

# **USAID/Office of Transition Initiatives**

## **Annual Report**

**FY 2005**

June 16, 2005

## **Please Note:**

The attached RESULTS INFORMATION is from the FY 2005 Annual Report and was assembled and analyzed by the country or USAID operating unit identified on the cover page.

The Annual Report is a "pre-decisional" USAID document and does not reflect results stemming from formal USAID review(s) of this document.

Related document information can be obtained from:  
USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse  
8403 Colesville Road, Suite 210  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
Telephone: (301) 562-0641  
Fax: (301) 588-7787  
Email: [docorder@dec.cdie.org](mailto:docorder@dec.cdie.org)  
Internet: <http://www.dec.org>

Portions released on or after July 1, 2005

## Office of Transition Initiatives

### Performance:

Program Narrative (FY 2004): OTI/Afghanistan - During FY 2004, OTI continued its efforts to increase citizen awareness of and confidence in Afghanistan's recovery, rehabilitation, and democratic development. Among these efforts were activities that supported community development projects identified as priorities by local citizens and government authorities. Highlights include the rehabilitation of an underground irrigation system in a village near Ghazni, which had been without a fully operational one for more than 20 years owing to drought and conflict. The rehabilitated irrigation system not only provided the villagers with water, it also resulted in increased community confidence in the government's ability to respond to its concerns - as witnessed by villagers' subsequent efforts to register to vote in the impending presidential election. OTI funding also helped communities in Afghanistan's rugged Hindu Kush Mountains replace old wooden bridges with concrete structures or stone masonry or to reconstruct war-damaged bridges. Among other effects, these activities stimulated economic growth through improved farm-to-market access for agricultural products and helped reduce ethnic tension arising from questions over bridge use and responsibility for repair. Community development projects were also used to disseminate information on elections and democratic processes to a wide variety of audiences. At project sites, staff members informed local residents and workers about elections and the importance of citizen participation in democratic processes, and OTI-sponsored workshops on these topics.

OTI continued to develop the capacity of Afghan media through the establishment of independent media outlets, development and distribution of radio programs and print publications, and training for journalists. In one project, university journalism students received training on writing, editing, and broadcasting skills and OTI provided funding for the equipment for the student-run radio station. Putting their training into practice, the students provided outstanding professional coverage of the removal of Herat's warlord governor and the public violence this caused. The students took to the streets, developed leads, conducted interviews, and produced reliable news that helped restore calm. According to their trainers, BBC monitors, and citizen comments, their broadcasts were of high quality and the reporting responsible, balanced, and accurate. Another very successful media activity is a children's program that has captured the imaginations of tens of thousands of young Afghan listeners. Through its characters - an interactive radio, invisible parrot, and flying carpet - the program brings to life Afghanistan's geography, history, and current affairs and addresses issues of post-conflict psychology from a child's perspective. The program is enormously popular and in mid-2004 was awarded second place by UNICEF/One World for the best radio show for, by, and about children.

OTI/Angola - Continuing its efforts to help promote a lasting peace and increased democracy following nearly 40 years of conflict, in FY 2004 OTI/Angola focused on increasing civil society organizations' capacity to advocate on key issues and increasing citizens' and local authorities' engagement in addressing community problems. One illustrative activity enabled an NGO to implement an education-sector improvement project in Huambo, a province that experienced near-total devastation of key infrastructure, including schools, during the many years of conflict. The project involved working with community members, teachers, and Ministry of Education officials to improve the quality of education in rural communities. Activities included school rehabilitations, provision of teaching materials and school supplies, basic skills training for teachers, and training and technical assistance to establish and support parent organizations. As a result of the project, dozens of school committees were established, two book stores benefiting 15 schools were created, and a school library was being constructed in one community.

In another successful activity, a group of local journalists and teachers joined together to promote outreach to citizens on democracy and human rights issues. OTI funded the group to strengthen municipal councils in three municipalities in Huila Province. As a result of the training and technical

assistance, three 25-member councils that include government and civil society representatives have met regularly to discuss and resolve community problems. In some cases, working groups were organized to present citizen grievances to council members for discussion and resolution and subcommittees were formed to address important community issues, such as health and transportation.

OTI/Burundi - In February 2004, OTI/Burundi retargeted its program and chose to concentrate its work in two provinces where much of the worst destruction and displacement had occurred (Gitega and Ruyigi). The program areas selected involved community-based reconciliation (through participatory community improvement projects), vocational skills training, small grants, and media. OTI trained and deployed 20 master trainers to each of eighteen communes in Gitega and Ruyigi, who then conducted conflict mitigation training with three groups of civil society leaders in each commune and in five vocational skills training schools. As of October 1, 2004, a total of 2,453 people participated in the leadership training workshops. Local government officials have said the training has helped them improve their leadership styles and relationships with their constituents. Also in FY 2004, eight vocational skills training schools in Gitega and Ruyigi provinces were rehabilitated and became fully operational. The schools serve repatriates, displaced persons, ex-combatants, child soldiers and their guardians, child-headed households, mother-headed households, and youth and undereducated individuals. A total of 870 students were enrolled in five skills sectors. The enrollment figures came close to, and in one category surpassed, target figures for each beneficiary category. This program also promotes reconciliation by bringing people together from returning and host populations to learn marketable skills and jointly participate in income-generating associations. Furthermore, the skills training reduces individuals' dependency on land-based income, and therefore reduces the risk of violent conflicts over scarce land.

OTI media partners, state-owned Burundi National Radio and Television (RTNB), and independent RSF Bonesha FM (Bonesha) obtained the equipment and support necessary to ensure uninterrupted, country-wide coverage and make weekly field trips out of Bujumbura to gather interviews and material for programming. These advances have significantly mitigated conflict in Burundi, given that the timely dissemination of accurate and balanced information is critical to assuaging fears and dampening incendiary rumors. From June through September 2004, RTNB and Bonesha undertook 76 outreach trips to locations throughout Burundi to collect citizens' views on current events. Both stations sent journalists on regional trips to cover meetings in South Africa and Tanzania pertaining to Burundi's political transition. As a result of OTI support, its two media partners collectively produced 240 new programs. RTNB's radio agency produced 158 programs and its television agency has aired 42 programs. Bonesha broadcast 80 programs.

OTI/DRC - With the objective of helping stabilize communities in areas with high levels of returnees (both ex-combatants and IDPs), in FY 2004 OTI/DRC trained 14 master trainers, who then conducted lessons for over 9,000 youth, and provided small grant support for community-based infrastructure rehabilitation activities in the same participating communities. The master trainers worked in remote areas throughout the DRC to educate communities in health, civic education, agriculture, conflict management, business management, numeracy, and literacy. They are also working to reaffirm community values and promote the healing of wounds from the five years of conflict.

OTI/DRC supported community reintegration by requiring local volunteers to administer the training and instill a sense of ownership through active participation in high-priority, community-identified activities. For example, during the conflict, ethnic groups had fought and destroyed the central marketplace in Bunia. OTI supported the rehabilitation of the market in order to bring back a core commercial activity that had in the past involved traders and buyers of all local ethnic backgrounds. To complete the project, local residents provided the labor and OTI provided the materials to construct trade booths, a footbridge, and a water collection system. During the construction phase, 400 local workers were employed, providing much-needed income for their households. The April inauguration of the this market, which was attended by 3,000 local officials, residents and traders, reinforced the idea that people of various ethnic backgrounds have common interests and can work and interact productively. Today, the same ethnic groups that had clashed only recently are now peacefully reintegrated and exchanging goods and food products in the rehabilitated market.

OTI/DRC provided extensive support to Fondation Hironnelle, in collaboration with the United Nations Mission in the Congo (MONUC), to increase the impact of its Radio Okapi and strengthen the professional capacity of indigenous radio stations. As a result, Radio Okapi increased the number of its radio studios from nine to ten and the number of relays and mobile transmitters from one to fourteen. Plans are being made to add another radio station, six additional partner radio stations to its network, and six more mobile networks. In addition, OTI has also supported Fondation Hironnelle in the training of 80 journalists, which has increased the quality of Radio Okapi broadcasts on a range of issues key to the political transition, including DDR, conflict management, and breaking news events. Radio Okapi's reporting has helped diffuse tensions during recent periods of armed conflict and citizen unrest, and its network will continue to serve as a vital resource to supporters of Congo's ongoing political transition.

OTI/Iraq - In FY 2004, OTI worked to strengthen public support for peaceful democratic development through projects that affect Iraqis' daily lives and give local populations an increased sense of empowerment. Illustrative of these projects are joint U.S. Army/OTI activities that have generated short-term employment opportunities in priority communities throughout Iraq. In Baghdad, for example, recent grants provided temporary, 60-day plus employment to an average of 25,000 local residents per month in the areas of Sadr City, Abu Ghraib, Al Rasheed, Mansour, Kamaliya, and Al Kharkh. The projects have involved intensive clean-ups, including debris and surface sewage, as well as small-scale infrastructure rehabilitation. In addition to the income generation for the workers and the improved infrastructure, the activities have helped win the confidence of residents in the target neighborhoods.

OTI/Iraq also has continued to work closely with the interim Iraqi government, new Iraqi institutions, local NGOs, and Coalition Forces to promote human rights and transitional justice issues. A leading area of this support is projects that bolster the capacity and increase the participation of traditionally marginalized and vulnerable groups, such as women. For example, during the past year more than two dozen small grants went to support women's centers throughout the country that offer educational programming, job skills training, and access to resources. The centers include well-equipped, multi-purpose auditoriums where women can take part in performances, craft shows, educational programs, and civil society forums. Two of the centers are shelters that provide temporary housing, as well as psychological counseling and other services, to women and girls who have experienced abuse and are not safe in their homes. In addition to the centers, OTI grants support other activities that benefit women, such as women's rights and democracy education, mobile crisis intervention teams, and conferences. The training on the fundamentals of democracy and women's rights has focused on helping women at the local level move beyond repressive conditions and exercise their human and political rights. The multi-ethnic mobile crisis intervention teams have provided abuse intervention and critical health services to thousands of women and, in so doing, have helped build trust and reduce tension between ethnic and religious groups.

OTI/Sri Lanka - During FY 2004, OTI trained approximately 4,320 officials and key decision-makers and 13,105 people in peacebuilding/conflict resolution/mitigation skills. OTI/Sri Lanka also supported Sri Lankan grantees in bringing diverse groups of people together. For example, OTI funded the Eastern Rehabilitation and Relief Organization to conduct three local youth exchange programs in Ampara district.

OTI/Sri Lanka supported community rehabilitation projects that demonstrated the tangible benefits of peace, as well as promoted inter-ethnic cooperation. One such project in Trincomalee involved the provision of sanitation facilities for a resettled Sinhalese community. Moreover, an inter-ethnic dimension was added by purposely enriching the ethnic mix of the vendors who provided goods and services to the beneficiaries. First, the Muslim vendors supplying materials to the beneficiaries voluntarily offered to deliver materials directly to each house to help facilitate construction. In addition, Tamil laborers helped the Sinhalese families excavate the sites for the facilities. Finally, a local Sinhalese brick maker from whom OTI purchased building materials greeted OTI staff members who were visiting the site and said "thank you" in Tamil, using the traditional Tamil gesture of respect.

Inspired by an OTI-supported three-day training on the role of the media in conflict transformation, a multi-ethnic group of reporters from Ampara District, which in the past were segregated by language and mono-ethnic professional societies, decided to form a new society comprised of Sinhalese, Tamil, and Muslim journalists. The workshop was conducted by the Center for Peacebuilding and Reconciliation,

based in Colombo, supported by the predominantly Sinhalese Digamadulla Journalist Foundation (DJF), based in Ampara. During the last session of the workshop, the DJF decided to change its name and encouraged journalists from four other predominantly Muslim and Tamil societies to join them. A multi-ethnic committee was formed to develop a new name and logo for the group, which will be printed on the field bags OTI provides to workshop participants. Community leaders were so impressed by the journalists' vision for a multi-ethnic professional society that a local government official offered to provide a block of land on which the new organization can build an office and training center. By continuing to reinforce the principle and practice of conflict-sensitive reporting, the diversified journalists' society hopes to have a positive impact on peace building and coexistence in their communities in the future.

OTI/Sudan - With the late May 2004 signing of the Naivasha Protocols by the SPLM and the government of Sudan (GoS), OTI helped provide a stable foundation for peace by disseminating accurate information on the Protocols throughout southern Sudan. In FY 2004, two USAID/OTI-funded projects, the Sudan Radio Service (SRS) and the Southern Sudan Transition Initiative (SSTI), spread news of the protocols and facilitated grass-roots participation in the peace process. With support from OTI, 25 journalists, technicians and managers received training. The SRS broadcasts six hours of programming a day in nine different languages, reaching 1.5 million people or 20 per cent of the total population of southern Sudan. The SRS has provided timely updates and on-the-scene coverage at the Naivasha peace talks. In response to listener feedback indicating confusion about the accord's details, the SRS devoted much of its June programming to exploring the specifics of the peace agreements. For example, one of its civic education programs, "The Road to Peace," featured a comprehensive comparison between the 1972 Addis Ababa agreement (which ultimately failed) and the Naivasha accords. Other programs included discussions on the potential impact of the peace agreement on women and coverage of a local governance workshop in Yei. An SRS reporter also accompanied SPLM leader, John Garang, on his trip throughout southern Sudan to assure the population of the accords' benefits for the region. The launch of the SRS website in June has considerably expanded the radio station's audience to include Sudanese living in Europe and North America. Visitors to the site can listen to a variety of programs in nine languages on demand and feedback thus far has been quite positive.

OTI/Venezuela - In response to events surrounding the referendum to recall the country's President, events which took place in an environment hyper-charged with political tension and concern about possible political violence, OTI launched a series of conflict prevention and resolution initiatives. For example, OTI funded dozens of activities that brought together government and opposition supporters to discuss the importance of resolving conflict before it occurs or spins out of control into violence. The key principles emphasized were tolerance for the beliefs of others and the need to move past political differences in order to coexist peacefully. In one project, which focused on some of the poorest and most violence-prone parts of Caracas, 30 people were trained as "guardians of peace" in each of 13 target neighborhoods. Project facilitators and participants have indicated that the training had helped change peoples' perceptions and empowered them to think they could resolve conflicts without violence.

In a related vein, OTI-supported NGOs and community organizations - both pro-government and opposition - launched a national campaign - "Venezuela Convive." - that tapped into Venezuelans' deep-seated belief in the concept of peaceful coexistence (convivencia). Twelve regional groups, with over 2,500 members, have been established and are working to promote convivencia. The campaign's poster can be seen all over the country and has prompted a lot of discussion in the media and among civil society organizations and universities about the critical importance of living together peacefully. Added to this, the coach of the wildly popular national soccer team has done a promotional spot for "Venezuela Convive," which will join two others being shown as trailers in movie theatres around the country.

## Results Framework

### **965-001 Political transitions successfully advanced in priority, conflict-prone countries**

#### **SO Level Indicator(s):**

% final evaluations finding significant impact in strengthening democratic processes or increasing momentum for peaceful resolution of conflict

% of target population assisted or engaged in participatory initiatives

% programs that have increase in access to unbiased information by target population on key transition issues.

% programs that have sustainable handoff strategy in place after 18 months of start-up