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USAID-NIGERIA RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Since the results of Nigeria's first free and fair presidential election were aborted by the Military and the international community responded with sanctions, the human rights abuses, physical violence and political repression in Nigeria have increasingly made clear the current leadership's lack of concern for social development and the well-being of its citizens. Public sector health services have collapsed and Nigerian non-governmental organizations (NGO) are providing primary access to health services for large segments of the population. If these non-governmental organization programs were to cease, essential health services would no longer be available for many poorer Nigerians. The Federal Government of Nigeria will not pick up the slack.

USAID-Nigeria is strengthening the capacity of non-governmental organizations__ both to respond to dramatically increasing local needs with basic health care services and, in the longer term, to serve as a force for the social and political mobilization that are the essential building blocks of democracy. The USAID program is humanitarian and works to build alternative leadership at the community level -- an important democratic counterforce to a Federal Government that has shown itself to be authoritarian, exploitative and unresponsive to the needs of even its most vulnerable populations. The USAID program is a highly visible, effective reenforcement of U.S. sanctions against the present Government of Nigeria, as well as a statement of U.S. commitment to the well-being of the Nigerian people. **It serves as a daily reminder to Nigeria's government of American policy.** It is not surprising (although not related to their membership in USAID supported non-governmental organizations), that some of the leaders of these non-governmental organizations recently attracted adverse action by government forces seeking to suppress the voices of civil society (e.g. Dr. Beko Ransome Kuti a leader in Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) and the National Democratic Coalition (NADECO); and the Editor in Chief of "The Sunday Magazine and Nigerian Institute of Journalist (NIJ) leader, Ms. Chris Anyanwu who were recently arrested).

Implementation Through American Non-Governmental Organizations: Accountability

ALL USAID-Nigeria funds are managed through American profit and not for profit organizations with established networks and long term experience working in Nigeria. These Implementing Partners (IP) assure a high level of accountability for USAID funds and protect the managerial integrity of USAID program efforts. USAID-Nigeria is acutely aware and is actively addressing the acknowledged accountability risks of working in Nigeria.

Organizations currently working with USAID support in Nigeria include: the National Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Rotary International, Africare, Family Health International, The River Blindness Foundation, John Snow International, Management Sciences for Health, The University of North Carolina, The Johns Hopkins University, World Vision International, The

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Pathfinder Fund, The Center for Education, Development and Population Activities (CEDPA), Access to Voluntary and Safe Contraception (AVSC), and The San Diego Lactation Center.

USAID Support to Nigeria

Currently, an estimated 80% of locally expended USAID funds are spent in southeastern and southwestern Nigeria. USAID, through the many U.S. organizations listed above, support's programs with many hundreds of Nigerian non-governmental organizations. While the Ogoni people are not singled out as recipients, they benefit from many of the initiatives in the southeastern part of the country. The Northern regions have traditionally received fewer resources than the South because of lower literary rates, poorer infrastructure and conservative attitudes which make development work more difficult there. USAID is identifying program opportunities in the North. The following are examples of USAID supported organizations. More detail is available if needed.

■ **The National Association of Nigeria Nurses and Midwives (NANNM)**

NANNM is a professional trade union for registered nurses and midwives. They provide integrated health services to communities, including several in the Ogoni territories. NAMMM helps underserved population who have no other access to quality health services. This non-governmental organization is filling some of the void created by the collapse of public sector services for this region. USAID support is concentrated on their southwestern and southeastern state chapters.

■ **The Nigerian Medical Association (NMA)**

The Medical Association provides professional support and advocacy for Nigeria's 37,000 registered medical practitioners. This organization is the core of the referral systems supporting primary health services. It is also the group that has been most vocal in demanding access to medical treatment for Moshood Abiola and Ken Saro-Wiwa,

Other major Professional/Labor Organizations with whom USAID's program is working include: The Medical Women's Association of Nigeria, and The Association of General and Private Medical Practitioners of Nigeria.

■ **The National Council of Women's Societies (NCWS)**

The NCWS is an umbrella organizations for women's non-governmental organizations, community groups, traders and farmers organizations and local cooperatives. Their primary focus is enhancing women's leadership, the status of women and women's involvement and participation in the economic, social and political spheres. USAID support is concentrated on their southwestern and southeastern state chapters, but moving North.

■ **The Country Women Association of Nigeria (COWAN) - Southwestern Nigeria**

COWAN is an activist, grassroots cooperative organization established in 1982. It currently has over 30,000 members in 12 southern states in Nigeria and works to mobilize rural women. This organization has dynamic leadership that has been vocal in its support for the release of Moshood Abiola.

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■ **Women in Nigeria (WIN) - Cross River State**

WIN is a women's activist organizations that is concerned with developing leadership that addresses the family, the community and the nation,. They focus on youth leadership, education and advocacy programs to empower women to gain full social, economic and political rights.

■ **Christian Health Association of Nigeria (CHAN)**

The extensive and highly reputable CHAN umbrella network of missionary and religious organizations provides services for tens of millions of Nigerians. It is the leading alternative to Government health care provision in Nigeria, ranging from community outreach for immunizations to hospital care.

■ **Niger Diocesan Medical Services - Southeast Nigeria (Anambra State)**

This network of 8 non-profit hospital and clinics is affiliated with the Anglican Church. USAID inputs help to strengthen network-level leadership, facility management and clinical services (immunization, sick child case management, HIV/AIDS, and voluntary family planning)

■ **Baptist Hospital Eku - Southeastern Nigeria, Delta State**

This affiliate of the American Southern Baptist Convention provides both curative and preventive health care to underserved populations living in riverine areas of the country

Other reputable religious/church based groups working with USAID support include: The Seventh Day Adventists (SDA) Health Services; Catholic Archdioceses of Onitsha, Enugu, Ondo/Ekiti and Ibadan; The Enugu Churches Health Project; The Daughters of Divine Love Hospital; Holy Rosary Maternity Hospital; Evangelical Church of West Africa (ECWA); and the Federal of Muslim Women's Association of Nigeria (FOMWAN).

■ **The National Council for Population and Environmental Activities (NCPEA) - Lagos**
based NCPEA is a public policy advocacy forum working with the News Media and policymakers. It is headed by a former Minister of Health (during a civilian regime) who is also a successful entrepreneur in the private sector. NCPEA is perceived as a major policy influencer at all levels.

■ **The Nigerian Institute of Journalism (NIJ) - Lagos based**

The NIJ is a private training institution for journalist. USAID supports its efforts to report information accurately and without bias, with the Mission entry point being health issues, women's status, adolescent issues and population. As noted above, NIJ leadership has been subject to Government intimidation.

■ **Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria (PPFN)**

PPFN is the pioneer in the provision of voluntary family planning services and a leader in programs of women's advocacy and family health care decision making. It is affiliated with the

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International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). IPPF is interested in expanding in the North.

■ **Nigeria Youth AIDS Program (YACAM Outreach) - Rivers State**

This community organization provides health education, HIV/AIDS prevention programs and health outreach for youth in oil-producing communities.

■ **Nka Iban Uko (Women of Courage) - Cross Rivers State**

This women's organizations supports AIDS education and vocations training programs for vulnerable women in Southeastern Nigeria.

Other community based organizations working on HIV/AIDS prevention include: The Nigeria Organization for Solidarity and Development Mobilization for Social Justice and Education for Democracy, The Society against the Spread of AIDS, Abi Community for AIDS prevention, Association of Concerned Partners's for Nigerian Youth, The NAMES Project, Association of Patriots-Obanliku, Youth against AIDS and Drugs.

USAID DEMOCRATIZATION SUPPORT TO NIGERIA

USAID funding for direct democratization activities is managed by the State Department and USIA. Support is provided to those private sector organizations which provide a valid forum for influencing political and economic decisions in Nigeria consistent with USG policies and interests. The three projects involved are the Democratization and Human Rights Fund (116(e) of the FAA), The African American Labor Center (AALC) Project, and the USIA Nigeria Democracy Initiatives Project.

These projects are training Nigerians in the rudiments of democracy and encouraging popular pressure for change. The AALC provides critical monetary and moral support for the beleaguered labor unions. The labor movement in Nigeria has been and continues to be a key "swing vote" in the political climate, with great weight due to its influence on oil production capacity. The following are examples of Nigerian organizations receiving USAID funding for democratization activities.

■ **Constitutional Rights Project (CRP)**

The CRP is a human rights group dedicated to strengthening and promoting the independence of the judiciary and other democratic institutions, and to ensure that legislation affecting the rights and freedoms of Nigerians is in compliance with international norms.

■ **Legal Research and Development Center (LRRDC)**

The LRRDC produces simple pictorial texts to raise public awareness on personal rights and freedoms, as well as aspects of the law such as marriage, divorce and separation, the African Charter on Human and People's rights, bail, arrest, search and seizure, rape, wills, and Nigeria's court system.

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■ **National Union of Teachers (NUT)**

The NUT is one of the largest professional trade union organizations in Africa, with a total membership of 500,000. It plans to create study materials for a unit of democracy and human rights that will be integrated into ongoing study circles in which teachers all over the country participate. Over the long term, the organization hopes to integrate the study materials into the curricula of the nation's primary and secondary schools.

■ **Civil Liberties Organization (CLO)**

The CLO is a pioneer in the Nigerian Human rights movement and has compiled the proceedings and judgements of human rights court cases over the last ten years, as well as the texts of relevant human rights instruments. It plans to publish these materials as a "one stop shopping document" for human rights lawyers and activists as well as for the press and general public.

■ **Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC)**

The NLC is the largest Nigerian labor union with branches in every state of Nigeria. It represent rank and file workers.

■ **Senior Staff Consultative Association of Nigeria (SESCAN)**

SESCAN was established to provide a voice of Nigerian "senior staff" who have been excluded from the NLC by government edict. It is an independent labor center that operates without government funding.

■ **Institute of Human Rights and Human Law (IHRHL)**

The IHRHL is a non-profit NGO based in Pert Harcourt, a minority populated area of Nigeria, that specializes in human rights education.