



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## INSIDE

## USTDA Promotes The Development Of The Telecommunications Sector In Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA (U.S. Embassy) -- The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) awarded a grant on Wednesday June 7 to the College of Communications and Information Technology (CTIT) in Ethiopia to promote economic growth in Ethiopia through the expansion of the nation's capacity to develop its telecommunications sector. The \$169,520 (over 1,400,000 birr) grant will support an advanced training program for management professionals of the Ethiopian Telecommunications Agency (ETA) and the Ethiopian Telecommunications Corporation (ETC) on a variety of tele-



Mr. Kevin Sullivan, U.S. Embassy Political/Economic Counselor (R) and Dr. Nega Alemayehu, CTIT Director (L) at the signing ceremony.

communications issues, including policy development, regulatory reform and financial/tariffing procedures.

The grant was conferred during a grant signing ceremony at the College of Communications and

*(Continued on page 4)*

## U.S. Committed To Helping Africa Through Partnership, Rice Says



By Charles W. Corey  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Both Americans and Africans prosper un-

der conditions created by the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and therefore the United States stands committed to helping the people of Africa realize their aspirations through partnership, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice pledged June 6.

"Our policy toward Africa is rooted in partnership, not paternalism, in doing things with the peoples of Africa, not for the peoples of Africa," Rice said, opening the fifth annual AGOA Forum.

*(Continued on page 4)*

### U.S. Programs in Ethiopia

U.S. Treasury Department Training Seminar (P 2)

Farm Coops Boosting Ethiopian Women's Incomes (P 6)

### African issues

USAID Administrator Affirms U.S. Economic Commitment to Africa (P 8)

Africa Growth Act Boosts U.S. - African Trade 115 Percent (P 8)

President Bush Welcomes Congo President Nguesso to White House (P 9)

Foundations Aid Durable Higher Education Institutions in Africa (P 10)

### Human Trafficking

Secretary Rice's Remarks at the Release of 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report (P 11)

Ethiopia Portion of the Trafficking in Persons (P 12)

United States Praises Malawi, Morocco for Anti-Trafficking Gains (P 14)

Police, Lawmakers Targeting Human Trafficking Worldwide (P 15)

### HIV/AIDS

U.S. Urges Renewed Global Commitment To Fighting HIV/AIDS (P 16)

Where AIDS Galloped, Lessons in Applying the Reins (P 18)

### International issues

Students in Macedonia, Ghana Win State Department Award (P 20)

Leadership Program Enjoys Successful Debut (P 21)

### environment and Science

U.S. Strategy Addresses Water Issues in Developing Countries (P 22)

World's Deserts Are Threatened but Promising Ecosystems (P 23)

U.S. Army Tests Mobile Robotic Surgery (P 24)

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## U.S. Department of Treasury Helps Ethiopia Fight Economic Crime and Money-Laundering

### U.S. Department of Treasury Helps Ethiopia Fight Economic Crime and Money-Laundering

A training seminar on Financial Investigative Techniques sponsored by the U.S. Department of Treasury and jointly organized with the Ethiopian Ministry of Revenue opened in Addis Ababa on June 5. The five-day seminar, which focused on combating and preventing economic crimes and money laundering, was opened by U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Janet Wilgus, in the presence of the State Minister of Revenue Geremew Gargi, who also addressed the seminar. In her remarks, Janet Wilgus said that the seminar for prosecutors and law enforcement officers “will provide information on the methods used in the United States and other countries to combat economic crime and money laundering,” and that the course trainers would provide participants “with practical examples and demonstrate best practices in investigating and prosecuting individuals based on money laundering and other economic crime laws.”

About 35 participants from the Ministry of Revenue, the Federal Inland Revenue Authority, the Ethiopian Customs Authority, the Ministry of Justice, the Federal Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission and the Federal Police are attending the seminar. Following is the transcript of remarks delivered by DCM Janet Wilgus:

Begin Text

I would like to recognize the participation of the State Minister of

Revenue, His Excellency Ato Geremew Gargi. Your participation here today is an indication of the importance that the Government of Ethiopia places on combating economic crimes and money launder-



DCM Janet Wilgus

ing. We are glad to be working in partnership with you. We are encouraged by the steps being taken to reform the economy, fight against crime and corruption, and prevent terrorist activity from gaining a base in Ethiopia.

The Department of Treasury team of expert investigators is here this week because of the high importance the U.S. government places on working with you to improve financial systems to better meet the needs of our populations.

The Treasury Department, like many other ministries of finance, has three main goals: encouraging open and free financial markets, maintaining flexible exchange rates, and protecting the U.S. and interna-

tional financial systems from abuse.

This week’s seminar for prosecutors and law enforcement officers will provide information on the methods used in the United States and other countries to combat economic crime and money laundering. The trainers are seasoned investigators with extensive experience. Throughout the course, they will provide you with practical examples and demonstrate best practices in investigating and prosecuting individuals based on money laundering and other economic crime laws.

The Government of Ethiopia has made significant progress in this regard. You are already taking action to deter financial crime: you have included money laundering as a criminal act under the new Penal Code; and you have drafted new anti-money laundering legislation, which is designed to give Ethiopian citizens a world-class standard of protection for their financial transactions. When this law is passed, it will be an important tool in preventing criminals and terrorists from exploiting loopholes or other weaknesses in the legitimate Ethiopian financial system to launder criminal proceeds or to support terrorist activity.

But laws can only be effective if the capacity exists to investigate and prosecute those who commit crimes. The reality is that Ethiopia is vulnerable to economic crimes. As the financial sector modernizes and grows, so does the potential for Ethiopia to become a center for

*(Continued on page 3)*

## U.S. Department of Treasury Helps Ethiopia Fight . . .

*(Continued from page 2)*

illicit financial activity in the Horn of Africa. Criminals search for the weakest links in the international financial system: places that are perceived as having weak anti-money laundering procedures and low levels of enforcement of legislation. Money launderers – whether they are organized criminal groups or terrorists – exploit weaknesses in financial systems.

As investigators and prosecutors working to combat financial crimes, you will work closely with banks and other financial institutions to obtain evidence of suspect financial transactions. Strong relationships with the financial sector will be crucial to the success of your investigations. Your knowledge and experience can also be shared with the financial sector, to help those institutions become proficient at recognizing suspected criminal activity, and therefore assist you in investigating financial crimes.

Money laundering can also facilitate other types of crime. It provides criminals with the ability to enjoy the proceeds of their crimes, and gives them resources to expand their criminal activities. This seminar will teach you how to “follow the money” so that you can effectively investigate and prosecute various types of criminals, and thus curtail a range of criminal activities.



**Training participants listen to remarks by DCM Janet Wilgus and State Minister of Revenue, Ato Geremew Gargi.**

As global financial systems become increasingly complex and interdependent, the criminals who exploit them are constantly learning new techniques. No country alone can hope to deal successfully with international financial crime. But with the cooperation of Ethiopia, the U.S. and other countries around the world, together we can work to safeguard the financial security and prosperity of our citizens.

This week’s seminar will help you, our Ethiopian partner, to build the capacity to protect your own financial system, which will benefit your citizens and the world as a whole in establishing stronger financial systems. With your full

participation throughout this seminar, drawing on your own experiences as well learning about experiences of other countries, I am sure that you will be better prepared to conduct successful financial investigations.

I am glad that the U.S. is a partner with you in this endeavor. The U.S. is committed to assisting Ethiopia to improve its capacity to combat economic crimes and money laundering. I wish you a very productive seminar.

End Text ♦

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## USTDA Promotes The Development Of The Telecommunications . . .

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Information Technology in Addis Ababa. U.S. Embassy Political/Economic Counselor, Mr. Kevin Sullivan, and CTIT Director, Dr. Nega Alemayehu, signed the grant agreement on behalf of the U.S. government and CTIT, respectively.

This training program responds to a recent major and unparalleled investment made by the Ethiopian government in the telecommunications sector for the construction of a new fiber infrastructure. Specifically, the training will expand ETA's and ETC's capability to improve the quality, universality

and type of available telecommunications services in Ethiopia. As a result of the training, ETA and ETC will be better positioned to meet consumer demand for telecommunications services, to promote economic development, and to ensure a continuing revenue flow to the national budget.

The U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) advances economic development and U.S. commercial interests in developing and middle-income countries. The agency provides various forms of technical assistance, including feasibility studies, training, orientation visits and business workshops that

support the development of a modern infrastructure and a fair and open trading environment. USTDA's strategic use of foreign assistance funds to support sound investment policy and decision-making in host countries creates an enabling environment for trade, investment and sustainable economic development. In carrying out its mission, USTDA gives emphasis to economic sectors that may benefit from U.S. exports of goods and services.

Visit USTDA's Website at [www.ustda.gov](http://www.ustda.gov) ♦

## U.S. Committed To Helping Africa Through Partnership, Rice Says . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

Rice called AGOA a "keystone" in America's approach to Africa, "which represents America's strong bipartisan support for Africa's development and prosperity."

AGOA, she told the officials assembled from 37 AGOA-eligible nations, is founded on irrefutable facts on how to fight poverty effectively. "It is a fact that real development is only possible when economies are expanding and creating jobs. It is a fact that economic growth is driven by hard-working, entrepreneurial citizens who are free to compete and trade in open markets. And, of course, though the state cannot create economic growth, it is a fact that the government can and must ensure the political conditions of prosperity, transparent and ac-

countable governance, the rule of law, property rights and investment in people."

As a direct result of AGOA, she said, the United States and Africa are prospering together. "The United States remains Africa's great partner in trade and assistance," she told her audience that had gathered under the theme "The Private Sector and Trade: Powering Africa's Growth."

AGOA provides duty-free access to a wide range of more than 6,400 items -- including textile products -- into the U.S. market for African nations willing to reform their economies along free-market lines. The landmark trade legislation -- the first of its kind with Africa -- was passed by Congress in 2000 and since has been updated and renewed.

While oil remains the source of an expanding U.S.-Africa trade relationship, Rice said that "impressive growth" also has taken place in the areas of agriculture, machinery and electronics.

Trade gains also have been driven in part by the African Global Competitiveness Initiative, she said, a \$200 million program, announced by President Bush at the July 2005 AGOA Forum held in Dakar, Senegal, that is helping African companies reach their full potential. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2005&m=July&x=20050718172802wcyeroc0.1014521&t=xarchives/xarchitem.html>).

Rice then cited the example of Kanana Knitters in Kenya. "Because of AGOA and our Afri-

*(Continued on page 5)*



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## U.S. Committed To Helping Africa Through Partnership, Rice Says . . .

*(Continued from page 4)*

can Global Competitiveness Initiative, Kenana Knitters has won deals to export its wool and apparel to several high-end American clothing companies. In just two years, ... the business has more than doubled its work force, all of whom are women," Rice said.

### **EXPANDING OPPORTUNITY, BENEFITS OF TRADE**

To expand the opportunities and benefits of trade even further, she said both the United States and African governments have important obligations. "For our part, President Bush made bold commitments last September to eliminate all U.S. barriers that prohibit the free flow of goods and services as long as other nations do the same. This is a promise that we aim to keep," she said.

In the current Doha Round of World Trade Organization negotiations, Rice added, the United States is at the forefront of a worldwide effort to increase market access for developing-country products, including agricultural goods. "We in Washington must also do more to help African farmers expand their exports by increasing their capacity to meet U.S. agricultural standards," she added. (See [USA and the WTO \(http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic\\_issues/WTO.html\)](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/WTO.html).)

While the United States has "made good progress on this front," she said, "African governments also have important obligations if they are to fully liberate the entrepreneurial spirit of their people.

"In most African countries, ambitious citizens still pay too many fees and wait too many days and

negotiate too much red tape to start a business. African governments must also do more to enable their countries to trade with their neighbors. Seventy percent of all trade in the developing world is between developing countries. So helping Africans trade more freely together represents a powerful source of development."

Additionally, she said, it is imperative that African countries continue diversifying their economies.

### **INCREASE IN U.S. DEVELOPMENT AID**

In the past five years, with strong support from the United States Congress, President Bush has tripled foreign assistance to the countries of Africa and is on pace to double it again by the year 2010, Rice said.

In 2000, the United States provided \$1.1 billion in aid to sub-Saharan Africa. In 2006, the United States will provide \$3.3 billion.

The United States, she added, has also taken historic steps to free many developing countries -- most of which are in Africa -- from the crushing burden of foreign debt. Under the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, 14 African countries are now receiving more than \$30 billion of debt relief, Rice said, adding that the United States hopes to extend the initiative to 19 other African countries, forgiving more than \$10 billion of additional debt.

At the same time, the U.S. Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) now is signing development compacts with countries that govern justly, advance economic freedom, fight corruption and invest in their

people, she said. (See Millennium Challenge Account ([http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic\\_issues/mca.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/mca.html)).)

Currently 12 African countries are eligible to apply for MCC grants and three African countries: Madagascar, Benin and Cape Verde, have signed compacts with the MCC worth a total of nearly \$527 million, she added.

Rice told the ministers that the United States rightfully is standing with the people of Africa in their fight against diseases like malaria and HIV/AIDS. President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), she added, is on pace to meet its five-year, \$15 billion commitment for prevention, treatment and care.

"The path to defeat AIDS will be long," she said, "but each step along the way represents one more person who understands the threat, one more orphan who finds a home and one more individual who can live with the disease."

The secretary said the United States does not view Africa as the sum of its problems nor as an object of international pity. "No. We view the men and women of Africa as authors of their own destiny, as individuals of agency and dignity who have the right to flourish in freedom and who bear responsibility for their own successes. We believe that this success rests in the strength and the spirit of African citizens and we reject what President Bush has called the 'soft bigotry of low expectations.'"

The Fifth Annual AGOA Forum, June 6-7, is being held in conjunc-

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## Farm Coops Boosting Ethiopian Women's Incomes

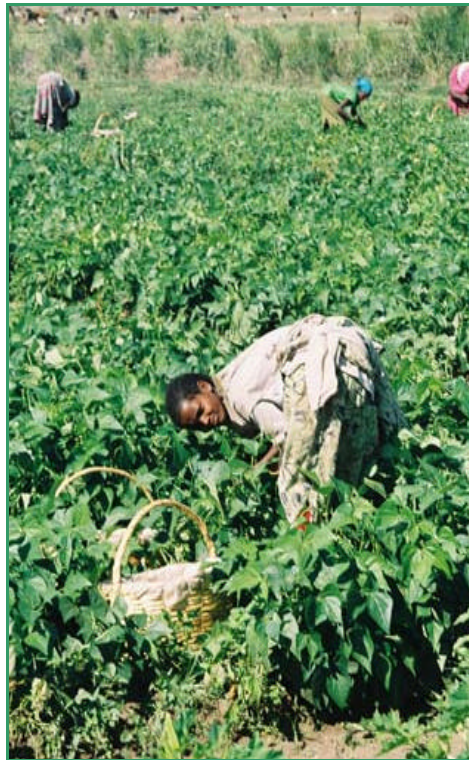
In Ziway, Ethiopia, a few dozen women and children pick fresh green beans in mid-afternoon, occasionally munching on them. They fill their baskets, weigh them, and pour the contents into plastic crates that are hauled away by tractor to a nearby farm.

There the beans are graded, packed, and shipped to the airport in Ethiopia's capital city of Addis Ababa. In a few days, a shopper in a European grocery store will be able to purchase fresh Ethiopian green beans.

Until recently, farmers in Ziway worked independently on small plots, selling their produce locally for about 12 cents per kilo. Meanwhile, an exporter, Ethioflora Horticulture Farm, was losing potential sales because it could not fill orders.

That changed when a \$1.1 million project of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) began helping farmers organize into cooperatives, improve irrigation, and produce high-quality beans to sell to Ethioflora at four times local market prices.

Now that the program is increasing production on small farms,



Picking green beans for export to Europe. USAID Photo.

Ethioflora has expanded sales in Europe and successfully lobbied the Ethiopian government to allow more cargo flights out of Addis Ababa.

"We had a lot of problems before these linkages were made," says Ethioflora manager Mulugeta Abebe. "The farmers were not co-

ordinating ... they needed to learn how to cultivate and use irrigation. All of these things were not possible to do before, but have been done now through ACDI/VOCA, a U.S.-based non-profit group that promotes agricultural economic growth in developing countries.

Often when small-scale producers link to an international buyer, they are unable to meet production demands because of outdated technology, lack of skilled labor, or a shortage of transportation. ACDI/VOCA, with USAID funding, helps them overcome these obstacles.

Ayu Deme's life has changed since she joined the Dodicha Vegetable Cooperative which began supplying green beans to Ethioflora in 2004 and earns a significant profit. Deme, 35, says she is now able to send her older children to school, buy clothes for the family, and purchase oxen.

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

## U.S. Committed To Helping Africa Through Partnership, Rice Says . . .

*(Continued from page 5)*  
tion with two other AGOA Forums, one on the private sector and the other on civil society.

A transcript (<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2006/67590>.

htm) of Rice's remarks is available on the State Department Web site.

For additional information on U.S. policy, see Africa (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/index.html>) and African Growth and Opportunity Act (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/>

[trade\\_economic\\_development/agoa.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade_economic_development/agoa.html)).

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## USAID Administrator Affirms U.S. Economic Commitment to Africa

By Rachel J. King  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Speaking at a conference in Washington June 6, Randall L. Tobias, director for U.S. foreign assistance and administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), affirmed the United States' commitment to the African private sector. However, he also emphasized African governments' responsibility to their own people.

"Working together, we can make a difference in developing a better future for children, and their mothers and fathers all across the African continent," Tobias said in remarks to the opening day of the fifth African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum. The forum runs through June 7.

AGOA provides duty-free access to more than 6,400 items -- including textile products -- into the U.S. market for African nations willing to reform their economies along free-market lines. The landmark trade legislation -- the first of its kind with Africa -- first was passed by Congress in 2000 and since has been amended and reauthorized.

U.S. foreign assistance to Africa has risen significantly in the past few years. In 2000, the United States provided \$1.1 billion in aid to sub-Saharan Africa. In 2006, the United States will provide \$3.3 billion.

"Even these significant increases pale in comparison to what can be achieved sustainably through private enterprise and individual ingenuity," Tobias said.

Some aspects of U.S. foreign assistance have fostered "permanent and profound positive changes in developing countries, particularly when partners were strong leaders with visions," he added.



**Randall L. Tobias, Director for  
U.S. Foreign Assistance and  
Administrator of the USAID**

In many cases, however, international assistance has caused citizens to expect external donors to be responsible for social and economic development rather than their own governments, he said.

"Outsiders cannot, with sustainability, cure citizens' health and [provide] safety, educate a critical mass, or create the conditions needed for economic growth, all of which are necessary for development," he said. "Those are responsibilities that only host governments can fulfill.

"It is important for African governments to set the stage for their private-sector 'players' to succeed. The most powerful locomotive in

the world cannot move an inch unless its tracks rest on a firm foundation. Governments must provide the strong, predictable foundation for private-sector development," he added.

African nations under AGOA meet the requirements for trade preferences with the United States, Tobias said, but he added that it was "just the start of a long-term partnership that looks toward a number of goals."

The United States will "continue to partner with African leaders who are addressing business environment reform," Tobias said. Currently the United States is providing aid to African nations under AGOA in a variety of forms, he said, including developing sanitary systems that provide means to export agricultural products to the United States, investing in new roads, energy, ports and information and communications technology.

For more information on AGOA and U.S. trade policy, see Trade and Economics (<http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/>).

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

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## Africa Growth Act Boosts U.S.-African Trade 115 Percent

By Rachel J. King  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- "Trade is critical to Africa's economic development and poverty alleviation" and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) is a vital tool to those ends and for institutionalizing free-market economies, a U.S. trade official said in a June 2 webchat.

"AGOA has experienced considerable success since its inception. But we also recognize that more must be done to expand both country and product utilization of AGOA," Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa Florizelle Liser said in the State Department-hosted online discussion.

AGOA is intended to reinforce African reforms, provide access to U.S. credit and technical knowledge and establish high-level dialogues on trade and investment in annual forums. The act currently allows duty-free access for approximately 6,000 products; it was amended in 2002 to expand benefits for inclusion of some apparel products.

Since it was enacted in 2000, AGOA has boosted trade between the United States and sub-Saharan Africa by 115 percent. In 2005, total U.S. imports from Africa increased 40 percent to more than \$50 billion, Liser said.

The trade forums sponsored under AGOA also are important, Liser said. "We provide significant amounts of trade-capacity building assistance through our four regional Trade Competitiveness Hubs (in Ghana, Botswana, Senegal, and Kenya)," Liser said.

This assistance, she said, helps

African nations "address supply-side constraints, to provide market information and other assistance to African entrepreneurs, and to meet standards for the agricultural and other products they are shipping to the U.S. under AGOA."

Recently, the U.S. applied to for a waiver from the World Trade Organization (WTO) for AGOA programs because preference programs that allow countries to grant special trade benefits not provided to other WTO members must obtain a waiver. Liser said a few countries, which she did not name, are blocking the application. Several African ministers and ambassadors are speaking out on behalf of the U.S. waiver application, Liser added.

Liser emphasized that the act "enhances U.S. economic and political engagement with sub-Saharan African countries." She cited the upcoming AGOA forum as an example of that effort. The 2006 forum, "The Private Sector and Trade: Powering Africa's Growth," will be hosted by the Corporate Council on Africa in Washington, June 6 and 7. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Africa Jendayi Frazer and Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Karan K. Bhatia will give opening remarks at the forum. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/Archive/2006/May/11-549157.html>).

Sessions will focus on key issues in African economic development. Discussions will be focused on the decrease in African exports in the apparel and textile sectors as well as examining ways to overcome obstacles to trade of agricultural products, such as cocoa and cot-

ton.

Apparel, Liser said, has been one of AGOA's biggest successes, but African countries are facing more competition since the end of worldwide quotas.

Developing more "competitive, vertically-integrated" cotton, textile, and apparel industries will be "vital if AGOA-eligible countries are to continue exporting apparel to the United States," she said.

"Congress intended that senior U.S. officials meet regularly with our African counterparts to create a dialogue that will enhance U.S.-Africa trade and investment," Liser added.

A transcript of the Liser webchat will be posted on the USINFO Webchat Station (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usinfo/Products/Webchats.html>).

For more information, see African Growth and Opportunity Act ([http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade\\_economic\\_development/agoa.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/af/africa/trade_economic_development/agoa.html)) and Africa (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/>).

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## President Bush Welcomes Congo President Nguesso to White House

By Susan S. Ellis  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- President Denis Sassou Nguesso of the Republic of the Congo characterized his welcome to the White House by President Bush June 5 as "very friendly and warm," noting that it was his second visit since the first President Bush had welcomed him on a state visit in 1990. The Congo president spoke through an interpreter.

Bush welcomed Nguesso "not only as the president of your country, but as a leader of the African Union (AU)." Their discussion was "very constructive," Bush said, and ranged over a variety of issues, notable among which was Darfur.

"We talked about our common commitment to help end the genocide in Darfur," Bush said, adding that he was appreciative of Nguesso's leadership in helping negotiate a May 5 peace agreement, as well as his "leadership in working with the United Nations so we can get the AU forces blue-helmeted [in the region] as quickly as possible."

"One of my interests, of course, is to join with African nations in combating HIV/AIDS, and I want to congratulate the President for the low infection rate in the Congo. Thank you for your leadership on that issue," Bush said.

Noting that Africa is the continent that suffers the most from the scourge, Nguesso said he thanked President Bush "for his commitment in fighting AIDS, the commitment of the United States in the fight against HIV/AIDS."

A five-year, \$15 billion initiative of the Bush administration -- the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) -- is providing funds to fight the pandemic in 100 countries, with a special focus on the 15 hardest-hit countries. U.S. first lady Laura Bush announced at a meeting of world leaders on HIV/AIDS at U.N. headquarters June 2 that the emergency plan has provided anti-retroviral treatment for 561,000 men, women and children.

The Congolese president said the two leaders

also talked about African development issues, the situation in the Gulf of Guinea, and the Congo Basin, the New Partnership of for Africa's Development, known by the acronym NEPAD. Nguesso said he was happy to see President Bush "give his entire support to the development of Africa."



**President Bush, right, meets with Denis Sassou-Nguesso, the president of the Republic of Congo and head of the 53-nation African Union, in the Oval Office of the White House. 06/05**

NEPAD is an initiative championed by African leaders in 2001 to create a new vision and an integrated socio-economic development framework for renewal of the continent.

He said their discussions covered "a lot of issues ... peace, security, and not just in Africa, but beyond Africa, in the world. We talked about terrorism, we talked about the Iranian nuclear issue, we talked about the dialogue that's about to open up, I hope, and that will bring good results to that problem."

Both leaders noted they would see each other in St. Petersburg, Russia, at the Group of Eight (G8) Summit. Russian President Vladimir Putin, invited Nguesso to attend the G8 Summit as a representative for Africa.

For information on U.S. policy in the region, see Africa (<http://usinfo.state.gov/af/>). ♦

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## Foundations Aid Durable Higher Education Institutions in Africa

Disease, poverty, genocide and violence often frame Western perceptions of Africa. But there are positive developments. Over the past decade many African leaders have moved toward democracy. And they are acknowledging the crucial role universities play in social, political and economic growth, and are focusing on re-vamping their higher education systems.

This development sparked the interest of four leading U.S. philanthropies. The Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Ford, MacArthur and Rockefeller foundations created the Partnership for Higher Education in Africa in 2000, investing \$150 million in African universities.

Five years later the William and Flora Hewitt and Andrew W. Mellon foundations joined the partnership, committing another \$200 million.

Universities in seven countries are now pulsating with African thinkers who are contributing to African prosperity and governance. The universities in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda also offer African women unparalleled access

to higher education, enriching the pool of African experts who contribute to reducing poverty on their continent while promoting equality between women and men.



**Students in the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa**

Each university is making strides toward improving the quality of life for Africans. The University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa, for instance, uses scientific innovation to boost African food production by developing improved seed varieties.

The work is "groundbreaking," says program director Mark Lang, because "we're training African plant breeders in Africa with African crops."

"You can't breed crops at a distance," he said.

The universities also share ideas and pool resources. For example, they formed a consortium to purchase shared Internet capacity. Since exchanging information over the Internet is imperative to participating in the global marketplace, the universities' lack of access was a major obstacle. With partnership co-funding, the members of the consortium were able to purchase a six-fold increase in bandwidth and share online capacity at lower rates.

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

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## Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice Remark at the Release of the Sixth Annual Trafficking in Persons Report

June 5, 2006  
Washington, D.C.

**SECRETARY RICE:** Good afternoon. I am pleased to be here today to release the State Department's Annual Trafficking in Human Persons Report. I'd like to thank Under Secretary for Democracy and Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky and Director of the Office for Monitoring and Combating Trafficking in Persons Ambassador John Miller for their hard work.

Today with the release of this congressionally mandated report, we reaffirm America's unwavering commitment to eradicating this modern day form of slavery. Human trafficking is an illicit industry of coercion, subjugating and exploiting the world's most vulnerable people for profit and personal gain. We estimate that up to 800,000 people, primarily women and children, are victimized each year, forced into lives of cruel and punishing degradation.

The harsh reality of human trafficking stuns even the hardest of hearts, stories of the sexual exploitation of young girls, stories of men and women toiling as slave labor in sweatshops, stories of children forced to kill as rebel soldiers.

Defeating human trafficking is a great moral calling of our time and under President Bush's leadership the United States is leading a new abolitionist movement to end the sordid trade in human beings.

As the President has said, we are called by conscience and compassion to bring this cruel practice to an end. To date, the United States Government has provided almost \$400 million to support global anti-trafficking efforts. We



[Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice holds a news conference to discuss the sixth annual Department of State Trafficking in Persons Report, Monday, June 5, 2006, at the Department of State in Washington. \(AP Photo/Haraz\)](#)

are getting results and we are seeing progress and this report is playing a crucial role. By calling to account any nation, friend or foe, that can and should do more to confront human trafficking, we are pressing countries into action. With each year, more and more governments are increasing public awareness of the crime, targeting and prosecuting the perpe-

trators and helping victims to rebuild their lives.

Protecting the non-negotiable demands of human dignity is the equal calling of every country and everyone must be held to the same high standards of moral conduct, including the United States. We in America recognize that we, too, are a destination for the victims of human traffickers and we are taking measures to hasten the coming of the day when no man, woman or child is denied their rights and their common humanity on American soil.

The protection and promotion of human dignity is the beginning of justice in America, and today under President Bush's leadership this vision leads us into the world to help people everywhere secure greater peace, freedom and justice for themselves. All nations that are resolute in the fight to end human trafficking have a partner in the United States. Together we will continue to affirm that no human life can be devalued or discounted. Together we will stop at nothing to end the debasement of our fellow men and women. And together we will bring forth a world of fuller hope, a world where people enjoy the full blessings of their God-given liberty.

Thank you. ♦

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## Ethiopia Portion of the Trafficking in Persons

The 2006 TIP Report includes an analysis of trafficking and government efforts to combat it in 149 countries, a net increase of seven ranked countries over last year. In previous years, some countries have not been included because it was difficult to gather reliable and sufficient information due to: the illegal and underground nature of trafficking; the absence or nascent of government anti-TIP efforts; the difficulty in distinguishing between trafficking and smuggling; the fear and silence of trafficking victims, who often cross borders illegally or are physically abused or coerced; the general lack of freedom of information in a country; or the lack of independent NGOs who can supply information.

For some countries, there was information available, but the data did not support a finding that a significant number of three persons were trafficked to, from, or within a country—the general threshold for inclusion in the TIP Report. Over the past year, we have witnessed a stronger response from many governments, more public awareness campaigns alerting victims to protection services and greater transparency in anti-trafficking efforts. As a result of these positive actions, and the dedication of more Department of State resources, information was gathered on additional countries this year.

The Department intends to include all countries with a significant number of trafficking victims in future reports, as more and better information becomes available.

Following is the narrative on Ethiopia's human trafficking in person.

### ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is a source country for men, women, and children trafficked for forced labor and sexual exploitation. Children and adults are trafficked within the country for domestic servitude and, to a lesser extent, for commercial sexual exploitation and labor, such as street vending. Small numbers of men are trafficked to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf States for low-skilled forced labor.

Ethiopian women are trafficked to the Middle East, particularly Lebanon, for domestic servitude; other destinations include Egypt, South Africa, Sudan, and Djibouti. Small percentages of these women are trafficked for sexual exploitation. Transit countries for trafficked Ethiopians reportedly include Djibouti, Egypt, Kenya, Libya, Somalia, and Sudan.

The Government of Ethiopia does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking; however, it is making significant efforts to do so. While Ethiopia's ongoing efforts to educate migrating workers about the dangers of trafficking and detect cases of child trafficking within the country are notable, its small number of prosecutions compared to the large number of investigations is a continued cause for concern.

To further its anti-trafficking efforts, the government should improve the investigative capacity of police and enhance judicial understanding of trafficking to enable a greater number of successful prosecutions, and launch a broad anti-trafficking public awareness and education campaign.

### PROSECUTION

The Ethiopian Government's law enforcement response to trafficking improved in 2005. In May, the government enacted a new penal code with improved anti-trafficking language that criminalizes most forms of human trafficking. Working with a local NGO, police monitored five key towns for possible trafficking. At security checkpoints throughout the country, the Immigration Authority verified the legality of migrants' travel documents. Border guards on the Bossasso route reported mass movements toward Somalia; the guards stopped travelers without proper documentation and issued warnings about the dangers of irregular migration.

In 2005, 520 cases of child trafficking were reported, eight of which remained under investigation at year's end. Police referred 38 cases to the prosecutor's office: by the close of the reporting period, two resulted in conviction, 18 were pending prosecution, and 18 were closed for lack of evidence or because the defendant absconded.

The low conviction rate for trafficking cases serves as a poor deterrent to traffickers, who can operate with relative impunity. In late 2005, police officers assigned to anti-child trafficking units in Addis Ababa were transferred from those duties to deal with recurring street disturbances. The Ministry of Labor (MOLSA), in cooperation with the Airport Immigration Authority, prevented an unspecified number of labor migrants without valid employment contracts from departing for the Middle East.

*(Continued on page 13)*



## Ethiopia Portion of the Trafficking in Persons

(Continued from page 12)

### PROTECTION

The government provided limited assistance to trafficking victims over the last year. The child protection unit in each Addis Ababa police station collected information on rescued trafficked children to facilitate their return to their families; it also referred 262 girls to an NGO for care pending transport home. The Ethiopian consulates in Beirut and Dubai dispensed limited legal advice to trafficking victims and provided temporary shelter for victims awaiting funds to pay off abusive employers for their freedom.

In 2005, MOSLA investigated 52 complaints filed by returnees and families of aggrieved employees by verifying employment agencies' reporting through the Ethiopian missions abroad: 45 complaints were determined to be unfounded, four were amicably resolved, and legal proceedings for contract violations began against labor migration agencies in three cases. Government authorities made no effort to interview returned victims about their experiences in the Middle East.

### PREVENTION

Ethiopia's efforts to prevent international trafficking increased, but measures to increase awareness of internal trafficking were lacking. During the past year, the government tightened its implementation

of foreign employment regulations, resulting in a trafficking route shift; more Ethiopian victims are reportedly transiting neighboring countries rather than flying directly out of the main airport. The Immi-

cilitating the travel of 6,200 workers to six countries. MOSLA, in conjunction with Ethiopian consulates in the Middle East, approved foreign labor contracts for an additional 1,345 workers; many Ethio-



**USAID awarded a grant in 2004 to Addis Hiwot Center for Victims of Trafficking in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The Center is a shelter that provides medical care, food and family reunification to victims of trafficking; counseling and vocational micro-enterprise management and skills.**

gration Authority continued to provide printed information on trafficking to those applying for passports and required applicants to view a video on the dangers of human trafficking. MOLSA supervised the work of legal labor migration agencies through surprise inspections and required biweekly reports.

In 2005, the number of registered agencies rose from five to 17, fa-

pians still continue to seek international employment through black market channels. The inter-ministerial anti-trafficking committee convened regularly, but its activities were not disclosed.

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## United States Praises Malawi, Morocco for Anti-Trafficking Gains

By Michelle Austein  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Two African governments received praise for progress in fighting human trafficking and two countries were cited for doing enough in the State Department's 2006 Trafficking in Persons Report.

In its annual report to the U.S. Congress, released June 5, the State Department evaluated foreign governments' efforts to eliminate human trafficking. The report groups nations in one of four categories based on their efforts to control human trafficking, to prosecute those involved, and to support and assist victims of these crimes.

Governments that meet standards established in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 are placed in Tier 1. Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but have not yet achieved international standards. Tier 2 "Watch List" includes countries that show signs of falling backwards, while governments not making significant efforts to meet the standards are placed in Tier 3.

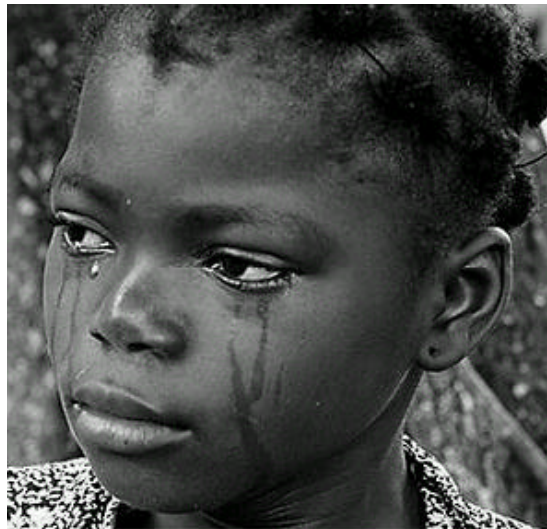
### **MALAWI, MOROCCO**

Two Tier 1 countries, Malawi and Morocco, were praised for taking steps to prevent human trafficking in 2005.

Despite limited resources, Malawi made significant progress, particularly in the areas of prosecuting traffickers and educating the public to recognize human trafficking. Malawi, with support from international donors also produced and distributed 10,000 posters and

20,000 pamphlets to schools, welfare agencies, hospitals and youth clubs to educate the public about the issue.

Morocco fully complies with the minimum standards for eliminating trafficking, according to the report. Its international anti-trafficking co-



operation "reflects the government's strong commitment to addressing the trafficking problem," the report said.

In February, Moroccan officials dismantled a large international network that was trafficking and smuggling migrants from India. Seventy suspects, including a police officer, were arrested.

### **SUDAN, ZIMBABWE MUST IMPROVE ANTI-TRAFFICKING EFFORTS**

Sudan and Zimbabwe – both Tier 3 countries -- were cited for not doing enough to fight human trafficking.

Even though Sudan demonstrated initial progress on a number of fronts, "most of these efforts were not sustained," the report said. During the country's recently

ended civil war, adults and children were forced to join armed groups.

To improve its anti-trafficking efforts, the Sudanese government should take steps to provide protective services to all types of trafficking victims and remove child soldiers from armed groups.

Zimbabwe showed "little political will" to address its trafficking problem during the past year, the report said. Zimbabwean children are trafficked internally for forced agricultural labor, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation. Trafficked women and girls are lured out of the country by false job or scholarship promises.

To further its anti-trafficking efforts, the report said, Zimbabwe should improve anti-trafficking legislation and launch a broad public awareness campaign.

Algeria, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Kenya, Libya, Mauritania, South Africa, and Togo were among the countries listed on the reports Tier 2 "Watch List."

The full text (<http://www.state.gov/g/tip/rls/tiprpt/2006/index.htm>) of the report is available on the State Department Web site.

For more information on U.S. policy, see Human Trafficking ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/human\\_trafficking.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html)).

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

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## Police, Lawmakers Targeting Human Trafficking Worldwide

By Charlene Porter  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- More nations around the world are enacting laws to prevent human trafficking and prosecuting people who engage in this form of 21st century slavery, according to Trafficking in Persons Report released by the U.S. State Department June 5.

The world's most comprehensive survey on human-trafficking activities found that courts handed down more than 4,700 convictions for trafficking-related crimes in 2005, increasing from about 3,000 the year before.

Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons John Miller interprets the increase as a sign of progress against these human rights crimes.

"We know that 41 governments passed new trafficking-in-persons legislation," said Miller who detailed the report at a State Department briefing. "That's a good sign too."

Miller also focused particular attention on the positive actions taken by determined governments. He cited Malawi, for instance, which rose to the top ranking in the 2006 report, indicating that the government of this sub-Saharan African nation has met international standards for contending with trafficking and is vigorously addressing the problem.

"Fifteen convictions of traffickers, countrywide programs to alert people, [Malawi is] really stepping

up," said Miller, "a tropical African country with limited resources moving into Tier 1."

Compiled annually by law, the report concludes that about 800,000 persons were coerced into a human trafficking scheme over the last year, about the same number estimated in the 2005 report. That said, officials freely acknowledge that numbers are always uncertain in a shadowy underground activity such as trafficking.

"Slaves don't stand in line and raise their hands to be counted," Miller said.



John Miller

### THE RANKINGS

More countries -- 149 -- are included in the sixth annual report than in any prior report. Countries are omitted only for a lack of reliable information, and not because human trafficking does not occur within their borders.

Whether a nation supplies the victims, or creates the demand that motivates their trafficking, experts say all the world's nations are involved in this 21st century form of slavery.

The report places nations in one of four categories based on their efforts to control human trafficking, prosecute those involved, and support and assist victims of these crimes.

Countries doing the best job are in Tier 1. Tier 2 comprises countries that are demonstrating commitment to address their problems but

have not yet achieved international standards. Tier 2 "Watch List" includes countries that show signs of falling backwards, but Miller says that "W" also stands for "worry" and "warning."

Four major nations are on the "watch list" for at least the second year in a row -- China, India, Mexico and Russia.

"This has to be a source of concern," Miller said, predicting that the four nations could well slip to the least favorable rating, Tier 3, by 2007.

Twelve nations are ranked in the Tier 3 category in the 2006 assessment. They are Belize, Burma, Cuba, Iran, Laos, North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Uzbekistan, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

Fourteen countries were cast in the lowest ranking in 2005. After the release of the report, U.S. law allows 90 days for governments to demonstrate some action toward addressing their problems. If they do not, sanctions on nonhumanitarian U.S. economic assistance may be imposed.

### SLAVE LABOR

The 2006 report focuses more attention than previous editions on slave-labor practices that begin with a legal employment recruitment.

Global economic forces have caused significant waves of labor migration, involving as many as 120 million people, according to the International Labor Organization, as quoted in the report.

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## U.S. Urges Renewed Global Commitment To Fighting HIV/AIDS

By Judy Aita  
Washington File United Nations  
Correspondent

United Nations -- The focus of the U.N. General Assembly's high-level meeting on HIV/AIDS must not be on empty declarations but actions that will help save lives, prevent new infections and work toward the day when there will be an AIDS-free generation, U.S. officials say.

Nations must leave U.N. headquarters "with renewed commitment to effective action" at the end of the three-day session, said U.S. Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs Kristen Silverberg.

"What the U.N. says it's going to do is less critical than what member states do. What we want to see is some commitment from member states -- not only the U.S. but across the board," Silverberg said at a press briefing May 31.

"We need commitments that are achievable and member states need to have their own individual plans about how they are going to reach them," the assistant secretary said.

"That is what we have in the United States . . . and this is the kind of plan we want to see from member states," she said.

Dr. Mark Dybul, acting U.S. global AIDS coordinator, called the May 31 to June 2 U.N. meeting "an important event." To highlight the

commitment of the Bush administration, first lady Laura Bush is heading a large U.S. delegation that includes officials from the Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health as well as members of Congress and business leaders.

The U.S. global AIDS coordinator emphasized the importance of focusing on "what we need to get . . . as close as possible to universal access to treatment, care, and having AIDS-free generation."

Dybul directs President Bush's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, also known as PEPFAR. The five-year, \$15-billion initiative supports the prevention, treatment and care for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. U.S. funding for HIV/AIDS programs has grown from \$840 million in 2001 to \$3.2 billion in 2006. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2006/Feb/08-89132.html>).

The joint U.N. Program for AIDS (UNAIDS) estimates that \$22 billion a year will be needed by 2008 for AIDS programs with half going for prevention, one-fourth for care and treatment of those infected and the remaining for the care of orphans and children at risk. The increased financing and services coupled with sustained political leadership

can achieve the goal of universal access to treatment by 2010, according to the United Nations.

"Unfortunately, the American people have been contributing approximately half of all contributions worldwide," Dybul said. "We can't sustain it. We need to work on getting greater contributions because it is a global epidemic that requires a global response."

The United States is "not in the position to tell governments or the rest of the world what they should be committing," Dybul continued. "Our view

is that everyone should look to see what they can and should be committing as a people and government."

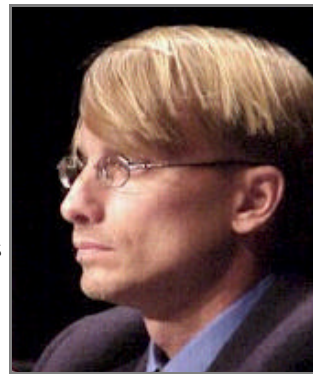
UNAIDS reports signs that the epidemic is slowing in a few countries, but most countries have fallen short of the goals they set at the 2001 Special Session on AIDS. More than 20 million people have become infected with the HIV virus since that meeting.

### NATIONAL STRATEGIES CRUCIAL

U.S. officials say that treatment now is receiving the attention it requires. In 2001, only 50,000 people were receiving anti-retroviral therapy; by 2005, the United States was supporting national treatment programs in sub-Saharan Africa that reached 400,000 people.

"The American people are commit-

*(Continued on page 17)*



Dr. Mark Dybul



Kristen Silverberg



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## Police, Lawmakers Targeting Human Trafficking Worldwide . . .

*(Continued from page 15)*

The report finds no inherent fault with the transcontinental movement of workers in the laws of supply and demand, but cautions that, in practice, abuses occur. Foreign workers lacking communication skills, knowledge of the society or a social support system too easily are exploited, according to the report.

"When protections and regulations are insufficient to deter abuses, unscrupulous employers look for the most vulnerable groups of foreign workers to prey on and exploit," according to the report.

The U.S. Congress ordered the State Department to apply greater scrutiny to the forced labor issue,

and the report says that focus will be maintained in the year ahead.

India has been placed on the Tier 2 Watch list, Miller said, because of its bonded labor practices, that is, when a family is indebted to an employer generation after generation. He estimated that hundreds of thousands of Indians are victims of that form of slavery.

### THE GOALS

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice spoke briefly to introduce the report, calling the defeat of human trafficking "the great moral calling of our time." She said the United States has distributed \$400 million in assistance to other nations in recent years, helping them improve systems to combat human traffick-

ing and provide more support for victims.

"All nations that are resolute in the fight to end human trafficking have a partner in the United States," Rice said. "Together we will continue to affirm that no human life can be devalued or discounted. Together we will stop at nothing to end the debasement of our fellow men and women."

For additional information, see Human Trafficking ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/human\\_trafficking.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/human_trafficking.html)).

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## U.S. Urges Renewed Global Commitment To Fighting HIV/AIDS . . .

*(Continued from page 16)*

ted to stand with the people in these countries to support national strategies," Dybul said. "We need to concentrate on the big-picture issue of what needs to be done" to build on the progress of the past five years.

The United States does not believe in "large-scale international targets," Dybul said. "Countries need to be looking at their plans, their opportunities, and what they can do."

"Countries begin at different capacities, different levels, and are at different stages," he said. "It is impossible to ask countries that have much different capacities to achieve a certain level of access to treatment in the same four-year

period."

Commenting on the final declaration scheduled to be adopted June 2, Dybul said "everyone recognizes the importance of overcoming stigma and discrimination against women and young girls, [and] targeting men so they don't behave badly. All of these are critical components of an effective response."

The United States would "welcome the mention of vulnerable groups, generally and specifically," Silverberg said, referring to debates over whether prostitutes, drug users and homosexuals should be mentioned in the final declaration.

The United States also has

"absolutely no objection" to the mention of condoms as part of the so-called ABC approach (abstinence, be faithful, correct and consistent use of condoms) in addressing HIV prevention, Dybul said. All the data from sub-Saharan African programs have shown that the ABC approach has been effective in stemming the rate of infection.

For information on U.S. policies and programs see HIV/AIDS ([http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global\\_issues/hiv\\_aids.html](http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/hiv_aids.html)).

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## Where AIDS Galloped, Lessons in Applying the Reins

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By CELIA W. DUGGER  
May 18, 2006  
LETTER FROM KENYA

NAIROBI, Kenya — Kenya is a rarity in Africa, a nation where experts say the AIDS epidemic shows signs of easing. So this land of safaris has become a hunting ground of a different sort, attracting policy makers and researchers looking for keys to slowing the relentless spread of AIDS elsewhere on the continent.

The trends are heartening. Medical experts here estimate that the number of new H.I.V. infections has plummeted over the last decade from a peak of more than 200,000 a year to fewer than 90,000.

And changes in sexual habits seem to be contributing to the decline. Men say they are having sex with fewer partners, and women report losing their virginity later. Many teenagers, once sexually active, say they are abstaining entirely.

Such shifts, documented in large-scale surveys, suggest that abstinence programs championed by Congressional Republicans in Washington have some chance of success. Critics of the Republican approach say it has overemphasized abstinence at the expense of condoms and other prevention strategies. Kenyan health officials frankly acknowledge that evidence is lacking on the effectiveness of programs that promote condoms or abstinence.

According to the United Nations

AIDS agency, Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe are the sub-Saharan countries with documented declines in H.I.V. prevalence. Researchers agree that the fall is partly because AIDS deaths have reduced the population of H.I.V.-positive people. But they also say it is likely that behavior change has helped. In Uganda, increased use of condoms has been important.

Health officials here say the spread of knowledge about how to prevent infection and a rising tide of death have been catalytic. Three out of four Kenyans now know someone who has become sick or died from AIDS, up from 40 percent a decade ago. "That is a shock treatment," said Godfrey M. Baltazar, an epidemiologist who oversees monitoring of the Kenyan government's AIDS programs.

As donors have ratcheted up financing of anti-AIDS programs, the landscape for prevention has changed. Since President Bush's global AIDS plan was enacted in 2003, the United States has become the dominant donor in Kenya, spending \$208 million this year to combat AIDS — more than all other donors combined.

More than half that money is financing the feverish drive for diagnosis of AIDS and treatment of infected people here. The number tested in Kenya, with a population of 32 million, has more than tripled since 2003, to 1.5 million last year. The number of AIDS patients receiving drug treatment has rocketed to 70,000 from fewer than 10,000 in 2003.

Paradoxically, the explosive growth in testing and treatment may be Washington's most important contribution to preventing the spread of the disease. Once people know that AIDS is not a death sentence, they are more willing to be tested, and once they know their H.I.V. status they can protect themselves and their sexual partners.

This knowledge is critical in light of the experts' judgment that more than half the new infections in Kenya are with couples in which one partner is H.I.V.-positive.

The United States is also paying for programs aimed at changing behavior. This year, it will spend \$15.7 million on programs that promote abstinence and faithfulness, and \$7.8 million to prevent sexual transmission of H.I.V., including distribution of condoms to high-risk groups.

Seen from Kenya, the debate that rages in Washington over AIDS and sex sometimes seems more a reflection of American culture wars than African realities. Conservative Republican leaders in the House of Representatives successfully included a provision in the 2003 law requiring that a third of AIDS-prevention money go to programs that promote abstinence.

Under the guidelines, United States funds can be used in schools to educate children 14 and younger about abstinence and faithfulness, with condom education added for those 15 and older.

*(Continued on page 19)*



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## Where AIDS Galloped, Lessons in Applying the Reins . . .

*(Continued from page 18)*

The rules permit teachers and volunteers to answer children's questions about condoms, though not to introduce the topic.

With United States financing, Population Services International, a nonprofit group, is organizing abstinence clubs for 10- to 15-year-olds here. P.S.I. does not teach the children about condoms, but answers their questions.

Terry Mathenge, 19, a P.S.I. volunteer in a Nairobi school, said she answered directly when, for example, a 10-year-old girl slapped by a parent for asking about condoms repeated the question at a club meeting.

"It's better to tackle it head-on," Ms. Mathenge said, adding, "Speak the truth and the truth will set you free."

But she also said abstinence was important. "In the past, the voice of condoms was louder than the voice of abstinence, and I'm glad that's changing," she said.

Among those listening to her one recent afternoon in Nairobi was Michael Gerson, an evangelical Christian and a close adviser to

President Bush. He told the young people assembled that the American debate was polarized between those who favored abstinence only and those who said the promotion of abstinence was naïve.

"It seems like you're saying it's neither," he told Ms. Mathenge.

Mr. Gerson later said the best programs set an ideal of sexual behavior, but were realistic about human nature "and deal with young people where they are, and sometimes that includes condoms." The Congressional earmark on abstinence funding was needed to correct an overemphasis on condoms, he said.

Dr. Lawrence Marum, who heads the global AIDS program in Kenya for the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said abstinence programs helped give girls the confidence to resist pressure for sex.

Since teenage girls are six times more likely to be H.I.V.-infected than boys, these programs are needed "to save their lives."

But Dr. Marum also noted that a minority of adolescents had sex by age 15 and needed education in

human sexuality, including how to protect themselves with condoms, before they became sexually active.

Scholars say much work remains to be done to figure out which of the so-called ABC programs — abstain, be faithful, use condoms — are effective. "We don't know what works," said Michael Kremer, an economics professor at Harvard who is helping evaluate the programs, "and it's not at all obvious."

But efforts to prevent the spread of AIDS will not wait for definitive evidence. In societies where sex can lead to death, many people on both sides of the ideological divide agree that abstinence for the young should be embraced. It is also clear that many young people will have sex despite the dangers, and that abstinence programs alone will not protect them. ♦

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## Students in Macedonia, Ghana Win State Department Award

By Louise Fenner  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Two teams of high school students from Macedonia and the U.S. state of Florida were the top winners of the U.S. State Department's Doors to Diplomacy competition; a team from Ghana received a special prize for overcoming daunting challenges to participate.

The annual contest challenges students ages 11 to 18 from around the world to create Web sites that teach the importance of international affairs and diplomacy. In 2006, some 305 teams from 46 countries submitted entries.

The top winners were four students and a teacher from Metodi Mitevski Brico School in Delcevo, Macedonia, whose Web site explores the problem of children living in poverty, and three students and a teacher from Florida Virtual School in Orlando, Florida, with a Web site on the United Nations.

Each student on the winning teams received a \$2,000 scholarship; in addition, the winning coaches received a \$500 cash award for their schools.

In 2006, a special award was presented to a team from Mfantsipim School in Ghana to recognize the team's success in overcoming major obstacles just to be in the contest. The students created a Web site on the power of football despite the fact that their school

does not have Internet access and the nearest Internet café is nearly 20 kilometers away. A university student named Harry Tetteh, using a donated laptop, helped the students do their research and then walked to the Internet café to e-mail the files to a student and teacher at San Diego's John Mur School who completed the technical work that brought the Web site online.

the Doors to Diplomacy competition, there was "a lot of media attention and home-town pride," Clark said, and eventually the government of Macedonia decided to fund their trip.

The Web site created by the four students and their teacher, Roza Stamenkovska, greets the viewer with searing images of children around the world existing in deplorable conditions. The introduction features the music Conquest of Paradise by the Greek composer Vangelis.

"The Macedonian Web site does tug the heart strings," said Clark. The visual and audio impact, combined with the subject matter, contributed to the judges' decision, she said. In addition, the Web site "addresses the issue very well, and hit on all the points that needed to be hit."



**A team from Mfantsipim School in Ghana created a Web site on the power of football despite the fact that their school does not have Internet access and the nearest Internet café is nearly 20 kilometers away.**

The Ghanaian students, as well as the student from California who helped them, each will receive \$500, and the teachers from Ghana and California each will receive \$250 for their schools, said Janice Clark, a public affairs specialist with the State Department and one of the judges of the competition.

Clark said Tetteh will be going to San Diego in July for an international education conference and will be able to meet the Californians for the first time.

The Macedonian students also will be going to the United States in July, but they will be headed to Washington. After the team won

An extra challenge was the fact that -- as with all international entries -- the Web site had to be in English, Clark pointed out.

The Doors to Diplomacy contest is managed and co-sponsored by Global SchoolNet, a nonprofit organization based in San Diego that brings teachers and students together worldwide to participate in collaborative online learning projects. The founder, Yvonne Marie Andres, says projects such as Doors to Diplomacy "help students explore issues of global import and realize that there are different perspectives on those issues."

*(Continued on page 25)*



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## Leadership Program Enjoys Successful Debut

By Judy Aita  
Washington File Staff Writer

New York -- After spending two weeks with some of the most successful women executives in the United States, 17 women -- business leaders in their own communities around the world -- called their experiences life-transforming and inspiring both personally and professionally.

The mid-career businesswomen, ranging in age from 26 to 41, traveled from Latin America, Africa, Russia, Eastern Europe, Asia and the Middle East to participate in the inaugural program of the Fortune/U.S. State Department International Women Leaders Mentoring Partnership. The program gave the women an opportunity to watch some of America's most successful business and professional women in action.

"The exposure has taken me a long way," said Xoliswa Kakana from Morningside, South Africa, who observed Jocelyne Attal, the chief marketing officer at Avaya Inc., a communications company in Basking Ridge, New Jersey. "I know what I have to do when I get back home now."

At a farewell gathering of the program participants at the headquarters of Time Inc. on May 24, the women shared experiences and talked with Carrie Welch and Pattie Sellers, organizers of Fortune magazine's annual Most Powerful Women Summit who, along with Assistant Secretary of State for Education and Cultural Affairs Dina Habib Powell, founded the mentoring program.

"I was pleased to be one of the mentors in New York City along with Anne Mulchay, chair and CEO [chief executive officer] of Xerox Corporation, and Andrea Jung, Avon chair and CEO," said Ann Moore, chair and chief executive officer of Time Inc. and host of the May 24 event.

One of the benefits of observing Moore, said Eva Wanjiku Muraya, a marketing expert and entrepreneur in Nairobi, Kenya, was the chance to discuss joint ventures and internships that would benefit journalism students in Kenya.

Muraya said her visit gave her an opportunity to give those she met a better understanding of Kenya. "I know that the relationships that have been established during this visit do not end with the end of the program."

Women in Bangladesh need more managerial experience and technical skills, said Farzana Chowdhury, vice president of small and medium enterprises at Brac Bank in Dhaka. Working with Kathleen Murphy, group president of ING in Hartford, Connecticut, Chowdhury witnessed "great consistency" in American women leaders, "which is lacking in Southeast Asian countries where women are good at the microlevel but at the corporate level lose their focus."

Chowdhury noted the importance of cooperation between the private sector and government. "We have to work together, building networks among ourselves and other organizations."

Program participants said they hoped to emulate the way their mentors made a difference -- in

their companies, with their employees and in their communities. "It's not as simple as it sounds," said Maria Claudia Mendez Nogales, founder and manager of Origenes textile and clothing business in La Paz, Bolivia, who observed Molly Ashbey, chief executive officer of Solera Capital in New York City.

"The lesson I am going to take back is that whatever we can do on a personal level helps and impacts everything around us," said Farah Agha, head of Abbas Spinning and Weaving Mills in Karachi, Pakistan, whose mentor was Mulchay of Xerox.

Daria Golebiowski-Tutaj, a business school professor and entrepreneur in Poland, called her experience with Patricia Fili-Krushel, executive vice president of administration at Time Warner Inc., "a Cinderella story."

"It was a mind opener, eye opener and heart opener to see her passion for attracting, growing and retaining talent," she said. "It was also a new experience to understand what is social corporate responsibility. I was astonished to see her determination to get more women at the senior executive level."

Golebiowski-Tutaj said the first thing she is going to do when she returns to Poland is start a mentoring program.

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

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## U.S. Strategy Addresses Water Issues in Developing Countries

By Charlene Porter  
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- The U.S. State Department released an initial report June 1 that details a strategy for providing affordable and equitable access to safe water and sanitation in developing countries.

The Water for the Poor Act of 2005 Report to Congress, June 2006 (the Water Safety Report) is required by legislation that makes providing such access to water and sanitation in developing nations a specific policy objective of U.S. foreign assistance programs.

The law also requires the secretary of state, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and other U.S. government agencies to develop and implement a strategy to support this goal.

More than 1 billion people lack access to clean water sources and more than 2 billion lack access to acceptable sanitation. Even more lack access to safe drinking water or use sanitation facilities that do not to protect public health adequately.

Each year, nearly 2 million people -- mainly children younger than age 5 -- die from preventable, water-related illnesses.

According to the report, this initial effort "does not represent a final statement but the beginning of a long-term process to develop and implement a strategy to improve U.S. efforts on international water issues."

Sound water management can promote economic growth, ensure sustainable food supplies and preserve ecosystems that support

most of the world's inhabitants, the report says.

Water also can be a tool for promoting broader trust and cooperation at local, national and regional levels.

### WATER ON EARTH

Water and moisture are nearly everywhere in the biosphere -- the part of Earth and its atmosphere that supports life. But the portion of the planet's water that is available readily to people in freshwater lakes, rivers and streams is less than 1 percent of the total.

The quality and the quantity freshwater that is available -- for drinking, sanitation, animals, agriculture and industry -- varies from nation to nation and season to season, producing scarcity for many and overabundance and flooding for others.

Water stress, the level at which water-supply problems tend to become chronic and widespread, is defined as 1,000 cubic meters to 1,700 cubic meters of water available per person per year, the report says.

An annual per capita water supply below 1,000 cubic meters is defined as water scarcity, and the resulting chronic water shortages can damage human health, economic development and environmental sustainability.

According to the report, research estimates that the number of peo-

ple living in conditions of water stress or scarcity ranges from 434 million to 2 billion, depending on how data are gathered across regions. People with limited access to water also tend to have supplies that are lower in quality.

World population growth in the next 15 years is expected to increase greatly the competition for water and for food produced by irrigation.

Total global water withdrawals (the annual quantity of water withdrawn for agriculture, industry and domestic use) are projected to be 22 percent greater by 2025 than 1995 withdrawals. Projected withdrawals in developing countries will increase 27 percent over that 30-year period, and developed-country withdrawals will increase by 11 percent.

A report from the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) predicts that water shortages will affect 2.3 billion people, or 30 percent of the world population, in 48 countries in 2025. Another 1 billion are expected to face water scarcity by the year 2025 due to increasing population, global climate change and other factors.

### IMPROVING ACCESS

In fiscal years 2003-2005, the United States obligated more than \$1.7 billion in official development assistance for more than 100 water and related activities in developing countries around the world,



*(Continued on page 25)*

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## World's Deserts Are Threatened but Promising Ecosystems

Washington -- Global climate change, water demands and human development all threaten deserts of the world, just as scientists are realizing the potential benefits these ecosystems might offer to humankind, according to Global Deserts Outlook, a report issued by the U.N. Environment Program (UNEP) June 5.

Warm, sunny desert climates favor enterprises such as shrimp and fish farms, the report says. Animals and plants adapted to the harsh environments might have great potential as medicines and food crops. The potential for development of major solar plants in deserts could be the answer to the world's energy needs, according to some experts quoted in the report.

"There are many popular and sometimes misplaced views of deserts which this report either confirms or overturns," said Shafqat Kakakhel, UNEP's deputy executive director. "Far from being barren wastelands, they emerge as biologically, economically and culturally dynamic while being increasingly subject to the impacts and pressures of the modern world."

Kakakhel said the report finds that deserts offer possibilities for potentially environmentally friendly livelihoods for local people and businesses.

Nipa, for instance, is a salt grass harvested in the Sonoran desert of northwestern Mexico by the native Cocopahs people. It thrives on pure seawater, produces large grain yields and is a candidate to be a major global food crop, according to Global Deserts Outlook.

A micro algae called Haematococcus can be grown in desert conditions in controlled systems. It produces a reddish pigment that is marketed as a health product to strengthen the immune system, slow skin aging and alleviate muscle fatigue.

Scientists are investigating the potential medicinal value of a variety of desert plants, which are thought to have promise as anti-cancer and anti-malarial agents.

"The pharmaceutical potential of desert plants has yet to be tapped," says the report.

Environmental pressures on deserts threaten to prevent development of this potential. Average temperature increases in desert regions over the last quarter century exceed the average global rise attributed to climate change.

Changes in water supplies are occurring in desert climes, through natural or man-made causes, and these could disrupt the ecosystem further. The diminishing size of glaciers caused by climate change also could have a disproportionate effect on deserts. The deserts of the southwestern United States and those of Central Asia rely on rivers that originate in snow-covered mountains, water supplies that might decline 40 percent to 80 percent by the end of the century, according to some scientific projections.

Global Deserts Outlook also expresses concern about unusual ecosystems referred to as "sky islands," mountain areas within deserts, which provide water and habitat for people and wildlife. Isolated by their elevation from the

surrounding landscape when deserts became more arid about 20,000 years ago, sky islands harbor unusual biodiversity just like remote oceanic islands.

Scientists fear that the woodlands of desert mountain habitats may be lost in less than 50 years without urgent action to preserve them.

Almost one-quarter of Earth's land surface -- some 33.7 million square kilometers -- is considered desert, and some of it is the world's most pristine, wilderness landscape.

More than 500 million people live in the deserts, according to the report. On the fringes of the deserts, however, human activity places great pressures on the fragile landscape, overtaxing water resources and generating pollution.

UNEP released the report in recognition of World Environment Day June 5, which was devoted to the theme "Don't Desert Drylands!"

For additional information, see Global Deserts Outlook (<http://www.unep.org/Documents/Multilingual/Default.asp?DocumentID=480&ArticleID=5283&l=en>) on the UNEP Web site.

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)* ♦

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## U.S. Army Tests Mobile Robotic Surgery

Washington -- A team of U.S. Army, telecommunications and surgical experts is using an unmanned aircraft and sophisticated communication tools to take the next step in making remote surgery, or telesurgery, a reality.

Telesurgery is a new approach to surgical care in which a surgeon performs operations using a surgical robot and advanced computer technology on a patient located far away, according to a June 5 press release from the University of Cincinnati (UC) in Ohio.

Dr. Timothy Broderick, UC assistant professor of surgery and medical director for its Center for Surgical Innovation, is leading the first test of a prototype communications platform for mobile telesurgery -- high-altitude platforms for mobile robotic telesurgery (HAPsMRT).

The HAPsMRT model -- developed in collaboration with the U.S. Army's Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center and the University of Washington in Seattle -- uses an unmanned airborne vehicle as the communications connection point between a surgeon in one part of the country and a patient hundreds of kilometers away.

"Reliable, high-speed communication signals are critical for telesurgery to work in day-to-day patient care," Broderick said. "Our ultimate goal is to eliminate the communications lag to enable the surgeon to safely operate on a remote patient in real time."

The two-phase telesurgery experiment takes place June 5-9, in a desolate and arid area surrounded

by hills and plains between the western state of California and the state of Washington in the Pacific Northwest.

Current telesurgery tools rely on satellite communication and streaming video delivered via high-speed Internet. In remote locations, Broderick said, satellite signals are not always dependable and can result in delays that make surgery difficult.



**Timothy Broderick, MD, performs a laparoscopic gallbladder surgery on a simulated patient in the NEEMO undersea habitat.**

HAPsMRT uses special communication transmissions that allow communication signals to travel over a shorter distance and with fewer delays.

In phase one of the mission, a simulated patient and robot will be located eight kilometers away from Broderick, who will sit behind the surgical robot control console and operate on the simulated patient using streaming video fed into the console from the unmanned vehicle.

In phase two of the experiment, Broderick will operate on the same

patient from hundreds of kilometers away from behind a surgical robot control console at the University of Washington in Seattle.

Throughout the mission, the research team will evaluate the unmanned vehicle's communications capabilities -- including speed and quality of video streaming, information time lapses and suturing precision -- to see how an extreme environment affects them.

"We need to find better ways of delivering emergency and specialized surgical care to patients when they are hundreds of miles away from the nearest hospital," Broderick said.

"When it's perfected," he added, "telesurgery could quickly become the medical norm for remote places, including battlefields, extremely rural towns -- even space."

The full text (<http://www.healthnews.uc.edu/news/?/2480/>) of the press release is available at the University of Cincinnati Web site. ♦



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## Students in Macedonia, Ghana Win State Department Award . . .

*(Continued from page 20)*

Andres noted that the Florida students who shared the top prize in 2006 with the Macedonians attend a "virtual" school -- Florida Virtual School, which was founded in 1997 and was the first statewide Internet-based public high school in the United States.

In addition to the top two "Platinum" prizes and the special award, Doors to Diplomacy recognized many other teams for their work. Winners of "Gold" prizes included teams from Cyprus, India, Tajikistan and the state of Wisconsin; and "Silver" prize winners included students in Uzbekistan (two teams), Singapore (two teams), India, Taiwan and the state of California. There were also several honorable mentions.

More information about Doors to Diplomacy (<http://www.globalschoolhouse.org/GSH/doors/>)

projects is available on The Global Schoolhouse Web page on the Global SchoolNet Foundation (<http://www.globalschoolnet.org/index.html>) Web site. The winning Web sites may be viewed at Fight Poverty (<http://www.fightpoverty.com/>), Golden Bridges: Connecting People to Peace (<http://goldenbridges.info/>) and Soccer and Its Power (<http://www.socceranditspower.homestead.com/>).

The full text (<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2006/66623.htm>) of the May 22 announcement on the 2006 Doors to Diplomacy winners is available on the State Department Web site.

*(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦*

## U.S. Strategy Addresses Water Issues in Developing Countries . . .

*(Continued from page 22)*

according to the June 1 report.

As a result, more than 24 million people received improved access to safe drinking water, and more than 26 million people received access to improved sanitation.

USAID, the departments of State and Defense, the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the Environmental Protection Agency provided most of the U.S. government funding, but more than 15 U.S. government agencies and departments support international work on water.

As part of the new water strategy, U.S. activities will target key areas, including:

Infrastructure investment -- Invest in large- and small-scale infrastruc-

ture to increase access to basic services and improve water management;

Public health protection -- Advance improved hygiene activities, including the most suitable disinfection method, safe water storage, hand washing and household sanitation; and

Science and technology cooperation -- Advance knowledge in areas related to water management, including pollution prevention, satellite remote sensing, global information systems and modeling.

Other efforts will target increasing access for the poor, addressing urban issues and adapting to climate variability.

Activities in these focal areas could be carried out initially in Af-

ghanistan, Bangladesh, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Haiti, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Somalia, Sudan, Uganda, the Nile Basin and the Okavango Basin, shared by Angola, Namibia and Botswana.

Over the next year, according to the report, the U.S. State Department, working closely with USAID and other U.S. technical agencies, will begin to develop ways to measure progress, identify priority countries and develop timelines for projects and programs.

The full text (<http://www.state.gov/g/oes/water>) of the Water Safety Report is available on the Web site of the State Department's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental Scientific Affairs. ♦