

Making Progress in Africa 2001



U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau for Africa

The United States is committed to supporting African-led strategies that will propel the continent forward in this new millennium. Managing economic and natural resources effectively, combating infectious disease, strengthening democratic governance and the rule of law, promoting greater access to quality education, and creating an environment conducive to greater trade and investment form the basis for the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) strategy to loosen the grip of poverty in Africa.

The continent's greatest challenge continues to come from the burgeoning HIV/AIDS pandemic. Three out of four AIDS-related deaths worldwide occur in sub-Saharan Africa. This heavy toll on human life is seriously compromising Africa's recent developmental gains. Yet in countries such as Uganda, infection rates have been significantly reduced as a result of AIDS awareness and prevention programs. Negative trends in maternal and child health in many countries, along with rapid population growth, compound Africa's health challenges. USAID health programs continue to place a strong emphasis on local capacity-building and increased political commitment for better quality health services and access for all.

Conflict continues to plague many countries on the continent and hamper growth and all sectors of development. On the other hand, peace between Eritrea and Ethiopia and in Sierra Leone seems to be holding, and there was a smooth transition between democratically elected governments in Ghana. To foster peace and stability, USAID's democracy programs are working to strengthen civil society organizations, support peace and reconciliation efforts, and help legislatures, judiciaries, and local governments to define and establish a stronger role in their countries' governance processes.

On the economic front, 300 million sub-Saharan Africans, just under one-half of the population, live on barely 65 cents a day. Debt among sub-Saharan nations nearly quadrupled from 1980 to 1998, but debt relief is enabling countries that pursue reforms to focus more resources on reducing poverty. Africa's low share of world trade (1.1 percent in 2000) indicates the need to integrate the continent into the world economy. USAID's trade and investment programs work towards the goal of helping



USAID South Africa

A South African construction worker.

create an environment to increase trade and therefore increase economic growth. In addition, agriculture is the backbone of many African economies. USAID is striving to sustain commitment to this sector to help drive economic growth, reduce hunger and lift Africans out of poverty.

Access to quality education, which is the cornerstone of growth and development in any country, continues to be unavailable to children in many parts of Africa. Higher literacy and enrollment rates must be achieved to help Africa reach the growth rates needed to significantly reduce poverty and enable the continent to compete in a global economy. USAID's support for education focuses on basic education and training, especially for girls, because these programs have been shown to provide the greatest returns in productivity and improvements in health and well being.

The information that follows more closely examines current development trends in Africa and ways in which USAID is working to address these challenges and improve the quality of life for all Africans.

Inside...

Agriculture	2
Natural Resources Management	3
Education	4
Economic Growth	5
Child Survival and Maternal Health	6
Population and Family Planning	8
HIV/AIDS	8
Crisis Management and Humanitarian Assistance	9
Democracy and Governance	11

Agriculture

Trends

Agricultural development has the greatest impact on stimulating economies, reducing poverty, and helping to feed the poor in sub-Saharan Africa simply because agriculture is the predominant source of employment in most countries. It also encourages the growth of small- and medium-scale enterprises that are vital to the health of African economies as dynamic sources of job growth and diversification of production. Unfortunately, constraints to increasing agricultural productivity include poorly functioning markets and low levels of technology use. Also, the lack of adequate policy and regulatory frameworks causes distortions in agricultural markets and disincentives to agricultural producers. Current numbers indicate that agricultural exports and per capita production across the continent are declining after peaking in the mid-1990s. Food security is improving in some countries, such as Ethiopia, Mozambique, and Guinea, but declining in others, such as Eritrea, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. And sub-Saharan Africa is the only region in the world where hunger is getting worse. The region's share of the world's malnourished will rise from 44 percent currently to 63 percent in 2010.

USAID's Contributions

USAID programs in agriculture emphasize strengthening links between farmers and agribusiness; building producer groups that are able to effectively access markets and receive fairer product and input prices; promoting open, competitive, and efficient markets for both producers and suppliers; strengthening research systems and advocacy groups to change government policies that discourage increased productivity; encouraging micro-



Planting maize in Rwanda.

Rwanda: USAID Income-Generating Projects Produce aMAIZEing Results

Umutara is a region settled largely by Rwandans who grew up in Ugandan refugee camps and returned to Rwanda after the 1994 war and genocide. They soon realized, however, that the

semi-arid land of this region was unable to support the large numbers of livestock they brought with them. An economic alternative was needed. A number of local farmers' associations decided to take a risk and began to look towards growing crops. This was a whole new venture for people who had known nothing but herding.

The associations in Umutara decided to focus on maize production and approached USAID for assistance. USAID provided seeds, tools, fertilizer, and training. The members of the associations contributed the planting, weeding, and harvesting, as well as places for storage. The associations coordinate the sale of the maize and deposit the proceeds in bank accounts that have been opened for each member.

The results of the first two harvest seasons were remarkable—land once considered useful only for moderate grazing now produced up to two metric tons of maize per season. Many families are earning over \$400 per harvest, in a region where herders are lucky to earn half that amount. Families put the newfound earnings to good use, paying school fees, improving housing conditions, and purchasing medicines. The story of 60-year old Charles Gasana is exemplary. Although he had no house, he was given fields just like every other member of the association. Other members did not feel that he could carry out the work required to produce a successful harvest and asked that he divide up his land among others. He refused and worked day and night on his plot. The result: a 1.4-ton harvest. Everyone began asking him how he would spend the money. He replied that he would build a two-room house, one room for his family, the other for the storage of his future harvests of maize.

When the USAID financing was exhausted, rather than seek assistance from donors for expanding production, several of the associations got together and decided to apply to a commercial bank for a loan, using the expected harvest as collateral. This was almost unheard of since agricultural credit is virtually nonexistent in Rwanda. But the bank looked at the situation, decided that the maize growers of Umutara were worth the risk, and made the loan. These associations have now paid back that loan and been given another for planting costs this season. Now 33 associations have their own bank accounts and the farmers from Umutara are well on their way to self-sufficiency.

financing institutions serving small and medium producers; and advancing the use of improved agricultural technologies. Regional programs are showing particular promise. Removal of trade barriers is encouraging cross-border trade in agricultural products.

USAID initiatives have and will continue to advance agricultural development to spur economic growth and reduce pov-

erty. USAID's agricultural programs target countries where food insecurity is high but whose governments are committed to programs that will increase growth, reduce poverty, and serve as models for sustainable growth in neighboring countries. Investments in delivering technologies, such as biotechnology, into the hands of farmers and entrepreneurs will be an increas-

ing focus area. Working to increase agricultural yields (as in Uganda) creates options for farmers to diversify into higher-value crops (such as horticulture and dairy in East Africa or hibiscus in Madagascar) and link farmers with businesses (such as in Ghana). USAID will continue to support micro-, small-, and medium-scale enterprises and agribusiness programs, such as in South Africa where the creation of 4,000 new jobs has generated over \$50 million in business transactions between small and large companies. Addressing the daunting problem of soil degradation (as in Mali) also forms part of the core of the agriculture program.

Natural Resources Management

Trends

Well-managed natural resource systems are a prerequisite to sound economic development, particularly in countries where the majority of the population depends on natural resources for at least part of its livelihood. Sub-Saharan Africa has abundant resources, but since 1950, 500 million hectares have been affected by soil degradation and desertification, including 65 percent of agricultural land. Africa contains 45 percent of all global biodiversity, yet has the highest rate of deforestation in the world. In the Congo Basin, for example, forest cover is expected to decrease from 46 to 29 percent over the next 30 years. The loss of forest cover might mean a decrease of 50 percent in rainfall over the next 30 to 50 years. These degradation rates have had profound economic and environmental impacts, with the number of undernourished people in Africa doubling to 200 million between 1960 and 1995. While most African environmental issues relate to natural resource manage-

ment, including agriculture and biodiversity, rapid urbanization also poses new risks. In addition to economic consequences, conflicts over natural resources threaten political stability, as witnessed in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, Angola, and Senegal.

However, fundamental changes during the 1990s produced momentum toward better resource management at the household and community levels across the continent. For example, natural resources management

(NRM) policies have changed from being centralized and command-and-control (inherited from colonial governments), to being devolved and allowing sharing of authority in local communities. The number of NRM policy reforms in 20 African countries increased from less than 10 in 1990 to over 200 by 2000. Since natural resources in Africa are a primary source of wealth, power, and authority, there are strong reasons for some to hold onto their control. Consequently, even though these reforms by

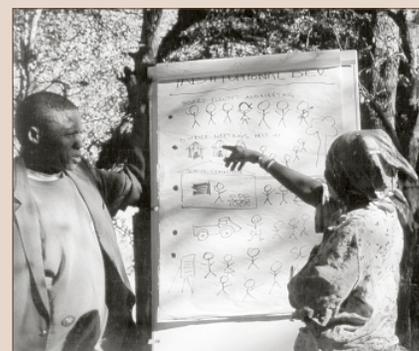
Namibia: Communities Gain Empowerment and Income from the Environment

From an economic standpoint, Namibia is a success story in the making. Per capita income is above \$1,200 per annum and annual growth rates are above the world average. The market is relatively liberal and private enterprise is thriving. The situation is quite different in the countryside, however, where unemployment is high and annual income is less than \$100. Most

people live on abandoned freehold farms and lands to which they were forcibly moved under apartheid-era resettlement policies. Furthermore, economists working for the Namibian government have found that small-scale livestock husbandry, the mainstay of rural family economies, is economically unviable.

To address these conditions, USAID initiated the Living in a Fixed Environment (LIFE) program in 1993, which focuses on empowering traditionally disadvantaged Namibians to manage their natural resources. This program became possible after the Government of Namibia passed ground-breaking legislation, authorizing local communities to establish conservancies to manage wildlife and other resources. Originally, LIFE aimed to establish seven conservancies, but 14 conservancies have now been recognized and communities in another 14 communal areas have expressed interest in forming their own conservancies. The recognized conservancies, which encompass a population of nearly 32,550 and cover 3.8 million hectares of land, have all seen wildlife populations increase dramatically. Average per capita income derived by community members in these formally recognized conservancies increased by over 15 percent. If all of the 28 conservancies become formally recognized, more than 100,000 rural Namibians will benefit from a market potential of \$3-4 million annually.

In addition to increased revenue, disadvantaged groups in Namibia now have more control over their lives. They have rights and authorities over the natural resources base—a prime source of wealth and power—which they did not have before. They have also gained management and governing skills, which they have used effectively to negotiate agreements and operate enterprises. And rare and valuable wildlife species once threatened are beginning to make a comeback.



Conservancy members discussing management issues.

C. Culler/USAID Namibia

themselves do not represent an impact, they do represent official changes that are both necessary and significant.

USAID's Contributions

USAID has been a pioneer in helping communities assume greater control over local natural resources. Through its community-based natural resources management (CBNRM) programs, which were established in at least 15 countries in sub-Saharan Africa in the 1980s and 1990s, USAID is working to empower Africans to find ways to protect dwindling resources and generate income. In Zambia, nearly 50,000 people were involved in NRM activities in 2000 compared to less than 20,000 in 1998. And in Mali, NRM participation doubled to over 30,000 between 1996 and 1999, which resulted in increases in productivity and decreases in degradation. Many other programs are also reporting increases in revenues from NRM-based activities while protecting or expanding the resource base. Community-based wildlife enterprises in Botswana doubled in four years. During the same period wildlife counts were up significantly. Zimbabwe, a mature program, reported \$4 million in revenues. In Madagascar, USAID's support improves the country's ability to manage its biodiversity by expanding NRM responsibilities to local institutions and increasing private sector involvement in conservation enterprises. In Kenya, conservation-based enterprises managed by local communities generate both economic and environmental payoffs. For instance, the Il Ngwesi Lodge, which opened in 1996 on land that had been badly overgrazed, earned an estimated \$85,000 last year for 450 participating households.

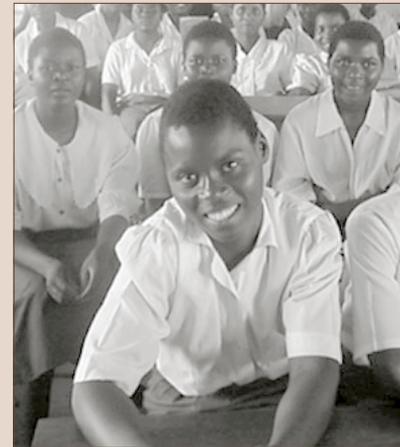
The empowering benefits of CBNRM are spreading to the formerly disenfranchised. For the

Malawi: Community Saves Susan from Early Marriage

Susan, a 14 year-old girl at Kuthakwanansi Primary School in Ntcheu district, was set for marriage by her parents. Despite her being an intelligent Standard 8 pupil, her parents believed she had no future in continuing with education.

During the school's community meeting where the objectives and goals of USAID's Social-Mobilization Campaign for Education Quality Project (SMC-EQ) were discussed, the issue of Susan was revealed. The community got so concerned that they asked an SMC-EQ field worker to counsel Susan's parents. The field worker shared the objectives of the project with Susan's parents, praised her for her intelligence, and discussed her potential. After the counseling session, the parents promised to send her back to school. She did go back, and the teachers and her parents constantly communicated about her progress. Whenever she was sick, the teachers would be informed that she would not attend classes the next day. This assured the teachers that her absenteeism was genuine. In August 2000, she sat for the primary school leaving certificate (Standard 8 final examination) and passed. She got selected to Likuni Girls Secondary School, one of the country's best girls' schools.

Susan's story and outcome changed the attitude of many pupils and parents regarding the importance of education relative to early marriages. Susan is just one of many girls who have been saved from early marriages by the SMC-EQ. USAID/Malawi expects that such counseling will encourage higher pupil retention and achievement.



Susan and her classmates.

USAID Malawi

first time, women in communities in Senegal and Botswana play leadership roles in community-based organizations (CBOs) that manage NRM-based enterprises. In Mali, youth have earned CBO leadership roles because of their newly acquired business and management skills. In addition, potential conflicts are being resolved through negotiations and conflict management. In Senegal, for example, the USAID program was able to bring various factions together to negotiate the use of a national forest, even after two people had been killed in fighting between the groups.

USAID's CBNRM programs demonstrate the importance of making a long-term commitment to ensure effective returns from investments in development. USAID will continue working to consolidate sustainable and

equitable approaches to NRM development and make greater African ownership over this process a priority.

Education

Trends

Education is an essential ingredient for economic growth and development. However, with a 41 percent illiteracy rate, Africa lacks an adequate human resource base to bring about the 7 percent growth required to cut poverty in half by 2015. Across the continent, an average of 59 percent of girls are enrolled in primary school, compared with 75 percent of boys. Of these students, only 66 percent reach grade 4. Uganda and Malawi both made primary education free in the 1990s, resulting in a large increase in the number of students. However,

there is evidence to suggest that the quality of education is deteriorating in those countries due to strain on ill-prepared systems. Many African countries are struggling to provide adequate financing for educational systems and services, appropriate educational policies, relevant curriculum, sufficient learning materials, and favorable service conditions for teachers.

USAID's Contributions

To address these challenges, USAID has continued to focus the largest share of its education and training resources on primary education where there is the greatest need and the greatest return on investment in terms of productivity, especially for girls. Eleven bilateral programs share this common approach and: 1) promote systemic reform; 2) assure that countries have financial support and institutional capacity to build on programs; and 3) concentrate on improving the quality of education. USAID works with local partners to achieve these goals in Benin, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

One of the most important aspects of USAID's work in education is the need to engage all levels of the reform process, including school-level change, policy reform, and decentralized management and financing. New national decentralized frameworks are increasing delegation of responsibilities and resources to local levels. As a result, communities have progressively become more responsible for the quality and efficiency of their local education services. USAID programs support building institutional and local capacity so that communities may receive the tools and skills to manage new roles and resources.

USAID also supports the use of appropriate technologies, such

as radio education, to provide education services. Used in Guinea, Zambia, and Ethiopia, radio education programs are a powerful medium of instruction to reach children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, to train and upgrade the skills of teachers, and to complement the teaching of national curricula. The use of other forms of distance education assisted Ethiopia to train some 25,000 teachers. Internet connectivity, capacity, and training within ministries of education, teacher learning institutes, and community resource centers also expanded during 2000.

During the past year, USAID successfully launched a program to assist the education sector in assessing and responding to the impact of HIV/AIDS. In partnership with South Africa's University of Natal and country missions, the Africa Bureau has created a Mobile Task Team for HIV and Education (MTT). The team works closely with ministries of education and their partners to develop effective strategies to cope with the impact of HIV/AIDS, and acquire the strategic planning and monitoring skills to carry those strategies forward. The MTT model has so far been used in Ghana, Zambia, Malawi, and Namibia.

Economic Growth

Trends

Although abundant in human and natural resources, Africa's trade and investment climate reflects a continent that has not yet attained the key prerequisites for competing in a global economy. Africa accounts for only 4 percent of U.S. total trade with developing nations. There has been a slight increase in intra-African trade, valued at only \$19 billion in 1999. In

addition, Africa has by far the lowest ratio of investment to GDP of any developing region. Foreign direct investment of \$7.3 billion in 1999 represented only 3.5 percent of flows to developing nations and was highly concentrated in five African countries, mostly producers of oil and minerals. The overall growth in sub-Saharan Africa from 1998 to 2000 as measured by the gross domestic product was 3 percent. However, the regional aggregate growth rate is heavily influenced by Nigeria and South Africa, whose economies alone constitute 50 percent of the regional total. Since the majority of African economies are dependent on agricultural goods, they have been hit hard by falling commodity prices over recent years. Economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa depends in part upon the development of a receptive environment for trade and investment.

USAID's Contributions

To help achieve this objective, USAID promotes the harmonization of trade and customs policies, improved finance and investment environments, and business linkages. Economic integration has been enhanced through assistance on regional protocols relating to trade, finance and investment, transport, and telecommunications laws; reduction of cross border trade barriers;



The Gning brothers and employees in their stove-making workshop in Dakar.

EnterpriseWorks-Senegal

and facilitating efficient movement of goods and services between countries. The recently-completed Leland Initiative, a project to extend Internet connectivity to 20 African countries, has been a critical element in bridging the continent's digital divide. And USAID support of sub-regional institutions such as the Southern Africa Development Community is facilitating cross-border trade and investment initiatives, stimulating African nations to undertake needed reforms. These USAID efforts assist sub-Saharan African nations to participate fully in the world economy by enhanc-

ing economic self-reliance and by fostering trade and investment reform, essential for economic development.

Under the recently completed Africa Trade and Investment Policy program, more than 100 activities totaling \$75 million have improved the trade and investment environment in 11 countries and three sub-regions in Africa. This program provided business linkages between U.S. and African firms, business associations, and networks, and increased joint-venture opportunities and private investment flows. Under the new region-wide Strategies and

Analyses for Growth and Access (SAGA) program, the successor to the Equity and Growth through Economic Research project, USAID will support capacity building through educational training for African economists to strengthen their ability to analyze and manage the economic reform process. SAGA will also support African-led policy analyses on economic reform issues, thereby ensuring greater local ownership of reform processes.

USAID also continues to support private sector microenterprise development. In Senegal, for example, metal workers like the Gning brothers in Dakar can participate in USAID's fuel efficient stove program with its emphasis on learning marketing. In a country where the average annual per capita income is \$550, the three brothers together now earn a net profit of about \$875 per month. Consumers also benefit financially from the approximately \$80 per year worth of charcoal saved by each cookstove.

As debt relief to many African countries continues under the Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) Initiative, USAID has contributed to the process by assisting governments with their poverty reduction strategies. USAID missions have supported activities such as conducting regional workshops, publicizing options for civil society participation, and tracking the use of funds freed up by debt relief to ensure the attainment of the initiative's poverty reduction objectives.

Child Survival and Maternal Health

Trends

The mortality rate for children under-five in sub-Saharan Africa fell slightly from 180 deaths per 1,000 live births in 1990 to 172 in 2000. However, of 18 countries that had two Demographic and

South Africa: Financing Program Helps Communities Build Better Houses and Better Life

The Kwazulu-Natal Project Preparation Trust (KNPPT) was formally established in 1993 to assist with the preparation of community-based development proposals for new homeowner financing. Supported by USAID/South Africa, KNPPT has been an unqualified success and has used \$1.5 million in grant funding to leverage approximately \$30 million in housing subsidies for over 56,000 households in the province. Women head over 50 percent of the households benefiting from the program. The leveraging of capital subsidies for housing and infrastructure has removed health threats posed by unsafe water and inadequate sanitation. The program has also led to families receiving title to land and their homes.

One person whose life has changed because of USAID's support to KNPPT is Tofie Sothiya. Tofie is a mother of four children and has been a resident of the Wiggins-Umkhumbane area of Durban since 1992. Tofie moved to Durban from the old apartheid "homeland" of Transkei in the hope of securing a permanent job and a better life for her children. Prior to gaining assistance through the KNPPT development loan, Tofie lived in a two-room shack that had no services whatsoever.

Today, Tofie and her family live in a house made of sturdy concrete blocks, and she has a clear title to her plot. Her house has electricity and running water. Paved roads weave through her community and there is access to health clinics. Tofie believes that housing and the security of tenure are critical to her well-being and that of her community. She notes that it stimulates residents to make investments in their homes, gives the community greater pride, and has resulted in healthier children and a safer working environment.

KNPPT was the critical factor in assisting the community to develop plans to secure financing and make Wiggins-Umkhumbane a better place to live. The successes in this vibrant community have been replicated by KNPPT throughout the province, providing support for thousands of others like Tofie.



South African housing construction.

USAID South Africa

Health Surveys conducted in the 1990s, 10 countries were found to have a leveling off or increase in the under-five mortality rate. This reversal in the trend in many countries may be caused by malaria and maternal-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, as well as increasing poverty and malnutrition, and the deterioration of health delivery and water and sanitation systems.

Since 1998, there is some evidence that immunization coverage is beginning to increase. With the exception of countries facing civil strife or in transition, approximately 70 percent of children in sub-Saharan Africa have access to immunization services. The number of reported cases of polio in Africa has declined from 45,500 in 1988 to a reported 1,500 as of May 2001. In 2000, approximately 130 million children received at least two doses of supplemental oral polio vaccine, compared with 60 million children reached in 1996.

The rate of maternal death in Africa is the highest in the world. For instance, out of 100,000 live births, there were 1,060 maternal deaths in East Africa, 950 in Central Africa, and 1,020 in West Africa as compared to 190 in Latin America and 390 in Asia. A woman's risk of dying from maternal causes is as high as 1 in 12, compared with 1 in 4,085 in industrialized countries.

USAID's Contributions

USAID country strategies to reverse these declines include programs that focus on decentralization of health service decision-making to community groups, health sector financing reform, and human resources management of health care; provide better access to health facilities; combat drug resistance to malaria and other infectious disease treatments; and target mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.

Madagascar: Initiative Motivates Communities to Become Champions of Better Health

Is it possible to spark greater achievement among communities already well engaged in health promotion? According to the USAID-supported Champion Communities Initiative run by Madagascar's Ministry of Health, the answer is yes. Phase I of this activity clearly demonstrated that local leaders and community associations were enthusiastic to become "Champion Communities" by meeting a series of well-defined health targets. Phase II started by working with 24 communities, 7,000-10,000 residents each, to develop and test targets that could be attained with a reasonable community effort over a six- to nine-month period. To promote the initiative at the village level and outline targets and steps for local officials, USAID funded an easy-to-understand publication called "How to Become a Champion Community" in French and Malagasy.

The process of becoming a Champion Community first requires district health officials to prequalify a limited number of communes, e.g., those where community volunteers hold regular health promotion sessions at the local health center and also have a solid record of collaboration between local leaders and health workers. Then community officials and leaders of local associations meet to formulate local activity plans to meet the program's five targets:

- ◆ achieve 80 percent vaccination coverage,
- ◆ insure that 65 percent of all newborns have a family-friendly health card,
- ◆ give three doses of vitamin A to at least 70 percent of all children by their second birthday,
- ◆ carry out family planning promotion activities at the health center on a weekly basis over a six-month period, and
- ◆ ensure overall cleanliness in the community.

Finally, when self-monitoring indicates that a community has met the targets, the community leaders request an evaluation. Of the 24 communities participating in the second phase of the program, 14 were evaluated, and of these, 12 were judged to be Champion Communities. Festivals to celebrate this achievement were held by each of the communities. The Champion Communities Initiative will eventually include over 100 locations.

The potential of the Champion Community Initiative is perhaps best expressed in the comments of a rural mayor: "We have always had a tradition of being hard workers in our region. Now we have the chance to prove it to everyone."

USAID improves health in sub-Saharan Africa through strengthening immunization programs, supporting health financing schemes, and providing greater access to health facilities, services, and education. Last year, USAID supported synchronized national immunization days (NIDs) for polio in 17 African countries. The NIDs, which took place over a 10-day period, were the largest ever public health event in Africa. In Ghana, USAID targets greater immunization coverage, the expansion of a national vitamin A distribution

program, and the launching of an anti-malaria program.

As a result of USAID's work in South Africa, more than 80 percent of the health facilities in the Eastern Cape now provide basic primary health care services five days per week.

Malawi continues to show significant decreases in both infant and child mortality rates, in part due to the country's great progress in malaria control. Malawi's policies to treat children, protect pregnant women, and promote insecticide-treated bednets exemplify the worldwide Roll Back Malaria strategy. USAID

is taking these lessons from Malawi and innovative projects in Zambia, Benin, and Kenya to other programs throughout the continent.

Population and Family Planning

Trends

Unchecked population growth can erode economic potential, food security, environmental conditions, and therefore lead to instability. While fertility rates have started to decline in sub-Saharan Africa, particularly in countries with higher incomes and better access to contraception, some countries in the region still have the highest rates in the world. Angola's fertility rate is 6.7 children per woman, and contraceptive prevalence rates remain under 15 percent in most of sub-Saharan Africa, even though the majority of women in the region say they want fewer children. With nearly 650 million people and a population growth rate of 2.7 percent annually, sub-Saharan Africa will grow to over one billion people by 2020, despite declining birthrates and increasing number of deaths from AIDS.

USAID's Contributions

USAID supports commercial marketing and education efforts that promote the adoption of modern family planning practices. Five years ago, condoms were largely unavailable in Ethiopia. Today, 24 million condoms are being socially marketed there annually. In Kenya, the population growth rate has decreased from 4.1 percent in 1980-1985 to an estimated 2.1 percent in 1999. Malawi has shown remarkable progress in the use of modern contraceptives, increasing from less than 10 percent to 26 percent among married women. In Guinea, as contraceptives have become available in 89 percent of

the country, new family planning users have increased by 37 percent.

USAID supported several studies that have been used throughout the region to advocate policies and programs to address adolescent reproductive health (ARH) in Africa. These efforts have resulted in partner NGOs leveraging over \$5 million to initiate and expand ARH programs in Cameroon, Guinea, Madagascar, Rwanda, and South Africa. Also, data from Uganda, Cameroon, South Africa, and Mozambique show that social marketing of over-the-counter sexually transmitted infection (STI) treatments for men can be effective and result in the timely treatment of STIs and notification of their sexual partners.

HIV/AIDS

Trends

A total of 14.8 million Africans have died as a result of AIDS, which represents 75 percent of all AIDS deaths worldwide. An estimated 80 percent of those who died from AIDS were in their prime, between the ages of 20 and 50. Over 12 million children have been orphaned. And gains achieved in improving family planning and child survival over the last two decades are threatened and could be reversed. Life expectancy will be reduced from 59 to 45 years between 2005 and 2010. Long-term effects from HIV/AIDS extend well beyond the health sector. World Bank economists estimate that the shrinking labor pool (10 percent of southern Africa's workforce is infected) will slow the continent's economic growth rate by as much as 2 percent per year.

USAID's Contributions

USAID programs seek to slow, and where possible reverse, the spread of the disease through extensive education campaigns; expanded public, private, and nonprofit health interventions; and the promotion of greater political attention to the problem by Africa's leadership. USAID programs have been able to achieve increased political commitment, an environment of reduced stigma, and greater capacity building among local NGOs working on HIV/AIDS. Future directions include significantly scaling up successful interventions, increasing support for countries that currently have low prevalence rates, and targeting high-risk groups and areas. USAID's programs influence the development of locally appropriate feeding guidelines for HIV-infected women, such as in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa, and influence new HIV/AIDS policies in South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. In Ethiopia, grants to organizations have expanded outreach services in HIV/AIDS to over 3 million adolescents. A peer HIV counselor program was initiated in several Namibian communities, reaching 11,000 ex-combatants and other youth in the last four years.

An innovative program supported by USAID/Guinea is contributing to increases in HIV



Participants in Guinea's HIV/AIDS youth radio show.

L. Lantigue/USAID Guinea

prevention awareness and condom sales. A Saturday afternoon radio talk show broadcast across Lower Guinea features straight talk on a broad range of sexual matters. Topics include condom use, problems brought on by early pregnancy, benefits of abstinence, and transmission of HIV/AIDS. In FY 2000, private sector sales of condoms in Guinea were over 5.5 million, a 26 percent increase in sales since FY 1999.

Crisis Management and Humanitarian Assistance

Trends

In 2000, 21 African countries were involved in armed conflict and/or natural disasters, which uprooted 3 million people. And every country is vulnerable to epidemics of diseases such as meningitis, cholera, and ebola. These humanitarian crises and complex emergencies disrupt lives, jeopardize economic development, and threaten the progress made in the health, education, agriculture, environment, and democracy and governance sectors. Moreover, they divert resources that could otherwise be used for economic and social development.

The regional conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has left a devastating humanitarian crisis in its wake, with reports of as many as 2.5 million civilians killed by either fighting or starvation and disease. Civil wars in Sudan and Somalia and armed insurgencies in Rwanda, Angola, Burundi, and Uganda continue to destabilize the region and hinder development efforts. The internal and cross-border conflicts that have marked the last decade in the West African sub-region have left a failed state in Liberia, a civil war in Sierra Leone, and political and economic unraveling in Côte d'Ivoire.

Zambia: A Difficult Decision for Sililo

Sililo is married with four children. He works for a large bank in Ndola, Zambia's second largest city. For a long time now, he has been worried about his HIV status. In a country where 20 percent of the adult population is HIV positive, this is a very real concern. But because of the stigma that surrounds HIV/AIDS, he didn't feel he could share his thoughts, not even with his wife.

In an environment of rising HIV infections, Sililo's employers were concerned about the heavy impact of the epidemic on their workforce and overall productivity. They recognized that keeping their staff and their dependents healthy was less costly than facing the effects of absenteeism, health care costs, funeral benefits, and finally, the need to hire and train new staff. In October of last year, they brought in the FACEAIDS program.

The FACEAIDS program, designed and implemented by USAID's Zambia Integrated Health Program, addresses the interests and needs of workplaces through various education programs including training peer educators, distributing and promoting male and female condoms, and offering information on voluntary counseling and testing for HIV. To increase commitment to the program and encourage sustainability, employers sign an agreement to share costs, make time available for educational sessions, and draft an HIV/AIDS policy for their workplace. In the first six months of operation, five companies signed up for FACEAIDS and the program reached 454 employees. Demand for the program is high and expanding in 2001.

FACEAIDS starts with a series of meetings with workplace staff. Employees are oriented to what HIV/AIDS is, how it is spread, and what people can do to prevent infection. The importance of practicing safer sex is discussed, as is the value of HIV testing and knowing one's status. The employer then identifies peer educators within the company, who are trained by the program to continue the discussions and other activities.

After Sililo attended the first FACEAIDS presentation at his bank, he made up his mind to go for testing. After receiving counseling and having his blood taken, Sililo admits that the waiting time for the results was the most agonizing part of the whole experience. He was told that he was HIV negative and given a certificate to show his status. He later said, "It is like a heavy burden I have been carrying on my shoulders all these years has suddenly been lifted."

Sililo is committed to maintaining his HIV negative status. His experience also has motivated him to begin to speak out about the importance of knowing one's HIV status, and he has encouraged other colleagues at his workplace to go for HIV testing.

Against this sobering backdrop, progress was made in 2000, with the cessation of hostilities between Ethiopia and Eritrea, stepped up negotiations on the DRC, and some positive signs that combatants intend to pull back or withdraw troops from the eastern part of that country. The Somalia Transition National Government made nascent attempts at national reconciliation. The Somaliland Republic, which claimed independence from Somalia in 1991 but has not been recognized internationally, has made achievements in promoting peace, security, and

economic development, and continues to serve as a model for post-conflict countries. In transition countries, such as Nigeria, the challenge is to maintain momentum for democratic reforms as economic policies, business practices, and investment environments are transformed.

USAID's Contributions

USAID's approach to crisis prevention and response in Africa is multi-faceted and involves both short- and long-term interventions. In the short term, the Africa Bureau works closely with its

Senegal: Using Local Capacity in Conflict Resolution

In November 1999, the Association pour la Promotion Rurale de l'Arrondissement de Nyassia (APRAN), a small Senegalese NGO, realized that the security situation in the Casamance was adversely affecting the results of their program activities. They were confronted again and again with the effects of the conflict. Some of the villages in which they worked no longer existed, fields in which they had plantations were rife with landmines, attacks by armed bandits when traveling on local roads were common, and sources of external funding dried up as donor agencies left the region. APRAN members realized that the business as usual approach was getting them nowhere. They decided that to carry out their work effectively, they had to deal directly with the conflict.

APRAN approached the problem by helping communities organize cultural weekends—a nonthreatening social context in which communities could talk about the conflict. They assembled village soccer teams, hired dance troupes, organized traditional wrestling matches, and hired a theater group. At the insistence of the population, and at great risk to themselves, APRAN crossed the border into Guinea-Bissau to contact the main rebel group based there, the Mouvement des Forces Démocratiques de la Casamance (MFDC), and obtained a guarantee that the events would not be disrupted. The MFDC was impressed that for the first time they were being contacted directly by individuals from the Casamance who did not have political motivations.

The five cultural weekends were a resounding success. In many of the locations, it was the first time in years people were out after 9:00 p.m. dancing and socializing. The highlight was a local theater production about a family in which two of the daughters had lost limbs because of landmines. One of the brothers is in the army, the other in the MFDC. Each brother blames the other for what has happened to his sisters. But in the end, the mother of the family tells her sons that they should not forget they are family, and they embrace. Many in the audience wept openly at the end of the play.

Following the weekends, for the first time ever, women in two of the communities went to the Abbe Diamacoune, the spiritual leader of the MFDC, and requested that their villages no longer be used for MFDC activities and to ask him to work for peace. Other women went naked to the soldiers in the bush to shame and remind them to respect their mothers and other women, and asked that they stop fighting.

Because of its transparent approach, the APRAN program gave the Government of Senegal (GOS) a nonpolitical means of entering into dialogue with the MFDC political and military branches. APRAN has been able to provide, as a result of USAID support, crucial behind the scenes support to the peace process. The GOS has requested that they start thinking about how to bring refugees back to the Casamance. The MFDC has likewise requested that APRAN start thinking about how to reintegrate ex-combatants. On March 17, 2001, a peace treaty was signed between the GOS and the MFDC. USAID believes that APRAN's program has been instrumental in this achievement.

colleagues in the Bureau for Humanitarian Response to prevent and mitigate humanitarian emergencies through improved food security and the effective targeting of food aid. USAID assistance also helps to meet the basic needs of displaced people and facilitates transitions out of crisis by helping to reintegrate

former combatants into civil society, and rebuild institutions of law and stable governance. Long-term USAID development assistance seeks to address the root causes of conflict and to mitigate the effects of natural disasters by promoting environmentally sound natural resource management, improving citizen access to basic

health services and education, creating income-generating opportunities, and encouraging accountable and transparent governance. Recognizing the importance of conflict prevention to its entire development mission, the Africa Bureau has taken the lead in integrating conflict vulnerability analyses into the strategic planning process in all areas of assistance.

Intra-state conflicts continue to destabilize East, Central, and West Africa. Developing approaches to complex crises in the DRC, Burundi, Sudan, and the arc of conflict in West Africa (Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone), while preserving recent economic and social gains, presents a major challenge to USAID, especially where there is restricted, reduced, or no USAID presence. USAID programs promote decentralization of governmental functions and increase focus on anti-corruption activities. In countries such as South Africa, programs address factors that could derail the democratic transition, such as HIV/AIDS and high unemployment.

Developmental relief is a staggering proposition—nearly a third of sub-Saharan Africa's population, about 200 million people, goes to bed hungry. In addressing humanitarian assistance needs, the USAID Famine Early Warning System Network promotes consensus-building among donors, which led to food being provided to 8 million severely at-risk people in Ethiopia. USAID's Linking Complex Emergency Response Transition Initiative worked with the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to set up regional contingency stocks of drugs, materials, and essential supplies in central, western, and southern Africa and the Great Lakes region, markedly improving

response time to potential crises, such as last year's ebola outbreak in northern Uganda. Likewise, USAID's Africa Emergency Locust and Grasshopper Assistance project strengthened host country capacities for early detection and prevention of outbreak pest invasions by training over 250 crop protection officers in Mauritania, Senegal, and Tanzania. As a result, these and many other sub-Saharan countries have been able to avert locust and grasshopper outbreaks and invasions and protect their crops and livelihood. USAID also responded to natural disasters such as the floods in Mozambique and cyclones in Madagascar. In Madagascar, USAID project support helped to clear debris from an important railway and plant vegetation on denuded hillsides.

Democracy and Governance

Trends

Most sub-Saharan African countries continue to struggle with the shift from authoritarian regimes to more pluralistic, participatory governments. Despite progress in expanding and consolidating democracy in some sub-Saharan African countries over the last 10 years, efforts by governments and donors must be sustained to put Africa firmly on the path towards responsible and representative governance, including addressing issues of corruption and respect for the rule of law.

In 1990 only four African countries could be classified as "democracies" according to Freedom House, an international NGO that tracks political freedom. By 2001, the number of democracies had doubled, and more than half the countries on the continent were in the transition process. There has been an explosion of civil society develop-

ment in Africa, freedom of the press has expanded greatly, and basic principles of human rights and democracy are more widely embraced. The involvement of women and of women's issues continued to increase over the past several years.

The Southern African Democracy Barometer, a measure of public attitudes on democracy conducted by the Institute for Democracy in South Africa in several countries, reports that citizens are more aware of their human rights and other basic facts affecting their participation in democratic self-governance. Many citizens have participated in second or third round elections. Citizen awareness of free and fair elections has increased, yet the capacity of governments to conduct elections has not materially changed. Donors, therefore, must continue to provide elections-related support until African capacity exists.

A controversial electoral process in Côte d'Ivoire, violent municipal elections in Guinea, and a flawed presidential election in Benin underscored the fact that much remains to be done to foster democratic consolidation. Additionally, in a period of just four years, Zimbabwe has gone from being a USAID phase-out country—due to the excellent progress made in economic growth and governance—to being southern Africa's most dramatic example of poor governance by a ruling elite. On the positive front, Somalia formed a transitional national government, Eritrea and Ethiopia signed a peace accord, and the DRC's new president is taking the initial steps to turn the war-torn country around and has asked for



Participants in a Senegalese local governance workshop.

B. Groekema/USAID Washington

U.S. assistance. Rwanda and Sudan are working to improve local-level capacity in the area of decentralization, as is Uganda. Furthermore, Botswana continues to be a beacon of hope in the region as it continues to consolidate its democracy.

USAID's Contributions

Through its democracy and governance programs in 23 of the 48 sub-Saharan countries and 3 regional programs, USAID is supporting the application of democratic principles and good governance by helping to enshrine enduring political practices, institutions, and values that mobilize public participation, foster respect for basic human rights, and promote open, lawful, and accountable governance. USAID assistance focuses on strengthening judiciaries, parliaments, and local governments; building political parties that can compete freely and fairly in credible elections; and increasing the capability of civil society and the media to play an active and positive role in the democratic governance of their countries. These programs also contribute to conflict prevention and developmental relief by helping to build democratic societies in which the open debate of divisive issues can occur in a stable political framework for the peaceful settlement of disputes. By fostering public sector accountability and sound

management practices, democracy programs also build the institutional capacity of governments and local civil society organizations to avoid or manage humanitarian crises and complex emergencies. To further these efforts, democratic principles such as increased participation and transparency are also incorporated into health, environment, education, agriculture, and economic growth programs with positive results.

USAID assistance contributed to the successful elections in Ghana and Senegal, marking the first time in either country's history where power was handed from one party to another through democratic process. USAID also supports efforts in South Africa to develop a strong social contract between the state and its citizens, where the government protects the rights of and delivers services to its citizens through programs to strengthen local government capacity, build partnerships between municipalities and civil society, and improve the effectiveness of the criminal justice system. In Kenya, USAID-funded civil society organizations have made significant achievements in consolidating a challenge to the strong authority of the executive branch, brokering agreement between opposing parties in the constitutional reform process, and undertaking a basic rights campaign against economic injustice.

A USAID-funded legislative strengthening program in Namibia has encouraged the expansion of the role of parliament from rubber-stamp approval of legislation to a body where bills are referred to committee for further debate and public comment is encouraged. In the past year, 15 bills received public comment that have resulted in amendments to legislation. The

Guinea: Local Government Takes on New Role

In late 1995, the Cooperative League of the United States of America (CLUSA) began a five-year, USAID-funded Strengthening Civil Society program in the Basse Côte region of Guinea. The program's original objective was to assist rural group-based enterprises to become sustainable, member-owned, and democratically operated businesses, but it quickly became evident that the impact of the program could be significantly broadened to include training for locally elected, decentralized government units.

The Communauté Rurale de Développement (CRD), a rural, elected unit of government, in the town of Xorira is one such beneficiary. The CRD has been pleased with the training they have received from CLUSA, which has enabled its members to understand their roles as elected officials as well as the rights and responsibilities of the citizens they serve. Because citizens now have a voice in how their taxes are used, and because the funds are managed transparently, they voluntarily pay their taxes. Thus, the Xorira CRD has improved tax receipts, including head, market, marriage, and birth certificate taxes. This revenue is now being used to satisfy community needs such as completion of three primary school classrooms, construction of a mosque, and reforestation of land in Xorira; and mobilization for the construction of a health center and collection of about \$1,200 to dig six wells in the nearby village of Bantama.

The Xorira CRD now invites civil society organizations to sit in on their budget planning sessions. Organizations attended the planning sessions for the 2000 fiscal year, and were also invited to a review of decisions made in 1999.

CLUSA training also helped the CRD to deal with a delicate situation when the organization's treasurer was not fulfilling his duties and needed to be replaced. Members said that a session on how to do internal job reviews helped them justify their decision to replace the treasurer, and to do so in an orderly manner.

Speaking metaphorically, one CRD member says of his CLUSA training, "Instead of buying a fish, one should learn how to fish." With citizens and CRD members understanding their roles and responsibilities, the CRD of Xorira is moving forward with its development plans.



Members of the Xorira local government.

L.Lartigue/USAID Guinea

Namibian public is also now able to access to parliament and their elected representatives online.

USAID's focus on democratic governance and conflict prevention and mitigation has improved collaboration between government and civic leaders to solve community problems in Mali, assisted the arbitration of legal disputes in Zambia and South Africa, and improved public debate and democratic institutions in Mozambique.



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