

United States-Africa Partnership Revisited

President and Mrs. Clinton's historic March 1998 visit still resonates in Africa. The ripple effects of the visit were numerous. Foremost, a better understanding of Africa was brought to the American people. Americans heard about the commitment to political reform in many countries, including efforts to integrate African subregions and provide for Africa's own security. United States citizens were shown, some for the first time, Africa's renewed efforts to accelerate economic growth, to alleviate poverty, to protect the environment, and to strengthen human capacity through investments in education and health care.

Perhaps the most enduring impact of this mission was the President's outline of a comprehensive strategy for a new partnership with Africa. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), along with more than 14 agencies in the U.S. government, plays an important part in fostering this relationship, and this brochure reports on how the President's trip has directly and immediately enhanced many aspects of USAID's work in Africa in ways that will be felt for years.

The purpose of this brochure is to reflect on the progress that has been made over the year in Africa, focusing on the six countries that President Clinton visited—Ghana and Senegal in West Africa, Uganda and Rwanda in East Africa, and South Africa and Botswana in Southern Africa—as well as programs in other countries that were announced during the trip. Many other U.S. government departments and agencies are helping to make the President's new partnership a reality, but this overview is intended to show how that partnership became embedded in USAID's programming.



USAID—Carol Peasley
Hillary Clinton returns to the Victoria Mxenge housing project in Cape Town, South Africa, this time with the President

Development progress in some parts of the continent has been undermined in the last year by conflict. Democracies remain fragile, the threats of the devastating HIV/AIDS epidemic and malaria loom large, and there is still great concern about serious environmental problems. These challenges delay and impede the achievement of development gains that contribute to improvement in the quality of life for Africa's people.

The continent must overcome these obstacles, in partnership with those for whom Africa matters. There exist encouraging trends and amazing potential throughout Africa. The peaceful end of apartheid and the development of a culture of reconciliation in South Africa offer political lessons for the rest of the world. The liberalization of African economies signals economic opportunity. The fundamental technological change inherent in the new information age provides the tools for partnership.

For USAID, the new partnership is exemplified in the accomplishments described in this brochure—accomplishments worthy of note and of celebration.

Many of them underscore the future path of development assistance, a path that will rely on a productive new partnership between the U.S. public and private sectors and their counterparts in Africa.

Inside...

Africa Food Security Initiative	2
Africa Trade and Investment Policy Program	3
Education for Development and Democracy Initiative	3
Great Lakes Justice Initiative	4
USAID-Africa Country Partnerships	5
Malaria Research and Training Center	8

USAID-Africa Initiatives Foster Growth and Security

USAID is increasingly playing a new and different role—as facilitator and catalyst—to help forge these indispensable partnerships. This is the hallmark of these new initiatives, as well as USAID’s ongoing work in Africa.

President Clinton’s historic trip laid the foundation for a significantly different relationship with the people of Africa: one based on mutual respect and common interests. Innovative partnerships that dovetail with African priorities were announced during the trip.

Africa Food Security Initiative

Agriculture is the priority sector for investment to stimulate the rapid economic growth that Africa requires to attack food insecurity and malnutrition.

The Africa Food Security Initiative (AFSI) strengthens and expands successful USAID bilateral mission programs in agriculture and food security and supports national and regional agricultural technology development as well as policy research networks.

In **Uganda**, USAID has used AFSI resources to expand food security activities, particularly in agricultural production and food utilization. Field demonstrations involving trial plots of food security crops such as maize, beans, and cassava rose from 800 in 1997 to nearly 4,000 through 1998. By the end of 1998, close to 250,000 Ugandan farmers were

involved in the demonstrations, a major increase over 80,000 farmers involved in 1997.

USAID has expanded the Title II food aid program in northern Uganda, the most economically vulnerable and resource starved area in the country. In 1998, USAID approved a new \$1.5 million food security program to expand emergency relief, which provides food production and marketing services to 3,500 internally displaced families and families who lost all capacity for food production due to the ongoing rebel insurgency in the north.

AFSI has led to USAID’s increased emphasis on the nutritional aspects of food security. Beginning in 1999, the USAID monetization program will begin using Vitamin A-fortified vegetable oil and will provide some 4,000 metric tons to Uganda. Increased Vitamin A intake has been linked to decreased child mortality due to illnesses and preventable diseases.

Mali achieved an increase in its economic growth rate in FY 1997, from 4 percent to 5.7 percent, partly through increases in agricultural production for which USAID has been instrumental. Mali focused AFSI FY 1998 funds on expanding a market information system that will continue to provide critical information to agricultural producers and traders. In addition, the government of Mali has added nutrition as a distinct component in its new 10-year health plan because of USAID efforts.

USAID/**Mozambique** uses AFSI funds to increase rural incomes in focus areas. One of the important successes of this strategic objective in FY 1997 was to increase incomes of households by increasing sales of agricultural produce 51 percent. This was achieved through integrated actions improving agricultural policies, roads, agricultural productivity, and market information. Mozambique intends to focus FY 1998 AFSI funds on expanded rehabilitation of farm to market roads and on small rural enterprises and farmers’ associations producing, processing, and marketing agricultural crops.

Looking ahead to the millennium. AFSI will continue to expand and deepen successes in Ethiopia, Mali, Malawi, Mozambique, and Uganda. Support for the successful regional



AP—Greg Gibson

Enthusiastic school children await President Clinton’s motorcade in Accra, Ghana

agriculture and food security networks in East and West Africa will continue. AFSI will also expand to include transition countries and possibly include other food insecure countries as well.

A Partnership for Economic Growth and Opportunity in Africa: Africa Trade and Investment Policy Program

Long-lasting economic growth must include private sector participation and mutually beneficial trade and investment relationships.

As part of the multi-agency Partnership Initiative, USAID's Africa Trade and Investment Policy Program (ATRIP) provides assistance to help Africa's strongest reforming countries to: improve the enabling environment for trade and private investment; catalyze relationships between U.S. and African firms through business linkages and business associations or networks; and help finance implementation of aggressive, market-friendly reforms.

"I have seen the faces of Africa's future...They have convinced me of the difference America can make if we are a genuine partner and friend of Africa, and the difference a new Africa can make to America's own future." – President Clinton, Gorée Island, Senegal, April 2, 1998

In **Mozambique**, USAID has been working with an alliance of business organizations and the Ministry of Commerce to simplify government-wide red tape such as company registration requirements and export/import licenses. The alliance has also developed a campaign to publicize and train accountants for implementation of a new value added tax and a more efficient overall tax system in 1999.

In **Mali**, USAID assisted private livestock and rice exporters obtain removal of regional export and import tariffs. These commodities are two of Mali's most dynamic exports. Another project has helped energize the public-private sector initiative to crack down on illegal transit fees that continue to impede trade in the region.

In **Tanzania**, USAID policy studies and recommendations are having substantial impact on marketing policies and prospective tax laws. These laws are



White House—Bob McNeely

Kisowera Primary School children listen to the President in their Ugandan classroom

designed to improve the tax-compliance of small-scale miners marketing their gems and give small-scale gold miners a legal outlet for domestic sales. Small-scale mining of gold and gems has been a major source of economic growth in Tanzania during the 1990s.

In **Kenya**, a partnership is being developed between Kenyan and U.S. private seed trade associations to improve the legal and regulatory framework for development of greater international trade and a larger domestic market for seed.

In **South Africa**, a program is being developed to provide databases, marketing, and matchmaking assistance to historically disadvantaged, small and medium enterprises that seek enhanced trade and investment opportunities.

Looking ahead to the millennium. Benefits from the establishment of a better trade and investment environment are expected to be widespread throughout the economies of the participating ATRIP countries.

Education for Development and Democracy Initiative

USAID is committed to fostering investment in education at all levels, especially in girls' education.

The Education for Development and Democracy Initiative (EDDI), announced by the President in Uganda, will devote \$120 million in the first two years to improve African education and strengthen African access to the technology and information needed to compete in the 21st century. Working together with the Department of State, the Depart-



ment of Agriculture, the U.S. Information Service, and the Peace Corps, USAID is playing a major role in this initiative. A number of pilot partnership activities (at university, secondary, primary, and civic education levels) are now operational, and planning for the key girls' and women's leadership component is well underway. EDDI will also help create civic education and civil society partnerships.

In **Uganda**, the three Launch Partnerships announced by President Clinton are proceeding well. At the primary school level, electricity and a phone line were brought to the Kisowera Primary School for its 800 students and 17 teachers. A secure computer room was constructed, computers were provided, and Internet connectivity was established. Teachers and students were trained and they are now communicating with their counterparts at Pine Crest Elementary School in Maryland. The Kisowera center is one of the 500 planned USAID-funded resource centers linked to 9,000 primary schools currently functioning in Uganda, and the first one to acquire Internet access.

This network, in large part, serves as the foundation for education reform in Uganda. The Leland Initiative, which is helping to bring Internet connectivity to 20 or more of the countries where USAID works, and Peace Corps volunteers were actively involved in the network and have trained teachers, parents, and students in the use of the computers and the marvels of the Internet.

At the university level, EDDI has completed detailed feasibility studies to bring high speed Internet to Makerere University. This will facilitate the health sector strengthening partnership between Makerere and Johns Hopkins Universities, which is supported by the William Gates and Mellon foundations.

In the democracy arena, the League of Women Voters has brought representatives from two key Ugandan nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to the United States where they worked with local chapters and focused on subjects such as voter education, registration, and mobilization.

In **Rwanda**, under the auspices of EDDI, the National University of Rwanda (NUR) and the University of Maryland are joining together in a strategic partnership that will strengthen NUR's core academic and administrative functions, build distance education capability that will allow it to begin serving the 9 out of 10 qualified applicants it now has to turn down, and implement joint research projects on

conflict management and human rights. Through the Leland Initiative, a high-speed satellite dish and connection to the Internet will be installed to support this partnership.

Looking ahead to the millennium. EDDI seeks to establish up to 20 new university partnerships and 50 school-to-school linkups and implement a variety of girls' and women's leadership activities.

Great Lakes Justice Initiative

President Clinton called attention to the need for a process of reconciliation to heal the wounds from the terrible tragedies in central Africa, reaffirming the December 1997 commitment by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to the Great Lakes Justice Initiative (GLJI). The GLJI, in which USAID and the Department of State are playing major roles, will strengthen national and local judicial systems and promote processes for reconciliation.

"So let us challenge ourselves to build a world in which no branch of humanity, because of national, racial, ethnic, or religious origin, is again threatened with destruction because of these characteristics, of which people should rightly be proud." – President Clinton, Kigali Airport, Rwanda, March 25, 1998

In **Rwanda**, USAID has supported the justice sector since 1995, making significant progress in training legal professionals, strengthening the Rwanda Ministry of Justice, training the police, and facilitating efforts to inform the public on the trials of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda being held in Arusha, Tanzania. USAID is working with the Department of Justice to speed up the administration of justice for the 125,000 detainees accused of genocide.

Looking ahead to the millennium. Future efforts will be focused on 1) promoting the rule of law, 2) encouraging reconciliation through social and economic activities at the local level, and 3) encouraging citizen participation in locally-based governance structures.

USAID-Africa Country Partnerships in Action

Ghana

Strengthening Energy Capacity. The President announced the intent to help Ghana cope with a severe energy and power crisis. A U.S. Interagency Energy Task Force was sent to Ghana to examine where and how the United States might provide additional assistance supporting Ghana's and the West Africa subregion's energy sector initiatives.

The task force's work resulted in:

- Department of Defense repairs of emergency generators for Accra's key health and government facilities;
- "An Energy Roadmap for Ghana," which was delivered to Ghana's minister of foreign affairs during President Rawlings' visit to the United States in March 1999;
- As appropriate, USAID will provide technical and legal assistance to support the development of the West Africa Gas Pipeline Project, designed to provide a reliable and low-cost source of natural gas energy for Ghana and its neighbors; and
- Technical assistance in conducting a tariff review in collaboration with the Ghana public utilities regulatory commission is also planned.

Promoting Democracy. \$500,000 was approved for the International Criminal Investigative and Training Assistance Program (ICITAP) of the Department of Justice. The focus of this program will be on institutionalizing the concepts of human dignity into

the training of Ghanaian police to ensure respect for dignity and human rights as well as the safety of both police officers and the citizens they serve.

Protecting the Environment. The endowment by USAID to the Ghana Heritage Conservation Trust was approved during President Clinton's trip and \$1 million was disbursed. An additional \$1 million will be disbursed during FY 1999. Income generated from the endowment will be used to maintain and improve the trust's facilities, including the Kakum National Park and the Cape Coast and Elmina/Fort St. Jago castles, which are the most visited attractions in Ghana, as well as to encourage surrounding communities to support and protect these sites.

Technology and Education. USAID provided the Ghanaian Association of Women Entrepreneurs (GAWE) with computers and equipment necessary to connect it to a nationwide Internet network.

Powernet, an informal electronic conference system still in the design stage, will enable elected female officials and other leading women from across Africa to interact with each other and with their counterparts in the United States.

The Leland Initiative's School to School Partnership program received congressional approval to proceed in November 1998. The program aims to facilitate cross-cultural dialogue and joint projects between African primary and secondary schools and schools in the United States via the Internet. To date, three Ghanaian Schools have partnered with U.S. schools in the Washington, D.C. area: Morning Star School (Accra) and Washington Grove School; Alpha Beta School (Accra) and Takoma Park School; and St. Martin DePores School (Accra) and Piney Branch School.

Uganda

Strengthening Capacity of Female Elected Officials. Local government elections were completed in April 1998, following the Presidential visit, which signaled the completion of the country's return to democratically elected civilian rule. One third of these newly elected officials—11,000—are women, as mandated by the constitution. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, in her speech at Makerere University, announced that the U.S. government would



USAID/Ghana

Presidents Rawlings and Clinton in Ghana



A preschool small enterprise project in Soweto, South Africa

provide \$2 million to help train elected female local government officials as they assumed their new roles and responsibilities. Implementation of these activities began in April 1999.

Rwanda

Survivors' Fund. President Clinton pledged \$2 million dollars towards an existing \$20 million fund for survivors of the Rwandan genocide. USAID and the Secretary General of the Genocide Survivor's Fund agreed in January 1999 to use this pledge for payment of school fees for survivor children for three years. The children will be identified by their communities from 10 different schools around the country. As a direct result, 2,500 needy Rwandan students, both girls and boys, will be able to finish high school.

South Africa

Reconciliation Roundtable. The President held a reconciliation roundtable in the East Rand Township of Thokoza, which until recently was torn by ethnic violence. Thanks in part to USAID-funded reconciliation work through the African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD), a South African conflict resolution organization, Thokoza is now at peace. Thokoza symbolizes the fact that South Africans, for all their as yet unsolved problems, do have something to tell the world about ending multi-ethnic strife. By recognizing and publicizing the Thokoza achievement, President Clinton gave new impetus to USAID's support for reconciliation, which includes designing and partially funding an endowment that will help make ACCORD financially sustainable.

AIDS Awareness. The two spring 1999 visits by the director of the White House Office of National AIDS

Policy, Sandra Thurman, to look at issues involving AIDS-affected children and orphans are direct outcomes from the President's trip. After Deputy President Thabo Mbeki's October 1998 pronouncement of the Partnership Against AIDS program, Vice President Gore sent a supportive letter. As a result, a long-standing \$10 million USAID proposal to support HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness was approved by the Ministry of Health. In addition, USAID is allocating over \$1 million for children affected by AIDS.

Enhanced Business Ties. President Clinton articulated clear goals of increased trade and investment between South Africa and the United States. In particular, during the inauguration of the Ron Brown Commercial Center in Johannesburg, a Department of Commerce initiative, he spoke of the mutual benefits to Americans and South Africans of closer commercial relationships. USAID is helping achieve their vision, along with many overseas agencies, through its new South African International Business Linkages (SAIBL) program.

"You have every reason to be hopeful. South Africa was reborn, after all, just four years ago. In the short time since, you've worked hard to deepen your democracy, to spread prosperity, to educate all your people, and to strengthen the hand of justice." – President Clinton, Chamber of the House of Assembly, Cape Town, South Africa, March 26, 1998

The SAIBL program supports the President's Partnership for Economic Growth and Opportunity in Africa through catalyzing business linkages between South African and American firms. SAIBL is a \$3 million cooperative agreement with the Corporate Council on Africa and its South African partners—Ebony Consulting International, SA Online, and Phoenix Venture Partners. SAIBL assists historically disadvantaged small and medium enterprises by

promoting commercially viable business relationships that result in increased trade and investment flows as well as the transfer of technology between the United States and South Africa.

Microcredit Initiatives. President and Mrs. Clinton's interest in the impact of microenterprise on job creation and poverty alleviation was exemplified through a visit with a group of female pensioners who are benefiting from USAID's support to microcredit programs in South Africa. As a result, USAID/South Africa expanded its microenterprise program during the last year through the \$3.6 million Improved Microenterprise Access to Liquidity (IMALI) activity. This cooperative agreement with ACDI/VOCA and its partners—the Alliance for Microenterprise Practitioners, Africa Institute for Policy Analysis, and the University of Pretoria—aims to institutionalize village banking in six provinces of South Africa. With a focus on mobilizing savings in rural areas, newly established financial services cooperatives will provide savings, loan and funds transfers, and investment services to the previously unserved rural poor.

Housing Initiatives. President Clinton's visit to the Victoria Mxenge Housing site in the Cape Flats section of Cape Town had a significant impact on the USAID housing program in South Africa. A new grant was recently signed with People's Dialogue, an NGO that is assisting the community in Victoria Mxenge to build their homes. The \$500,000 grant will be provided over a three-year period to create a housing revolving fund for the residents of the Cape Flats to build and improve their homes.

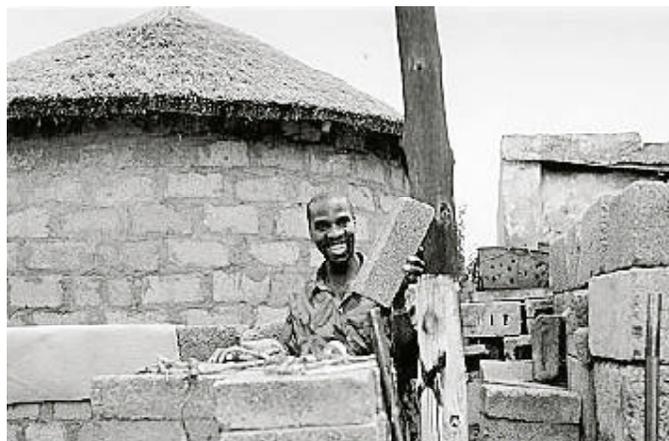
USAID has also provided three other significant grants to South African and U.S.-based NGOs that have historically had successful programs serving the poorest of the poor. Grants totaling \$1.4 million are being provided to the Urban Service Network, Habitat for Humanity, and Cooperative Housing Foundation.

As a result of the critical need for new housing and infrastructure, USAID reformulated a major housing guaranty loan to facilitate the production of municipal infrastructure, including water, wastewater, and solid waste services, in former townships. This \$49 million loan is being provided to one of the few wholly private, pooled municipal bond funds operating in an emerging market and will benefit tens of thousands of low-income community residents.

Botswana

During President Clinton's visit to Botswana, four memoranda of understanding (MOU) were signed between the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the U.S. government. The first three involve economic growth endeavors, while the fourth addresses democratic aspirations.

SADC Customs Procedures. This agreement will help the 14 SADC countries standardize and improve customs procedures in the region. The \$2.2 million agreement will be implemented over a three to five year period. At the signing ceremony, it was noted that the agreement "...will make it easier for goods to flow between the countries of Southern Africa. [This is] an important step in the region's continued economic growth and should result in lower prices for a wide range of products."



Building a house in Cape Town, South Africa

Southern African Rolling Stock Information System (RSIS). This agreement will assist SADC in further implementation of the RSIS, an ongoing \$12 million project funded by the U.S. government, which will enable the eight SADC railways to operate more efficiently and serve their customers better by allowing them to track their goods across international borders.

Regional Activity to Promote Integration through Dialogue and Policy Implementation (RAPID). This agreement added \$5.4 million to the RAPID. This program assists governments, regional institutions, and the private sector in Southern Africa to simplify, harmonize, and implement laws, regulations, policies, and procedures that lead to regional economic integration.

Parliamentary Forum. During the President's visit an MOU was signed between the Regional Center for Southern Africa and the SADC Parliamentary Forum. The document expresses mutual intent to establish a long-term relationship, one that provides support to the SADC Parliamentary Forum for its programs in strengthening democratic values and processes in Southern Africa. The program areas include 1) developing model legislation to improve the free and fair elections in the region; 2) establishing an electoral monitoring capability on the part of the Parliamentary Forum; and 3) conducting hearings on issues of regional significance or interest.



A chance to shake the President's hand

White House

Senegal

FGM Ban. President Clinton was introduced to a group of villagers who agreed to stop the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). In March 1999, Senegal passed legislation to ban FGM. This is a historic development that will affect the lives of approximately one third of Senegal's female youth destined to submit to this procedure as a rite of passage into womanhood. By making this dangerous practice illegal, the law provides political and legal legitimacy to the women and men who are working towards consensual banning of the practice locally. A USAID/UNICEF-financed Senegalese NGO, Tostan, created and directed by an American, is directly responsible for this bold move by the Senegalese government. The law was proposed to the Senegalese Cabinet through a petition signed by Tostan-trained women.

Cutting Red Tape. Private sector development is dramatically impeded by bureaucratic red tape in Senegal. According to the USAID/Senegal-funded Investors Roadmap, which shows the most effective way to invest in Senegal, even when using the most straight forward route to satisfy all the requirements for investing, it takes an average of two years to get a new business up and running. The press widely disseminated the findings revealed in a February 1998 workshop in which discussions were quite animated between government officials and private sector individuals and organizations. Certain government

agencies can no longer claim that their multiple clearance and signature steps add much value. Even the so-called one-stop-shop for foreign investors, developed to liaise between an investor and all the other relevant offices, is now openly acknowledged as a process ready for change.

Malaria Research and Training Center

The Malaria Research and Training Center (MRTC) in Bamako, Mali, was established in 1990 as a joint program between the University of Mali, National Institutes of Health (NIH), and several U.S. universities. USAID helped fund the MRTC from 1993 to 1997. President Clinton announced \$1 million of additional USAID support for the MRTC.

This award will be made through the NIH. The MRTC will develop a program that was validated in January 1999, to be conducted over the next several years. The program will build on the strengths of the MRTC as a regional research and training center, respond to Malian and African research priorities, and facilitate the improved control of malaria in Mali. The MRTC will initiate activities in June 1999 that will be implemented over the course of three to five years.

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