

USAID IN AFRICA

Fall 2003

News, Updates, and Resources from USAID's Bureau for Africa

USAID Brings Opportunity to Orphans, Children Affected by HIV/AIDS

Eleven million children in sub-Saharan Africa have lost one or both parents to HIV/AIDS. By 2010, orphans will account for at least 15 percent of all children in the 12 most affected sub-Saharan countries. Millions more children are living with parents who are ill or with families that must stretch scarce resources to care for them. Children affected by HIV/AIDS suffer from the discrimination associated with the disease, the loss of caring adults, and depletion of household income.

Orphanages are only part of the solution. Care provided in orphanage settings often fails to meet the developmental needs of children. Maintaining orphanages is much more expensive than providing direct assistance to families and communities to care for orphaned children. Cost comparisons from Uganda, for example, show operating costs for orphanages to be 14 times higher than those for community care. And in communities under severe economic stress, increasing the numbers of orphanages often results in financially stressed families sending their children to live in those institutions, where families will be assured their children are fed and cared for.

In early November, the Agency hosted a high-level technical workshop on HIV/AIDS-affected children that brought together representatives from the donor agencies and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs). Participants discussed issues of health, education, emotional well-being, models of community approaches, children without family care, HIV-positive children, and economic strengthening and food security.

In general terms, participants agreed that the best way forward is to build on existing strengths and grassroots structures in a flexible and sustainable manner. As Graca Machel, chairperson of the National Organization of Children in Mozambique and wife of Nelson Mandela, said during her keynote address at the workshop, "We are the genesis of a movement for children affected by AIDS. The recommendations aren't for others to act on; they are our collective responsibility. We must ask what contributions each of us can make. We can do more and much better, together."

Orphans continued on [page 6](#)



J.S. Applewhite/AP-WWP

President Bush visited women affected by HIV/AIDS and their children at the Abuja National Hospital in Nigeria.

President Bush Visits Five African Countries

George W. Bush made his first presidential visit to Africa July 8-12, 2003, visiting Senegal, South Africa, Botswana, Uganda, and Nigeria. He was accompanied by Secretary of State Colin Powell and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice.

Throughout his trip, President Bush reaffirmed the commitment of the United States to "a more peaceful and prosperous future for all the peoples of Africa." He said that the United States plans to make development aid more effective in Africa by directing resources—through the new Millennium Challenge Account—to countries with governments that rule justly, encourage economic freedom, and invest in the health and education of their people. He met with a dozen African leaders and announced several new initiatives to further Africa's

President continued on [page 2](#)

In this Issue...

Former Soldiers in Angola Take Steps Toward a New Life	3
Congo Basin Forest Partnership Leads Conservation Efforts ...	4
Building on a Firm Commitment to African Education	5
Public-Private Alliances Bring Innovative Solutions	7

Peace Radio Finds a Home in Burundi	8
Humanitarian Assistance Update	9
Africa Resources	10
USAID Adapts to Lessons from Cancun Talks	12

development and strengthen the United States–Africa partnership.

President Bush took several opportunities to discuss peace and security while visiting Africa. While in Senegal, he met with a group of seven West African leaders and emphasized the United States' support for African efforts to mitigate conflict and maintain peace. In particular, he highlighted the importance of the Economic Community of West African States peacekeeping force in West Africa.

The President also emphasized that the United States is working closely with African nations that face heightened security threats. He proposed a \$100 million initiative to help governments in East Africa protect their people and strengthen counter-terrorism efforts, including border security.

In the area of economic growth, President Bush announced a proposal to help strengthen and broaden African capital markets, specifically mortgage markets. "With the ability to borrow money to buy homes and start businesses, more

Africans will have the tools to achieve their dreams," he said. USAID is helping to coordinate this effort through a working group that includes the U.S. Treasury Department, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and U.S. and African experts and financial institutions such as Fannie Mae.

While in southern Africa, he also discussed the United States' work to complete a free trade agreement with the nations of the Southern African Customs Union—Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland. The agreement is intended to create new opportunities for farmers, workers, and entrepreneurs in the region.

In Botswana, President Bush visited the Southern Africa Global Competitiveness Hub, one of three trade information centers USAID operates for Africans seeking to take advantage of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). To help give U.S. businesses the confidence to make long-term investments in Africa, President Bush encourages the extension of AGOA beyond 2008.

A major focus of the President's trip was the devastating impact of HIV/AIDS. President Bush commended African countries confronting the epidemic and assured them that the United States is supporting their efforts. He is endorsing funding for the first year of operation of his five-year, \$15 billion program to support the fight against HIV/AIDS in 14 nations in Africa and the Caribbean.

During a visit to the USAID-funded AIDS Support Organization clinic in Entebbe, Uganda, he said, "Africa has the will to fight AIDS, but it needs the resources, as well. And this is my country's pledge to the people of Africa and the people of Uganda: You are not alone in this fight."

At the Abuja National Hospital in Nigeria, President Bush spoke with beneficiaries of the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission program supported



R. Zurba/USAID South Africa

President Bush praised efforts to support HIV/AIDS orphans.

by USAID and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. He participated in a roundtable discussion on ways to treat HIV/AIDS and provide social services that help victims to continue productive lives.

While in Nigeria, President Bush addressed the Leon H. Sullivan Summit, an annual meeting promoting U.S. and African relations. He announced that USAID will give a new \$5 million grant to the International Foundation for Education and Self-Help (IFESH). USAID has worked with IFESH for the past 10 years to build rural schools and send American teachers to Africa to train African educators.

"We have seen the rich culture and resources of Africa, as well as the continuing challenges of Africa," President Bush said at the end of his visit. "With greater opportunity, the peoples of Africa will build their own future of hope. And the United States will help this vast continent of possibilities to reach its full potential."

For more information, visit www.state.gov/secretary/trvl/22269.htm.

—Kellie Burk

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.

Editors: Christine Chumblor
Patricia Mantey

USAID in Africa provides news, updates, and resources from USAID's Bureau for Africa. The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect USAID policies. Comments, letters, and articles are welcome. Send them to:

The Editors, **USAID in Africa**
Africa Bureau Information Center
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 1425
Washington, D.C. 20004-1703 USA
Telephone: (202) 661-5827
Fax: (202) 661-5890
Internet: abic@dis.cdie.org
www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa



Former Soldiers in Angola Take Steps Toward a New Life

Angola is struggling to recover from its 27-year-long civil war that ended only in April 2002. The country has some of the worst human development indicators in the world. Twenty-five percent of children die before reaching their fifth birthday. Once a net exporter of food, the country must now import staple foods, and 45 percent of all children are chronically malnourished. Two million war-affected Angolans (internally displaced, demobilized soldiers, and refugees) still require direct humanitarian assistance.

USAID-supported organizations are helping thousands of Angolan demobilized soldiers regain their dignity and become productive citizens. For example, the Vietnam Veterans Foundation of America (VVAF) is running an orthopedic rehabilitation center to help in the social integration of people who have war-related injuries, and especially those injured by mines or other explosives.

The center is located in Moxico, a province that, along with Bié and Cuando Cubango, is among the most heavily mined in Angola. "We chose Moxico because it was considered one of the provinces most affected by war," says Anita Keller, a VVAF coordinator. "On the other hand, it was a region where there was no assistance to victims of mines and other undetonated devices."

VVAF started working in Angola in 1996, but it was not until the war ended in 2002 that the project became a regional force. Activities have now expanded into Lunda Norte and Lunda Sul provinces.

There is tremendous need for this center's services. Estimates of the number of landmines in Angola range from 5 to 10 million, making it possibly the most heavily mined country in the world. Some 70,000 Angolans are believed to have lost limbs in landmine explosions. From 1997 to 2002, the VVAF center served over 2,000 people and produced

more than 1,800 prostheses. In addition to prostheses, the VVAF makes and gives patients crutches and wheelchairs.

When a new patient is admitted to the VVAF orthopedic rehabilitation center, that person's physical aptitude is assessed. The next step is therapy to strengthen the muscles, after which measurements are made of the area where the prosthesis will be attached. Tests are then done to ensure the prosthesis will be adjustable without complications. Finally, more therapy sessions enable the patient to leave the center, moving of his or her own power.



The Sports for Life program helps amputees regain self-confidence.

This process takes weeks, but only then does the most sophisticated aspects of the patient's recovery begin: economic reintegration. Through partnership with an Angolan NGO, Centre for the Promotion of Community Development, VVAF is able to ensure psycho-social support to those that come to the center for rehabilitation. VVAF offers recreational and sports activities through their successful "Sports for Life" program, which demonstrate to both patients and their communities that those with war injuries can still be productive and active.

Another NGO operating in the area, Jesuit Relief Services (JRS), runs a professional training center for landmine victims. Former soldiers like Lindo Manuel, who lost both his legs while fighting for the Angolan government, are learning trades. "I can already make shoes," Manuel says with a triumphant smile. After finishing training, he hopes to open his own shoe shop.

The VVAF and JRS programs only assist wounded veterans, but there are thousands more demobilized soldiers and their families who were fortunate enough to avoid injury but still need help adjusting to peace. In some cases, reintegration creates a significant social strain on communities.

Another program implemented by the Institute for the Removal of Explosive Substances and Mines has been helping demobilized soldiers construct houses and other community structures. The 377 families that have benefited as of June 2003 can now proudly claim homes with two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a latrine.

Because of the large numbers of mines planted, demining is another vital part of returning communities, such as those in Moxico, to life after war. A U.S. government-funded program there has trained over 300 former soldiers to remove the thousands of landmines that they themselves often helped plant. Garcia Pedro, a father of seven, is one such soldier. He had been in the army in Moxico, but signed up for the demining training when he was demobilized. He says he does not fear the risks of his job. "I was a soldier once."

For more information, contact Joao Neves, USAID/Angola information officer, at Jneves@usaid.gov or 244-2-399-518.

Portions of this article originally appeared in the Angolense Weekly June 28, 2003.

—Christine Chumbler

Congo Basin Forest Partnership Leads Conservation Efforts



Responsible resource use training for forest residents is part of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership program.

The Congo Basin forest is the world's second largest tropical forest, covering 700,000 square miles—the size of California, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and Utah combined. The vast area contains 8,000 species of plants, 655 species of birds, and 58 species of mammals. It is also home to more than 60 million people, many of whom depend on the forest for their livelihoods.

These livelihoods are under threat by the continued loss of the forest. Logging, often illegal or unregulated, and clearing of land for agriculture are eating away at the intact ecosystems at the rate of two million acres every year. And the hunting of wildlife to supply urban and commercial forestry settlement markets may represent a more immediate and significant threat to the forest than deforestation itself.

Some Congo Basin governments have recently taken great steps towards conserving the forest. President Omar Bongo of Gabon set aside over 10,000 square miles of his country to create a system of 13 national parks. President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Republic of Congo created laws to address commercial bushmeat sales and protected more than 13 percent of Congo's forests. But this is only a beginning.

To protect this invaluable forest area the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) was created in 2002. The partnership was announced by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell at last year's World Summit on Sustainable Development. "This initiative," he said, "is a commitment by the United States, the governments of the Congo Basin, other

partner governments, conservation and business groups, and organizations representing civil society to work with the countries of the Congo Basin to manage their forests in a sustainable fashion."

The goals of CBFP are to:

- ◆ provide people with sustainable means of livelihood through well-managed forestry concessions, sustainable agriculture, and integrated ecotourism programs;
- ◆ improve forest and natural resource governance through community-based management, combat of illegal logging, and enforcement of anti-poaching laws; and
- ◆ help the Congo Basin countries develop a network of effectively managed parks, protected areas, and ecological corridors.

The United States' contribution to the partnership builds on the strengths of the Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE), USAID's most prominent natural resources management program in Africa. The U.S. government will invest up to \$53 million in CBFP over four years (2002–2005), of which approximately \$48 million will be provided by USAID through CARPE. Partner NGOs such as the World Wildlife Fund, World

Conservation Society, and Conservation International have committed to matching this contribution. Other partners are also expected to provide significant contributions, all of which will greatly increase the financial support for conservation programs in the region.

The projects supported by CBFP will be nearly as diverse as the forest itself. The partnership will train rangers and game scouts and develop community enterprises linked to landscape conservation. It will encourage adoption and strengthening of legislation related to natural resource management, including protected areas and forestry and support regional processes for communication, collaboration, and policy coordination. The partnership will also monitor forest access, large scale land use, and deforestation using remote sensing technologies and will disseminate materials that help provide citizens with information to participate in natural resources governance.

Grants for these projects will be administered on what is known as a "landscape" approach. The partnership will focus on 11 target areas, or landscapes, within the Congo Basin forest, which spans the boundaries of Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Republic of Congo. Teams of conservation organizations and other implementing partners have been arranged in each landscape based on field experience and competitive advantage. Close coordination will be needed to ensure that similar techniques are being used for each of the different landscapes, and to allow reporting on progress basin-wide.

Developing a coherent conservation strategy for such a huge part of Africa, inhabited by such a diversity of people, cultures, and political systems, is a daunting challenge. CBFP aims to do just that.

For more information, visit www.state.gov/goes/rls/fs/2002/15617.htm.

Building on a Firm Commitment to African Education

By Hillary Thomas-Lake

At the end of September, the Education for Development and Democracy Initiative (EDDI), a presidential initiative that started in 1999, began the transition to the new Africa Education Initiative (AEI). The many successful EDDI programs are being gradually closed out and lessons from them are being incorporated into AEI.

The mandate of the EDDI program was to support increased access to and quality of education in Africa, with a particular emphasis on access to quality educational opportunities for young women and girls. There were several key components to the program. Nearly 36,000 girls' scholarships to primary, secondary, and technical schools and universities were awarded. There were over 16,000 activities matching girls to mentors in their communities. In addition, international studies partnerships linked secondary schools and universities in Africa and the United States in technology-based learning and exchange partnerships, and the development of technology-powered community resource centers provided academic enhancement activities for students, and continuing education and life skills training opportunities for older learners. Under EDDI, programs were implemented through an inter-agency working group that included USAID, the State Department, the Peace Corps, the Department of Education, and the Department of Agriculture. Projects currently being implemented under EDDI have until September 30, 2004, to conclude activities and reporting.

Under the AEI, a new presidential initiative announced by President Bush in June 2002, there is a renewed commitment to working with African ministries of education and community-based groups to create greater opportunities for quality education and to involve communities in supporting the education of their youth. The girls' scholarship program continues under AEI. In addition,

AEI will provide training for future and in-service teachers, and work with teachers and community leaders to develop appropriate techniques for the inclusion of HIV/AIDS awareness in school curricula. In an unprecedented cooperative partnership, AEI will work with African ministries of education and universities and a group of six U.S. historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) to develop and distribute textbooks and learning materials in local languages.

As with the EDDI program, the AEI uses technology to support African-led efforts to improve access to basic and higher education for African women, girls, and traditionally underserved communities. The technology focus of the AEI is borne out in the community resource centers, which will continue to be a source of learning and training support. The most dramatic change under AEI is that it will provide approximately 50,000 scholarships annually to needy girls in Africa. AEI seeks to bridge the gap between underserved populations in Africa and more privileged groups, and is committed to establishing firm and lasting connections between U.S. and African institutions and community-based groups.

At the recent EDDI close-out conference held in Swaziland in late September, over 250 participants representing African ministries of education, U.S. government agencies, U.S. and African private sector and civil society, and community groups gathered to share success stories and build on best practices that occurred under EDDI, with an eye to using the successful experiences as a frame of reference for future AEI program implementation.

All participants agreed with AEI's emphasis on partnerships with communities to support both greater access to

educational opportunities for girls and community-based schools, and on partnerships among the various agencies of the U.S. government.

The State Department, represented by Ambassador Pamela Bridgewater, director of the Africa Bureau's Public Affairs and Public Diplomacy Office, vowed to continue to work with USAID to link U.S. government support for education to the broader international development policy objectives of the Millennium Challenge Account, the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and other African-led initiatives.



Young recipients of EDDI scholarships in Madagascar.

USAID/EDDI

Sarah E. Moten, chief of the Africa Education Division and coordinator of the EDDI program, noted that AEI's partnerships with HBCUs, local African institutions, and other U.S. government agencies work well, and will continue to work well, because of a shared vision. This partnership is based on a shared humanity and a shared commitment to providing African children and youth with viable and practical educational opportunities.

Hillary Thomas-Lake is the managing director of LTL Strategies, an EDDI contractor.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/regions/af/educate.html or contact Carolyn Coleman, EDDI deputy coordinator, at ccoleman@usaid.gov or 202-712-0223.

USAID is collaborating closely with host country governments, citizen groups, and other donors toward the goal of providing community support to 25 percent of HIV/AIDS-affected children in countries with a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS by 2007. Five fundamental strategies underlie the development of USAID's interventions:

- ◆ Strengthen and support the capacity of families to protect and care for their children;
- ◆ Mobilize and strengthen community-based responses;



Young children are left particularly vulnerable when their parents die of AIDS.

- ◆ Strengthen the capacity of children and young people to meet their own needs;
- ◆ Ensure that governments develop appropriate policies, including legal and programmatic frameworks, as well as essential services for the most vulnerable children; and
- ◆ Raise awareness within societies to create a supportive environment for children affected by HIV/AIDS.

A majority of USAID-supported projects aim to increase a family's ability to provide care and support to children affected by AIDS. For example, in western Kenya, the Speak for the Child Project works with communities to train mentors who can then help caregivers improve the health, nutrition, and psychosocial care they provide to especially vulnerable infants and young

children. An unplanned outcome of this effort was that members of the Speak for the Child community caregiving support groups started their own effort to address the economic hardships the children faced. They pooled their resources to improve the direct access, control, and investment of financial resources by and for caregivers and vulnerable children in their community.

For children whose families cannot adequately provide for their basic needs, the community is the next safety net. Supporting community-led initiatives to care for children and adolescents affected by HIV/AIDS is a priority for USAID. Some USAID-funded activities provide direct support to community efforts, others focus on building the capacity of local NGOs and community-based organizations so that they can, in turn, support a greater number of community efforts. These types of community efforts have the potential to reach large numbers of children through mechanisms that can continue long after external funds and technical assistance are no longer available. The Community-based Options for Protection and Empowerment project helps villages and districts in Malawi form AIDS committees to raise funds and provide support for home-based care, income generation, HIV prevention, psychosocial support, and school fees for affected families. By 2002, the project had established 374 village AIDS committees to care for more than 15,000 orphans and vulnerable children.

USAID works to ensure that children and adolescents stay in school, are trained in vocational skills, and receive adequate nutrition and health services. USAID/Zambia's Horizon Program is training youth caregivers to identify and provide support to orphans and vulnerable children in their communities. The youth caregivers involve children in recreation and club activities to reduce their sense of isolation. They also contact

schools to make sure that the children's needs are recognized and make referrals to appropriate NGOs when additional support is required. The caregivers include young people aged 13 to 25, many of whom are orphans themselves.

The Agency supports initiatives to work with government ministries and other organizations to institute policy reform, ensure children have access to essential social services, and create special protection and care measures for children outside the family and community. These initiatives include advocating for basic legal protection, transforming public perceptions of HIV/AIDS, and strengthening HIV/AIDS prevention and mitigation efforts in the education sector.

USAID-supported projects provide information on HIV/AIDS both to donors, governments, and NGOs through research studies and to communities through education programs. These studies and programs challenge myths about HIV/AIDS, advocate for basic legal protection, and transform the public perception of HIV/AIDS by engaging community, government, and religious leaders and the media to reach the wider society.

While USAID continues to scale up activities for children and youth affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly under President Bush's \$15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the AIDS crisis continues to claim the lives of an increasing number of parents. The Agency, therefore, continues to emphasize the importance of prevention. It is only by preventing the disease that efforts will, ultimately, reduce the number of orphans and reduce the vulnerability of children affected by HIV/AIDS.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids/TechAreas/ChildrenAffected/index.html or www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids/Publications/docs/cabaprojectprofiles.pdf.

—Christine Chumblor

Public-Private Alliances Bring Innovative Solutions to Development

In fiscal year 2003, USAID created 41 public-private alliances between USAID and the corporate sector, foundations, universities, and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) through 15 bilateral field missions and three regional programs in sub-Saharan Africa. Funded with \$37.5 million in Agency resources and more than \$135 million from private partners, some alliances target the needs of specific countries while others address regional issues such as the lack of access to clean water.

Public-private alliances enable USAID to enhance the impact of its programs by mobilizing the ideas, efforts, and resources of the public sector with those of the private sector and NGOs. For every dollar committed to a public-private alliance, USAID seeks to attract an equal or greater amount in dollars or in-kind resources from other partners.

USAID conceived the Global Development Alliance program in response to the change in resource flows from the United States to the developing world. Thirty years ago, 70 percent of U.S. capital flows to the developing world came from the U.S. government. Today U.S. government aid accounts for only 20 percent of this flow. The other 80 percent is from private sources such as remittances, foundations, universities, corporations, and individuals.

Alliances in Africa

A wide range of public-private alliances have been formed in Africa with a variety of partners in areas such as tree crops, small enterprise development, health and sanitation, biotechnology, education, and information technology. Some of these alliances are between USAID and the American private sector. Others are formed with the African private sector.

USAID developed a strategic alliance with the U.S. Chocolate Manufacturers Association, several key member companies, and other organizations to address the growing concern that some

agricultural goods finding their way to developed country markets are produced with exploitative labor practices such as abusive child labor and trafficking. The Chocolate Manufacturers Association and others have signed a protocol



Public-private alliances will help coffee farmers in Ethiopia.

for cocoa beans and their derivative products to be grown and processed in a manner that complies with the International Labor Organization Convention 182 on child labor.

To help farmers hurt by falling coffee prices and global over-production, the Specialty Coffee Association of America and some of its member companies are working with USAID to develop coffee producer groups in Guatemala, East Africa, and elsewhere. The majority of coffee producers are small-holders living in remote areas that depend heavily on the cash income from their own harvest and temporary picking work. USAID and its partners are working to improve local capacity to produce and effectively market high-quality coffee, thereby increasing the price farmers earn for their product.

USAID and ChevronTexaco formed a \$20 million alliance to provide support and training for enterprise development in Angola. This will assist in the transition to a peacetime economy following the cessation of 27 years of civil war. The

alliance is part of a \$50 million commitment to Angola over five years by ChevronTexaco and its partners, including USAID. The enterprise development alliance will be implemented in several provinces to develop private-sector-based agriculture initiatives and provide technical assistance, training, and financial services to small and medium enterprises.

The West Africa Water Initiative is a nearly \$41 million alliance between USAID, the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, and other partners to combat illnesses caused by unsafe water and sanitation. The initiative will provide potable water and sanitation to rural villages in West Africa where people suffer from easily prevented water-related diseases, including guinea worm, river blindness, and trachoma, the world's leading cause of preventable blindness. By 2008, Water Initiative partners expect to provide more than 500,000 people in Ghana, Mali, and Niger with new water boreholes, alternative water resources, latrines, and safe hygiene and sanitation instruction.

Successful alliances continue to thrive even after support from USAID ends. USAID's first biotechnology-related public-private alliance brought the Agency, Monsanto, the University of Missouri, and the Kenyan Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) together to train Kenyan researchers in the development of virus-resistant transgenic sweet potatoes. USAID provided initial funding and KARI donated the human resources. The University of Missouri managed the program and provided technical assistance. Monsanto provided the laboratory for sweet potato research and eventually transferred the intellectual property rights for the virus-resistant sweet potatoes to KARI. The KARI-Monsanto partnership has continued long beyond direct USAID sup-

Alliances continued on [page 9](#)

Peace Radio Finds a Home in Burundi

By Ray Robinson and Lena Slachmuisjlder

Burundi has known cycles of violence since gaining independence in 1962. Ethnic, political, and regional power struggles have been played out in various coups d'état, armed rebellions, and inter-community or ethnic killings. In 1993, Burundi's first democratically elected president, Melchior Ndadaye, was assassinated shortly after his election victory. This unleashed insecurity and violence around the country.

Peace accords signed since 2000 with most of the major political and military groupings are a sign of progress towards peace. These accords aim to address fears and mistrust related to the Tutsi ethnic minority, the reform of the army, and the end to an exclusion of most Burundians from the political and economic opportunities of the country.

In Burundi and other countries in the Great Lakes region, notably Rwanda, the media has played an exacerbative role in the ongoing conflict. In Rwanda, Radio Mille Collines (taken from Rwanda's nickname, "country of a thousand hills") was used by the Hutu-led government militias, or *interhamwe*, to encourage people to massacre the Tutsis. In Burundi a polarized print and broadcast media during 1993-1995 exacerbated divisions and raised tensions during a period of extreme inter-community violence.

Recognizing this, as well as the prevalence and power of radio in Burundi, Search for Common Ground, an international NGO, began working in Burundi in 1995 by launching Studio Ijambo ("wise words" in the Kirundi language). With the support of USAID, Studio Ijambo began producing current affairs programming and radio drama targeted to combat rumors and stereotypes and promote a common vision of peace for Burundi.

After nearly nine years of work, Studio Ijambo now produces 100 programs per month, broadcast on seven regional

radio stations as well as via the Internet. This programming includes magazine shows, roundtables, live interactive programs, and radio drama. Each program strives to present a diversity of viewpoints, combat rumors by providing credible and objective information, and highlighting positive, hopeful stories of Burundians striving for peace.

The most popular show is called "Our Neighbors, Ourselves," a soap opera about Hutu and Tutsi families trying to coexist peacefully in post-civil war



Studio Ijambo reporter Stani Mwero conducting an interview.

Burundi. Now on its 600th episode, "Our Neighbors, Ourselves" has gained fame in Burundi and been featured in the international press, including *The Guardian*, the *Irish Times*, on Radio France International, and through a documentary film soon to be broadcast on French-language television channels.

Several evaluations have been conducted on Studio Ijambo, which all agree that the program has contributed to reducing the violence in Burundi, fighting rumor-mongering, and educating its listeners on the importance of tolerance and peaceful conflict resolution. A survey completed in 2001 highlighted feedback crediting Studio Ijambo with "changing the language in Burundi from one of hatred and mistrust to one of dialogue and negotiation."

"Our Neighbors, Ourselves" has been extremely successful in Burundi. One survey found that almost 85 percent of

the Burundian population listen to the show regularly, and its popularity has spread to neighboring countries like Rwanda. A 2003 survey highlighted the fact that Studio Ijambo's radio programs were trusted by youth in the northern neighborhoods of Bujumbura, with nearly 90 percent saying that they "identify with Studio Ijambo radio programs."

In November 2002, Studio Ijambo journalists formed a local association and launched their own independent radio station, called Radio Isanganiro (Crossroads Radio). This station, launched with the support of USAID, seeks to take the mission of Studio Ijambo further, by broadcasting peace and reconciliation programming 105 hours each week, including 95 percent of Studio Ijambo programs. In addition to coverage of Burundi and much of neighboring Rwanda, Isanganiro also is heard in eastern Congo and the refugee camps in western Tanzania, as well as throughout the world via streaming audio on the internet at www.studioijambo.org.

Studio Ijambo is certainly not the sole reason for current lack of hostilities in Burundi. However, Studio Ijambo and other stations have demonstrated that peace radio can play an important role in the reconciliation of a country's warring groups. Innovative programming, a message of tolerance, and a strategy that avoids taking sides have helped Studio Ijambo to effectively reach Burundi's citizens with a badly needed message of peace.

Ray Robinson is a senior democracy and governance research analyst with USAID's Development Information Services project. Lena Slachmuisjlder is the director of Studio Ijambo.

For more information, visit www.studioijambo.org (in French) or www.sfcg.org (in English) or contact Lena Slachmuisjlder at lenas@lantic.net.

Alliances from page 7

port and has expanded to include South Africa.

Two newly created alliances between USAID, Cisco Systems, and EDS will help Uganda's university system improve its information technology capacity. A \$10 million alliance with Cisco Systems (\$8 million from Cisco and \$2 million from USAID) will lead to the establishment of 10 Network Academies throughout Uganda's university system. This is the second generation of Cisco's commitment to Uganda's university students, which includes training and certification in network computing, information technology essentials, programming languages, and voice and data cabling fundamentals. EDS will provide Uganda's university students with advanced training in computerized manufacturing abilities including real-world design and engineering experience. The EDS contribution will establish Uganda as a future hub for manufacturing expertise and engineering in East Africa and could reach a value of \$4.2 million. USAID will provide an additional \$100,000 in assistance.

USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios hailed the collaborative relationship between the Ugandan government, Cisco, EDS, and USAID as "another chapter in a very successful information technology alliance. USAID's public-private alliances bring a new dimension to our work—new ideas, new expertise, and new resources to our partners. In 2003, our global development alliances have brought in new partners and leveraged more than \$1.2 billion in private funds."

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/our_work/global_partnerships/gda.

—Patricia Mantey

Humanitarian Assistance Update

USAID and its partners continue to respond to humanitarian crises, both natural and man-made, throughout Africa. USAID provides critical support for food aid, water, sanitation, and health services to vulnerable groups in the most severely affected communities.

Southern Africa

The quick response of the international community saved millions of southern Africans threatened by starvation over the past year, but a host of factors including weather and the HIV/AIDS pandemic will keep many of these countries dependent on food assistance through at least next year's harvest. Crop production this year was up 9 percent and the region produced enough food to meet two-thirds of its needs, but Angola, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe continue to need food assistance. In Zimbabwe, where the situation is the most critical, more than five million people are still in need of food aid. USAID has been the lead donor in assistance throughout this crisis and will continue to provide emergency assistance in the region until conditions improve.

Liberia

Liberia has been marked by intermittent civil war since Charles Taylor launched a rebellion against the military regime of Samuel Doe in 1989. The people of Liberia have suffered greatly and more than 200,000 people, mostly innocent civilians, have been killed during the civil war. This conflict has left many Liberians without food and water, vulnerable to disease, and in great need of assistance. The United States leads the way internationally in responding to this crisis; USAID has provided more than \$39 million in humanitarian assistance in FY 2003 and FY 2004 to date.

Horn of Africa

An estimated 12.6 million people in Ethiopia and 1.4 million people in

Eritrea are still in need of emergency assistance. Inadequate rainfall since last year has resulted in a full-scale humanitarian crisis in parts of these two countries. Reduced pasture and water supply have led to substantial losses of livestock. In agricultural areas, the drought has caused a major crop failure. Since the onset of the emergency in 2002, the U.S. government has pledged over 1 million tons of food aid valued at approximately \$475 million to Ethiopia and over 158,000 metric tons of food aid valued at approximately \$68.7 million to Eritrea.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Despite the agreement to a cease-fire and conclusion of the Inter-Congolese Dialog on peace implementation, ethnic violence and fighting between rival factions continue in northeastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The United Nations estimated that approximately 20 million people in the DRC remain vulnerable due to chronic insecurity as well as the potential for conflict. During FY 2003 USAID provided nearly \$70 million in humanitarian assistance. In addition, USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives is funding a multi-faceted program to support the transition to peace in the DRC.

Uganda

Since April 2002, armed conflict in northern and eastern Uganda has resulted in high numbers of internally displaced persons, creating the country's worst humanitarian crisis in 17 years. The ongoing conflict threatens food security and undermines the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance. More than 1.3 million persons have been displaced and are in need of food aid and health and sanitation assistance. USAID provided nearly \$63 million in FY 2003 in humanitarian assistance to areas impacted by the conflict.

For more information, visit www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance.

AFRICA RESOURCES

A selection of recent USAID-funded publications on Africa

Multisectoral Responses to HIV/AIDS: A Compendium of Promising Practices from Africa

Mitchell Group; AED; USAID/AFR/SD. April 2003.
PN-ACS-870

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACS870.pdf (789 KB)

A conference was held in October 2002 to examine the enormous challenges facing private voluntary organizations (PVOs) and NGOs working to combat HIV/AIDS in Africa. The conference stressed the multisectoral nature of HIV/AIDS, shared promising practices that organizations have adopted, and identified ways for PVOs and NGOs to collaborate with others and take steps toward overcoming the challenges facing them. This compendium features 22 promising practices submitted by 13 organizations working in Africa, which cover agriculture/food security/nutrition, care and support for AIDS sufferers, child care, conflict and humanitarian relief, democracy and governance, economic development/microfinance, and education. The compendium is also available online and will be updated regularly.

Utilizing the Potential of Formal and Informal Private Practitioners in Child Survival: Situation Analysis and Summary of Promising Interventions

Youssef Tawfik, Robert Northrup, and Suzanne Prysor-Jones. AED; USAID/AFR/SD; USAID/GH/OHN. February 2002.

PN-ACP-202

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACP202.pdf (1,533 KB)

Formal and informal private practitioners are popular sources of treatment for diarrhea, respiratory infections, and malaria in Africa. Private practitioners are generally perceived by the community to be more accessible, more sensitive to client needs, and more willing to spend time with their clients than their public sector counterparts. However, because of the wide evidence of their substandard clinical services, most national health policies prohibit the work of unqualified practitioners and ignore them in national child survival programs. This paper analyzes interventions to improve private practitioners' case management of childhood diseases, concluding that most interventions have only been tested on a small scale, with few adequately documented or evaluated. The paper offers guidance for designing effective strategies to improve the ability of private practitioners to provide effective treatment, counseling, and referral of sick children.

Digital Opportunities for Development: A Sourcebook on Access and Applications

AED; USAID/EGAT. 2003.

PN-ACT-484

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACT484.pdf (5,318 KB)

This sourcebook features six "models-of-use" that describe information and communications technology (ICT) applications, providing guidelines, strategies, and practical examples for assessing, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, and institutionalizing ICT-based activities. The six models are: community learning centers as a means of increasing access to ICT; strengthening organizations with ICTs; computer-mediated professional development; using computers in schools; foundations of e-commerce; and an orientation to e-government. Discussion of each model also includes at least one case study, several of which are from Africa.

Using Data to Improve Service Delivery: A Self-Evaluation Approach

Anne LaFond, Eckhard Kleinau, et al. Institute of the Sahel Center for Applied Research on Population and Development; AED; John Snow; USAID/AFR/SD. May 2003.

PN-ACT-058 Earlier French ed.: PN-ACN-166
www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACT058.pdf (3,205 KB)

Self-evaluation is the process of examining data collected for other purposes to assess problems and find solutions. This guide discusses the concept in regard to six basic health services: antenatal care, assisted delivery, infant healthcare, childhood immunization, family planning, and community involvement in health care management. Each of these sections contains a story about a common problem facing health workers in Africa. Following each story are suggestions for using community and clinical data to monitor and evaluate the service. The annexes contain step-by-step instructions and blank forms to help record data, calculate indicators, and present findings.

The Health Sector Human Resource Crisis in Africa: An Issues Paper

Jenny Huddart and Oscar F. Picazo. AED; USAID/AFR/SD. February 2003.

PN-ACS-527

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACS527.pdf (874 KB)

The shortage of health workers has reached crisis proportions in many countries of sub-Saharan Africa. In recent years many countries have suffered from

scarcities of almost all cadres of health workers. The paper examines the human resource challenges in the sector, including low production rates for health care workers, high attrition rates, poorly motivated workers, and the urban/rural imbalance. The paper gathers together practices and mechanisms that have been tried to ease the human resources problems in the region. It highlights some opportunities for reform and cites the continuing challenges and risks.

Benefits on the Margin: Observations on Marginal Benefit Incidence

Stephen D. Younger. Cornell University. Division of Nutritional Sciences. Cornell Food and Nutrition Policy Program; USAID/AFR/SD. October 2002.

PN-ACR-635

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACR635.pdf (89 KB)

How does poverty relate to public expenditure? How are the benefits of government expenditures on HIV/AIDS, for instance, distributed across the population? If a government policy is changed, what impact will that have? Marginal incidence analysis is a collection of methods that can be used to answer these questions. A key point is that, despite the fact that all methods measure marginal incidence, they do not measure exactly the same thing. There are many possible policy changes, many margins of interest, and thus many methods of measurement. This study examines some of these methods and gives examples where they are used effectively.

Unsafe Schools: A Literature Review of School-Related Gender-Based Violence in Developing Countries

Jo H. Kim, Susan Bailey, et al. Wellesley College, Center for Research on Women; USAID/EGAT. September 2003.

PN-ACU-253

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACU253.pdf (1,225 KB)

School-related gender-based violence (SRGBV) is a widespread barrier to girls' attainment of educational equity in Africa, and poses many health risks for girls as well. This literature review examines the prevalence and effects of SRGBV in developing countries. Many of the studies reviewed indicate that SRGBV is perpetrated on female students by their male peers and teachers in school, while outside of school, girls can fall prey to older men who can provide favors and financial assistance with school fees. Girls report losing their concentration in class, feeling bad about themselves, missing school, and even dropping out

as a result. The health consequences—increased exposure to sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, and unwanted pregnancies—are also devastating. Many girls do not even complain of SRGBV because of a fear of reprisals, especially from teachers, or because they believe that nothing will be done. Nonetheless, a number of initiatives to combat SRGBV have been undertaken, including curriculum development, youth leadership, teacher training, advocacy and community involvement, and policy development. Addressing power imbalances between men and women is central to preventing gender violence, and this process must be deeply rooted in schools. Successful efforts must include both boys and girls: working only with girls is, at best, half a solution.

Literature Review of Community Schools in Africa

Yolande Miller-Grandvaux and Karla Yoder. AED; USAID/AFR/SD. March 2002.

PN-ACP-215

www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACP215.pdf (853 KB)

This paper reviews community primary schools in Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia. The review focuses heavily on U.S.-based, NGO-, and USAID-funded programs, examining the definitions of Africa's community schools and delineating the different models being implemented. It also summarizes the specific programs on which information was available. These summaries are included in a table format at the end of the report. The review concludes by outlining critical factors for the future of Africa's community schools including legal recognition of community schools, public funding, professionalization of community school teachers, local government accountability for community schools, community management of schools, support for local community leaders, capacity building of parent committees and committee federations, and others.

These and other documents can be downloaded in full-text free of charge at the web address given or at www.dec.org/title_search.cfm. Search for the desired document ID number (DOCID), for example, PN-ACS-527, in the field search option.

USAID Adapts to Lessons from Cancun Talks

By Robert Siegel

As a result of the impasse in negotiations at the 2003 World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico, the international community is reflecting on next steps towards deepening the multilateral rules of trade benefiting developed and developing countries alike. At this point, the key question is how to move forward and build on past achievements.

The Cancun round served as an opportunity to promote the development–trade link that began in Seattle in 1999 and advanced in the 2001 Ministerial meeting in Doha through the Doha Development Agenda. This called for, among other things, the coordinated delivery of technical assistance by developed countries and multilateral institutions to fund trade capacity building activities helping developing countries, especially the least developed, implement their WTO commitments and obligations and become full partners in the global trading system.

USAID participated as a member of the U.S. government delegation in each of these WTO Ministerial meetings—Seattle, Doha, and Cancun. As a result

of each successive Ministerial meeting, USAID has increased its support for helping developing countries become better integrated into the global economy. In 2003, U.S. government funding for trade capacity building (TCB) activities was \$752 million, up from \$369 million in 1999. The United States is the largest single donor of TCB assistance. In sub-Saharan Africa, the U.S. government's TCB funding grew more than 50 percent over the 1999-2003 period, from \$81 million to \$133 million.

TCB has been a longstanding element of USAID's development activities, predating the WTO Ministerial meetings. Currently, USAID's Africa Bureau has two major presidential initiatives underway to promote economic growth and advance both trade and investment opportunities. These are the Trade for African Development and Enterprise (TRADE) Initiative and the Initiative to End Hunger in Africa (IEHA). The TRADE initiative, operating primarily through "trade hubs" in Botswana, Ghana, and Kenya, seeks to enhance the engagement of sub-Saharan countries in the multilateral trading system. It also

is designed to stimulate African exports and investment flows into and within the continent. IEHA focuses on increasing agricultural productivity through the application of science and technology and agricultural trade through market development.

The objective of using trade as a tool to promote economic growth is a key element in many of the Africa Bureau's mission strategies. The Africa Bureau continues to advance the presidential initiatives, as well as the ongoing negotiations for a Free Trade Agreement between the United States and the Southern Africa Customs Union, and other trade arrangements. When the planning begins for the next WTO Ministerial meeting and the future direction of the multilateral trading system is considered, USAID's TCB programs and activities will make the Doha commitments even more meaningful and will play a pivotal role in expanding the mutual benefits from global trade.

Robert Siegel is an international economist with USAID/AFR/SD. For more information, contact him at rsiegel@usaid.gov or 202-712-1226.

USAID in Africa

Africa Bureau Information Center
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 1425
Washington, D.C. 20004-1703 USA