

USAID IN AFRICA

Fall 2002

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

Zambia's Multisectoral Approach to HIV/AIDS

In Zambia, the impact of HIV/AIDS is being felt at all levels of society and in every sector of development. Families are being especially hard hit, with an estimated 650,000 children orphaned from HIV/AIDS since the epidemic began, and the number of youth-headed households growing steadily in many rural and urban areas.

For USAID's mission director Allan Reed, the death last year of four local staff from AIDS-related complications brought the reality of the pandemic even closer to home. Several years ago USAID staff began to realize that a health sector approach alone was not enough. Containing the spread of HIV/AIDS needed to be addressed more broadly. This notion led to the creation of the mission's new strategic framework. "A multisectoral approach," said Reed, "will be the centerpiece for the mission's new strategy."

USAID's HIV/AIDS programs have contributed to promising trends in Zambia. The country has an estimated prevalence rate of 19.7 percent among 15 to 49-year-olds. The prevalence rate among women in some areas was as high as 27 percent in 1993, but by 1998 it had declined to 17 percent. During these same years, there was a 42 percent reduction in HIV/AIDS prevalence rates among 15 to 19-year-olds in Lusaka. This trend was also found in other urban areas, and to a lesser extent in some rural areas. Recent sexual behavior surveys show that the median age of beginning sexual activities for males has gone from 16.3 years in 1998 to 18.1 years in 2000—youth are delaying the start of their sexual activities. Annual condom sales have grown steadily since 1993 to 10.1 million condoms sold in 2001; condom use continues to increase among almost all age groups for both sexes.

A multisectoral approach to HIV/AIDS offers greater potential because it can provide additional channels for disseminating HIV/AIDS awareness and promoting behavior change. At the same time, this approach doesn't have to use large amounts of additional funding. Besides Zambia, 14 other USAID missions have either adopted or are developing similar multisectoral approaches to dealing with HIV/AIDS.

In Zambia, HIV/AIDS activities started in the health sector with a comprehensive program of prevention, care, and mitigation. But nonhealth teams in the mission were also encouraged to examine the impact of HIV/AIDS on their sectors, and to look for innovative, cost-effective ways to integrate HIV/AIDS elements into their programs. In the agriculture sector, for example, an agro-forestry project incorporated prevention and awareness messages on bags of seed and fertilizer as part of its



H. Destler/USAID

Many Zambian farmers are receiving HIV/AIDS awareness information as part of agricultural assistance programs.

Welcome!

Welcome to the first issue of *USAID in Africa*, the Africa Bureau's new newsletter on development activities in Africa. *USAID in Africa* replaces three newsletters that you may have been receiving: *African Voices*, *SD Developments*, and *SD Abstracts*. This new combined format reflects recent changes and streamlining in the organization of USAID and the Africa Bureau, and will enable the Bureau to highlight a broader range of programs and activities in each issue.

Three times a year, *USAID in Africa* will cover news, updates, and resources from USAID's programs in Africa and share experience from our development partners. As in the past, we encourage comments, articles, and resources to highlight in upcoming issues.

If you wish to be removed from the mailing list or make changes in your mailing information, please contact the editors at the address on page 2.

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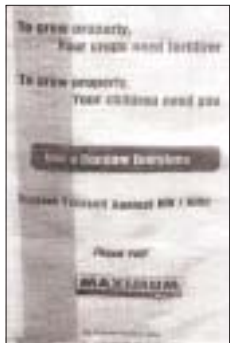
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distribution activities, which resulted in HIV/AIDS outreach to an otherwise hard to reach community.

In the democracy sector, USAID-funded HIV/AIDS websites, publications, and other resources will provide opportunities to address such problems as poor access to services and the threat of HIV/AIDS to human rights, and support civil society advocacy, dialogue, and community mobilization efforts.



An HIV prevention message on the back of a seed bag.

A rural business program implemented by the USAID partner CLUSA, the Cooperative League of the United States of America, is helping AIDS

widows and orphans overcome food insecurity. Members of the Zambia Orphans and Widows Association

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USAID Information on Multisectoral Approaches

- ◆ The Second Consultative Meeting on Rethinking HIV/AIDS and Development: A Review of USAID Progress in Africa
<http://sara.aed.org/multisectoral/>
- ◆ Survival is the First Freedom: Applying Democracy and Governance Approaches to HIV/AIDS Work
www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACL456.pdf
- ◆ Strategic Management Toolkits to Support HIV/AIDS Policy Change
www.synergyaids.com
- ◆ AIDS Toolkits, from the University of Natal's Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD)
www.und.ac.za/und/heard/toolkits/toolkits.htm
- ◆ Tips for Developing Life Skills Curricula for HIV Prevention among African Youth: A Synthesis of Emerging Lessons
www.dec.org/pdf_docs/PNACN635.pdf

(ZOWA) are learning labor-saving conservation farming, along with entrepreneurial skills, to increase crop yields and income. ZOWA members also receive information on HIV/AIDS awareness, prevention, and care.

USAID has also supported the Zambian Ministry of Education's efforts to assess the impact of HIV/AIDS and develop an action plan. The education sector in Zambia has developed a comprehensive strategic plan for HIV/AIDS management, and a new decentralized education information system is being developed to collect and use HIV/AIDS data. Communities are also identifying orphans and other vulnerable children to ensure they have access to education.

The creation of several mission-wide working groups were pivotal to USAID/Zambia's success in adopting a multisectoral approach, according to Robert Clay, the USAID/Zambia health director. These include the HIV/AIDS Orphan Working Group; an Embassy Coordination Group of U.S. organizations working in Zambia, chaired by the American ambassador, which meets regularly to discuss multisectoral approaches; ZAMCARE, a volunteer program that allows USAID staff to contribute to the community with USAID support; and a Workplace HIV/AIDS Committee, created to support

USAID staff affected by HIV/AIDS. The mission also hired a full-time HIV/AIDS multisectoral coordinator to foster linkages among all the sector teams.

Some of the lessons learned from USAID/Zambia's three years of multisectoral approach thus far include:

- ◆ There is a critical need to build on the health sector activities with other sector efforts to attain needed results.
- ◆ USAID staff are eager to work on HIV/AIDS-related activities regardless of their sector.
- ◆ Everyone does not need to become an HIV/AIDS expert. They only need to know where to go for the expertise when needed.
- ◆ Both the ambassador and the mission director must be champions of multisectoral efforts in order for them to succeed.

In addition, said Allen, "Important to these HIV efforts in Zambia is that the President of Zambia himself has said that AIDS is one of the national priorities," along with diversifying the economy and good governance.

For more information, contact Robert Clay, USAID/Zambia health director, at rclay@usaid.gov.

—Patricia Mantey

Gacaca Courts Deliver Traditional Justice in Rwanda

A major challenge to Rwanda's justice system has been how to legally process the nearly 115,000 detainees accused of crimes during the 1994 genocide, which



Tallying votes from the gacaca election.

claimed more than 800,000 lives. Many detainees have been living in overcrowded prisons for more than six years. But the formal judicial system has been incapable of dealing with this huge caseload along with the task of promoting community and national level reconciliation and bringing an end to a culture of impunity. As a result, the Government of Rwanda (GOR) decided to try these detainees through an experimental system based on a traditional justice called *gacaca*—conducted in local communities by elected judges.

USAID began supporting the gacaca process in 1998, and more recently, the Rwanda mission provided assistance for a national campaign to educate the population about the gacaca process. USAID also financed a election awareness campaign prior to the election of gacaca judges in October 2001, when local communities elected a total of 250,000 “wise” people as judges. Nearly 90 percent of the population participated in the election of these judges.

The GOR officially launched the gacaca process on June 18, 2002, with the start of a gacaca pilot project. Pilots are underway in cells (the lowest level government administrative unit) in each of Rwanda's 12 provinces. The three phases of the gacaca process are infor-

mation gathering, categorization of the accused, and actual trials. The first two phases of the process are expected to last at least three months each, and the

GOR expects that it will take up to five years for the trials of all the detainees to be completed once the pilot phase is expanded to include every cell in the country before the end of 2002.

During the trial phase, each accused person will be presented with charges and tried before elected judges in one of 11,000 jurisdictions. Witnesses will be called to present testimony about what they saw or experienced related to specific genocide crimes. The judges will then decide on the innocence or guilt of the accused and can pass sentences up to life imprisonment.

The gacaca law of 1996 divides the genocide suspects into four categories depending on the severity of the crimes of which they are accused, and suspects will be judged at one of four administrative levels. Gacaca courts will try only suspects in categories 2 through 4. The formal national court system will try detainees in category 1, those accused of the most serious crimes of planning, organizing, or leading the genocide or committing rape. Category 2 involves crimes of participating in, but not leading, the killing of people, which will be tried on the district level. Category 3 involves crimes of injuring people without the intent to kill, which will be tried on the sector level. Category 4 involves property crimes, which will be tried at the cell level.

Penalties are the death penalty for those found guilty in category 1; seven years

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USAID Responds to Crisis in Southern Africa

It is now estimated that up to 14.4 million people in six southern Africa countries—Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe—will be in need of humanitarian food aid between now and next year's harvest in March. The United States took early action to help the situation in southern Africa, including stimulating commercial imports, engaging governments to take appropriate policy actions, and providing emergency assistance.

Since early 2002, the U.S. government has provided nearly 500,000 metric tons of food aid valued at approximately \$266 million dollars to the region, mostly through USAID's Food for Peace program. This food aid includes cornmeal, whole corn, vegetable oil, beans, peas, corn-soya blend and cornsoy milk. Two USAID chartered ships transporting an additional 60,000 metric tons will arrive in October. In June, the U.S. government announced the release of 275,000 metric tons of wheat from the Emerson Trust, a food reserve for urgent humanitarian need. This wheat was exchanged for corn, beans, and vegetable oil to provide emergency food assistance to southern Africa.

In addition to food aid, USAID is supporting activities to restart agricultural production in the hardest hit communities. USAID is providing locally procured seed to disaster-affected farming families in Zambia, Zimbabwe, and Malawi so that they can plant crops before the October rains begin. The seed includes more drought-resistant alternatives to corn, such as sorghum and cassava.

For more information on USAID's response to the food security crisis in southern Africa, visit: www.usaid.gov/about/southernafrica/index.html.

Siongiroi Dairy Plant Fuels Community Development

By Beatrice Wamalwa and Alex Kirui

The success of the Siongiroi Dairy Plant in Kenya's Bomet District has had an enormous impact on dairy farmers, their employees, transporters, and other traders (see box below) who derive income from milk delivered to the plant. A vibrant market center is developing around the plant and standards of living within the area are improving rapidly, thanks to this USAID-funded project.

"Siongiroi Dairy Plant has changed this place tremendously," says the chief of Siongiroi, John Muge. "It has helped to reduce hunger now that people are assured of an income. Relief food that we used to rely on during lean times is now history. Paying school fees is no longer a problem for many. We have also witnessed the development of kiosks, butcheries, restaurants, lodges, and related businesses."

For farmers within Siongiroi and neighboring divisions, milk marketing had been a challenge for almost a decade. Sigowo Rotich, the chairman of Siongiroi Dairy Society's management committee, sums up the frustration and despair that gripped dairy farmers seven years ago and almost led to the collapse of the industry in the area. "We were contemplating selling our improved cows and keeping local ones following the collapse of the now defunct Kenya Co-operative Creameries (KCC) parastatal," says Rotich. "KCC had collected about 20,000 kg of milk and failed to pay us. We were experiencing problems with marketing our milk. Our children were often removed from school for lack of fees."

Then in 1995, a group of dairy farmers met at Chebunyo market to explore ways to market their surplus milk. After

much discussion and research, the farmers approached Technoserve Incorporated and Heifer Project

International (HPI), then operating under one management team.

With USAID funding, Technoserve and HPI conducted a feasibility study on behalf of the farmers. In 1996, an HPI-facilitated focus group discussion with farmers within Siongiroi Division led to an agreement on the way forward on the dairy plant. Each farmer paid an agreed upon contribution and negotiated fee, and by 1998 the group

had enough money to start their business.

In September 1998, after registering as a dairy society, the farmers employed six staff members to manage the plant on their behalf. A week later, a cooling plant was supplied by Tetra Pak, a private packaging company. Within three months, the intake had increased almost 10 fold. The plant now receives

15,000 kg of milk per day, which is transported to dairies in Nakuru and in Kericho for processing. This output enables participating farmers to earn over 5,800,000 Kenyan shillings (\$75,000) collectively per month.

USAID is also working to increase milk yields of the animals, which now stands at six kilograms per cow, through breeding using artificial insemination. In addition, the farmers are being trained on animal feeds and water conservation to help them cope with dry season decreases in milk yields.

Within the next three years, Siongiroi Dairy Plant hopes to start processing its own milk once daily intake reaches 60,000 kg. Through the facilitation of HPI, the Siongiroi Dairy Society management committee has already toured several processing plants to generate ideas.

Beatrice Wamalwa is a development assistance assistant with USAID/Kenya. Alex Kirui is the implementing agency activity manager with Heifer International/ Kenya. For more information, contact Ms. Wamalwa at bwamalwa@usaid.gov or +254-862-402 x2214.



A Kenyan farmer with her dairy calf.

Cycling for Wealth

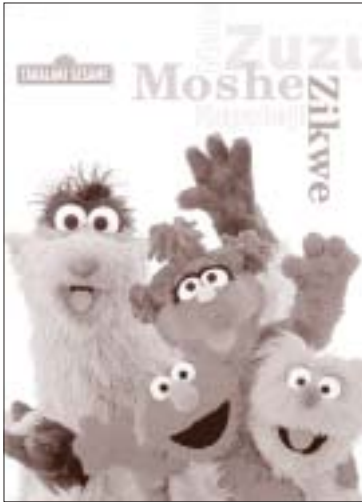
Like many youths in the Siongiroi area, Wilson Korir, 25, grappled with many years of failed small businesses, unemployment, and idleness. Then he noticed that milk traders were making good money and he decided to give it a try. Korir's fortunes completely reversed when he started delivering to Siongiroi Dairy Plant. After receiving training on milk handling and equipped with special hygienic containers recommended by the plant management, he borrowed a friend's bicycle for his first deliveries in early 1999. Three months later, Korir bought his own bicycle with the profit he had earned from the milk deliveries.

Three years since his first delivery to the plant, Korir now has his own milk supplier account number and he delivers over 200 liters daily using four bicycles with the help of three assistants. Korir proudly explains that the bicycles were purchased second hand with earnings from his milk business. With annual earnings of over \$10,500, Korir can afford to pay his assistants and save enough for future business ventures.

The Siongiroi Dairy Plant and related services have triggered a spirit of entrepreneurship among many such unemployed individuals, whose hope for the future now seems brighter.

Muppets Take South Africa

A new muppet has moved to South Africa's version of Sesame Street. The character of Kami, a furry five-year-old monster, is HIV positive. Through her interactions with other characters,



Takalani Sesame Muppets.

she will show that people living with HIV/AIDS are no different from people without the virus. Program developers hope that she will help to reduce the stigma of HIV in the country.

Kami is only the latest addition to the cast of

Takalani Sesame, the South African name for the show. The ongoing project is a concrete educational tool that supports South Africa's Early Childhood Development policy—focusing on

learning outcomes and the training of early childhood providers. *Takalani* means “be happy” in TshiVenda, one of South Africa's 11 national languages.

Takalani Sesame was brought to the children of South Africa in July 2000 through a partnership with the Department of Education, USAID, Sanlam (a South African investment firm), South African Broadcasting Corporation Education, and South African Airways.

The program, created by and for South Africans, has a strong South African flavor. Short story segments are combined with animation and mini documentaries. Story lines involve colorful Muppet and human characters. Most characters speak multiple languages including English, Afrikaans, Sesotho, Setswana, Xhosa, Zulu, and Gujarati.

Takalani Sesame also marks the first radio production based on the television series, thereby extending

the effectiveness of the Takalani Sesame content. There are 104 12-minute episodes. Where people have no access to television or radio, outreach programs are available.

Takalani Sesame has several primary education goals: to encourage children to 1) develop positive self-esteem and self-image; 2) respect and appreciate others; 3) celebrate the similarities and differences that make up South Africa's diverse culture; 4) recognize and enjoy South Africa's language diversity; and 5) develop basic skills with letters and numbers. These lessons and goals are illustrated through humor, music, drama, and comedic writing.

For more information, contact the USAID/South Africa education officer, David Foster-Gross, at dfoster-gross@usaid.gov or +27-12-323-8869.

—Christine Chumbler

Stories Out of School

This regular focus on basic education is contributed by the Africa Bureau's Education Division.

Uganda Video Makes an Impact in the Field

In 1998, AFR/SD's education team produced *Education for All: The Ugandan Experience*, a video documenting the ingredients that went into Uganda's successful education reform. Since then, it has been broadcast by television stations in 89 countries, including the United States, through a production partnership with the World Bank's Global Links series. The program has won eight awards in documentary and film competitions.

The Africa Bureau has distributed over 700 tapes to individuals and institutions including African ministries of education, USAID and World Bank missions in Africa, and NGO and PVO partners. The program has been used in world affairs classes in 4,000 public schools in the United States.

In South Africa, the video has been used as a model for a new teacher development system. In Uganda, one education officer said “The video has been used for learning purposes in all our teacher development and management system phases. It has helped teacher trainees gain an insight into the problems in education and how some of them can be overcome using simple methods as depicted in the video.”

For copies of the video, contact Christine Chumbler at (202) 661-5827 or abic@dis.cdie.org. For more information, contact Brad Strickland, a member of the AFR/SD education division, at (202) 219-0482 or bstrickland@af-sd.org.

USAID'S Assistance in Namibia: A Unique Partnership

More Stories Out of School

In 1990, the newly independent government of Namibia quickly set about transforming an apartheid era education system into a unified structure, and moving towards five education sector goals: access, equity, quality, democracy, and efficiency. It now allocates over 25 percent of its national budget to education, which represents more than 10 percent of Namibia's total GDP.

The investment has paid off. A new, uniform, and learner-centered curriculum for grades 1 through 12 has received recognition beyond Namibia's borders. Almost 90 percent of school age children attend school and the number of teachers has increased by almost 30 percent since 1990. Over 3,000 new classrooms have



Namibian students.

been built. The repetition rates have been reduced from 50 percent in 1991 to under 20 percent in 1997.

Since 1995, USAID has worked closely with the Ministry

of Basic Education, Sport, and Culture (MBESC), directing its assistance primarily toward grade 1-4 learners in the north, where more than 70 percent of the total number of primary school children in Namibia live.

The greatest challenge to Namibia's education sector today is achieving quality and efficiency. Moreover, in order for the MBESC to sustain its school-level successes, systems supporting the primary schools need to be strengthened. USAID and

MBESC thus decided to shift the focus of their partnership from enhancing the skills of teachers to improving instructional and school support systems and increasing parental and community involvement.

Encouraging progress is already being made. In order to improve instructional support systems, primary school improvement programs have been initiated in all northern regions with input from nearly 1,400 parents, teachers, and principals. Four computer laboratories were opened in June 2001 to enhance existing teacher resource centers. A new MBESC website (www.nied.edu.na) has been established, offering online teacher certification opportunities and other professional development programs to over 1,000 teachers so far.

To improve school support systems, 736 schools in four education regions have been organized into clusters. Each cluster is supported by a team of educational leaders who have been designated to assist each school with the development and implementation of strategies for improved teaching and learning. A new system is also in place that establishes national coordination for better quality management training and certification of all school principals.

Reflecting increased parental and community participation in the improvement of schools, over 300 parents and community members in two regions have participated in the creation of school development plans. A successful community-led reading program (resulting in increased student perfor-

mance) was piloted in one school cluster and will soon be replicated in other clusters. Finally, the MBESC has developed a school improvement small grants program for communities.

Unfortunately, any of the gains in the education sector could be nullified by the scourge of HIV/AIDS. With a 22 percent prevalence rate, many of Namibia's teachers, and students, are HIV positive. The disease's impact on the education system will be profound. USAID is helping the MBESC to develop strategies for mitigating the impact by supporting assessments and strategic planning workshops. At the same time, USAID is planning to assist the MBESC reach the youth of Namibia with awareness-raising activities and behavioral change interventions. During a visit to USAID/Washington in June, the Minister of Basic Education, Sports, and Culture, John Mutorwa, said that plans to introduce HIV/AIDS education in primary schools for children younger than 15-years-old have been formalized. "It's just a question of implementation," he said. USAID will be helping with this process.

The Way Forward: 2002-2005
As a result of USAID assistance, effective models have been developed in four of the country's seven education regions. There are sound practices in place for improved instruction, better management, access to advanced educational technologies, and strong community ownership and support for the improvement of their schools. Now it is time to

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Repositioning Family Planning in Africa: A Call to Action

By Khadijat Mojidi

With 673 million people, sub-Saharan Africa's population is projected to double to over 1 billion in the next 25 years. The HIV/AIDS epidemic will lead to negative population growth rates in only five countries—South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho, and Swaziland. Fertility rates in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), while declining, are the highest of any region in the world, almost twice as high as those in Asia and Latin America, with women having an average of over five children. Up to 50 percent of young unmarried women say they would like to have access to contraception but do not. As population grows and the impact of HIV/AIDS takes its toll on Africa's economies, sustainable development will continue to elude the continent and make it increasingly difficult for fragile governments to meet their citizens' basic needs. The need for family planning programs therefore remains clear.

The Africa Bureau's reproductive health strategy was developed to promote both innovative programs and strategies and a more supportive policy environment among African governments and partner institutions. Africa Bureau programs focus on the reproductive health needs of adolescents; male involvement strategies; empowering women, with a special emphasis on reducing female genital cutting; integration of treatment of sexually transmitted diseases in family planning and maternal/child health programs; and building African capacity and strategies to support services for safe motherhood.

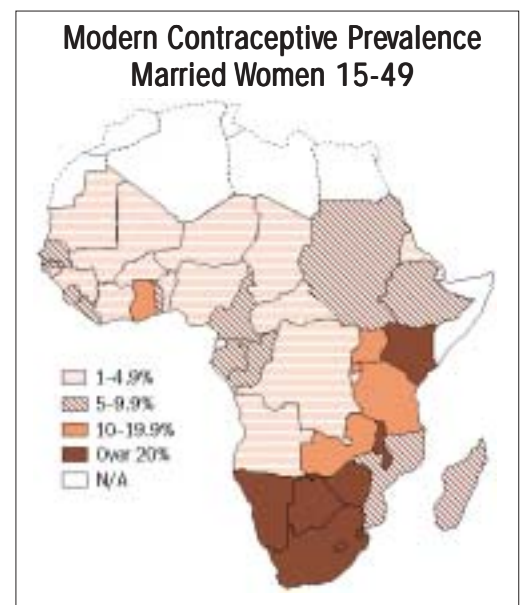
In recognition of the important role family planning plays in achieving sustainable development in SSA, the Africa Bureau and the Bureau for Global Health have also formed a joint task force to reposition family planning in light of the changing health environment.

Gender specific messages are most effective in promoting responsible behavior. Therefore, USAID's programs that target men, a crucial part of the reproductive health equation that was traditionally underserved, focus on disease prevention. (Messages targeting young women focus on preventing pregnancy.) Training and behavior change communication activities have been integrated into scheduled soccer events, which typically attract a predominately male audience. For example, during the April 2002 African Soccer Cup of Nations in Mali, USAID mobilized a media campaign promoting dual messages of pregnancy and disease prevention that reached nearly 80 percent of the radio audience in four countries during the two-week tournament. Local journalists and soccer celebrities were crucial in advocating responsible behavior, targeting visiting soccer players and fans.

The primary focus of USAID's reproductive health programs, however, continues to be on women. Maternal mortality rates in SSA are unacceptably high. On average, 1,100 women die per 100,000 live births, a rate that is 2.5 times higher than that of South Asia and almost 6 times higher than that of Latin America. Most maternal deaths are due to closely spaced births, complications during delivery, unsafe abortions, and inadequate obstetrical care. USAID programs train birth attendants in safe delivery practices, promote the use of birth kits, train midwives and physicians in life saving skills, and support family-centered maternity care.

An increasing amount of attention is also being focused on integration of sexually transmitted infection (STI) and HIV/AIDS prevention with family planning service delivery programs. This capitalizes on existing client bases and provider networks as a means of addressing the need for STI and HIV

prevention. Specific approaches seek to reduce high-risk sexual behavior; increase demand for, and access to condoms; and treat and control sexually transmitted infections and diseases. While this integrated approach may be effective for the prevention of STIs and HIV, there is some concern that this new emphasis may lead to a shift in



Source: UNAIDS/WHO; DHS; UN. Hill K, et al. "Estimates of Maternal Mortality for 1995." *Bulletin of the World Health Organization* 79(3), WHO 2001: 182-193.

resources away from traditional family planning programs.

The question arises whether there is still a need for family planning in Africa in light of the growing HIV/AIDS epidemic? The USAID task force answers with a resounding "yes." In fact, family planning services are even more critical to ensuring that couples, and especially women, can control their reproductive lives and protect their health and that of their children. Increasing HIV/AIDS infection rates challenge governments and donors to

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to life imprisonment for category 2; one to seven years imprisonment for category 3; and material reparation for category 4. The wide latitude in penalties is due to the fact that a sentence may be reduced if the accused confesses within a certain time frame.

Ongoing as well as past USAID support to the gacaca process includes:

- ◆ Capacity building in the judicial sector, including support for training and equipment to facilitate the work of the Ministry of Justice, the Prosecutor General's Office, and the Supreme Court's Sixth Chamber (the Department of Gacaca Jurisdictions). The U.S. Department of Justice also provided legal training, funded by USAID, to many prosecutors and judicial police to improve the capacity of the judicial system to investigate the large number of genocide cases pending, particularly the category 1 crimes.
- ◆ National public awareness campaign through media, training, and theatre productions to promote the gacaca process, including the election of gacaca judges, which was implemented by Johns Hopkins University. www.jhucgp.org/africa/rwanda/gacaca.htm
- ◆ Gacaca and International Criminal Tribunal (ICTR) news coverage provided by Internews. A series of six feature-length newsreel documentaries on the ICTR trials in Arusha, Tanzania and the justice system in Rwanda were shown to communities throughout Rwanda that would not otherwise have access to information on the trials. Internews also provided regular news coverage via Internet on ICTR events. www.internews.org/activities/ICTR_reports/ICTR_reports_current.htm
- ◆ Gender based violence resource survey and trauma and awareness training for gacaca judges, judicial police officers, and civil society

Biodiversity Support Program CD-ROM Released

Natural resources support millions of people and contribute to many national economies in Africa. However, the continent continues to lose natural resources and biological diversity as a result of habitat alteration, over-harvesting, and pollution. The Biodiversity Support Program (BSP)—a consortium of World Wildlife Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and World Resources Institute funded by USAID—sought to address these problems in Africa and around the world during its 12-year mission between 1989 and 2001.

BSP's program in Africa took a broad approach to conserving biodiversity and encouraging the wise use of natural resources. Using this approach, BSP analyzed innovative and traditional biodiversity conservation projects, published lessons and resources, strengthened African capacity for conservation, promoted exchanges and networking among different regions, and acted as a neutral facilitator in processes involving multiple stakeholders.

Over its lifespan, BSP operated several different projects, including Global Climate Change, Protected Area Conservation Strategy, Behaviors in Conservation, Transboundary Natural Resource Management, Central African Regional Program for the Environment, and Armed Conflict and the Environment.

Publications and other information from all these projects, and others worldwide, are available on a CD-ROM released by BSP. Copies are available from Peg Hausman, senior publications specialist with USAID/AFR/SD, at phausman@af-r-sd.org or (202) 219-0455. Information and publications are also available online at the BSP website, www.bsponline.org.

through the International Rescue Committee and the Trauma, Research, Education and Training Institute.

- ◆ Support for SERUKA, a local NGO, for awareness training on the role of women as active participants in the gacaca process.

Through the gacaca courts, the hope is that Rwandans can begin the long process of healing for the survivors, reconciliation for those found innocent or guilty of lesser crimes, and justice for those found guilty of participating in the genocide.

For additional information on the gacaca process, see the Rwandan Ministry of Justice website: www.minijust.gov.rw/mjig.html. For more information on USAID Rwanda's justice activities, contact democracy and governance team members Kimberly Pease at kpease@usaid.gov or Pierre Munyura at pmunyura@usaid.gov.

—Patricia Mantey and Kimberly Pease

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consolidate these gains and expand these activities nationwide.

In spite of the successes, challenges remain. The benefits of USAID's assistance do not yet reach all of the primary schools in the country, and USAID's activities supporting the MBESC will end in 2004. Until then, USAID and its partners will try to ensure the sustainability and improvement of primary schools and their support systems. They will continue to work with the MBESC to enhance its ability to develop and implement policies improving the quality of primary school instruction and management, and to disseminate models developed regionally to a national scale. As Minister Mutorwa said, "The road ahead is much longer than the 12 years already travelled."

For more information, contact Catherine Miles Powell, education officer at USAID/Namibia, at catherinemiles@usaid.gov.

—Christine Chumbler

University Partnerships Encourage Good Governance

By Laurie Arnston

All politics is local, as former U.S. Congressman Tip O'Neill once observed, and two democracy and governance programs in Senegal and Angola sponsored by USAID's Education for Development and Democracy Initiative are proving that this adage is true around the world.

These programs, which focus on decentralization and local empowerment, are higher

education partnerships between institutions in the U.S. and Africa: the University of Massachusetts-Boston (UMB) and Université Gaston Berger de St. Louis (UGB) in Senegal, and the Mississippi Consortium for International

Development (MCID) and Agostinho Neto University (ANU) in Angola. Since 1998, USAID has supported a growing number of higher education partnerships through The Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development (ALO).

The collaboration between UMB and UGB is focused on teaching and research at UGB in the areas of public administration, political science, and business law. The long-term goal is to establish a public policy research institute at UGB, with a focus on decentralization, local governance, and economic development. Plans also are underway to establish a community resource center, including a women's center, additional classrooms, electronic communications and library/database capacity, and a microenterprise development center.

Seventy percent of Senegal's population is rural, and community-based governance programs are reaching people

never before considered as part of the equation. Sourouro Belly Mbodj, a third-year student in political science at UGB, describes her role in the partnership as "to encourage local people and try to make them confident, so as to facilitate a close cooperation with them."

"[The partnership] is the best way for people living in the villages to take

charge of themselves," she said. "I think universities can help these residents understand the potential they have themselves as human beings."

As part of her partnership, Ndeye Aminata Diagne Sy, a third-year sociology

student at UGB specializing in development, has analyzed the ideal conditions for setting up hen cooperatives in local villages, which she points out would not be possible without the cooperation of the local population.

"This initiative on community development is very profitable for the local population. First, it brings them financial support through the creation

of economic infrastructures like the telecenter, the cooperative, the dyeing and sewing workshops, and the cybercafe. Second, it offers various training that will generate in the future a financial and intellectual independence for them. Third and most of all, it helps the population to discover other realities and take control of itself."

In Angola, MCID and ANU not only have been working to establish a department of political science and public administration at ANU, but also to train local government managers to address the shortage of skilled public administrators as a result of approximately 30 years of civil war. To accomplish these goals, the partners developed curricula for bachelor's, master's, and certificate programs in public policy and administration, and also have conducted weeklong workshops focusing on economic development, project management, and budget and finance. The new department officially opened in April, with learning centers set up in Huila, Benguela, and Cibinda provinces.

"There is no public administration or management program anywhere in Angola, and municipal and other local officials needed one very badly," said assistant program director Adrienne Graham. "These provincial learning

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ANU faculty and staff participating in a workshop on grantsmanship in Angola.

New USAID Webpage for University Partnerships

USAID has launched a new webpage for American universities and other higher education institutions interested in working with the Agency to support international development. USAID has long recognized these institutions as valued partners in fostering creative new approaches to development problems. The majority of USAID funding is competitively awarded through specific requests or invitations. At the same time, USAID accepts for review well-conceived and innovative unsolicited concept papers and proposals that advance U.S. foreign assistance objectives. The webpage, www.usaid.gov/university, gives guidance and contact information for both processes. For more information, visit the webpage or contact Gary Bittner in the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade/Education at hliaison@usaid.gov or (202) 712-1042.

AFRICA RESOURCES

*A selection of recent
USAID-funded
publications on
Africa*

Transnational View of Basic Education: Issues of Access, Quality, and Community Participation in West and Central Africa

Educational Research Network for West and Central Africa (ERNWACA). USAID/AFR/SD. January 2002.

PN-ACN-869

This document synthesizes the main findings of studies produced by seven member countries of the Educational Research Network for West and Central Africa on common ways of developing and implementing policies to combat rising illiteracy, grade-repetition, drop-out rates, and expulsions in Africa. The studies focused on access to schooling and the retention of students within the primary sector in Côte d'Ivoire and The Gambia; and the relation between community participation and access to and quality of education in Benin, Cameroon, Ghana, Mali, and Togo.

Tips for Developing Life Skills Curricula for HIV Prevention among African Youth: A Synthesis of Emerging Lessons

USAID/AFR/SD. SD Technical Paper No. 115. January 2002.

English: PN-ACN-635;

French: PN-ACQ-464

Life skills education for HIV prevention inculcates the knowledge and skills needed to avoid HIV infection and maintain reproductive health (RH). This document offers practical guidance for those developing life skills curricula for young people in sub-Saharan Africa. It offers practical tips for specific groups implementing life skills programs for young people (planners, curriculum designers, teacher trainers, and head teachers and administrators). Cross-cutting tips encourage community participation and involve young people in planning and curriculum development. Also included is a list of available sample life skills curricula, and material and contact information. A main source of the report is a study, produced under the FOCUS on Young Adults project, of school-based RH programs for adolescents (PN-ACB-119).



Sizing up the African State: Two Types of Government Errors

Arthur A. Goldsmith. USAID/AFR/SD. EAGER/African Economic Policy Discussion Paper, No. 48. May 2001.

PN-ACL-490

This paper uses new empirical information to demarcate important aspects of the "typical" African state and identify its similarities and differences with other areas. The discussion is organized around the notion of government (or nonmarket) failures, with particular attention to the often ignored distinction between sins of commission (government doing things it should not do) and sins of omission (government not doing things it ought to do). Comparisons are made with Asia and Latin America.

HIV Prevention in Conflict and Crisis Settings

Rodger Yeager and Donna Ruscavage. Tulane University; USAID/AFR/SD. March 2001.

PN-ACM-027

Throughout the world, uniformed service personnel, including military and civilian police, are especially at risk for infection with HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). This training-of-trainers packet was developed to address this risk as part of a larger training curriculum that has been produced by the Civil-Military Alliance to Combat HIV and AIDS, in cooperation with the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The curriculum currently consists of five training modules: 1) defining HIV and its impact on the military; 2) HIV prevention; 3) substance abuse, HIV, and STIs; 4) HIV risk assessment and prevention strategies; and 5) review of HIV prevention and behavior change issues. A sixth module, on HIV prevention for women in conflict and crisis settings, is under preparation.

Agricultural Biotechnology: A Review of Contemporary Issues

Catherine L. Ives, Andrea Johanson, and Josette Lewis. Mitchell Group; USAID/AFR/SD; USAID/EGAT. June 2001.

PN-ACN-153

Modern biotechnology is an applied science that seeks to understand biological processes on the genetic level. Biotechnology can be applied in a number of ways, such as the genetic engineering of

crops (corn, potatoes and cotton) often called GMOs (genetically modified organisms). The private sector dominates agricultural biotechnology, funding over 50 percent of the research and development in the United States. The strength of the private over the public sector introduces important policy issues—particularly intellectual property rights and biosafety (the effect of biotechnology on human health and the natural environment) that must be addressed when considering the needs of developing countries. These issues, current USAID policies and programs, socioeconomic benefits, and the ethical concerns surrounding agricultural biotechnology are discussed.

Trampled Grass: Mitigating the Impacts of Armed Conflict on the Environment

James Shambaugh, Judy Oglethorpe, et al. Biodiversity Support Program; USAID/AFR/SD; USAID/G/ENV/ENR. 2001.

PN-ACN-551

This publication, based on the results of the Biodiversity Support Program's Armed Conflict and the Environment project, reviews the negative impacts of armed conflict on the environment in sub-Saharan Africa and analyzes practical actions that can be taken to reduce these impacts. Although no blueprint exists for what to do in conflict



situations, a wide range of experiences in different parts of Africa suggests general principles and recommendations that can guide the development of appropriate strategies to prevent or mitigate the environmental impacts of

armed conflict. Recommendations for future priorities are detailed in the conclusion.

Trade and Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa: Further Empirical Evidence

Malcolm F. McPherson and Tzvetana Rakovski. USAID/AFR/SD. EAGER/African Economic Policy Discussion Paper No. 64. May 2001.

PN-ACL-900

This study examines the interaction between income growth and trade. Results support the view that Africa's marginalization in the world economy has been rooted in the lack of growth across the continent rather than the lack of trade. Therefore, African

countries need to focus in a sustained way on policies that promote growth. Based on study evidence, a focus on trade as a means of promoting growth—a recommendation central to most donor support to African countries—does not appear to be a fruitful way of reducing Africa's marginalization in the world economy. For policymakers, the message is clear: a growth-oriented program that explicitly removes the constraints on domestic economic activity will also stimulate trade.

Helping Children Outgrow War

Vachel Miller and Friedrich W. Affolter. USAID/AFR/SD. SD Technical Paper No. 116. June 2002.



PN-ACP-892

This guidebook offers several examples of successful interventions in post-conflict settings internationally, situating them within a framework that emphasizes children's well-being and learning. The process of helping children outgrow war involves helping communities heal from violence and determine their own paths of development. Successful interventions can enable teachers, parents, and community leaders to safely deal with traumatic events, to articulate their aspirations, and to build trust across multiple levels of society as the infrastructure of a culture of peace. The challenge of post-conflict educational reconstruction, in this sense, is larger and more diffuse than rebuilding the shattered infrastructure of schooling. This guidebook is not intended to address the complex technical, financial, and political issues involved in rebuilding school systems. While it touches on those issues, it is concerned more broadly with creating conditions for constructive learning in the wake of social violence.

These documents can be downloaded in full-text free of charge at www.dec.org/title_search.cfm. Search for the desired document ID number (DOCID), for example, **PN-ACN-869**, in the fielded search option.

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centers will allow local administrators to augment their on-the-job training with distance learning courses and CD-ROM training.”

This partnership has led to another USAID-funded project in Angola for MCID, which is implementing a two-year grassroots civic and political education project to increase citizen participation in the governance process. The objectives of this program are to prepare women to participate in the democratic process; to improve public access to information at all government levels; to improve civic advocacy and coalition building; and to increase citizens' and government officials' knowledge and awareness of their duties, rights, and responsibilities as citizens in Angola.

Two newer ALO partnerships, between the University of Delaware and Institute of Local Government Studies (ILGS) in Ghana, and Michigan State University

and the eastern seaboard Association of Tertiary Institutions in South Africa, also are beginning to see very promising results from their democracy and governance programs. In Ghana, the partners are working to strengthen the process of decentralization. The South African partnership is working to assist all universities and technical colleges in KwaZulu-Natal to establish a strategic plan and program of community outreach to nearby disadvantaged communities via the Internet.

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find innovative ways to ensure that both needs are met. The success of voluntary population programs within the context of HIV/AIDS will depend on recognition of the dual roles of family planning in preventing unwanted pregnancies and controlling **all** sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS. African governments, USAID field missions, donors, and other partners should therefore reposition family planning as a critical element for sustainable development for Africa.

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