

CROSSROADS

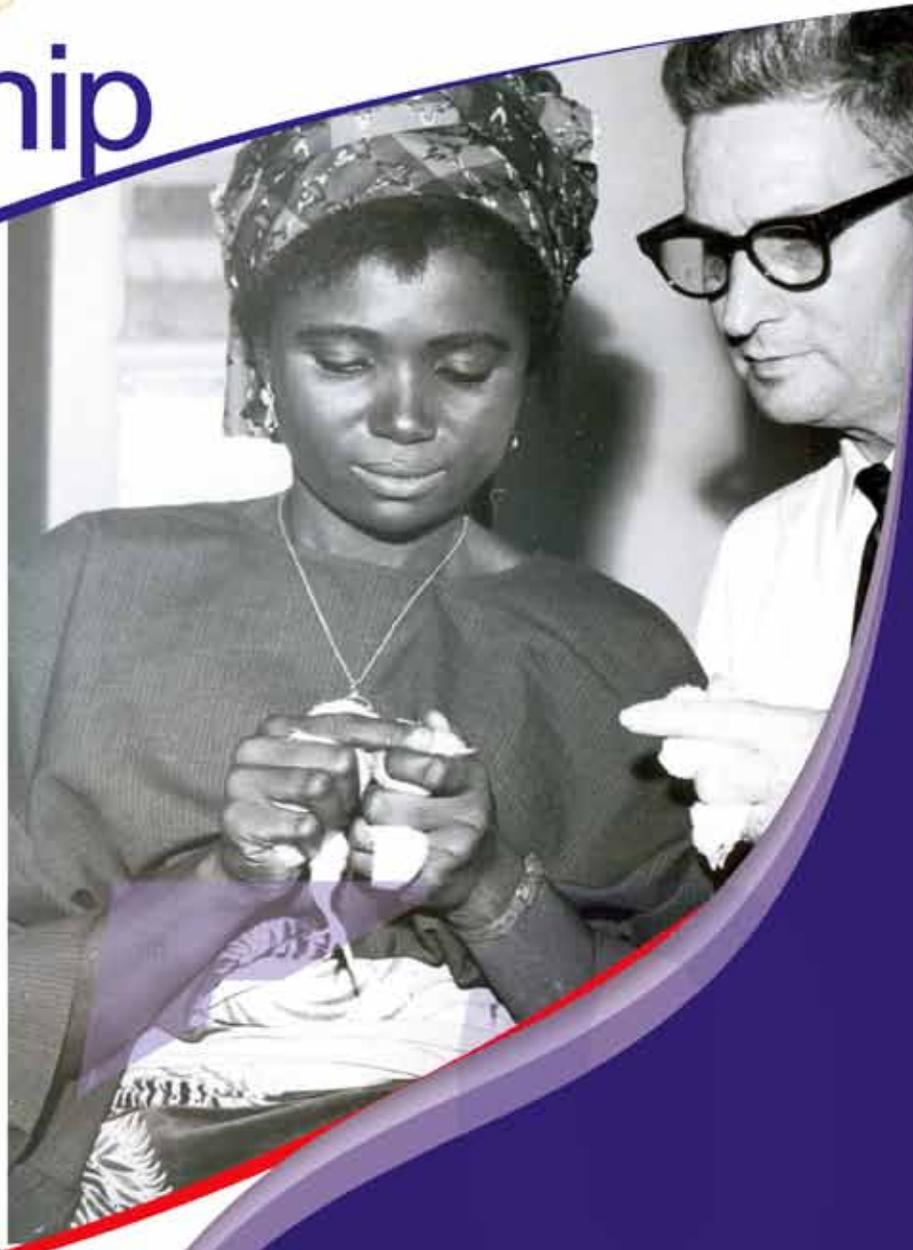
USAID
@ 50 Edition

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A Newsletter of the U.S. Mission in Nigeria

USAID IN NIGERIA

50
years
of
Partnership





U.S. Mission staff volunteers serve Iftar food to needy Muslims at Al-Habibiyya Mosque, Abuja.

Iftar Brotherhood

By Sani Mohammed

Ambassador Terence McCulley and several volunteers from the U.S. Mission Nigeria participated in serving Iftar food to needy Muslims at Al-Habibiyya Mosque in Abuja during the breaking of the Muslim Fast in August.

The event in support of Al-Habibiyya's food bank found the Ambassador and other U.S. Mission volunteers passing out cooked meals, water and appetizers to over 300 under-privileged youth and other Muslim faithful, including the mosque's leadership.

Speaking to an appreciative audience, including the Executive Governor of Niger State, Dr. Babangida Aliyu, who came as a special guest, Ambassador McCulley said Ramadan "is a reminder of our responsibilities toward those in our communities who

are hungry, and who suffer, on a daily basis."

The Ambassador commended Al-Habibiyya's charity effort, born out of the Imam's experience while visiting an organization called the Rescue Mission in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Al-Habibbiyah's food bank program began in November 2005, shortly after Imam Fu'ad Adeyemi's participation in the U.S.'s International Visitor's Leadership Program on "Religion and Community."

"In the United States, many Americans volunteer their time and resources to programs similar to Al-Habibbiyah's throughout the year, but especially during our Thanksgiving holiday. And it is in this spirit that we are happy to share our time this evening and participate in this program in Abuja -- our home away from home -- alongside our Muslim

brothers and sisters during Ramadan," Ambassador McCulley stated.

Chief Imam of Al-Habibiyya Mosque, Fu'ad Adeyemi thanked the American people for supporting the program and appealed to the Ambassador to facilitate expansion of the food bank project through



links with other governmental and non-governmental organizations. He praised the efforts of the Chairman of Al-Habibiyya food bank project, Alhaji Faruk Seleiman for keeping the program going despite huge challenges.



*Terence P. McCulley
U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria*

Congratulations USAID - Nigeria

deepest sympathies from the American people to the victims and their families, colleagues, and friends, whom we will keep in our thoughts and prayers. Such vicious terrorist attacks only strengthen our resolve and commitment to the work of the United Nations and the people of Nigeria.

I extend congratulations to the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) for fifty years of exceptional work in developing countries around the world, including the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I also welcome the newly-arrived USAID Country Director, Dana Mansuri, who will help to continue this proud legacy. The activities of USAID-Nigeria reflect well and proudly on the ongoing, robust cooperation between the people and governments of the United States of America and the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Recently, I volunteered with other U.S. Mission staff at the Al-Habibiyyah

Ramadan Feeding Program in Abuja. An event like this teaches us that the holy month of Ramadan is a far richer experience than simply fasting during daylight hours. It is a time to reflect on one's relationship with God and family; and it is a reminder of our responsibilities toward those in our communities who are hungry, and who suffer, on a daily basis. The U.S. Mission remains engaged with Nigerian Muslims and other communities to promote dialogue and mutual understanding, especially among Nigeria's youth.

Finally, this edition of CROSSROADS focuses on the activities of USAID - Nigeria as the agency and the program here marks 50 years of engagement in providing long-term economic and social development assistance. Each story in this edition is informative and captivating -- I hope you enjoy it.

Ambassador Terence P. McCulley

Dear CROSSROADS Readers, Please allow me to offer my heartfelt condolences to the families of those who were killed and injured in the horrific and cowardly attack that took place at the United Nations House in Abuja, Nigeria, on August 26. I extend



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USAID

at a Glance

United States foreign assistance has the twofold purpose of furthering America's foreign policy interests in expanding democracy and free markets while improving the lives of the citizens of the developing world. With less than one-half of one percent of the federal budget, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) works around the world to achieve these goals.

USAID's history goes back to the Marshall Plan reconstruction of Europe after World War Two and the Truman Administration's point Four Program. In 1961, the Foreign Assistance Act was signed into law and USAID was created by Executive Order. USAID has been the principal



April Elections in Nigeria



USAID-funded Family Support Clinic in Makurdi

Preparing Nigeria's Future



USAID/Intel Partnership provides laptops for students at the Sheikh Mai Hula Islamiyya Computer Center, Kano.

The quality of basic education in Nigeria is poor, leading to low demand and unacceptably low academic performance. There are 30 million primary school-aged children in the country, of whom an estimated seven million are not enrolled in school. While education indicators are poor nationwide, the greatest need for assistance is in the predominantly Muslim north. USAID's education activities are designed to improve the quality of basic education, which will contribute to a sustainable pool of skilled labor while supporting the development of Nigeria's young democracy and promoting domestic stability. USAID's support focuses on initiating activities to strengthen education systems at the state level. Working at the community level, education programs ensure transparent and appropriate state level education planning and initiate implementation of education reforms at the school level.

Through the Northern Education

Initiative (NEI), one of USAID's flagship activities, assistance strengthens state and local government capacity to deliver basic education services by addressing key management, sustainability, and oversight issues at the basic education level in selected northern Nigerian states. NEI also works to increase the access of orphans and vulnerable children to basic education and other services in Bauchi and Sokoto, through innovative approaches such as learning centers that will cater to the literacy needs of out-of-school youth and mainstream them into the formal education system. Almajiri children are also integrated into this approach to address their special vulnerability. Services include in-school and out-of-school activities, life skills education, and psycho-social support skills building for teachers and community members. Students are also provided with referrals to health centers in their locality that are supported by additional USAID health and HIV interventions.

In 2010, over 64,000 students were enrolled in the 200 NEI demonstration

U.S. agency to extend assistance to countries recovering from disaster, trying to escape poverty, and engaging in democratic reforms.

USAID is an independent federal government agency that receives overall foreign policy guidance from the Secretary of State. The Agency's activities support long-term and equitable economic growth and advance U.S. foreign policy objectives by supporting economic growth, agriculture and trade; global health; and, democracy, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance. USAID provides assistance in sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Eurasia, and the Middle East.

In Nigeria, USAID is assisting to build a sustainable, Well-governed democracy, a diversified, poverty-reducing economy and a healthy, educated population. These goals support the Government of Nigeria's (GON) National Economic and Empowerment Strategy (NEEDS), the Seven-Point Agenda' and Vision 20-20-20. USAID/Nigeria supports human infrastructure development to help Nigeria achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

With headquarters in Washington, D.C., USAID's strength is its field offices around the world of which there are 77. The Agency works in close partnership with private voluntary organizations, indigenous organizations, universities, American businesses, international agencies, other governments, and other U.S. Government agencies. USAID has working relationships with more than 3,500 American companies and over 300 U.S.-based private voluntary organizations.

USAID/Nigeria has a staff of 153, (21 U.S. Direct Hires, 11 U.S.



At the launching of a new educational TV series SESAME Square in Abuja

schools, 15,000 of those students were identified as orphans and vulnerable children. A total number of 317 administrators and other officials were trained on Mid-term Sector Strategy (MTSS) planning, support and monitoring, Education Management Information System (EMIS) utilization and State Education Accounts (SEA) implementation in Bauchi and Sokoto states. Further, 2811 teachers and educators were trained to support basic education delivery in Bauchi and Sokoto states.

USAID/Nigeria's education programs also support the goals and objectives of the U.S. Presidential African Education Initiative (AEI) and the Nigerian Ministry of Education's roadmap for the education sector, and strengthen state and local government capacity to deliver quality basic education services.

In 2004, the African Education Initiative developed the Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program (AGSP) to enhance quality basic education in Africa through the provision of scholarships, textbooks, and mentoring programs. The Initiative ended earlier this year. AGSP's worked to improve girls' and boys' access to and retention in schools in Nigeria.

Over 12,000 scholarships were awarded (8,312 to girls and 4,641 to boys) in 509 schools in 13 states in Nigeria over the life of the project. Scholarships covered school fees, textbooks, exercise books, book bags, uniforms, socks, and sandals. In some cases, the scholarships included other fees, such as transportation, lunch, and lessons. In addition, volunteer mentors in the community provided mentoring to students. Many of the mentors were teachers in area schools and even though the AGSP has ended many have continued mentoring students.

An example of how AGSP has impacted students in the classroom, is the story of Bassey Odo Ekong and Hafsatu. According to Youthcare/Nigeria, in 2008, Bassey enrolled in the AGSP when boys were allowed to participate. He started at grade 3, and is now in grade 5. Because of Bassey's involvement in the AGSP, he was awarded the Best Primary School Pupil in Mathematics, English Language and Science in Cross River State and gained the confidence to participate in the President's Debate- Why it is Necessary for Primary Schools to Participate in Debates, and won. Successful students, such as Bassey, now mentor and support youth to make

Personal Service Contractors, two Fellows, and 116 Foreign Service Nationals. In FY 2010, USAID implemented \$383.3 million of activities to execute development programs throughout Nigeria.

Most of USAID/Nigeria's development activities are implemented through contracts and grants to a variety of non-governmental organizations, corporations, and academic institutions. Contracts are used by USAID/Nigeria to generally hire institutions and organizations to provide specific goods and services that the Mission has identified as necessary to accomplish its development objectives. Grants are used to enter into a partnership with institutions or organizations to support activities, either in whole or in part, that are consistent with the Mission's objectives in Nigeria.

In many cases, these organizations conduct their work in partnership and collaboration with Nigerian organizations. All organizations receiving contract or grant awards must meet minimum financial and management accountability standards established by the United States. Currently, USAID/Nigeria works with about 76 implementing partners. The majority of our work is awarded through full and open competition and a small percentage through grants. ❖



USAID-funded laboratory

NEDS is helping the Government of Nigeria to close the gaps between policies and the delivery of quality education.



good decisions about their education and futures.

In 2011, Nigeria's National Population Commission and the Federal Ministry of Education, with support from USAID and the U.K.'s Department for International Development, launched the final report of the 2010 Nigeria Education Data Survey and Digest of Education Statistics (NEDS). This survey was a sample-based household survey on school demand, confirmation of census-based enrollment data, and a comparison of education data among States (e.g. access to and quality of education). NEDS is expected to play a pivotal role in helping the Government of Nigeria, donors, and other stakeholders to close the gaps between policies and the delivery of quality education by providing verifiable, qualitative, and quantitative data necessary to inform education strategy and implementation.

To provide an innovative approach to basic education and to help ensure access to educational media to underserved children, especially those in rural areas, USAID and Sesame Workshop partnered to create a locally-produced version of Sesame Street,

entitled Sesame Square. Sesame Square addresses HIV/AIDS stigmatization and discrimination through messages geared to orphans and vulnerable children and their caregivers. Messages also focus on maintaining a healthy life-style through visits to hospitals and coping with deaths of loved ones. Sesame Workshop produces Sesame Square in collaboration with local Nigerian partners (educators, producers and broadcasters, and governmental and non-governmental organizations) to ensure that the educational objectives and creative vision for the television program and community outreach materials reflect the developmental, educational, and health needs of Nigerian children, their families, and caregivers.

Sesame Street, working with local partners, will produce 78 half-hour television episodes, 81,000 activity books, 5,400 caregiver guides, and 240 storyboards. These materials will be distributed through an outreach program designed to specifically reach orphans and vulnerable children in nine Nigerian states and to provide training for 5,000 caregivers. Sesame Square began airing on Nigeria's National Television Authority in May 2011. ❖



New water and sanitation systems provide students with healthy learning environment

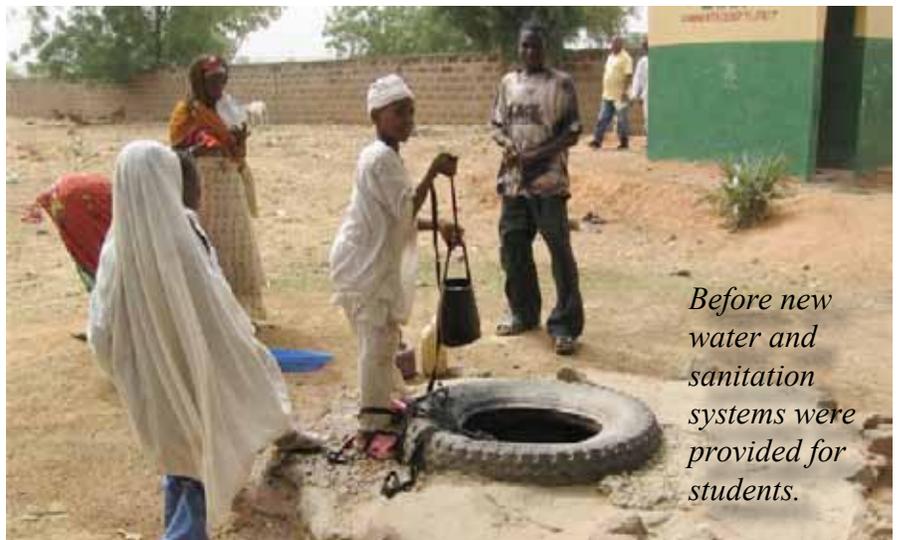
Life-Saving Water for Nigeria's Pupils

Access to clean water and sanitation facilities is challenging for Nigerians. Hygiene education and best practices are rarer where there is less water due to climate or topography. In rural northern Nigeria for example, only about 30 percent of the population have access to clean drinking water and adequate sanitation facilities. This results in a high prevalence of waterborne diseases which threatens the health of citizens. Lack of clean water also contributes to low school enrollment, especially among girls.

USAID is working with communities to overcome these challenges by mobilizing

community leaders and parent-teachers associations; assisting with the construction, operation and maintenance of borehole hand pumps, toilet and urinal facilities, hand washing stations and rain water catchment

systems. USAID is also working with communities to implement hygiene programs through health clubs which teach good health practices and contribute to the of diseases, especially among school children. ❖



Before new water and sanitation systems were provided for students.



Reforming Nigeria's Power Sector

The Working Group on Energy and Investment of the U.S.-Nigeria Binational Commission met in Abuja on August 9, 2011. The second meeting of the Working Group was co-chaired by the Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Petroleum Resources of Nigeria Engineer Goni Sheikh and the U.S. Department of State Special Envoy for International Energy Affairs Ambassador Carlos Pascual and U.S. Department of Energy Assistant Secretary for Policy and International Affairs David Sandalow. The Nigerian participants included officials from the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Federal Ministry of Power, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, Power Holding Company of Nigeria, Energy Commission of Nigeria, Federal Ministry of Environment, NEITI, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission, and Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission. The U.S. delegation included officials from the U.S. Department of Energy,

Good Governance Program

At all levels of governance, there are many roadblocks to a strong democracy in Nigeria. Conflict, triggered by political competition and communal, ethnic, religious, or resource allocation rivalries, poses a major threat to democracy. Corruption is a key problem that pervades the daily lives of Nigerians. Civil society lacks both the capacity and the resources to effectively engage with government and advocate for change. Government institutions have not established meaningful partnerships with citizens or the private sector and lack the capacity to carry out their own mandates. Among the most significant governance challenges facing Nigeria is the dominance of its politics by an oligarchy – a small elite spread across the country – which excludes the majority of Nigerians from civic participation.

Though many Nigerians and the international community remarked that the April 2011 elections were largely free and fair, subsequent analysis of the elections processes revealed many flaws that need to be addressed before the 2015 elections. These include under-age voting, ballot stealing and stuffing, and election-related violence. In addition, the increasing militarization of politics nationwide raises growing concern that political conflict will become ever more violent, surging beyond the control of national and local government. These negative trends are occurring in the context of poor social and economic indicators across the country. These



conditions undermine the public's ability to engage the democratic process at the minimal levels required for the system to flourish.

Through its Governing Justly and Democratically programs, USAID/Nigeria supports federal courts, including the Supreme Court and Courts of Appeal, to promote rule of law. These institutions have already shown a willingness to reform and to operate effectively and transparently. USAID/Nigeria works to improve governance by engaging with state and local governments, as well as civil society and private sector stakeholders. Approaches include building the capacity of key government agencies to plan, budget, track, manage, and evaluate their fiscal and administrative responsibilities; reinforcing policies and systems that improve transparency; mobilizing civil society and the private sector to participate in community planning and budgeting, monitor financial flows, and assess the quality of services rendered; and assisting civil society organizations to hold elected officials accountable.

In 2011, USAID/Nigeria worked to ensure a credible national election by helping political parties

U.S. Department of State, and U.S. Agency for International Development.

Both nations agreed on the critical nature of the power sector to economic growth in Nigeria. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Government of the United States reaffirmed their commitment to continue to cooperate in implementing the reform of the power sector and instituting best practices to assure optimal performance of the sector and to attract needed investment. Recognizing the need for private sector participation in power sector generation, transmission, and distribution, both countries recognize that renewable energy has an important role to play in rural electrification and that by reducing flaring and monetizing gas resources Nigeria will enhance its clean electricity generation. Both Nigeria and the United States stressed the importance of the Global Alliance of Clean Cook Stoves and affirmed their support to introduce fuel-efficient cook stoves, especially to rural communities in Nigeria

The Government of the United States pledged to continue working through the U.S. Agency for International Development to enhance capacity building in support of private sector participation in Nigeria's power sector.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria pledged to work toward a timely and comprehensive reform of the petroleum sector, recognizing the critical benefits to Nigeria of a stable and transparent investment framework that upholds global standards of sanctity of contracts and comparable taxation

POWER -- continued on page 15

to build coalitions, providing and training domestic and international observers, civic education, political party strengthening, and parallel vote tabulation. Working to integrate youth into the political process, USAID/Nigeria developed the "U Can't Swag My Vote" campaign, a series of YoungStars

Law will enhance the transparency and accountability of state and local level governments by empowering and mobilizing citizens to pressure officials to accept needed reforms and improve budget allocations for improved service delivery.

To create a more responsive



Youth Group's Naija Youth Power concerts with various top Nigerian musicians and the "My Vote Fit Change Naija", a 10 minute video featuring Nollywood stars. The key focus of both activities was to encourage youth to participate in the elections process through voters education. The activities also served as an avenue to promote peaceful and non-violent elections.

In February 2010, Nigeria's House of Representatives responded to the yearnings of Nigerians for greater transparency and accountability by passing the Freedom of Information (FOI) Law, 11 years after its introduction. In May 2011, President Jonathan signed the FOI Bill into law. The Right of Information Law 2011 allows citizens access to public information including records kept by the government, public institutions, and private organizations carrying out public functions. This

governance structure and empower citizenstodemandservicesandimproved performance from government, USAID/Nigeria, in its focus states- Bauchi and Sokoto, works to build the capacity of local government councilors and chairpersons, permanent staff of local government officials, selected state government authorities, and civil society. USAID/Nigeria supports 18 local government authorities (LGA) in Bauchi and Sokoto to build the capacity of newly elected local government councilors, chairpersons, and employees and better plan, budget, manage, and evaluate the LGA's fiscal and administrative responsibilities. Further, USAID/Nigeria works to mobilize civil society and the private sector to participate in community planning and budgeting and ensure that quality health, education, water and sanitation, and other public services are available. ❖

Pushing Polio, HIV to the Brink



The Sultan of Sokoto, His Royal Highness, Alhaji Saad Abubakar administers Polio vaccine to new-born babies during a USAID-sponsored immunization program in Sokoto State.

The Millennium Development Goals to reduce maternal and child mortality in Africa cannot be achieved without major improvements in the health status of Nigeria's women and children. Strengthening the health sector and improving the overall health status of the population are among the most important development issues facing Nigeria.

In general, Nigeria is making much slower progress on maternal and child health indicators than most other African countries. The maternal mortality rate is among the highest in the world and completed fertility remains over seven in the Northern states where child-bearing starts very early and births are closely spaced. About one million children die each year

before their fifth birthday, infant and child mortality rates are extremely high, and contraceptive prevalence is low.

In conjunction with high maternal and child mortality rates, Nigeria suffers from an HIV/AIDS prevalence rate of 3.1 percent with an estimated 3.6 percent of the population living with HIV and AIDS. Although HIV prevalence is much lower in Nigeria than in other African countries such as South Africa and Zambia, the size of Nigeria's population (around 149 million) meant that by the end of 2009, there were almost 3 million people living with HIV. Approximately 192,000 persons died from AIDS in 2009. With AIDS claiming so many lives, Nigeria's life expectancy has declined

significantly. In 1991, the average life expectancy was 54 years for women and 53 years for men. In 2009, these figures had fallen to 48 for women and 46 for men.

In addition, Nigeria has one of the highest tuberculosis (TB) burdens in the world (311 per 100,000), resulting in the largest burden in Africa. Despite Nigeria's rising TB detection rates and program coverage, many TB cases are still undetected. The high rates of TB/HIV co-infection result in a significant health challenge in the HIV/AIDS response.

Nigeria has a general HIV epidemic; however, prevalence varies widely across states and rural and urban areas. Concentrated HIV/AIDS epidemics occur in particular geographic regions and within

certain segments of the population. Nigeria's epidemic is largely fueled by heterosexual and mother-to-child transmission, but there are clear identifiable risk groups similar to those in many other African countries. According to the 2007 Integrated Bio-Behavioral Surveillance Survey, this is evidenced in a significantly higher infection rate among most-at-risk populations, including commercial sex workers, injecting drug users, and men who have sex with men.

Risky behaviors continue and are targets for USAID/Nigeria's key prevention interventions. Nigeria has been slow to recognize the gravity of the epidemic and to mobilize the required commitment and resources for a sustainable national response. While progress has been made in policy development and strategic planning at the Federal level, provision of care, treatment, and prevention services remains inadequate and the level of unmet need continues to increase.

To meet these challenges, USAID/Nigeria's Health activities emphasize a stronger coordination of activities, greater focus in geographic and technical implementation, and strategic integration of key program areas and resources, including family planning and reproductive health; maternal, neonatal, and child health, including routine immunization; and prevention and treatment of malaria and HIV. This approach improves health services by increasing the number and quality of health providers, expanding access to and use of essential life-saving commodities, and strengthening health facilities to adhere to international standards of practice. Integration across sectors, particularly at the community level and with education and civil society activities, is also a priority and



A field worker taking blood samples

key to accomplishing sustainable improvements in health. Engaging civil society, the media, and the private sector in the policy and advocacy process will increasingly strengthen political and budgetary support for health.

The United States Government provides the largest amount of funding to combat HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. USAID/Nigeria implements its HIV/AIDS and TB activities under a comprehensive approach with other United States Government agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Department of Defense, which are all working as part of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

Through its Prevention, Care, Treatment, TB, and Health Systems Strengthening activities, USAID/Nigeria collaborates with the Government of Nigeria and civil society partners to implement activities that safeguard against mother-to-child and sexual transmission of the HIV virus; provide care to TB/HIV patients, adult and pediatric cases as well as support to orphans and vulnerable

children; provide antiretroviral drugs and services to eligible patients, as well as laboratory support for the diagnosis and monitoring of HIV-positive patients; reduce TB transmission, improve diagnosis, and manage multi-drug-resistant-TB cases, especially among HIV positive patients; and strengthen Nigeria's governance and management of its health system's service delivery, financing, human resources, provision of supplies and medications equipment, and infrastructure.

USAID/Nigeria also works to significantly increase the demand for health services and commodities at the local level by increasing awareness among state and local government authorities, community coalitions, and civil society organizations as well as increasing access to health services and supplies in public and private facilities at all levels of the health system. Through these efforts, the availability of health-related commodities and supplies will be improved, leading to an increased capacity of service providers to provide quality care and sustainable improvements in the services provided. ❖

GON Takes Over Fistula Center



Medical Director Dr. Ileogben Sunday-Adeoye conducting USAID staff around the South East Regional Fistula Centre in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State

Growing up as a young girl in south-eastern Nigeria, Josephine Elechi, wife of the Governor of Ebonyi State, noticed many women being ostracized by their communities because they suffered from obstetric fistula. She remembers promising her-self that she would do something to reduce the needless deaths of women during childbirth and the discrimination against women affected by fistula. Fistula is the result of prolonged labor without prompt medical intervention, resulting in damage to the woman's birth canal, causing

chronic incontinence and in many cases, death of the baby. Nearly half of world's fistula cases occur in Nigeria. It is estimated that about 150,000 Nigerian women are affected, with 12,000 new cases every year.

In 2008, through the Mother and Child Care Initiative (MCCI), Mrs. Elechi established a center for the care and treatment of women with fistula in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State, the first of its kind in south-eastern Nigeria. A year later, USAID's fistula care project ACQUIRE began providing consumable supplies, equipment and training support to the center, and

integrated fistula repair and family planning services. The center now has 100 beds with 35 staff comprising of doctors, nurses, pharmac-ists, and technicians trained by ACQUIRE.

As most of the patients who attend the center cannot afford the cost of treatment, MCCI and the Ebonyi State Government be-gan paying for their treatment and food. Patients from neigh-boring states also receive treatment thus putting pressure on the limited facilities provided by the Ebonyi State Government.

To address this challenge, ACQUIRE project partnered with various stakeholders and persuaded the Government of Nigeria to assume management of the facility and to make it a regional center. Extensive advocacy meetings were held with the state and federal Ministries of Health, the National Council on Health, USAID, United Nations Population Fund and the Government of Nigeria. The National Council on Health recommended the up-grading of the facility to a regional center and managed by the Federal Ministry of Health. This decision was approved by the Government of Nigeria's Cabinet in May 2011. To provide simi-lar fistula services to northern Nigeria, GON will also upgrade another facility located at Babbar Ruga General Hospital, Katsina in the near future.

Through the work of ACQUIRE project, a sustainable, regional center owned by the Government of Nigeria, was established in Ebonyi State. Since inception, the center has treated more than 745 women with obstetric fistula; and thanks to the mediation of various stakeholders, many more affected women will be treated. Mrs. Elechi is also fulfilling her promise. "I don't want any of our women to die during childbirth" she said. ❖



Medical Director Dr. Ileogben Sunday-Adeoye conducting USAID staff around the South East Regional Fistula Centre in Abakaliki, Ebonyi State

USAID and Nigeria

50 Years of Partnership

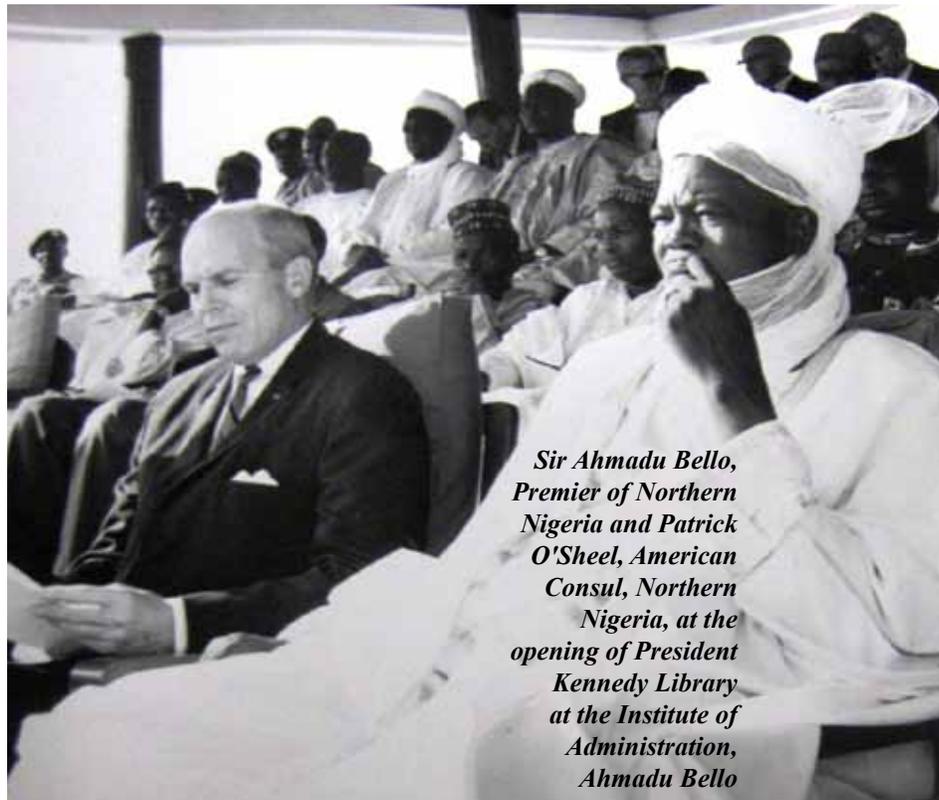
On September 4, 1961, the U.S. Congress passed the Foreign Assistance Act, which reorganized the U.S. foreign assistance programs including separating military and non-military aid. The Act mandated the creation of an agency to administer economic assistance programs. On November 3, 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

USAID became the first U.S. foreign assistance organization whose primary emphasis was on providing long-term economic and social development assistance to developing countries. Freed from political and military functions that often plagued its predecessor organizations, USAID was able to offer direct support to developing nations worldwide.

The agency unified already existing U.S. aid efforts, combining the economic and technical assistance operations of the International Cooperation Agency, the loan activities of the Development Loan Fund, the local currency functions of the Export-Import Bank, and the agricultural surplus distribution activities of the Food for Peace program of the Department of Agriculture.

The creation of USAID represented the United States' recommitment to the fundamental ideas of international development. USAID was established to unify assistance efforts, to provide a new focus on the needs of a changing world, and to assist other countries in maintaining their independence and become self-supporting.

Simultaneously, Nigeria was in



Sir Ahmadu Bello, Premier of Northern Nigeria and Patrick O'Sheel, American Consul, Northern Nigeria, at the opening of President Kennedy Library at the Institute of Administration, Ahmadu Bello

the process of settling into its newly found independence. After sixty years of British colonial rule, on October 1, 1960, Nigeria became the twenty-sixth African nation to gain independence. By the time Nigeria achieved independence, it was already the most populous country in Africa, had veteran politicians and civil servants, and held many natural resources. The country's economic prospect was favorable, in part due to the discovery of petroleum in the Niger Delta Region in 1958. The dream of national unity and political consciousness that prevailed in the 1960's began to take root in Nigeria. The idea of a distinct Nigerian culture that would bring together the different ethnicities and regions was central to this newly found democracy.

Under the auspices of the Economic Cooperation Administration, the

predecessor of USAID, the U.S. Government (USG) began providing development assistance to Nigeria as early as 1950. In 1960, the USG, through contracts granted to four major U.S. State Universities (Michigan State, Wisconsin State, Kansas State, and Colorado State) assisted Nigeria in building Colleges of Agriculture in four Universities (the University of Ibadan, University of Nigeria- Nsukka, Ahmadu Bello University- Zaria, and the University of Ife).

Upon the creation of USAID, the USG solidified its partnership with Nigeria by supporting the development of the education and agriculture sectors. In 1964, following the signing of an agreement between the Government of Nigeria (GON), USAID, and the Kansas State University (KSU), the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine was

established at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria. Through this agreement, USAID and KSU provided staff and equipment to build the capacity of the faculty and veterinarians, developed a post-graduate program in veterinary medicine, and developed a research program to improve animal health and production and public health in Nigeria.

In 1966, through an innovative approach to water resource management, USAID worked with a team of American and Nigerian engineers to construct the Asejire water dam on the River Osun in Western Nigeria. The dam was to provide 22 million gallons of treated water daily to Nigerians.

In July 1967, civil war erupted in Nigeria as a result of an attempted secession by the southeastern provinces of Nigeria to form the Republic of Biafra. The conflict was the result of economic, ethnic, cultural, and religious tensions among the various peoples of Nigeria. During this time, the U.S. withdrew its assistance; however, when war ended in 1970, USAID returned to Nigeria and began working diligently with Nigerians to develop and implement health, water, education, and agriculture activities. During the 1970's, USAID launched a campaign to vaccinate the country against smallpox and measles; continued construction on the country's water supply system consisting of a dam, treatment plant, storage, and distribution system; and worked with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture to redesign and implement agriculture projects to benefit rural farmers.

By the 1980's and 1990's, USAID/Nigeria expanded its portfolio to include polio eradication, family planning, livestock preservation, primary education, and democracy and governance. In 1988, USAID partnered with the Federal Ministry



Dana Mansuri, new USAID Nigeria Mission Director

of Health (FMOH) to develop the Nigeria Family Health Services Project (FHS-I). The project was designed to strengthen integrated health care services provided by private and public facilities nationwide.

In 1999, Nigeria ushered in a new era of democracy after 15 years of military rule, which devastated the country's economic and social capital. A year earlier, USAID provided significant support to the electoral process by providing \$4 million in funding for international election observation, training of Nigerian election observers and political party polling agents, as well as to undertake voter education activities. By 2011, USAID quadrupled this amount by providing more than \$32 million for the general elections.

Since the mid-1990s, USAID has partnered with the GON to implement immunization activities; and the Agency's assistance is helping Nigeria to eradicate poliomyelitis. USAID has provided about two million long-lasting insecticide treated nets to reduce the scourge of malaria. In the fight against HIV/AIDS, USAID assistance to GON represents over half of the PEPFAR/Nigeria budget, which was over \$1.5 billion between 2004 and 2009.

In 2010, Nigeria celebrated 50

years of independence as well as eleven consecutive years of civilian governance, a continued success of non-military rule since its independence. While successive administrations enacted broad macroeconomic and other reforms, implementations of these reforms have not significantly impacted ordinary Nigerians. The country's political institutions and electoral systems continued to be underdeveloped, and Nigeria was off-track in achieving most of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). To respond to these challenges, USG assistance, through USAID, was increased and in an effort to effectively and efficiently concentrate the bulk of its resources and achieve maximum impact, as a part of its 2010-2013 Country Strategy for Nigeria, USAID selected Bauchi and Sokoto as Focus States.

The Focus States approach, in addition to being designed to result in a more significant impact of the USAID's resources in Nigeria, seeks to achieve synergies among the donors and implementing partners to reduce redundancy in project implementation and to increase effective donor collaboration. Although the bulk of the Mission's resources will be utilized to implement activities in Bauchi and

Sokoto, other activities that have a nationwide impact will also be initiated and maintained.

Further, in 2011, through Global Development Alliance business model, USAID, Chevron's NDPI Foundation Inc., and the Foundation for Partnership Initiatives (PIND) signed a \$50 million dollar Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to formalize the Integrated Peace and Development Alliance (IPDA) between the three organizations. The IPDA partnership will work to reduce conflict, improve institutions, and foster socio-economic development in the Niger Delta by strengthening and increasing participation of the poor in commercial agricultural markets; improving the capacity of government and civil society institutions to efficiently deliver social services; and increasing collaboration and dialogue between



(Left to Right) Dennis Flemming, Project Director- NDPI Foundation, Inc; Andrew Fawthrop, Chairman- Foundation for Partnership Initiatives in the Niger Delta; Ray Kirkland, Mission Director (Former)- USAID - Nigeria.

government, civil society, and citizens in order to mitigate conflict among vulnerable communities in the region.

Through its work in Nigeria, USAID has proven its dedication to building on its commitment of assisting people around the world in the fight against

poverty, hunger, illness, and injustice. In the coming years, USAID will continue to partner with Nigeria to maintain peace, reduce conflict, strengthen federal, state, and local governments to better provide services, and broaden non-oil economic growth. ❖

...continued from page 9: **Reforming Nigeria's Power Sector**

regimes.

The U.S. recognized the leadership of Nigeria in attaining the status of EITI compliant country. Both sides pledged to work together to continue the process of ensuring the adoption of transparent rules and regulations in the extractive industries sector. The U.S. briefed the Federal Government of Nigeria on recent developments in the United States, including the Cardin -Lugar Energy Security Through Transparency Provision to the 2010 Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act which will complement the work of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

The United States

reaffirmed the strong interest in the U.S. private sector in investing in Nigeria and their interest in Nigeria's steps to create a stable investment climate. U.S. private sector support agencies such as the U.S. Trade and

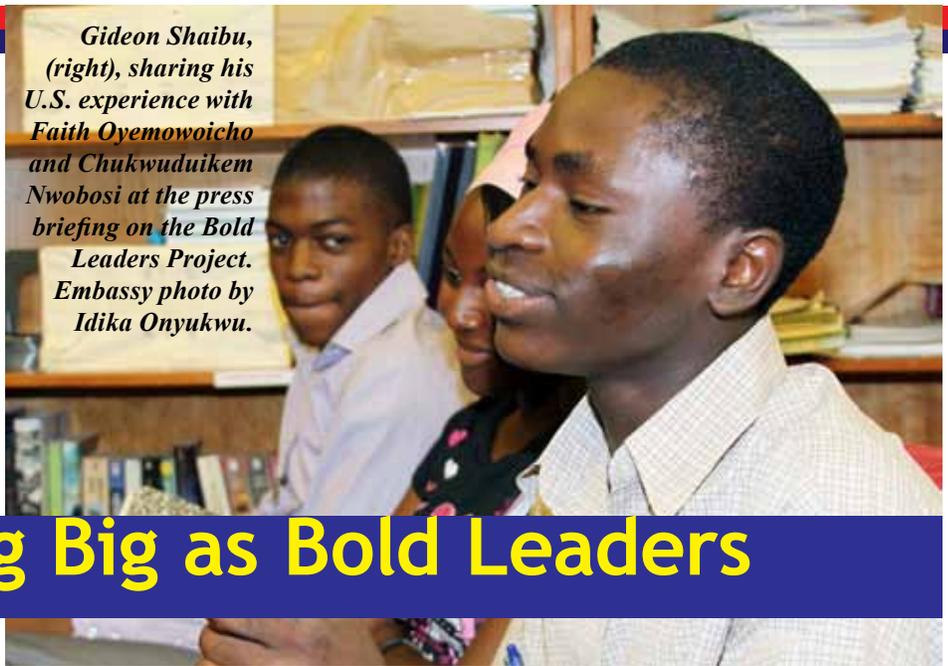
Development Agency, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, and the U.S. Export-Import Bank are committed to assess and make available financing for commercially viable projects. ❖

Minister of Power Prof. Barth Nnaji (right), holding discussions with U.S. BNC Energy and Investment delegation led by Ambassador Carlos Pascual (center).



“Over 500 Nigerian students and youth leaders have travelled to the United States for visits ranging from four weeks to one year.”

Gideon Shaibu, (right), sharing his U.S. experience with Faith Oyemowoicho and Chukwuduikem Nwobosi at the press briefing on the Bold Leaders Project. Embassy photo by Idika Onyukwu.



Thinking Big as Bold Leaders

“I discovered it is what’s inside you that counts.” “I couldn’t believe how close American families are.” “We must accept self-responsibility, and use our voices.” These are some of the lessons and impressions that three young Nigerians brought back with them after spending one month in the United States last spring. Speaking to members of the press in the Rosa Parks Information Center at the US embassy in Abuja, Faith Oyemowoicho, Gideon Shaibu, and Chukwubuikem Nwobosi described the American adventure they experienced as participants in the African Bold Leaders Project -- a special youth exchange program that brought 40 students from Nigeria, Tanzania, South Africa, and Kenya to the United States.

Accompanied by a principal from the FCT Secondary Education Board, Hajiya Safiya Yahaya Ndanusa, the Nigerians first traveled to Colorado where they participated in a series of workshops and training sessions designed to build trust, promote self-discovery, develop self-confidence, and encourage them to become community changers. All agreed the best part of their trip was when they got to spend two weeks living in the homes of Denver residents. The warm welcome and generous hospitality they received made them feel right at home. They became part

of their host families -- they ate meals, played games, shopped in malls, talked through the night, and visited relatives and friends as though they were family members themselves.

Hajiya Safiya Yahaya Ndanusa described her stay with a distinguished lawyer and law professor, who was also Jewish, as remarkable. “Here we were – me a Muslim and my host family, Jewish – and yet my experience was excellent! We had early morning discussions; they were charming and so hospitable. It makes me wonder where our conflicts come from here in Nigeria.” The friendships and close relations so quickly made but solidly established caused many a teary eye at the Denver airport on the day the group left for a week of tourism in Washington, DC.

The embassy’s acting Cultural Affairs Officer, David Andresen, described the Bold Leaders Program as people-to-people diplomacy at its best – the kind of exchange program that builds and strengthens U.S.-Nigeria relations. He noted in addition to the Bold Leaders program, the U.S. Mission in Nigeria is involved in several other student-oriented projects, such as the ‘Study of the U.S. Institute for Student Leaders,’ the ‘Foreign Language Teaching Assistant Program,’ and ‘Youth Exchange and Study.’

As a follow-on assignment to their American experience, each of the three students was asked to plan and carryout some kind of community or school project.

- Gideon has started work on a small green house at his school, where students will be able to grow healthy herbs and nourishing green vegetables to augment the meals served at their school.

- Chukwubuikem plans to sponsor a primary-school aged child, paying his tuition fees and buying the books, pens etc. needed by the pupil.

- Faith intends to startup a Bold Leaders Club in her school, where she will encourage and help other students to become active and engaged members of the community and contributing citizens of the country.

Over 500 Nigerian students and youth leaders have travelled to the United States for visits ranging from four weeks to one year. While in America, they get to interact with students, teachers, community leaders, representatives of youth organizations, and government officials in various locations. So far, these young Nigerians have all returned from their American sojourn motivated and energized to change for the better Nigerian society and the country at large. ❖



Participating Alumni pose with officials of the U.S. Embassy, Abuja.

Social Media Unites U.S.G Sponsored Alumni

Dr. Raymond B. Bako, Fulbright Alumni Association President and Ahmadu Bello University lecturer, welcomed more than 30 participants to an August 11 workshop “Using Social Media to Build an Alumni Power Base.” Held on the ABU campus in Zaria, Dr. Bako brought together Nigerian academics, NGO civil society activists, youth leaders, and others who have participated in short term exchange and long term training programs sponsored by the American government. The day long program highlighted how using social media tools – internet-based programs and sites like Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, State Alumni etc. – can strengthen alumni associations’ outreach and membership efforts.

Workshop participants examined and debated a number of social media practices and concerns, especially those dealing with acceptable policies and usage procedures for social

media networking. They discussed best practices in connecting and interacting with alumni via social media tools, and shared their ideas and experiences in dealing with Nigerian servers’ technical challenges and system weaknesses.

Whether the aim is better coordination within US-Nigeria alumni associations (Fulbright, Humphrey, IVLP, Eisenhower), exchanging program ideas with fellow

alumni throughout the country, or seeking help from others in community-building projects – social media was shown to be a terrific means to get the good word out, and to let others give a helping hand to a good cause. One articulate attendee stated it thus: “as Alumni members, we must be the vanguard for change in Nigeria; the challenge falls on us to better communicate, coordinate and cooperate in our efforts to build up our communities.”❖



A lively exchange of ideas at the Social Media workshop.

For those based in Lagos, some of you may have noticed an odd looking ship docked at Apapa on August 1. It was the U.S. High Speed Vessel Swift (HSV 2) which was in town to host a Maritime Stakeholders Conference on board the vessel. Prior to the start of this conference, members of the Nigerian Navy participated in a joint training program on board the ship. Finally, as part of the Project Handclasp program, on August 10 humanitarian goods were donated to various organizations in Lagos to help with their own assistance measures to Nigerians.

The aim of the conference was to share maritime security best practices from a civilian and military perspective, to better understand the tools Nigeria already possesses to ensure maritime security, and to further establish a comprehensive approach among key stakeholders on how to achieve security goals. The conference also provided a forum for dialogue between U.S. and Nigerian maritime professionals, so that both partners can learn from each other's experiences and problem solving methods.

Representatives from the Nigerian



U.S. Navy Capt. David Rollo briefing the press.

U.S.-Nigeria: Sharing Maritime Security

Navy, Indigenous Ship Owners Association, Nigerian Association of Master Mariners, Nigerian Initiative for Oceanography and Marine Research, and Nigerian Trawlers Association attended the conference.

Nigerian Navy Commodore Adejimi Osinowo facilitated the conference, along with U.S. Navy Capt. David Rollo, West Africa Maritime Affairs Officer. Osinowo served as the Deputy Commander of Africa Partnership Station West aboard USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44) from November 2009 to May 2010.

The U.S. Navy's Rear Adm. Kenneth J. Norton, U.S. Naval Forces Europe-Africa Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategy, Resources, and Plans,

and acting U.S. Consul General to Lagos Carl Cockburn also attended the conference.

High Speed Vessel Swift, a ship that is crewed by both civilian mariners and military service members, is a unique example of civil-mil teamwork and unity at sea. Swift's civilian captain, Capt. Nicholas St. Jean, and the military detachment's officer-in-charge, Lt. Cmdr. Charles E. Eaton, also shared their experiences and insights with participants.

Swift arrived in Lagos Aug. 1 as part of Africa Partnership Station. APS focuses on building cooperative partnerships with regional maritime services in order to achieve common international goals, primarily stability and security.

APS began in October 2007 with the deployment of Swift and USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) to West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea. Now in its fourth year, maritime partners continue a mission that has grown to bring together 34 African, European and South American countries. APS is motivated by the belief that effective maritime security and safety will contribute to development, economic prosperity and security ashore within Africa. ❖



Nigerian and U.S. Navy Officers pose for a group photo in Lagos.

USAID @ 50 Photo Exhibition

One of the glowing attributes of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in Nigeria is assisting the country in building a sustainable, well-governed democracy. This effort was demonstrated again on August 24, when the Mission Director, Dana Mansuri, hosted an exhibition to showcase a collection of photos depicting life-changing activities of USAID Nigeria in the last 50 years. "The photographs exhibited on these walls demonstrate the partnership between Nigeria and the United States over the last fifty years. They succinctly illuminate how the United States is helping Nigeria to transform into a developed nation," said Mansuri. Ambassador Terence McCulley declared the photo exhibition open.

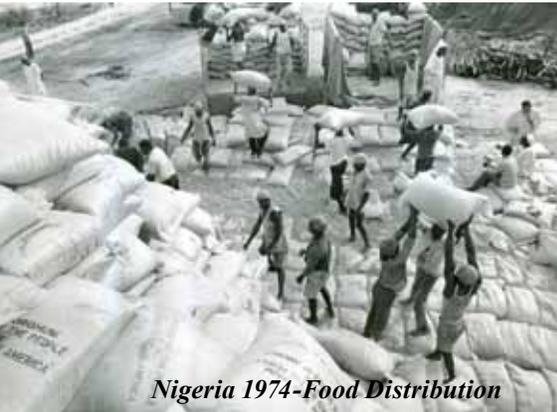


Ambassador Terence McCulley making remarks before opening 'USAID at 50' photo exhibition. Embassy photo Idika

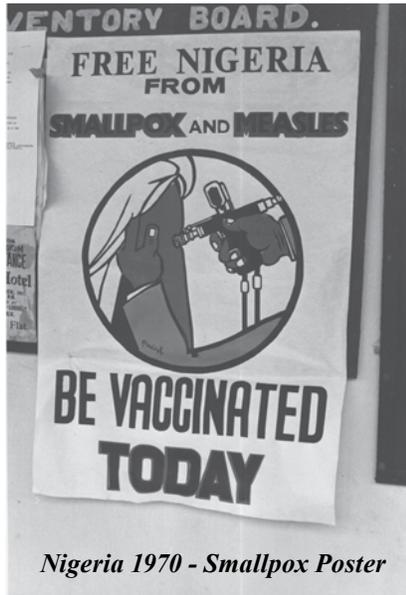


Ambassador Terence McCulley and Dana Mansuri view some of the photos on display. Embassy photo by Idika Onyukwu

Memories of USAID in Nigeria: 50 Years Later



Nigeria 1974-Food Distribution



Nigeria 1970 - Smallpox Poster



Nigeria 1964-Agric. Extension



HIV/AIDS- Testing



Nigeria 1964-Agric. Superintendent



Mother and Child receive health services

IRC Membership News

The mission of the **Information Resource Centers (IRCs)** is to advance the Mission's Public Diplomacy goal of having American values respected in Nigeria by identifying, partnering with, and strategically disseminating information to Nigeria's institutions and contacts that influence policy and public opinion on issues central to U.S. interests.

Please register at <http://tinyurl.com/ircregistration> For any enquiries, please write to us: ircabuja@state.gov (North) and wylagos@state.gov (South)

Vol. 4 No. 7&8

September/October 2011

Labor Day: Celebrating America's Workers



Labor Day is celebrated by Americans each year on the first Monday of September to honor the contributions of workers in the United States. A U.S. federal holiday since 1894, Labor Day also marks the unofficial end of summer. Around the country, people hold Labor Day parades like the one seen here in Dubuque, Iowa, featuring a parade float with workers perched on utility poles. In honor of the day, here are a few facts about American workers:

JOBS AND PAYCHECKS

The U.S. unemployment rate was 9.1 percent in August 2011. (Since 1948, unemployment has averaged 5.7 percent, dipping to a record low of 2.5 percent in 1953 and reaching a historical high of 10.8 percent in 1982.) The jobs outlook, of great concern during the present climate of economic uncertainty, will be addressed by President Obama in a major speech September 8. As of 2008, women slightly outnumbered men in managerial and professional occupations (26.4 million versus 24.7 million), according to the U.S. Census Bureau... Read more at <http://goo.gl/mKN1o>

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eJournal USA:

Climate Action Goes Local

(Released on August 31, 2011)

As a global phenomenon, climate change is an issue that we usually look to the international community to address. Local communities, however, are increasingly taking the lead in developing innovative, grass-roots approaches to mitigating and combating the causes and effects of global warming. According to a study by the United Nations Development Programme, most investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to climate change must take place at the local level. In the United States, local governments and private citizens have been collaborating to curb those emissions, without waiting for solutions at the national or international level.

Read more: <http://goo.gl/S7DiW> (online)

eJournal USA:

Global Water Issues

(Released on July 18, 2011)

Global Water Issues explores the political, social and economic challenges presented by threats to Earth's most vital natural resource. With a foreword by U.S. Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs Maria Otero, Global Water Issues describes how this ecological emergency affects population centers, human health, climate and food security.

Read more: Read more: <http://goo.gl/cjTX7>

PODCASTS

Retired Justice O'Connor on Current Issues in U.S. Legal System

America's legal system has gone through many changes and has grown over the years. The fact that the American judicial establishment has remained effective for so long is a tribute to its design, even as the system becomes more complex and the number of cases has grown.

Read more: Listen to it or read full-text: <http://goo.gl/jnFyH>