to regional trade and established a private sector-driven action plan for removing constraints to monetary transfers, border crossings and regional transport.

The third regional conference, held in November 1996 in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire, was the first West African Enterprise Network General Assembly, attended by 360 persons, including 225 self-financed entrepreneurs from the West African private sector; 60 representatives from the offshore private sector, among them world leaders in agro-processing, packaging and telecommunications; 45 representatives from multilateral, regional and bilateral institutions; and 30 representatives from local and international press.

The West African Enterprise Network has maintained close ties to a number of donor agencies, regional institutions and foreign private sector organizations, including USAID, OECD/Club du Sahel, the French Ministry of Cooperation, Caisse Francaise de Developpement Group, the World Bank, the Canadian International Development Agency, European Union, Overseas Development Agency, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the West Africa Committee, CIAN (France) and Corporate Council on Africa (USA).

- USAID has been particularly prominent as an early and steadfast supporter of the West African Enterprise Network. Though USAID provided critical seed funds, from the outset, the West African Enterprise Network was designed to be self-supporting, and members now pay subscription fees that support the costs of the newsletter, trade flash and the national and regional meetings.

- USAID continues to be a key supporter of the West African Enterprise Network both directly and indirectly. The agency provides technical assistance to the West African Enterprise Network and works with other donors to assure that West African Enterprise Network retains leadership and control of its own agenda. USAID is also instrumental in promoting private sector approaches to development in both bilateral and multilateral arenas in West Africa.

During 1997, USAID's work program with the West African Enterprise Network included facilitating work on banking and trade issues, linking them more closely to ECOWAS and the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

U.S. Agency for International Development Roads to Growth in Tanzania

Since 1988, USAID Tanzania's Agricultural Transport Assistance Program has helped improve rural roads in Tanzania. Through a process of leveraging foreign currency for policy reforms, the project has consistently encouraged Tanzania to adopt policies, implement new procedures and commit funding for improving road access into Tanzania's key agricultural regions.

From the very beginning, USAID's resources have been directed towards assisting with the implementation of institutional reforms. Encouraged and supported by USAID resources and conditionality, the Tanzania has:

- Consolidated road policy and management oversight into one ministry from three;
- Transferred the responsibility for road construction and maintenance activities from government brigades to private sector companies -- launching a major growth industry;
- Decentralized responsibility for road operations from headquarters to regional offices;
- Initiated a prioritization process which includes social, economic, and environmental criteria in addition to technical factors; and,
- Established a "sustainability analysis" review of projects prior to funding.

Each of these reforms have dramatically improves road rehabilitation and maintenance. Additional reforms are in progress. One of project's most notable accomplishments has been its success in convincing the Tanzania to use the private sector rather than government-employed brigades to carry out road rehabilitation and maintenance. As a result, rural road access is rapidly improving and a major new growth industry is being developed. Specific accomplishments include:

- The rehabilitation, by private contractors, of 1,000 km of rural roads.
- The construction or reconstruction, by private contractors, of 120 bridge projects;
- The use of private contractors to perform design and construction supervision activities;
- An increase in the Tanzania's annual level of rural road routine maintenance from virtually zero in 1988 to over 4,800 km in 1997; and,
- An increase in the number of private road industry contractors from 30 to over 500.

USAID-funded roadworks have had a profoundly positive effect on the income

and social welfare of Tanzania's rural population. Transportation of people and goods in the rural areas has shown tremendous improvement. For example, on-the-ground studies of several road improvements carried out through the project found that:

- Average daily traffic on some routes has increased four-fold;
- Passenger traffic levels have increased up to 10 times;
- Passenger fares have dropped as much as 30 percent;
- Vehicle operating costs have decreased by up to two-thirds; and,
- Travel times have decreased by a half.

Small businesses have also benefitted from these efforts. Retail shops and vendors now appear at weekly and monthly community markets. Permanent retail shops along improved roads show an increase in daily sales ranging from 50 percent to 140 percent.

Agricultural production and sales have also improved rapidly once roads are completed. Land values have risen significantly, often doubling or tripling, and farmers have taken advantage of reliable transport to diversify into more perishable and profitable crops.

U.S. Agency for International Development Financial Reform in Tanzania

USAID's financial sector reform program has played a pivotal role in Tanzania's transformation from a centrally planned, socialistic economy to a private sector-led and market-based approach.

- Tanzania went from having no privately-owned banks and financial institutions in 1992, to having over 15 by 1997. This is a remarkable achievement in a country dominated by a state-owned bank which had controlled over 90 percent of deposits nationwide.

- During this period, foreign exchange controls were gradually removed, and the Tanzanian Shilling is now freely convertible, according to IMF regulations and requirements.

- Of course, the entry of new financial institutions had to be met with appropriate controls and supervision. A USAID-funded program addressed this need by developing a program in which over 100 central bank professionals received training in the United States, principally with the Federal Reserve Bank and Controller of the Currency programs.

- An in-country training program for mid-level bank examiners and others was developed with USAID assistance, and later expanded to include senior finance officers from the private sector. The reform program also included portfolio reviews of two troubled state-owned financial institutions, leading eventually to their closure.

USAID also assisted in the elaboration of parliamentary legislation which permitted the Bank of Tanzania to reassume the role of a traditional central bank. The Bank Act also incorporated the Bank of Zanzibar and placed control of fiscal and monetary policy with the Bank of Tanzania. A Treasury Bill market was established and is now fully functioning, as well as a secondary trading market in these securities. The Bank of Tanzania is recognized as one of the leading central banks in sub-Saharan Africa, managed by a core of well-trained professionals of the highest integrity.

U.S. Agency for International Development Supporting Democracy in Malawi

After 30 years of repressive one-party rule, Malawi joined the family of democratic nations with free and fair national elections in May 1994. One of USAID's major objectives in Malawi is to increase Malawian participation in transparent and accountable political and economic institutions. Malawi's new democratic institutions are young and fragile, and the executive branch is the dominant arm of government.

USAID efforts have helped to strengthen parliament by establishing a structure for oversight committees and a caucus structure and bolstered the judiciary through training and computerization. USAID has also assisted the electoral commission by establishing a permanent secretariat and improving the administration of elections. Malawi is making impressive progress in democratic governance:

- Parliament has held open debates, made amendments to legislation introduced by the executive, passed comprehensive anti-corruption legislation and passed a new, internationally acceptable constitution enshrining the human rights of all Malawians.
- The electoral commission has successfully conducted free and fair parliamentary elections in several districts with no outside support and dealt with reported incidents of intimidation.
- Rule of law has not only been accepted, but is widely respected.

The Women s Caucus, to which all women members of Parliament belong, represents a notable success in the development of representative government. Members from different political parties have been working together to support the reform of legislation that discriminates against women. As a result, five new laws have been drafted to replace older laws that discriminated against women.

Malawi s judiciary has repeatedly asserted judicial independence, as demonstrated by decisions made against the executive branch of government. However, the overall standards of judges and magistrates, whose performance is hampered by poor organizational systems, remain low, and the need for support for this weak arm of government will continue.

In a complementary activity, USAID is successfully helping to foster increasing awareness of the rights and responsibilities of Malawian citizens under democracy through its support to a leading local human rights NGO, CARER. Malawian civil society organizations are becoming increasingly active in the nation s economic and political development process.

- FINCA s microenterprise program, which is supported by USAID, grew more rapidly than expected, with membership expanded to over 5,000 poor women in 1996. The impact of this program's lending and savings activities on the lives of these women and their families is dramatic.

U.S. Agency for International Development Human Rights Training in Angola

USAID and World Learning, an American NGO based in Brattleboro, Vermont, have been working together to strengthen Angola's judicial system. In the past, most Angolan prisoners spent years in jail before being brought to trial, and pre-trial jail time often still exceeds the maximum statutory prison term for a prisoner's accused crime.

- With USAID support, World Learning has trained 328 journalists, NGO workers and government officials in human rights in the last year, including the prosecuting attorneys of the Huambo and Huila provinces.

- Following the training, the prosecuting attorneys of these two major provinces released 130 prisoners awaiting trial who had been incarcerated longer than the maximum statutory terms for their accused crimes.

This action has resulted in a groundswell of activism from Angolan civil society for a similar release of prisoners from the main prison in Luanda. Forty prisoners have been released to date, mostly women and children.

U.S. Agency for International Development Strengthening Basic Education in Malawi

Malawi's potential for economic growth is slowed by that nation's high levels of illiteracy. Free primary education was introduced in 1994, dramatically increasing school enrollment but exacerbating problems of overcrowding, poor teacher training and inadequate teaching materials. USAID supports decentralization of education in Malawi as a means to improve financial accountability while improving the quality and efficiency of public education, with a special focus on improving the relevance of the curriculum for girls.

USAID is supporting Malawi's Ministry of Education in a variety of ways to improve its operations. Given the government's limited budgetary resources, mobilization of communities to support improved education is also critical. The Social Mobilization Campaign supported by USAID, while mainly targeted at removing constraints to girls' education, has had a much greater impact than expected on generating community support for education for both girls and boys.

- Campaign districts report that communities are initiating self-help projects to assist their girls in enrolling and staying in school.
- Special groups within communities are encouraging attendance and retention in primary schools for both boys and girls.
- School committees are more actively involved in school operations and are increasingly accountable to both the communities and schools.

Data from the closely studied pilot district of Machinga shows that during the 1995-1996 school year, the drop out rate for girls was lower than boys for the first time.

- Overall school enrollment increased by 17.7 percent.
- There was a 27 percent increase in the number of girls passing the primary school exit exam, and a 53 percent increase in the number of girls selected for secondary schools.

The extension of the Social Mobilization Campaign to all 28 districts of Malawi over the next two years is expected to generate similar enthusiasm and results in other communities.

Djeneba, an adolescent girl listens as the discussion by the village elders gradually gets to its real point: the moment has come for the village to decide what to do with their children after primary school. Djeneba and her classmates, now in the fifth grade, will take an exam next year to be eligible to enter intermediate school. Some will pass and leave the village to go to the nearest intermediate school, 15 miles away. Others will not pass, or will decide that they wish to stay with their families in Yeredonbougou.

Now, after five years of managing and reflecting on their children's schooling, the parents of Yeredonbougou are beginning to take more active roles. They have an idea of which children are likely to succeed on the exams, and they have decided to use some of the proceeds from this year's cotton sales to cover the costs of sending these children to intermediate school.

These parents have discussed with the teachers and with the pupils themselves what this sacrifice means to the village, and what the village hopes to gain from the children's learning. Equally importantly, the village is discussing how to build on the learning of those children who will not continue in the formal educational system.

Most of these children are about 12-years-old. Marriage and parenthood will come in the next five or 10 years, but according to traditional norms, none of them will be considered elders or leaders until they are older than 40. The elders themselves are beginning to realize that the village must adapt, forging new partnerships between the wise but illiterate "gray-beards" and the intelligent, but unskilled, young school leavers. Djeneba pauses for a moment to ask herself which of these paths she wants to follow: her chances of passing the test for intermediate school are good, but she doesn't know if she wants to leave her family and her village. Anyway, she tells herself, at least I may have the choice. With that thought, she hurries back down the path, as she knows her family is waiting for her.

During his trip to Mali in October 1996, Warren Christopher, then U.S. Secretary of State (the first ever to visit Mali), declared to his hosts that he had initiated his Africa tour in their country because he was "inspired by what the people of Mali have done. You have shown all of Africa and the world that freedom can unlock the door to a better future." The country has summoned the strengths and honor of its past to show the rest of Africa, along with the whole world, how a diverse people can come together to define their problems and to tackle these in a democratic manner, he said.

Mali's challenge is great, both in stature and in scope. The promise made by the Third Republic is to provide all of Mali's citizens a place at the table at which the path to Mali's future is forged. Embracing Mali's trans-ethnic cultural hallmark of "passing the word" to craft decisions from consensus, the government has created several national consultative fora and

processes by which to give voice to all points of view. The successful execution of the national elections in mid-1997 should go far toward confirming the legitimacy of this approach.

Less clear, though, is the ultimate purpose of this new democracy; the "to what end?" question. In a country that ranks in the bottom five on the U.N. Development Program's Human Development Ranking, the prospect of a vote may feed one's sense of justice, but it will not fill one's belly, relieve the crushing burden of a woman's daily routine, or create work. Neither the rhetoric of the country's leadership nor that of its international development partners provides a coherent vision of where Mali's path to economic security lies. The story of Mali today is that of a new democracy. Not to minimize the significance of this accomplishment, this plot-line risks being overwhelmed quickly if the people's share of the political pie is not matched by a similar sort of equitable allocation of the economic pie.

As education reform moves control of Mali's education system to the regions and beyond, in some cases even as far as the community, the political agenda of the government and donors, and the economic situation of the families should converge. The government and donors have begun to trace an education system for Mali that will help the new democracy in important ways. In some cases, the reform activities have even begun to color in the outlines.

The gains for democracy accrue not only in the new competencies, knowledge, and outlook of the next generation, but also in the devolution of responsibilities for the school to the local community, an inherently democratic development.

To bring a more global perspective to this appreciation, Mali's current education reform efforts may be admired most strongly for the way they have been defined along indigenous terms and priorities. The government is doing, as a nation, what it is proposing communities accomplish at the local level--taking control of education. Local languages, local control, and locally-defined priorities seem to be supplanting the vestiges of the colonial education heritage at an accelerating pace. The primary school is becoming a Malian institution--the preferred goal for any country.

This Malian success may also be interpreted as a success of the donors, who have not only helped to define and install a conducive framework for these sectoral developments, but have provided considerable technical, financial, and moral support to boost the system's and communities' capacity to reach this level. Notwithstanding the process of the Ministry of Basic Education to refine and execute its reform, the international donor community, and prominently USAID, will continue to have a vital role to play for many years to come. The education sector in Mali has not yet reached the level of a critical mass by which the present momentum may be maintained. Even though there are neither adequate technical nor financial resources, Mali is taking the lead in defining a school that is perfectly adapted to its own needs, and deserves continued donor support in this endeavor.

The challenge Mali faces, with its donor partners, is considerable: merging two meritorious, but quite different political traditions -- the long,

strong heritage of consensus and acceptance upon which Mali's greatness was constructed and the new heritage of the country's infant democracy -- within a context of enormously limited resources and great need. The contribution of education to resolving this contradiction can be prodigious, but it cannot be limited to handing over control to local communities.

Mali's education reform must be about more than the democratization of the system and the preparation of the country's future citizens. A few current initiatives shine light on what these other aspects might be. The Ministry of Trade and Tourism's vocational and technical training capacity addresses directly the economic purpose of education. Development and incorporation of a primary classroom, and of a comprehensive environmental education curriculum will help prepare students to maintain the supreme source of their own and their country's livelihood -- the rivers, the forest, and the arable lands. USAID's efforts in health, income generation, and agricultural development must also be perceived as integral factors in the process of consolidating and consecrating Mali's infant democracy. As Mali and the donors continue to establish and strengthen the democratic structures for the governance of Mali's schools, the most likely next phase seems to be to build substance upon those structures that will move the students towards a palpable aim of social and economic security. Surely primary school will not create ready-made workers, but it must be seen as critical to the preparation of graduates who are ready to learn to be the producers that Mali currently requires.

U.S. Agency for International Development Preserving a Natural Paradise in Madagascar

The creation of Masoala National Park in Madagascar offers a good example of the importance of USAID's environmental work in Africa. The first decree signed by Madagascar's newly elected President Didier Ratsiraka created the 840-square-mile Masoala National Park in March 1997. Masoala represents the largest protected area in Madagascar to date. The establishment of this biodiversity-rich park results from a seven-year team effort between Malagasy environmental institutions and international non-governmental organizations, with funding from USAID and strong support from the U.S. Embassy.

- The Masoala peninsula, in the northeast of Madagascar, is known for its virgin tropical forests, extensive coral reef, 22 rare butterfly species and the greatest diversity of palm species in the world. Within the boundaries of the national park, project conservation teams have found two of the world's rarest birds, the Madagascar serpent eagle and the red owl, which were thought to be extinct.

Establishment of this national park is a signal victory in the struggle against the destruction of critical natural habitat and the loss of associated biodiversity worldwide.

- The island nation of 13.8 million people is the single most important biodiversity conservation priority in Africa and among the world's five richest environmental sites. Madagascar's relative isolation over time gave rise to a spectacular array of originality among plants and animals.

- Although Madagascar occupies less than 2 percent of Africa's total land area, it is home to a quarter of all African plants. Overall, 80 percent of its flora and fauna are found nowhere else on Earth.

- The peninsula's forested slopes descend to the ocean on the western bay side, making it one of the very few remaining tropical coastal rainforests in the world. It is one of the jewels in Madagascar's crown of spectacular and unique environment, a truly diverse and primordial forest, virtually untouched and unexplored in its heartland.

Indeed, part of the Masoala peninsula had been delimited as Madagascar's second nature reserve in 1927 and received nominal protection until 1964. However, at that time, a French-owned multinational was permitted to operate a logging concession in the reserve. In the 1980s, with strong U.S. and international encouragement, the Malagasy government began to recognize the value of protecting the country's unique environmental heritage. With USAID and other donor support, the government issued its 15-year National Environmental Action Plan in 1988, the first in Africa, and designated Masoala as one of its priority conservation zones.

- Between 1989 and 1996, USAID and several U.S. non-governmental organization partners worked to better define the area to be preserved and

to work with neighboring towns and villages to assure the concept of preservation was understood.

- By 1996, however, the actual establishment of Masoala Park started to derail in the midst of Madagascar's political turmoil, including an impeached president, interim government and new elections.

- Rumors began circulating of a very ill-defined and potentially environmentally disastrous tropical timber logging agreement signed by the interim government with a Malaysian firm called "Timbermaster." The area to be exploited was adjacent to the park on the Masoala peninsula.

The United States tried to get the agreement rescinded, with little success. Shortly after the election of Didier Ratsiraka in early 1997, the U.S. Ambassador used her first meeting with him to remind him of his campaign pledge to create "a humanist and ecologic" republic -- and asked that the Timbermaster contract be set aside to save Masoala.

- Ratsiraka agreed with alacrity -- and promised to issue a decree quickly designating Masoala a protected area.

- As part of the overall management plan for the national park, the government passed new legislation permitting natural resource management by local communities. Communities now benefit from ecotourism by receiving 50 percent of national park entry fees, as well as by serving as guides and selling handicrafts to tourists.

With assistance from USAID-funded NGO partners, communities are now also undertaking a number of revenue generating activities designed to help them improve their lives while at the same time respecting the new park. These include beyond-the-reef fishing from new, motorized boats provided by CARE, butterfly ranching on contract with international zoos and collectors, and "eco-certified" logging of high-value species.

- USAID-funded NGO partners working with the villagers include CARE International, the Missouri Botanical Gardens, the Wildlife Conservation Society and the Peregrine Fund, among others.

- In parallel with the creation of Masoala, phase one of USAID funding helped the government of Madagascar create a national institutional and policy framework for the environment and test approaches to sustainable resource management and biodiversity conservation. This included creating a national park service virtually from scratch, strengthening the national forest service, creating a capacity to undertake environmental impact assessments and fostering legislation that allows for community management of natural resources.

USAID support to Madagascar's phase-two environmental program will continue this work while increasing involvement of communities in natural resource management. Phase two will have increased emphasis on creating financial and institutional sustainability for the national park and other environmental programs. Working with public, private and voluntary partners, USAID and the people of Madagascar hope to assure that the island's heritage, as

exemplified by Masoala National Park, remain available for the enrichment and enjoyment of the world's future generations.

U.S. Agency for International Development Fighting El Niño in Southern Africa

El Niño is recognized as a potential harbinger of drought in many parts of the world, including southern Africa. As El Niño awareness rises, so does the concern about its possible effect on food supply over the next few years.

Some 27 million people live in the southern African countries of Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia -- countries considered most at risk for an El Niño-related drought.

- The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, supported by USAID, is helping ease the potential negative impact of El Niño on crop production in southern Africa.

- Coping with drought is a particular challenge in southern Africa, where farmers generally plant maize in a single-cropping system. The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture has aggressively introduced cassava and sweet potato to farmers in the region -- drought-tolerant crops that produce well under dry conditions.

Research and development programs are also being pursued to minimize the effects of El Niño on food production in southern Africa. The institute has been involved for many years in collaborative research with national agricultural research systems in sub-Saharan Africa.

Before the mid-1980s, cassava research in the region had a low profile. However, with the 1994 establishment of two regional research networks for cassava and sweet potato funded by USAID, the situation has reversed. The two networks, the East African Root Crops Research Network and the Southern African Root Crops Research Network, have helped give greater recognition to the importance of cassava research.

The two networks provide improved cassava varieties to southern African farmers using improved germplasm supplied by the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture. In addition to greater drought tolerance, these improved cassava varieties are insurance against a devastating disease known as the African Cassava Mosaic Virus. The combined efforts of the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, national programs and the networks have helped rapidly multiply and distribute cassava that can help stave off the effects of El Niño and other bad weather conditions in the region.

The International Institute of Tropical Agriculture's other interventions in re-establishing farmlands in troubled areas of East and Southern Africa are well known.

- One project supported by USAID, "Seeds of Change," was a collaborative venture with World Vision International in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The effort involved sending high-quality maize, cowpea and soybean seed to

be multiplied and distributed to farmers. Seventeen tons of seed were sent for planting on war-ravaged farms. To increase self-reliance and minimize the need for outside assistance, farmers are replanting their harvest for further distribution of seeds to larger groups of farmers. Similar USAID-funded operations have been successfully completed through the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture, including World Vision's partnerships in Angola ("Seeds of Freedom") and Rwanda ("Seeds of Hope").

U.S. Agency for International Development Namibia's Nyae Nyae Conservancy

The "Bushmen," also called Ju/Hoansi, in southern Africa are among the world's most disadvantaged indigenous peoples. The Ju/Hoansi trace their ancestry back 30,000 years and are believed to descend from the world's oldest inhabitants. Before independence, the Ju/Hoansi of Nyae Nyae in eastern Namibia had a history marked by loss of land, deliberate marginalization from the social and economic mainstream, and endemic poverty.

- USAID is working in partnership with this unique community to chart a future of community empowerment and sound environmental practices where they will have a greater voice in the nation's fledgling democracy through establishment of a "conservancy."

- The conservancy is located in northeastern Namibia and encompasses 904,000 hectares of biologically rich land with tremendous tourism potential, especially in the areas of the Nyae Nyae salt pans. The Ju/Hoansi are the predominant group in the Nyae Nyae area.

The establishment of the Nyae Nyae conservancy is a major step in Namibia's community-based natural resource management program. This effort helps local disadvantaged groups such as the Bushmen assume stewardship of their natural resources and gives them greater economic and political opportunity.

USAID's LIFE program worked with the community-based Nyae Nyae farmers cooperative in all aspects of this conservancy development. The cooperative is the main advocacy organization for the Nyae Nyae people and is the voice for development and community mobilization. Another group, the Nyae Nyae conservancy management committee, dealt directly with conservancy issues. This management committee has also become a forum for community participation and a voice of community residents.

- The Nyae Nyae community was one of the first communities in Namibia to meet all of the requirements to get official government approval for its conservancy on November 25, 1997. The approval was the culmination of a five-year effort by Namibia's Ministry of Environment, the World Wildlife Fund, USAID, community leaders and local natural resource users.

- The conservancy will establish the conditions for increased food production and income through sound environmental practices for up to 5,000 Namibians. The passing of the legislation to establish conservancies in Namibia also represents a landmark in the participation of citizens in the legislative process. USAID is working with Namibia's Parliament to develop a legislative process that is accountable and founded on the concerns of citizens. In facilitating public debate on this important new model of environmental management, non-governmental representatives actively lobbied policy-makers and parliamentarians. They used written briefings, a video presentation on community-based natural resources management and a drama on wildlife management issues to promote awareness of the plight of communities such as the Ju/Hoansi and to advocate for the conservancy approach. This

process contributed to the successful increase in dialogue between legislators and citizens on other important issues affecting environmental development in Namibia.

U.S. Agency for International Development Combating Polio in Madagascar

U.S. Public and Private Efforts in Madagascar Help Achieve 99 Percent Coverage in First Polio Eradication Campaign

About 16 percent of young children in Madagascar die before their fifth birthday. These children die primarily from common childhood diseases in Madagascar such as measles, pneumonia and polio, and from infections that kill them because they are malnourished. Many of these children die because their parents don't always have the means to feed them properly and to make sure they are vaccinated. Many die because basic health services are not available to almost 50 percent of Madagascar's 13.8 million people living in isolated, mountainous towns and villages.

- Madagascar has a public health service and a solid policy to prevent childhood disease and death. But Madagascar is one of the world's poorest countries. Nurses in rural clinics make about \$40 per month.

- Only about half of all clinics can refrigerate vaccines. Even with motivated nurses and fresh vaccines, transportation to the remote, mountainous areas is difficult and expensive. Because of these problems, only a little more than half of the children who need vaccines for basic childhood diseases usually get them.

When the government of Madagascar adopted the World Health Organization's (WHO) call to eradicate polio by the year 2002, most of the population -- and particularly the underpaid, ill-equipped nurses -- assumed this was just one more international campaign that would pass them by. But something wonderful happened in Madagascar, with a lot of hard work and a little help from the United States and others.

- In the first phase of the polio eradication campaign in October 1997, Madagascar reached over 99 percent of all children under 5, a remarkable feat.

- Nurses, along with Malagasy doctors, lab workers, mayors, teachers and volunteers from the Madagascar chapters of Rotary International, provided oral drops to more than 2 million children throughout the country.

- Working alongside the Malagasy were UNICEF and WHO technicians, USAID officers, staff and contractors, American Peace Corps volunteers and a representative from a U.S. chapter of Rotary International. These teams coordinated a massive multimedia campaign to inform and mobilize families to vaccinate their children. They used radio, newspapers, traveling theater troupes, banners, flags, songs and parades -- all means possible to convince the parents to bring their children to vaccination sites. Malagasy families responded to this massive campaign and were rewarded for their response. The vaccination teams literally climbed mountains and forded streams to get to families in remote areas. Teams took rickshaws in the cities, canoes on the rivers, boats to the small islands and oxcarts along rutted dirt tracks. The health teams and the families found each other, and in the process of

vaccinating 99 percent of the children against polio, they began to believe they could do more.

- The story of Madagascar's polio campaign is remarkable in that it reached 99 percent of children under 5 in one of the world's remotest and most inaccessible countries.

- But this is also the story of how Malagasy government and private agencies worked with the international community, notably the U.S. government and U.S. Rotary clubs, to mobilize the entire Malagasy population toward achievement of a common goal.

Six months later, public and private health organizations are talking about applying the successful communications and logistics methodologies to new campaigns and messages. It is projected that polio will be eradicated in Madagascar by the year 2002, and, in the process, it is likely that a number of other childhood diseases will be significantly reduced.

- USAID, the Peace Corps, U.S. Rotary clubs and other U.S. governmental and private organizations were key in supporting the polio campaign.

- USAID played a major role in the campaign launch, providing over \$2 million, or more than half of the campaign costs. USAID funds were used primarily for cold-chain equipment and transport of vaccines and personnel to assure coverage in Madagascar's many remote and inaccessible areas.

- Other USAID funding was used to develop and disseminate innovative media programs to mobilize the population, including colorful banners, specially designed signal flags and radio spots. The signal flags in particular were found to be highly effective with isolated and illiterate populations, and their use will be expanded to other health campaigns in the future.

The U.S. Embassy and the U.S. Information Service (USIS) were key contributors to this national information and communication campaign. USIS provided assistance to print, radio and television journalists to assure high-quality coverage. Peace Corps volunteers and staff throughout the country joined in the campaign, whether they were health workers, foresters or teachers. Volunteers motivated and organized families and in many areas helped administer the oral vaccine. In some villages, they worked on communications and helped community theater groups develop and present short pieces about the benefits of vaccination.

- The U.S. private sector provided key support to the leadership and much inspiration for the effort. The U.S. branches of Rotary International worked with the Rotary Club of Madagascar to provide leadership, support, and financing for the polio eradication launch. Thomas Dalton, lieutenant governor for the U.S. Rotary club in Michigan, personally visited Madagascar to participate in launch activities. Dalton had raised over \$30,000 in his small U.S. community of 8,000 people to support Madagascar's effort.

- The 99 percent coverage rate vastly exceeds any previous campaigns, which had reached never reached more than 65 percent of children. Malagasy partners and Americans alike agree that the public-private sector

collaboration was essential to the success. Acting on the maxim that "success breeds success," they are looking into similar approaches for campaigns against other childhood diseases.

U.S. Agency for International Development Meeting Malawi's Health and Family Planning Challenges

Malawi faces daunting health and family planning challenges.

- Malawi's population growth rate is among the highest in the world and constitutes one of the country's key development constraints.

- An alarming 12 percent of Malawi's adult population is estimated to be HIV-positive.

- Malawi's infant and child morbidity and mortality rates are among the highest in the world. Nearly one-half of all children are chronically malnourished.

- In an average year a child contends with six bouts of diarrhea, three or more episodes of malaria and repeated respiratory infections.

In 1995 and 1996, Malawi's government increased the proportion of its budget dedicated to public health and ensured that greater percentages of funding went to finance rural health services. USAID is helping Malawi address its health and family planning challenges in a number of ways.

- Since 1992, there has been a 6 percent decline in deaths due to malaria in Malawi. USAID has contributed to this decline through support to sound drug treatment of malaria and improving access to safe drinking water. USAID is also supporting innovative pilot programs to test the effectiveness of insecticide-treated mosquito nets and curtains in schools and homes.

- Because a 1996 survey was the first indication that women's knowledge of malaria transmission is significantly lower than men's, new anti-malarial activities will include a special focus on women.

- Malawi's fertility rate averaged 7.2 children per woman in 1984 and remained as high as 6.7 children per woman in 1992. In 1994, Malawi adopted a national policy to expand voluntary family planning. Demand for family planning services supported by USAID has exceeded expectations, and the percentage of women using modern family planning methods doubled from 7 percent in 1992 to 14 percent in 1996 and is as high as 40 percent in some targeted areas.

U.S. Agency for International Development Zimbabwe's Commitment to Family Planning

Zimbabwe's family planning program is considered to be the most successful in sub-Saharan Africa. The results are impressive.

- The total fertility rate, or average number of children per woman in Zimbabwe, dropped by 34 percent over 10 years, from 6.5 children in 1984 per woman to 4.3 in 1994.

This change is largely due to a 33 percent increase in the contraceptive prevalence rate. Only 27 percent of women used a modern contraceptive method in 1984, while 42 percent did so by 1994. The quality of life for the average couple in Zimbabwe has significantly improved because of this rapid fertility decline.

The United States, through USAID, is the lead donor to the nation's family planning program. The government of Zimbabwe's strong commitment to family planning is the major reason for the program's success. The Zimbabwe National Family Planning Council was established as a government parastatal soon after independence.

In the 1980s, the family planning council expanded services through a network of community-based distributors who made oral contraceptives and condoms available to couples in their villages. Family planning services are now fully integrated into the health care delivery system.

- Today, contraceptive services and information are delivered in over 1,200 public clinics throughout the country as well as by 800 community-based distributors.

Though often eclipsed by the conflicts ongoing elsewhere in the region, the Horn of Africa provides one of Africa's best examples of both good news and of African attempts -- and successes -- in resolving African conflicts.

- The 30-year war between Ethiopia and Eritrea caused hundreds of thousands of deaths, the devastation of local and national economies and a famine of biblical proportions. But the 1990s have seen the end of what was the longest-running war in Africa, with the mutual agreement, between new governments in Ethiopia and Eritrea, to let the Eritrean people make their own decision about the relationship between the former Italian colony and Ethiopia, which had annexed Eritrea in the 1960s.

- In a 1993 referendum, the Eritrean population voted overwhelming in favor of independence and, significantly, the first message of congratulations following the count of votes was offered by the new Transitional Government of Ethiopia.

- Ethiopia and Eritrea today enjoy better relations than at any time since the colonial era and, importantly, have since joined together to lead other countries of the Horn in conflict resolution efforts in neighboring Somalia and Sudan.

U.S. Agency for International Development Angolan Orphans Restore Hope to Farm Families

With USAID support, Angolan orphans from the Gaiatos Home have worked with the U.S. non-governmental organization World Vision to multiply and harvest 11 metric tons of improved- variety maize seed. These seeds have then been used to enable more than 3,600 vulnerable Angolan farm families to begin production again after the disruption of that nation s protracted civil war.

- The boys at Gaiatos Home for orphans in north-central Angola didn't realize that their efforts in the fields in 1997 were going to help so many families. When they joined the World Vision effort, the boys were excited, but they had no idea that the seeds they nurtured would restore seed stocks for at least 15,000 people who, like themselves, had lost so much during Angola s 20-year civil war.

- Gaiatos Home is one of World Vision Angola s partners in the Seeds of Freedom program, a cooperative program between USAID, the Angolan Ministry of Agriculture, five international agricultural research centers, and eight aid organizations. These partners have joined forces to help farmers begin growing crops once again through the distribution of new and improved varieties of seeds for staple food crops such as maize, beans and cassava.

- Gaiatos Home Director Father Telmo Ferraz and his 170 boys agreed at the beginning of 1997 to multiply maize seed on orphanage land on the outskirts of Malange. In exchange for labor, World Vision agreed to provide Gaiatos with technical support and 50 U.S. cents for every kilogram of seed they harvested. In March, the orphanage planted half a ton of maize seed obtained by World Vision from a maize and wheat research center based in Mexico (CIMMYT), an international agricultural research institute. This variety showed the potential to yield up to 46 percent more grain than traditional maize varieties used by Angolan farmers.

- By the end of August, Gaiatos Home had harvested and bagged 11 metric tons of seed. During September, the seed, along with hand tools, was distributed to more than 3,600 farmers resettling in the Malange Province. Using seed multiplied elsewhere, World Vision is about to distribute seed and tool packs to 20,000 families in three provinces to replenish seed stocks that were stolen or abandoned in the turbulence of war. With this new, productive seed, Angolan families will be able to produce food to feed themselves and sell to others.

- By multiplying the seed locally, agricultural capacity is built at a far lower cost while providing an additional source of income to needy groups like Gaiatos. This agricultural work -- weeding, cleaning and moving irrigation pipes, and bagging harvested seed -- has been incorporated into the boys daily study programs, which combine academic learning with vocational training in areas such as carpentry, metalwork and mechanics.

Father Ferraz said, This experience has helped us to see that it is possible for us to grow maize on a large scale to feed ourselves. It has opened our

eyes to our potential." Additionally, the cash received in exchange for the seed, will pay for things like fuel, maintenance for irrigation equipment and some of Gaiatos other on-going costs.

- Father Ferraz, the Portuguese missionary who has been in Angola for 47 years, said Gaiatos Home was established in 1963 as a haven for homeless boys from throughout Angola. The home endured two decades of war. Many of the boys and young men are war orphans, with tales of parents killed or kidnaped by soldiers.

- Fifteen-year-old Fernando Joao is one of the boys who has benefited from the Gaiatos project. He has learned about irrigation and has carefully applied the lessons when cleaning and moving water pipes in the maize field. Fernando arrived at Gaiatos three years ago, an orphaned street child barely surviving a Malange city crammed with the war s displaced.

Gaiatos Home is one of a handful of key sites World Vision is using to multiply seed. The recent distribution marks a midway point in World Vision s two-year Community Resettlement and Rehabilitation Program in Angola funded by USAID. Seed and tools were distributed among farmers last year, but drought substantially reduced harvests and left many without sufficient seed to plant this year.

Unfortunately, drought caused by the weather event known as El Nino is predicted again this year, and World Vision s agricultural extension agents have gone out to motivate farmers to prepare their land early to catch as much of the rains as they can and make the most of the seed packs they will receive. Along with the seed packs, farm families will receive food rations of maize, beans and oil to provide them with energy to plant and manage their crops and to prevent them from using their seed for food.

U.S. Agency for International Development Mozambique's Peace Dividend

Ten years ago, Mozambique was a failed state, bankrupt and slipping into chaos and self-destruction as a consequence of civil war and Marxist policies. Today, that country has moved beyond crisis. Although daunting challenges remain, a fundamental political and economic transformation is taking place due in part to American leadership and effective assistance.

- A decade ago in Mozambique, countless thousands were dying as a result of the war. More than 1.6 million people had fled the country, and nearly 4 million were displaced and in search of food and survival.

- Overall life expectancy was one of the lowest in the world at 44 years. More than one child in four never reached age 5. The protracted civil war had decimated the economy.

- Per capita gross national product declined an average of 3.6 percent annually between 1980 and 1992, and food production per capita fell an average of 2.1 percent annually.

Beginning in the late 1980s, the United States led a concerted effort to foster peace and stability and to start rebuilding the economic fabric and infrastructure of Mozambique. Working in concert with other governments, the U.S. provided leadership in forging a peace process -- first a cessation of full-scale hostility, then the opening of a dialogue between the warring sides and, finally, the signing of peace accords in 1992. With the signing of the peace accords, USAID assistance was redirected from emergency relief toward rehabilitation and has made a significant contribution in the transition to democracy and development.

- The United States supported the demobilization of more than 90,000 troops -- 88 percent of those under arms at the time of the peace agreement -- and helped reintegrate them into civilian life by providing farm supplies and job training.

- USAID funded the clearing of landmines and the rehabilitation of 2,000 kilometers of rural roads, which opened areas of the country that were inaccessible for years, and enabled more than 80 percent of those internally displaced and almost all refugees to return to their homes.

- USAID provided seeds and tools to over 2.5 million people to enable them to resume productive lives. More than 1.5 million Mozambicans are receiving essential drugs under USAID's primary health care strengthening program, and almost half a million people now have access to safe water through private voluntary organization efforts funded by USAID.

For the country's first-ever multiparty elections in 1994, USAID funded the training of election officials, civic education programs and transportation support for registration and voting. This assistance helped produce what the U.N. Secretary General's Special Representative called "the best elections ever held in an African country."

- A total of 6.4 million Mozambicans, over 80 percent of the estimated voting-age population, registered to vote, and 85 percent of those registered actually voted in the presidential and legislative elections.

Since 1994, USAID has continued to help Mozambique make striking progress. Significant economic reforms started with USAID support even before the war ended. Price and marketing deregulation, privatization and budgetary reforms have laid the foundation for recovery. Day by day, a crushingly poor, illiterate, and isolated population began to pick up the pieces and rebuild a devastated country. Hopeful donor agencies continued to provide significant assistance. But prospects were not rosy: Would Mozambique demonstrate the stability and potential needed to quickly attract critical private investment? Would the hopes of millions again be dashed by violence?

The government, in consultation with other democratic institutions and the private sector, has succeeded beyond the most optimistic early predictions. Since 1992, Mozambique has:

- Privatized 600 companies, including the entire banking sector;
- Achieved macroeconomic stability and continued to meet International Monetary Fund targets;
- Increased spending on investments in people through health and education, while maintaining overall budgetary restraint;
- Reduced tariffs to encourage trade and investment;
- Improved the economic and regulatory climate for investment;
- Opened the telecommunications, financial and agricultural sectors to private sector-led activity; and,
- Achieved political stability.

These actions are paying major dividends:

- Real economic growth remained robust at 6 percent in 1996 and 6.6 percent in 1997;
- Inflation fell from 70 percent in 1995 to 16 percent in 1996, and less than 6 percent in 1997; and,
- Foreign direct investment has taken off, with projects currently "pledged" totaling between \$5 billion and \$8 billion.

The continued interest by investors is a clear market signal that Mozambique is committed to overcoming its constraints as quickly as it can and that it will succeed in its efforts. While this confidence springs largely from the concrete actions the government has already taken, it is also reflected in an open political discourse and a process of ongoing reform. As one potential investor said at a recent private sector conference: "Mozambique

is moving in the right direction fast."

U.S. Agency for International Development Rebuilding Rwanda's Devastated Farming Communities

Rwanda is a fertile country, but the devastating 1994 war almost destroyed the country's farming base. Land was left to grow wild, homes were destroyed and tools stolen. A season's growth was lost and returning farmers lacked the seed stock and tools they desperately needed to rebuild their lives. USAID has responded to the crisis and is partnering with the private voluntary organization World Vision to provide hundreds of thousands of peasant farmers tools and seeds and to help reorganize farm associations.

- Many of Rwanda's families are headed by widows with no means of support. More than 85,000 families are headed by children -- sometimes as young as 11. These families want to get their lives together again, but had nowhere to start. Now they have help.

- USAID and World Vision have been providing families with "ag-paks," consisting hoes, seeds and other items for small-scale farming. USAID is also funding a World Vision program to give essential help to the most recent returnees and others who have fallen on hard times. This program is providing support to 20 percent of Rwanda's vulnerable families.

- A total more than 86,000 households in 32 communes are being assisted. More than 86,000 hoes, 458 tons of beans, 68 tons of Maize and nearly 10 million sweet potato cuttings have been distributed through the program.

Helping Women Farm Pineapples

In some areas of Rwanda, two-thirds of farm workers are women, bringing both unique opportunities and problems, according to fruit crop coordinator and trainer Felicite Nyashuti. Ms. Nyashuti has been working to help farmer associations cash in on lucrative pineapple farming.

"There are techniques which are important to learn if you want to be successful, said Felicite. We are able to help these associations a great deal -- there is a great need for training that they can understand.

" There is also a serious shortage of pineapple shoots to start growing, and even if these farmers could find them they wouldn't be able to afford them. " Felicite and her colleagues search out as many pineapple shoots as they can, and provide them to farmer associations. In return, each association promises to return a larger number of shoots to World Vision at the end of the season. These shoots will be used to kick-start another association's pineapple plantation in a different area.

- On a typical training trip, Felicite finds a large group of representatives from four associations keen to study what she had to teach them. Using photocopied sheets with photographs and clear diagrams, real fruit and shoots and bags of fertilizer, she carefully outlines the right spacing needed for a good plantation, the way to prepare and plant shoots and the best way to fertilize and water the plants to get the biggest,

tastiest fruit.

The audience is not all women. The associations' biggest problems are the difficult labor involved at the planting stage, and the need to protect the developing crop from theft. To help with this, each group can allow up to a third of its members to be men -- but women retain the leadership.

"They did try to employ men to work for the associations, but the men made their labor very expensive because they wanted to join," explained Felicite. "Men are so scarce in this region that we can't form male associations, so this is actually a good solution for them, too."

In the neighboring commune of Gashora there are four women's associations supported through the program who already have fields of pineapples. One of them, called Cyambere Mutagarugati -- "Women should be first in everything" -- has seven women members. They have no husbands, and there are no men available to work for them, either.

- "We came together in may 1995," explained president Bampurineza Virginie. "This is the first time we have tried pineapples, but it is working well.

- "Between the seven of us we have about 40 children, and our agriculture is the only thing we have to support them. We feed the children some of the fruit, and we sell the rest at the market to raise money for school fees, medicine and other needs. "

"There is always the possibility of something going wrong, like a bad season or a drought," said Virginie. "It is encouraging for us that there are people like Calixte and Felicite whom we can ask for help. "

U.S. Agency for International Development The Africa Food Security Initiative

The Africa Food Security Initiative (AFSI) is part of a broad collaboration between African governments and the United States to promote agriculture and food security as a means to improve childhood nutrition, generate income for rural families and combat hunger. The Africa Food Security Initiative is an important complement to the President's Greater Horn of Africa Initiative that is working to promote regional cooperation and prevent crises and conflict in the Greater Horn.

This ten-year initiative will provide essential supplemental resources to address a growing food and poverty crisis in Africa. This is a win-win proposal. Modest investments made today will have major payoffs in the future. Hungry children will be better nourished, enhanced food security will help to avert costly crises like Rwanda and Somalia, and direct benefits will accrue to the U.S. economy as well.

Current trends point to a hunger and food security crisis in Africa. Projections indicate that by the year 2020, if current trends continue, 25 percent of Africa's children will suffer from malnutrition. Malnutrition already is a cause of over a third of deaths of children under the age of five in Africa.

Per capita food production has been steadily declining for almost three decades. Africa is the only region of the world where per capita production has not increased over the long-term. Like all trends, this can be reversed. Agriculture in Africa has the potential to be a source of dynamic economic growth and meet the food needs of Africa's people.

The picture is not all bleak. More and more African countries are starting to provide the leadership and incentives needed to get agriculture and food production moving, and to increase agricultural growth and incomes. For other parts of the Continent, however, continued civil strife, poor policies, and lack of investment in agriculture mean economic stagnation and declining per capita production, incomes, and nutrition.

The initiative has the dual goal of improving both the nutritional status and incomes of poor people in Africa. Three approaches will be taken: increasing agricultural production, improving food market efficiency and access, and increasing agricultural trade and investment. AFSI will place the US once again in a leadership role in working with others to reverse the decline in resources going into African agriculture and food security programs. In addition, AFSI will strengthen linkages between agriculture, household food security, and nutrition, and will lead to increased integration of food and agricultural production programs with marketing outlets and income earning opportunities.

USAID has traditionally been a leader in addressing food security issues. Much of the success we are now witnessing in selected countries is due in substantial part to USAID's past investments. A recent assessment of

performance indicators for USAID's agricultural programs in Africa showed that objectives were being met or exceeded in 89 percent of the cases.

The "pilot" budget for the first two years of the initiative is \$30 million (FY98) and \$31 million (FY99). These funds will enhance and expand USAID's current investments to address major bottlenecks in agricultural policy, technology and rural infrastructure in several key African countries.

In the first year, the funds will be used to support agriculture and food security activities in five African countries (Ethiopia, Uganda, Mali, Malawi and Mozambique). The programs funded will work with a variety of organizations, including U.S. and local PVOs, to build African capacity to manage their own food security programs and policies in the future. A modest amount of funding will also support African regional organizations promoting the more rapid and efficient spread of new agricultural technologies across borders. Finally, U.S. Universities' and the International Agricultural Research Centers' contribution to African food security will also be expanded.

While these additional resources are critically needed, simply requesting more money is not the whole solution. We must also be certain that existing and new funding will be used to maximum impact. Funds will only go to African countries where strong local leadership is creating the environment for future success. In addition, this initiative, like the Greater Horn of Africa Initiative, will help to more tightly link food aid and development assistance resources, will ensure African "ownership" of programs, and will work for better coordination between donors and with local governments.

The cost of not acting is high. For 15 African countries where the Initiative may eventually work, food aid costs alone will soar to an additional \$900 million annually by 2005 if current trends are not changed. Child and adult malnutrition and deaths will sharply increase, and costly civil and ethnic crises will be exacerbated.

On the other hand, there is good reason to believe that investments made today are a win-win situation for both Africa and the U.S. economy. Past investments in international agriculture have brought exceptionally high returns to the U.S. in the form of increased exports and genetic improvements to our own crops. The International Food Policy Research Institute found that U.S. investment of \$134 million in genetic improvement of international wheat and rice also created spinoff crop improvements in the US worth between \$3 and \$14 billion to American farmers and consumers. In addition, developing agriculture overseas brings about local economic growth and purchasing power, which means more imports of U.S. products, both agricultural and non- agricultural. In 1995, half of U.S. agricultural exports, or \$37 billion, went to developing countries, most of which have received U.S. aid to their agricultural sectors. Enhancing our investments to promote food security in Africa is the right thing to do, for Africans and Americans alike.