



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID IN AFRICA

Summer 2005

News, Updates, and Resources from the U.S. Agency for International Development

United States Increases Aid to Africa

Recent events have moved the future of Africa to the center of the world stage. The Bush Administration is committed to encouraging political and economic development and enhancing peace and prosperity in Africa by working with key stable countries and African organizations in support of peace and prosperity and focusing on expanding trade and investment, regional security cooperation, and health and education as policy priorities.

As part of this commitment, the United States and other G-8 partners agreed in June to 100 percent cancellation of debt obligations owed to the World Bank, African Development Bank, and International Monetary Fund by eligible countries. Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia will receive immediate cancellation of approximately \$35 billion in debt payment obligations. Additional countries are expected to qualify by the end of 2006. Removing these countries' debt burdens allows their governments to focus on better reaching their people with expanded education and health services.

In June, President Bush announced that the United States will double assistance to Africa by 2010. Much of this new aid will go to countries already reforming governments and policies. Official development assistance to Africa from the United States in 2004 was about \$4.3 billion. The Administration is committed to increasing that amount to \$8.6 billion by 2010.

Much of the United States' assistance to Africa flows through USAID, including emergency humanitarian aid and several of President Bush's special initiatives. The United States has provided almost \$1.4 billion in humanitarian assistance to 32 African emergencies during fiscal year 2005. This includes assistance provided through the United Nations and NGOs. President Bush announced increased funding for several special initiatives and that an additional \$674 million will be used to respond to humanitarian emergencies in Africa. Of this, \$414



G. FAYALUS EMBASSY

First Lady Laura Bush accepts a gift from a child on Zanzibar. During her July 2005 trip to Africa, Mrs. Bush also visited mainland Tanzania, South Africa, and Rwanda. See story on page 6.

Shea Butter Producers Aim for U.S. Market

By Kwaku Sakyi-Addo

Brown kernels slightly larger than oval-shaped golf balls are making a splash in the cosmetics industry. Women in the Sahel region of Africa have known for centuries about the unique healing and skin-rejuvenation qualities of the butter from shea nuts, and now women in Japan, Europe, and increasingly the United States are finding out as well, and demand is growing. "We've come across women who've had several children, but don't have any stretch marks, because they use shea butter,"

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says Michelle Gilfoil, an entrepreneur who with her sister, Kara, founded Planet Botanicals in 2003, producing a line of shea-based cosmetics. A four-ounce bottle of their fully natural Shea d’Afrique body balm retails for \$16 in the United States.

Indeed, researchers have confirmed the virtues of the shea nut. Peter Lovett, a West Africa Trade Hub (WATH) consultant on shea says it “contains chemicals with a range of therapeutic benefits, including ultra-violet protection, moisturizing, regenerative, anti-eczema, and anti-wrinkle properties.”

WATH is one of four trade hubs located around the continent to assist companies with business development issues as part of President Bush’s African Global Competitiveness Initiative.

According to a November 2004 WATH study U.S. importers of high-quality shea butter are poised to import greater

volumes to meet an increasing demand for it in the cosmetic industry. The study puts current annual shea butter exports to the United States at approximately 500 tons, worth roughly \$2.5-5 million, and representing between 10 and 20 percent of worldwide trade. WATH envisages U.S. imports doubling within three to four years “with a package of technical assistance, targeted marketing, and development of strong links between suppliers and U.S. buyers.”

Annual production in West Africa can potentially meet the demand. The major producers of shea—Nigeria, Mali, Ghana, Côte d’Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Benin, and Togo—produce an estimated 1.1 million metric tons. However, only about half of that is actually collected, and only 45 percent of that is exported as kernels or butter. The rest is consumed locally.

Imports are growing but there are hurdles for local manufacturers of finished products who wish to explore the burgeoning U.S. market. These include the challenge of producing consistently high “quality @ quantity,” as Lovett describes manufacturing large volumes of quality product, and conforming to stringent labeling standards. WATH believes that new local manufacturers of shea butter products should first explore the West Africa regional market where stringent European Union and U.S. standards do not apply, in order to hone their processing and marketing techniques.

In March 2005, representatives from five companies exhibited their products at the Natural Products Expo



Processing shea butter requires kneading by hand to separate the fat from the other parts of the kernel.

USAID in Africa is published by the Africa Bureau Information Center, operated by the Academy for Educational Development under contract to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and is part of the Development Information Services project of USAID’s Office of Development Evaluation and Information.

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Patricia Mantey

USAID in Africa provides news, updates, and resources from the U.S. Agency for International Development. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect USAID policies. Comments, letters, and articles are welcome. Send them to:

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West in Anaheim, California. Emily Miller, WATH’s business development advisor, accompanied the West African participants on a tour of retail outlets to demonstrate the high quality and wide range of packaging, as well as the price range of products. Each of the five companies generated serious sales leads for both finished retail products and bulk orders with large and small American suppliers of beauty products, and two companies are now shipping orders. WATH’s support has enabled the West African companies to make the most of the Expo’s opportunities, starting with a preparatory training workshop in February.

Kwaku Sakyi-Addo is a freelance writer. This article is adapted from a piece that originally appeared in the WATH Factor newsletter.

For more information, including WATH’s report “The Shea Butter Value Chain,” visit www.watradehub.com.

Community Centers Care for South Africa's Orphans

The bright, eager faces of the children playing at the NOAH resource center in Hammanskraal, South Africa, appear like those of any other well cared for children. What makes these children different is that most of them have already lost one parent to HIV/AIDS, and some have lost both.

The Hammanskraal resource center is an "Ark" administered by NOAH (Nurturing Orphans of AIDS for Humanity), similar to nearly 70 other Arks in South Africa that operate in rural communities to assist orphans and vulnerable children, including some child-headed households.

South Africa is one of the countries in the world most severely affected by HIV/AIDS. New figures from South Africa's Department of Health indicate that more than 6.5 million people in this country of 47 million people may now carry the HIV virus. It is estimated that more than 1 million South African children have already been orphaned by the disease and approximately 2,500 are newly orphaned each day. By 2025 the orphan population may reach a staggering 10 percent of the population. Therefore, empowering communities to support and care for their own orphans and other vulnerable children is critical.

"Programs that work best are those that local neighbors support willingly with their own hands, hearts, and time," said Denise Rollins, USAID/South Africa's deputy director. "Part of USAID's funding enables NOAH to mobilize and train local community volunteers to learn how to best support orphans and vulnerable children where they live," she said. NOAH aims to mobilize 1,000 South African communities by 2008 to establish centers for orphan care. USAID's support for NOAH began in June 2004 with funding provided through President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

There are three components to the NOAH Ark model: a committee of community leaders, trained volunteers, and resource centers. NOAH identifies community leaders and helps make them aware of the needs of their orphans—if they are not already aware of them. A committee of volunteer and elected community leaders is tasked with driving and developing each Ark project. These leaders are trained in the management of a community-based project, and NOAH guides them towards strategies to make their resource center successful and self-reliant.

The NOAH Ark concept presumes that there will never be enough resources to



Children playing at a NOAH resource center.

care for all orphans in formal, institutional settings, even if this were desirable. Only a model rooted in teaching and empowering communities to take care of their own orphans has any chance of being sustainable and successfully scaled to the size needed to care for South Africa's growing number of orphans and vulnerable children.

Each center provides daycare for preschool children and after-school care for older children. The resource centers, usually located at primary schools, are places where children can receive

a balanced daily meal, have access to computers and libraries, have their homework supervised, receive counseling, play sports, learn to grow food, and gain other life skills, including nutrition and hygiene, language and communication, and elementary business skills. Each day the Hammanskraal center takes care of approximately 100 preschool children during the day and an additional 200 children after school.

The children live with extended families, often grandparents, or with neighbors who are willing to shelter them. By freeing these foster parents of responsibility to care for the children during the day, the centers allow caregivers to be economically active.

At the Hammanskraal Ark, Dineo, one of several trained volunteers at the center, helps prepare meals, care for, and play with the preschool children. "My dream has always been to work with children," said Dineo, who has three children of her own. She hopes to open a Sunday school or daycare of her own someday.

South Africa does not have enough social workers to deal with the social and emotional needs of all its orphaned children. Therefore, NOAH trains volunteers to identify children within their communities who need care, check that the care children receive at home is adequate, identify any major problems, and offer basic counseling in trauma, bereavement, and HIV/AIDS.

"NOAH is helping to give these children a life," said USAID's Rollins. "Through NOAH, they not only get healthy food every day, they also have a chance to learn—to get an education and counseling to understand their lives."

For additional information about the NOAH Ark communities, visit www.noahorphans.org.za.

—Patricia Mantey

MCC Signs New Country Compacts

The U.S. government's Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) and the government of Madagascar signed a four-year, nearly \$110 million dollar compact in April 2005, making it the first agreement between the newly created MCC and an eligible country. Cape Verde signed a similar agreement worth over \$110 million in July.

To date, the MCC has designated 17 low-income countries that are moving in the right directions on economic growth, just leadership, and investment in their people as eligible to submit proposals for funding. Eight of the 17 countries that are fully eligible for Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) funding are in sub-Saharan Africa: Benin, Cape Verde, Ghana, Lesotho, Madagascar,

Mali, Mozambique, and Senegal. In addition, seven of the 13 countries considered on the threshold of eligibility are in sub-Saharan Africa: Burkina Faso, Kenya, Malawi, São Tome and Príncipe, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. USAID is responsible for administering the MCC Threshold Country Program in these countries.

The MCA grant to Madagascar will support a program designed to raise incomes by bringing the rural population from subsistence agriculture to a market economy. The program will help rural Malagasy secure formal property rights to land, access credit and protect savings, and receive training in agricultural production, management, and marketing techniques.

Cape Verde's compact will help transform the country by making sizeable investments in water resources, agricultural productivity, major port and road improvements, and investment climate and financial sector reforms to promote the private sector.

As part of the MCA threshold program, in July 2005 the MCC approved a \$12.9 million program focused on improving girls' primary school completion rates in Burkina Faso. This is the MCC's first threshold country plan, designed to help countries make the reforms necessary to eventually qualify for MCA compact assistance.

For more information, visit www.mcc.gov.

African Global Competitiveness Initiative Expands USAID Trade Support

The Bush Administration has announced the creation of the African Global Competitiveness Initiative (AGCI) with a five-year funding target of \$200 million. Building on the work of the Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE) Initiative, which expires at the end of this year, the AGCI helps eligible countries effectively use the benefits of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and increase their competitiveness in the global marketplace.

The AGCI will work primarily through four Regional Trade Hubs in Gaborone, Botswana; Nairobi, Kenya; Accra, Ghana; and the newest in Dakar, Senegal. These hubs act as central points where African and U.S. government agencies, donor and civil society organizations, and the private sector can find information and technical assistance on trade, investment, and business activities in the region, including training opportunities.

AGOA authorized a new U.S. trade and investment policy toward Africa. It promotes increased trade and economic cooperation between the United States and eligible sub-Saharan African countries. More than 6,000 different products from the 37 eligible African countries have quota-free/duty-free access to the almost \$10 trillion U.S. market.

The AGCI will emphasize trade capacity building by expanding AGOA trade and intra-African trade; improving the climate for private investment in Africa; strengthening the emphasis on information and communications technology in facilitating investment and trade-related efforts in Africa; stimulating private sector development; and encouraging the diversification of exports.

Under AGOA, non-oil exports from sub-Saharan Africa to the United States have more than doubled between 2000 and 2004, to \$3.5 billion. In 2003 in West Africa alone, the TRADE Initiative facilitated over \$29 million of new imports from the United States and \$29 million of exports to the United States.

Senegal hosted the 2005 AGOA Forum in Dakar July 18-20. The Forum included meetings for representatives from governments, the private sector, and civil society in each of the 37 AGOA-eligible countries to discuss how AGOA can continue to be a vehicle to increase trade and investment between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa.

For an example of how the trade hubs have worked, see the story on shea butter on page 1. For more information, visit www.agoa.gov.

USAID Helps East African Coffee Growers Compete Globally

Coffee plays a crucial role in the economic health of communities in many countries, but the fluctuating price of coffee beans in recent years has brought economic hardship and uncertainty to many coffee growers. More than 50 developing countries, 25 of them in Africa, depend on coffee as an export. In Ethiopia alone, an estimated 15 million people depend on coffee for their livelihoods.

In 2001 and 2002 the price of coffee beans fell to historically low levels. This set off a crisis for coffee growers worldwide as both large and small-scale producers were unable to cover the costs of their production. The price of coffee beans has increased significantly since the latter part of 2004 but future price fluctuations can be expected. Many coffee growers still face unpredictable market conditions and lack marketing expertise, technical knowledge, and access to capital, which makes it difficult for them to survive in today's increasingly competitive market.

To help small-scale coffee farmers compete in and adapt to changing market conditions, USAID supports coffee activities in over 25 countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. From 2002 to 2004, USAID invested over \$57 million on coffee projects in 18 countries in these three regions.

In Africa, USAID works to improve the capacity of East African coffee growers to produce and effectively market high quality coffee, thereby increasing the price farmers earn for their product. USAID supports small and medium-sized producers to properly process and grade their coffee to ensure that the beans retain quality characteristics. The Agency is also creating new market information systems that provide local producers with critical information on coffee pricing. At the same time, USAID programs assist farmers that

cannot effectively compete within the coffee sector to identify viable alternative crops or other business ventures.

Premium prices are available for higher quality beans, but growing quality coffee is not easy. In a number of countries, farmers are learning how to properly process and grade their coffee to ensure that the beans retain their high quality characteristics. Coffee labs are being established, and local "cuppers" are trained to identify taste characteristics that will attract premium prices from foreign buyers.

USAID and the Coffee Quality Institute (CQI) have established a "Coffee Corps," which recruits highly qualified professionals from within the industry to help coffee producers and cooperatives improve their competitiveness. These volunteers provide a range of technical support in marketing, quality control, conducting cupping contests, and establishing purchasing agreements that bring higher prices. In Rwanda, for example, Coffee Corps volunteer Timothy Tulloch worked with 18 producers, each representing a different coffee cooperative, to update production methods to meet the standards currently demanded by buyers.

USAID's Africa regional program is working to strengthen the East Africa Fine Coffee Association's (EAFCA) ability to enhance the quality, competitiveness, and profitability of the Eastern African coffees. EAFCA conducted



Farmers of the Leguruki Specialty Coffee Group in Tanzania hand-select ripe berries before processing at the group's central pulper.

the first regional cupping competition involving 26 fine coffees from four countries, launched the first Internet auction of East African fine coffees, and developed a website (www.eafca.org) that provides market information for the region. Currently, USAID is helping EAFCA establish a regional naming system for East African coffee, similar to that used to distinguish fine regional wines. EAFCA has also embarked on a strategic partnership with the U.S. Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCAA) to improve quality and increase exports of fine coffees from the region.

USAID bilateral missions are involved in coffee activities in Ethiopia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia. In Ethiopia, USAID has assisted in the reorganization of over 50 coffee cooperatives and the formation of three coffee cooperative unions. One union is now a certified organic coffee producer. Overall, the unions have exported over 200 tons of coffee directly to specialty markets, including the SCAA.

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In Rwanda, USAID is working to improve market access and ensure consistently high quality of “Maraba Blue” coffee. They have helped a cooperative of over 250 farmers establish a modern washing station and improve access to markets. Specialty coffee alone has doubled exports and made significant price and employment gains

because of the local processing that translates directly into increased incomes and jobs.

In Tanzania, USAID’s support to an association of smallholder coffee farmers resulted in a 47 percent increase in sales over the previous year. This was due, in part, to increases in the quality of coffee produced, which commanded a 65

percent premium over average regional prices. And a new marketing system there allows coffee growers to export their coffee directly and much more quickly by bypassing the traditional coffee auction.

In Uganda, USAID is helping improve the management of shade grown Arabica coffee. And in Zambia, USAID’s regional agriculture trade expansion support program is assisting local coffee growers to enter the specialty coffee market and expand shade coffee production.

Despite the fact that coffee is the major export crop for a number of East African countries, many small-scale coffee farmers frequently cannot access financing from local banks. In May, USAID announced the approval of a \$2 million loan guarantee for EcoLogic Finance, a nonprofit provider of financial services for rural agricultural producers in environmentally sensitive areas. This guarantee enables EcoLogic Finance to expand its lending services to coffee cooperatives in Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, benefiting over 6,000 farmers. EcoLogic Finance provides loans to small farmer cooperatives, which allow the cooperatives to pay farmers immediately as they bring crops to market so farmers are not forced to sell their crops at steep discounts to intermediaries.

The price of coffee beans will continue to fluctuate in response to changes in worldwide supply and demand, but as East African coffee growers increase their ability to grow and market higher quality coffee beans, they will be better equipped to weather these fluctuations and ensure a more stable income for themselves and their families.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov.

—Patricia Mantey

First Lady Visits USAID Programs in Africa

July 11–15, U.S. First Lady Laura Bush traveled to South Africa, Tanzania, and Rwanda. The visit was timed to follow up on issues raised at the G-8 Summit held in Scotland the week before, and focused on HIV/AIDS, education, and women’s leadership.

Mrs. Bush visited a program in Khayalitsha, South Africa, that offers medical and emotional support and economic opportunity to mothers who are HIV-positive. In 2004, the program reached 2,500 women; in 2006 it is expected to reach 25,000. It is funded in part by President Bush’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

Mrs. Bush spent much of her time in Tanzania on the primarily Muslim semiautonomous islands of Zanzibar. Her first stop there was the Al-Rahma preschool, or madrasa. USAID is the largest donor currently funding madrasas in Zanzibar. In addition, the USAID-supported MKEZA program, which funds Al-Rahma and 15 other madrasas on Zanzibar, assists madrasas in training teachers and developing active learning tools, management committees and financial and administrative record-keeping methods. The \$4 million program, whose name is a Swahili acronym for Improving the Quality of Education in Zanzibar, is implemented by the Aga Khan Foundation.

While visiting a USAID-supported teacher training center, the First Lady brought 20 new books as a prelude to the 20,000 books that the U.S. government plans to donate to Zanzibar. Both the training center and the MKEZA program receive funding from President Bush’s Africa Education Initiative.

Back on mainland Tanzania, she visited Pastoral Activities and Services for People with AIDS in Dar es Salaam Archdiocese (PASADA). Operated by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese, PASADA targets the urban poor, offering comprehensive care to people living with AIDS, regardless of their religious affiliation. Mrs. Bush promised that support from the American people would continue, pledging an additional \$500,000 to PASADA.

Mrs. Bush’s final stop was in Kigali, Rwanda, where she attended a roundtable on women and democracy and visited a girls’ school run by the Forum for African Women Educationalists.

The First Lady said she was encouraged to see so many people, both Africans and Americans, working to solve the region’s problems. “Wherever we went, I was inspired by the individual stories of the individuals who are making such a huge difference.”

Kenyan Girls Benefit from Scholarships

By Aleta Williams and Sharon Mangin Nwankwo

Eunice Sitatian Kaelo, 18, comes from a family of two wives and 16 children and is the only one of her mother's children to receive an education.

Evelyn Nashipae Nkadori, 19, comes from a family of 15 children and is the only girl in her village to ever attain a high school education.

Agnes Kainet Kisai, 18, has parents who are supportive of her education even though their financial straits made paying school fees very difficult and at one point almost forced them to give her away in early marriage. Now all three young Kenyan Maasai women are attending Chicago State University on full scholarships.

All three young women were able to complete high school after receiving help from the Ambassadors Girls Scholarship Program (AGSP). AGSP, part of President Bush's Africa Education Initiative (AEI), will provide 300,000 scholarships through USAID, in partnership with U.S. NGOs and African organizations.

One of these local organizations is the Maasai Education Discovery (MED). MED began by working with schools and families to recruit about 60 girls and retain them through a scholarship program. Through the AGSP, MED has expanded to include a total of 527 girls. In addition to its scholarship program, MED has been able to build and maintain a Community Resource Center, which offers distance education college courses to 100 girls, some of whom board at the facility; training at a certified Cisco Networking Academy; continuing education courses for community members; and access to a library collection of over 12,000 books, audio tapes, and videocassettes. Most importantly, through MED, Maasai families are learning the value of education for their daughters.

Before embarking upon their journey to the United States, the young women were honored by their communities and relatives during a blessing ceremony, and given land, a rarity in Maasai culture as land inheritances are traditionally reserved for men. The expectations, as echoed by their respective communities, is that the "big three," as they are referred to, will come back armed with knowledge that will help their communities to "walk with one foot in the Maasai culture and the other outside." All three hope to eventually become doctors and return to serve the Maasai people.

Chicago State University considers the nearly \$67,500 for each girl's three years of study an investment and shares the communities' expectations that these young women will receive a first-rate education in the United States and



The three scholarship recipients and Maasai Education Discovery founder, Ledama Olekina.

return home to use their knowledge, skills, and networks to contribute to their communities' development. After one semester and two summer sessions, the young women are already living up to expectations. Each has made the Dean's List for academic excellence.

For more information, contact Sharon Mangin Nwankwo, AGSP program manager, at 202-712-1777 or snwankwo@usaid.gov.

HIV/AIDS Documentary Wins Award

A Zambian documentary on HIV/AIDS stigma has won a Silver World Medal at the New York Festival's 48th annual international Film & Video Awards. *Tikambe* ("Let's Talk About It") portrays a Zambian woman struggling to live positively with HIV and AIDS. *Tikambe* was singled out from nearly 1,000 entries from 32 countries.

The film features Harriet, a widow suffering from AIDS who is rejected by her family. After receiving HIV/AIDS counseling, Harriet's mother and sister decide to reconcile with her. Harriet then speaks openly with her neighbors about how to prevent HIV infection and how to survive if infected.

Tikambe was produced by the Zambia Integrated Health Programme—a joint effort of the Government of Zambia and USAID—the Network of Zambian People Living with HIV, and the Center for Communication Programs at Johns Hopkins University.

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million will be provided immediately to avert famine in the Horn of Africa, including the estimated 14 million people at risk in Ethiopia and Eritrea, and others in Somalia and Djibouti.

President Bush's initiatives support and complement long-term U.S. programs in Africa that cover the breadth of development. For example, Africa—where 25 million people are infected with HIV/AIDS—is the major beneficiary of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Twelve of the 15 focus countries in the Emergency Plan are African countries. The initiative supports anti-retroviral therapy for people living with HIV/AIDS, expanded access to counseling and testing, prevention of mother-to-child transmission, community based services for orphans and vulnerable children, and a comprehensive "ABC" approach—abstinence, being faithful, and correct and consistent condom use—to HIV/AIDS prevention. The Emergency Plan is on-target to support treatment for 2 million people living with HIV/AIDS, prevention of 7 million new HIV infections, and care for 10 million people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS (including orphans and vulnerable children) by 2008.

Funding of malaria prevention and treatment will increase by more than \$1.2 billion over five years. The goal is to reduce malaria deaths by 50 percent in targeted African countries. The additional funding provided by the United States will eventually benefit more than 175 million people in 15 or more African countries.

The Africa Education Initiative (AEI) will receive an additional \$400 million from 2007 to 2010 for the immediate learning needs of African children. Through AEI, nearly 220,000 new and current teachers have been trained and over 1.8 million textbooks have been

distributed to primary school students in six countries. AEI supports gender equality by targeting scholarships and other assistance for girls, increasing their access to schools, and upgrading the quality of their basic education. More than 85,000 girls from 38 countries have received scholarships to enable them to pursue an education. For an example, see page 7.

The African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), launched in 2001, is stimulating trade opportunities for African businesses and creating jobs. As evidence of this success, U.S. non-oil imports from AGOA-eligible sub-Saharan countries rose by over 20 percent—to \$3.5 billion—between 2003 and 2004. In July, the Bush Administration announced the new African Global Competitiveness Initiative (AGCI) to help African businesses take advantage of AGOA opportunities, forge business links that increase Africa's share of global trade, and improve policies and strengthen public services that support trade. The AGCI is expected to be funded at \$200 million for five years. For more information on AGOA and AGCI, see page 4.

Harnessing science, technology, and market forces to increase small-scale agricultural productivity, the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA) has already benefited 1.7 million vulnerable people. In 2004, this initiative provided \$67 million to support efforts in six countries and three multicountry regions to improve food security. IEHA also addresses challenges such as the need for greater access to markets and agricultural information.

The Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) supports efforts to protect

the world's second largest rainforest, which spans six Central African countries. Africa contains 45 percent of the world's biodiversity but has the world's highest rate of deforestation. The 29 governmental, non-governmental, and private sector organizations taking part in the CBFP provide support for a network of parks and protected areas, well-managed forestry concessions, and improved natural resource governance, and promote economic opportunities for communities that depend on the forest and wildlife resources of the region.

The United States is working with African leaders to end corruption through the Anti-Corruption Initiative (ACI), by promoting citizen awareness



Zanzibari children await the arrival of First Lady Laura Bush.

and participation and increasing transparency in key government processes. For example, through the ACI, Madagascar, one of nine bilateral and three regional partners under the Initiative, has developed a national anti-corruption strategy and established an anti-corruption agency.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov.

—Christine Chumbler

Visually Impaired Voters in Namibia Benefit from Tactile Ballot System

The Namibian Electoral Act of 1992 states that every individual Namibian has the right to cast his or her votes in secret. However, this has proven difficult for voters with disabilities, especially those who are visually impaired. Of 950,000 registered voters in Namibia, approximately 20,000 are blind. Not only were civic and voter education materials previously mostly inaccessible to these voters, but they had to ask a friend, family member, or election official to mark their ballot paper for them, giving up their right to secrecy and exposing them to the risk of their vote being changed by the person marking the paper.

A project to allow blind voters to participate in the parliamentary and presidential elections held in November 2004 in Namibia was launched by the Electoral Commission of Namibia, the Namibia Institute for Democracy (NID), the Office of the Prime Minister, and the Federation for the Visually Impaired. With USAID support, a comprehensive range of civic and voter education materials were produced in Braille by the Service Centre for the Visually Impaired, using a Braille printer donated by the U.S. Embassy, and distributed to official government Disability Resource Centres and schools for the visually impaired.

In order to ensure the secrecy of votes by the visually impaired, a Braille ballot folder was produced to cover a normal ballot paper. This enabled visually impaired voters to either read the names of the parties in Braille or differentiate among them by the corresponding number of punches next to candidates' names and to mark the ballot paper with a thumb print.

The Electoral Commission distributed a total of 1,270 Braille folders for tactile ballots to 127 polling stations. Polling



Namibia is making progress towards making elections accessible for all its voters.

officers were trained to instruct voters on how to use them, allowing visually impaired Namibians to cast their votes without any assistance from poll officials for the first time.

Visually impaired voters expressed their gratitude with the chairperson of a local disability center saying that the visually impaired were given the “right to express themselves through the ballot.” The presiding officer of the Oshatotwa polling station in the Moses//Garob Constituency, Wilhelmina Hamukwya, related equally positively, “The two to three blind people who came in here knew how to read Braille. When asked to be assisted, they said they could cope on their own.”

While it is impossible to know how many voters made use of the tactile ballots, the chairperson of the Electoral Commission of Namibia, Victor Tonchi, referred to the assistance and thanked the NID for ensuring that persons with disabilities could vote in a secret manner. This, he said, had contributed significantly to the high voter turnout (around 86 percent) in the country's national and presidential elections.

For more information, visit www.usaid.org.na.

Somalia Tsunami Relief

Following the December 26, 2004, tsunami disaster, USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) channeled nearly \$800,000 through United Nations agencies and NGOs to provide assistance with household kits and emergency medical supplies to the affected parts of coastal Somalia. USAID/OFDA has also contributed funds for the effective coordination of the relief effort.

The disaster primarily affected a 650-kilometer stretch of coastline between Hafun and Gara'ad in the northeastern Puntland region. Approximately 22,000 people, mostly fisherman who lost boats and equipment, require extended assistance due to their loss of livelihoods. The final death toll is reported to be 289. An inter-agency report summarizing the effects of the tsunami suggests that health conditions and access to food and water in the affected area returned quickly to what they were before the tsunami, and that damage to infrastructure was minimal.

The tsunami disaster came at a time when 1.2 million people across Somalia were already suffering the effects of an ongoing humanitarian emergency caused by civil strife, drought, and food insecurity. The U.S. government is the largest bilateral donor to Somalia, and currently funds several humanitarian relief programs in the country. Since 1990, the U.S. government has provided more than \$476 million to Somalia for humanitarian assistance activities.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/locations/asia_near_east/tsunami/countries/other.

A F R I C A R E S O U R C E S

A selection of recent USAID-funded publications on Africa

Africa's Food and Nutrition Security Situation: Where Are We and How Did We Get Here?

International Food Policy Research Institute; USAID/EGAT/OAFS. August 2004.

PN-ADA-152

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADA152.pdf (777 KB)

Food and nutrition security remain Africa's most fundamental challenges for human welfare and economic growth, with nearly 33 percent of sub-Saharan Africa's people malnourished. In this assessment of food and nutrition security in Africa, a broad analysis identifies both significant progress in reducing food and nutrition insecurity and significant backsliding. Data on the current dimensions of food and nutrition insecurity in Africa provide a clearer understanding of how many are affected, where they live, and who they are. The paper explains how effective action, particularly by various sectors of government and the economy, may be taken to address the causes of malnutrition and food insecurity. It pays special attention to financing, arguing that African governments themselves should take the lead in making the necessary investments to assure the food and nutrition needs of their citizens.

Costing Nevirapine Delivery to Infants: A Zambian Case Study

Abt Associates; USAID/GH/OHIDN. August 2004.

PN-ADA-297

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADA297.pdf (295 KB)

USAID is helping to develop a pre-filled, pediatric Nevirapine (NVP) oral treatment for prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS at birth. Administration of this oral treatment in impoverished settings is often problematic for a number of reasons, so four scenarios to prepare and administer NVP to infants during a case study were hypothesized. USAID's Partners for Health Reformplus project determined the costs of each scenario during the case study in Zambia. Study results show that, at all dose levels, the scenario in which a nurse prepares and administers NVP is most cost effective. Thus, if cost is the top priority, preparation and administration of the drug by a nurse at a health facility is the best option. By contrast, if an automated approach that will facilitate treatment outside of the hospital setting is desired, the semi-automated or Uniject approaches are equally viable options at 70,000 doses or greater.

Monitoring Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness: Tools and Indicators for Maternal and Newborn Health

JHPIEGO Corp.; USAID/GH/OHIDN. September 2004.

PN-ADA-619

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADA619.pdf (1.2 MB)

This manual establishes a standardized set of indicators, called the Birth Preparedness and Complication Readiness (BP/CR) Index, for use in monitoring select safe motherhood programs. The manual presents the set of indicators for measuring BP/CR at six levels (the individual woman, her family, the community, the health facility, the provider, and the policymaker); suggests sources of data; and provides recommendations for scoring the indicators. It focuses on the evaluation of programs designed to create demand for skilled attendance at birth by strengthening BP/CR among women, their families, and the community. This section includes a prototype safe motherhood questionnaire for a population-based survey, guides for the researcher and the interviewer, and sampling considerations specific to safe motherhood surveys. It draws heavily on existing approaches proposed by the World Health Organization and others to audit clinical facilities and measure the knowledge and skills of providers, and uses the results to establish the BP/CR Index.

Roadmap for Improved Horticulture Export Competitiveness in Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, and Zambia

Chemonics International; USAID/RCSA. April 2004.

PN-ACY-599

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACY599.pdf (1.2 MB)

USAID's RAPID (Regional Activity to Promote Integration through Dialogue and Policy Implementation) project examined the most important factors in improving horticultural export competitiveness in the Southern Africa Trade Hub region (Malawi, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia and, for comparison, South Africa) in an effort to design a "roadmap" for area stakeholders. This roadmap focuses primarily on regional organizations and transport, grades and standards common to the focus countries, and technical barriers and market access at the regional or global level. The priority actions focus primarily on removing select regional barriers and market access constraints.

HIV/AIDS: A Guide for Nutritional Care and Support

Academy for Educational Development, Inc.;
USAID/GH/OHIDN. 2004.

PN-ADB-305

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADB305.pdf (740 KB)

Malnutrition is a common complication of HIV infection and plays a significant and independent role in its morbidity and mortality. This guide provides information for HIV/AIDS-affected households and communities on how nutrition can help HIV-positive people live healthier lives. It offers guidelines for helping HIV-infected adults maintain overall good nutrition status and a healthy body weight, including dietary recommendations for adults coping with HIV/AIDS-related symptoms and illnesses. It describes the nutritional issues associated with therapies used to control virus replication and treat AIDS-related illnesses and symptoms. The guide also provides dietary guidelines for pregnant and lactating women and for children to reduce transmission of the virus, boost immune system functioning, and improve the dietary management of HIV-related complications.

The Use of Rape as a Weapon of War in the Conflict in Darfur, Sudan

Harvard University; USAID/DCHA/OTI. October 2004.

PN-ADB-249

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADB249.pdf (888 KB)

This report relies on extensive interviews and a review of the available literature to assess the nature of rape as a weapon of war, both recently and now occurring in Darfur. Specifically, it examines rape in a war context and in the context of ethnic cleansing or genocide; the impact that these rapes are exacting upon the surviving non-Arab community of Darfur; and possibilities for mitigation and support that are now available to the international community, particularly the U.S. government.

Report findings suggest that the militia forces—also known as Jingaweit—attacking the non-Arab people of Darfur have inflicted a massive campaign of rape as a deliberate aspect of their assault against this population. The ongoing insecurity in the region and the methodological complexities of conducting a systematic population-based survey at this time make it impossible to arrive at a quantitative estimate of the actual incidence of these attacks. All evidence

gathered to date indicate that the extent of rape against this population has been very great and that the number of survivors now in need of support and assistance is very high. The report includes specific recommendations.

Priorities in Child Health: Easily Digestible Information for Health Workers on Managing the Young Child

Management Sciences for Health; USAID/South Africa. Booklet 1-Introduction: PN-ADA-751; Booklet 2-Immunization: PN-ADA-752; Booklet 3-Acute Respiratory Infection: PN-ADA-753; Booklet 4-Diarrhoeal Disease: PN-ADA-754; Booklet 5-Promoting Healthy Growth: PN-ADA-755

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADA751.pdf (626 KB)

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADA752.pdf (448 KB)

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADA753.pdf (654 KB)

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADA754.pdf (617 KB)

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNADA755.pdf (748 KB)

This series of booklets, intended for use by nurses in South Africa but widely applicable, provides a self-instruction course on the comprehensive management of the sick infant and young child based on the World Health Organization integrated management of childhood illness strategy. The booklets provide specific information on important elements of child health care that each nurse should know and use, and are meant to complement—not substitute for—existing training programs. Booklet 1 discusses the underlying principles of infant and child health care, growth monitoring and the road to health chart, infant and young child nutrition (especially breastfeeding), and maternal well-being. Booklet 2 treats the expanded program of immunization, covering infectious diseases, the national immunization schedule, commonly asked questions, use of the cold chain to keep immunization doses fresh, and contraindications to immunizing a child. Booklets 3 through 5 examine management of the sick child under 5 years. Short case studies illustrate problems discussed in each section.

Unless otherwise noted, these and other documents can be downloaded in full-text free of charge at the web address given or at www.dec.org. Search for the desired document ID number (DOCID, eg. PN-ACX-650) in the field search option.

USAID Works to Prevent Locust Devastation in West Africa

By Timothy Lavelle

In 2004, West Africa experienced the worst locust infestation in 15 years, spreading from the Atlantic coast to eastern Chad. Three and a half million hectares (about 8.6 million acres) in Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, Burkina Faso, and Chad were infested. The locust invasion was often exacerbated by extreme poverty and increasingly recurring periods of drought.

Locusts threaten farm productivity and can trigger serious food losses in a region where many people are subsistence farmers and governments lack the means to fight the pests. To prevent crop failure, it is essential that all affected countries maintain intense survey, monitoring, and proactive control operations.

In FY 2004, USAID contributed \$15.2 million to the anti-locust campaigns in the region. This included \$7.2 million that was used in an October-November 2004 aerial spraying campaign based in Saint Louis, Senegal, which treated 382,850 hectares (nearly one million

acres) of locust-infested areas in northern Senegal and southern Mauritania.

To date this fiscal year USAID has contributed \$3 million in locust control funding to Morocco and \$3.5 million for locust prevention and preparedness measures for Senegal, Mauritania, and Mali. USAID has also provided an additional \$1.5 million in emergency support through the Permanent Inter-States Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel to support capacity development for locust operations, particularly for countries in the region where USAID does not have a direct presence.

USAID's investments will improve and disseminate methods for detecting areas where conditions are suitable for locust breeding throughout the Sahel. Other objectives include strengthening the capacities of national crop protection services through a strong, coordinated, proactive approach, and strengthening the role of the Sahel Pesticides Committee in the monitoring and

evaluation of emergency transboundary outbreak pest prevention and control.

USAID is encouraging other organizations such as the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Bank, and others to contribute to the efforts. The World Bank approved in December \$60 million in low interest, long-term credits to seven Sahelian countries. Since the start of the present crisis, donors have provided FAO with \$74 million for locust control response.

A donor coordination meeting in May 2005 in Bamako, Mali, reviewed Sahelian countries' locust control contingency plans, identified gaps, and agreed on adjustments related to resource allocations. This meeting enabled the Sahel states to be well prepared as fresh swarms emerge from the Sahara at the onset of the rainy season.

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