



DUFATANYE

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN RWANDA

rwanda.usaid.gov

WINTER 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

The Golden Cup Recognizes Rwanda's Best Coffees, page 3



Photo Source: USAID/SPREAD

News in Brief

- Millennium Challenge Corporation Threshold Program SEE PAGE 2
- President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief SEE PAGE 2
- Development Assistance SEE PAGE 2
- USAID Welcomes New Acting Director SEE PAGE 2
- President's Malaria Initiative SEE PAGE 2

HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting

- International Conference Recognizes Rwanda's Leadership in the Fight against HIV/AIDS SEE PAGE 2

Indoor Residual Spraying

- Indoor Residual Spraying Reduces the Burden of Malaria SEE PAGE 1

Golden Cup

- The Golden Cup Leads to Record Prices for Rwanda's Finest Coffees SEE PAGE 3

Clinical Services Program

- USAID Awards Ambitious Clinical Services Program SEE PAGE 3

Performance-Based Financing

- USAID Provides Budget Support for Health Facilities through Performance-Based Financing SEE PAGE 4

USAID/Rwanda
Avenue Paul VI, Kigali
Phone: +250 570940
Fax: +250 573950
Website: <http://rwanda.usaid.gov>

Indoor Residual Spraying Reduces the Burden of Malaria

Between August and October 2007 the United States President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) and Rwanda's Ministry of Health conducted the first-ever large-scale indoor residual spraying (IRS) campaign in Rwanda.

IRS is an effective and proven intervention designed to protect people from malaria. It is the application of a safe insecticide to the indoor walls and eaves of homes in order to interrupt the spread of malaria by killing mosquitoes.

The goal of the campaign was to spray 145,000 households in Gasabo, Kicukiro and Nyarugenge Districts in Kigali. The spraying will expand to two additional malaria-endemic districts in January 2008.

IRS complements other malaria prevention interventions included in the PMI. In addition to the spraying of homes with insecticide, the PMI purchases and distributes insecticide-treated bed nets for prevention, prevents malaria in pregnant



Spray operators during the IRS launch in Gasabo District on August 10, 2007

women with prophylactic drugs and diagnoses and treats malaria with lifesaving drugs in communities and health facilities. The PMI is an interagency initiative led by USAID in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

This year, Rwanda will receive US\$20 million in PMI assistance.

Speaking during the launch of the IRS campaign, U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda, Mr. Michael Arietti, noted "indoor residual spraying is an important component of

a comprehensive program to combat malaria. The U.S. Government is pleased to be a partner with the Government of Rwanda in tackling this largely preventable disease. Working together, we have the opportunity to improve the living conditions of ordinary Rwandans and to prevent thousands of unnecessary illnesses and deaths."

By the conclusion of the campaign over 155,000 houses had been sprayed, exceeding the initial target. As a result, more than 1.2 million people are less likely to contract malaria.

News in Brief



Millennium Challenge Corporation Threshold Program

USAID worked with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to finalize and submit Rwanda's MCC

Threshold Country Plan proposal. The proposal is designed to improve Rwanda's MCC Ruling Justly indicators, specifically political rights, civil liberties and voice and accountability.



President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief

The PEPFAR team in Rwanda has submitted its plan for 2008 after significant consultation with the Ministry of Health and National AIDS Control Commission (CNLS). In cooperation with the Government of Rwanda and

implementing partners, PEPFAR prevents new infections and provides care and treatment for individuals infected or affected by HIV/AIDS.



Development Assistance

USAID will provide US\$125 million in development assistance, including food aid, to Rwanda in 2007. Total U.S. official assistance to Rwanda in 2007 through USAID and other U.S. Government agencies is approximately \$167 million, a 40 percent increase from 2006.



USAID Welcomes New Acting Director

In September, George E. Lewis was appointed Acting Director of USAID's mission in Rwanda. Mr. Lewis served as Director of USAID/Rwanda from 1996-1999 and will lead the agency on an interim basis for the next several months.



President's Malaria Initiative

PMI recently planned its activities for 2008 in close collaboration with the National Malaria Control Program (PNILP) in order to continue contributing to Rwanda's National Strategic Malaria Plan. PMI is a comprehensive program that fights malaria and saves lives.

International Conference Recognizes Rwanda's Leadership in the Fight against HIV/AIDS

The 2007 HIV/AIDS Implementers' Conference was held in Kigali, Rwanda from June 16-19, 2007. The event drew more than 1,500 delegates from around the world and highlighted Rwanda's leadership in efforts to prevent, care and treat HIV/AIDS.

The meeting was hosted by the Government of Rwanda and co-sponsored by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, Secretariat of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, United Nations Children's

Fund, World Bank, and World Health Organization.

The theme of the conference was "Scaling Up Through Partnerships." Participants discussed best practices and lessons learned in planning and coordinating national HIV/AIDS programs.

"Many important implementation best practices are being developed, and this meeting [was] an opportunity to disseminate them as broadly as possible," commented Ambassador Mark Dybul, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator. "All

partners must work together to implement high-quality, sustainable programs that deliver results and ensure coordinated action in support of host countries' national strategies."

Dr. Innocent Nyaruhirira, the Minister of State in charge of HIV/AIDS and other epidemics in the Rwanda Ministry of Health, noted that "we in Rwanda strongly believe that united we can build a world released from poverty related diseases among which are HIV, Malaria and Tuberculosis, particularly among the newborns, and the youth. We have no



2007 HIV/AIDS Implementers' Meeting
Kigali, Rwanda - June 16-19, 2007



choice but to keep the promises and ... now. This can be achieved through the kind of partnerships we are experiencing here in Kigali."

The strong partnership between the U.S. Government and Government of Rwanda is critical for the success of PEPFAR.

Recognizing the global HIV/AIDS pandemic as

one of the greatest health challenges of our time, President George W. Bush announced the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief in 2003 – the largest international health initiative in history by one nation to address a single disease. Rwanda is one of the 15 focus countries and total PEPFAR funding for Rwanda in 2007 is more than US\$103 million.

The Golden Cup Leads to Record Prices for Rwanda's Finest Coffees

The most esteemed prize for Rwanda's best coffees – the Golden Cup – was awarded at the end of August 2007 and the winning coffees were auctioned to international buyers for record prices. The highest honor went to a coffee from the SDL Muyongwe washing station in Gakenke District, which sold for over US\$55 per kilogram to American companies Intelligentsia Coffee and Stumptown Coffee.

With support from USAID, the competition was designed to improve the lives of farmers, spur economic growth and garner international recognition for Rwanda's burgeoning specialty coffee industry.

The Golden Cup was a strict and meticulous contest. One hundred thirty-eight unique coffees from across the country entered the month-long competition. The coffees were evaluated for taste and quality by highly trained national and international juries. Only the top twenty coffees that continuously received high scores were awarded and sold to international buyers.

Judges came from as far away as Europe, Japan and the United States. The entire process was monitored by an independent consulting firm, Ernst & Young, in order to ensure fairness and transparency.

"In our 150 years in the business, we have never seen prices as high as US\$25 per pound [US\$55 per kilogram] for any African coffee," said Maxime Christen, of the Schluter Trading Company in Switzerland and one of the international jurors.

Rwandan specialty coffee typically sells for approximately US\$3.50 per kilogram on the international market. "It is a great achievement, and shows that there are people willing to pay great prices for great coffee. The producers are beginning to see some spectacular rewards for all their hard work."

The Director for Counter Culture Coffee from the United States, Peter Giuliano, added that he was "proud to participate in this event that signifies Rwanda's transition into one of the elite coffee producing countries of the world."

The Golden Cup marks another milestone for Rwandan coffee. In 2000, the country did not export any specialty coffee; by 2006, 3,000 metric tons of specialty coffee were produced. Export revenue from this sub-sector was US\$8.5 million last year.

Rwandan coffee has been featured as a



International judges cupped (tasted) coffees during the Golden Cup

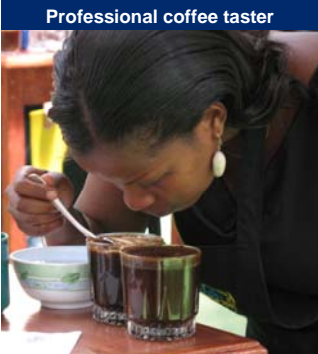
"Black Apron Exclusive" by Starbucks and praised as the "best of the best" by Green Mountain Coffee.

USAID previously provided US\$10 million over six years to help develop this specialty agribusiness. In November 2006, USAID renewed its commitment to the industry growth by funding Sustaining Partnerships to enhance Rural Enterprise and Agribusiness Development (SPREAD), a five-year, US\$6 million project dedicated to improving value chain management. SPREAD works to better the industry's links "from the seed to the cup."

Speaking about the Golden Cup, USAID/

Rwanda's Acting Mission Director in August, Ryan Washburn, noted that the event highlighted "the exceptional quality of Rwandan coffee and placed it on the international map. The Golden Cup contributes to the project's objectives of improving the lives of farmers in Rwanda and spurring sustainable economic growth."

The Golden Cup was organized by USAID/ SPREAD and OCIR Café, Rwanda's Coffee Development Authority, and made possible with the support of the Alliance for Coffee Excellence, National University of Rwanda, RWASCHOSCCO, RFCA, HORIZON, MISOZI, ENAS and Ernst & Young.



Professional coffee taster

USAID Awards Ambitious Clinical Services Program

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief through USAID awarded a total of US\$90 million over five years to Family Health International, IntraHealth, and the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation in June 2007 in order to

improve the care and treatment of HIV/AIDS in Rwanda. The Clinical Services Program, planned with the Ministry of Health, will expand clinical HIV/AIDS services in Rwanda and build the capacity of the country's health care system.

Speaking about the program, Acting Director of USAID/Rwanda, George E. Lewis, emphasized that "it is critical for health professionals to have the skills necessary to properly treat and care for patients. Highly trained staff and a sustainable health care system are essential for an effective response to HIV/AIDS."



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) works with the Government of Rwanda to improve the health and livelihoods of Rwandans and increase economic and political development. Programs in the areas of Health, Economic Growth and Democracy and Governance are made possible by the generous support of the American people.

USAID Provides Support for Health Facilities through Performance-Based Financing

Rwanda's Ministry of Health and the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through USAID are working together to roll out national performance-based financing for the prevention, care and treatment of HIV/AIDS and a basic and complementary package of health services. Performance-based financing offers financial incentives to health facilities to increase the quantity and improve the quality of health services provided.

Typically, development assistance funds inputs to health facilities such as the equipment, medical supplies and training necessary to deliver basic care and treat HIV/AIDS and other diseases. Performance-based financing, however, pays for results. If a health facility treats more patients and provides better overall care, the facility will receive more money.

In Rwanda, performance-based financing is operational in health facilities in 23 of the country's 30 districts. With help from Management Sciences for Health (MSH), USAID's implementing partner, the Government of Rwanda created a detailed system to track and monitor the number of individuals who receive health services and the overall quality of the health facility. Each health facility is responsible for tracking the number of services provided and the overall quality of the facility is determined by independent and external evaluations conducted by district health professionals with assistance from technical assistants from the Ministry of Health, donors and implementing partners.

The Government of Rwanda pays for the provision of basic health services. PEPFAR, through its implementing partners,

funds HIV/AIDS services, which includes voluntary counseling and testing, prevention of mother-to-child transmission and treatment for those who are HIV-positive.

Health facilities enrolled in the performance-based financing initiative are free to use the additional money to address whatever needs the managers have identified. These needs often include employee bonuses and operating expenses.

Performance-based financing has not only given health facilities discretionary income to increase staff motivation and improve infrastructure, but it has also provided communities with greater access to lifesaving health services. In only a short amount of time impressive results are apparent in participating facilities.

Over a twelve-month period that began last October, the number of people receiving voluntary counseling and testing for HIV increased by 246 percent across four health centers in Gicumbi District; from 417 to 1,443 tests per month.

For example, clinic staff at the Rwesero Health Center in Gicumbi District quickly recognized the potential reward and as a result



Outside the Rwesero Health Center in Gicumbi District

have made their services available to a greater number of people (the number of clients who received voluntary HIV tests increased 294 percent in a little over a year).

"Before performance-based financing began the health center was well-organized and operational," explained Mukankundiye Vénéranda, Managing Director of the Rwesero Health Center. "But the addition of financial incentives further motivated the staff and a higher standard of care increased the number of patients seeking treatment. We also started activities in the community using community health workers and local organizations to provide education on the importance of counseling and testing."

The Rwesero Health Center now has the means to regularly offer co-trimoxazole (CTX), an essential antibiotic that is used to help prevent opportunistic infections in those who are HIV-positive. Prior to performance-based financing it was difficult for the health center to apply this national

treatment guideline. However, since performance-based financing started paying for this activity, the number of such people receiving CTX in Rwesero each month has increased from zero to 66.

With a more efficient system to utilize all available resources, performance-based financing has been shown to decrease the cost of health care to donors and the government. Ultimately, USAID funds go further and help more people.

The United States Government provides other forms of support that directly contribute to government institutions, district governments and health professionals. The Twubakane Decentralization and Health Program, supported by USAID, offers District Incentive Funds to build the management and planning capacity of district governments. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief partially or fully funds more than 9,000 health care workers throughout Rwanda.

DUFATANYE

NEWS AND UPDATES FROM USAID/RWANDA

USAID/Rwanda
Avenue Paul VI, Kigali
<http://rwanda.usaid.gov>

Dufatanye is produced by the Communications Office. Distribution to others is welcomed. To be added to the mailing list, please send name, affiliation and e-mail address to:

Triphine Munganyinka
<tmunganyinka@usaid.gov>