



Notes from the Warm Heart of Africa



Our children may learn about the heroes of the past. Our task is to make ourselves the architects of the future. — Jomo Kenyatta

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U.S. and Malawi Sign Landmark HIV/AIDS Assistance Document



Secretary Mwadiwa and Ambassador Bodde sign the landmark Partnership Framework.

Together, the Governments of the United States and Malawi took a large step forward in the ongoing fight against HIV/AIDS. On May 18, U.S. Ambassador to Malawi Peter W. Bodde and Secretary to the Treasury Randson Mwadiwa, signed a landmark document that establishes a new framework for the partnership between the U.S. and Malawi in fighting HIV/AIDS in Malawi.

Under the “Partnership Framework,” the United States assistance in fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Malawi will double to US\$45 million this year. The document also establishes a new foundation on which the United States and Malawi will collaborate to improve the health policy environment in the country.

The new pact puts increased focus on reducing new HIV infections, improving the quality of treatment and care and mitigating the impacts on individuals and households. These objectives are to be achieved within a framework of enhanced Malawian leadership and ownership of the overall response.

Ambassador Bodde commented to the Malawian and American officials at the signing event, “Not only is this the first framework document of its kind, it will

Spotlight On...



Madalitso Chisale, Project Management Specialist, Sustainable Economic Growth team, was born in Kasungu, in her early days she attended several primary schools in the Lilongwe area. Madalitso attended Kasungu Secondary school from 1996 to 2000 and later obtained her Bachelors of Science at University of Malawi, Polytechnic in Environmental Science and Technology in 2000.

Soon after graduation she started work at the Environmental Affairs Department under a project funded by the Danish International Agency (DANIDA) where she handled capacity development and

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serve as the model for those that follow in other countries. Your work in negotiating and finalizing this plan will undoubtedly have a tremendous impact on many people’s lives. Let me emphasize however, negotiating and signing the document is the easy part – the real work of implementing it begins now.” Secretary Mwadiwa warmly thanked the Ambassador for this new partnership arrangement between the two governments, and he committed his government to fully and successfully implementing the plan.

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Important Dates

Independence Day (US)	07/04
Independence Day (Malawi)	07/06
Tikwere/IRI broadcasts end (to resume next school year)	07/20

Welcome

USAID/ Malawi would like to welcome these two new staff members:



Martin Mtika, HIV/AIDS Prevention Specialist, who joined the Health Team.



Jean-Rose Lukhere, Chauffeur, who joined the Executive Office/ Motor pool

Financial Management Office (FMO) Corner

Managing Time and Attendance (Part II) by Anthony Banda



What is an automated time and attendance system? This is a system that includes a card-reading computer terminal, which reads an employee's identity card. All entries require the use of the identity card.

Internal Controls: Below are a few examples of the principal controls to be considered by institutions that would like to introduce an automated time and attendance system:

- Employee identity document must be controlled so that no number is duplicated and the cards are only issued to authorized users.
- Employee must clock-in and out by using their ID.

- Time charges may only be entered into the terminal by the employee using a pre-coded job card obtained from his/her supervisor in conjunction with employee I.D.

- Job cards are to be pre-coded and controlled through a numeric system

- Distribution and collection of job cards must be well-controlled.

- New employees must be trained to use the system.

- Only the employee may use his or her I.D. to enter a time charge in the terminal.

Responsibility for preparing time and attendance as well as performance and exception reports must be segregated from the preparation and distribution of payroll as well as performance within operating budgets.

Overtime hours are to be justified and approved in advance. Supervisors will review daily reports to assure validity and accuracy of all time charges by their employees.

USAID and Pfizer Inc. Donate HPLC Machine to Malawi Bureau of Standards

On June 18, Pfizer, a major US-based pharmaceutical company, donated a High Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) machine to the Malawi Bureau of Standards (MBS). The HPLC machine, valued at approximately US\$50,000, arrived in Malawi in August 2008. Installations and testing were completed in April 2009. Several dignitaries attended a formal handover ceremony, including Ms. Lebo Taunyane, Associate Director, Worldwide Corporate Responsibility & Philanthropy, Pfizer; U.S. Ambassador Peter Bodde; USAID/Malawi Mission Director Curt Reintsma and Principal Secretary, Ministry of Trade and Industry, Newby Kumwembe. The donation was made possible through the collaboration between USAID and Pfizer under USAID's Global Development Alliance (GDA) initiative.

The donation of the HPLC machine will assist the MBS in conducting various analyses of food, such as the determination of the nutrient values. It will also enable the bureau to identify banned or substandard ingredients that may be found in food products. The new equipment will also allow MBS laboratories to test more parameters and speed the

the delivery of analytical services to its customers in its pursuit of high quality food products for all Malawians. This donation complements ongoing work that USAID/Malawi is supporting in the health and nutrition sectors.

U.S. Ambassador Peter Bodde highlighted the importance of the equipment, saying "It will enable the MBS to better identify – and regulate – products that are banned or that contain substandard ingredients, a process that has obvious benefits for the health of Malawians." Ambassador Bodde added that "This project truly is an example of the private sector working hand-in-hand with the public sector to achieve spectacular results in addressing the development needs of Malawi."

The GDA initiative has enabled USAID missions around the world to leverage greater resources – technical, human and financial – that exist within the private sector to address developmental needs. Since the launch of the GDA in 2001, a major shift has occurred in the ratio of U.S. funding for development assistance. For example, in 1970 roughly 70% of assistance to the developing world was Official Development Assistance, and 30% from the private sector.



Ambassador Bodde and Lebo Taunyane, Pfizer, present the HPLC Machine to the Malawi Bureau of Standards

Today, the percentages are roughly reversed.

In his remarks Ambassador Bodde saluted Charlie Shafran, Vice President for Strategic Planning at Pfizer/USA and Pfizer Global Health "for their generosity and corporate citizenship in making the donation of the HPLC machine possible." Charlie was seconded from Pfizer to work with Malawian organizations on their business plans, a global GDA between USAID and Pfizer.

USAID/Malawi has cultivated 22 public-private alliances over the last eight years, which have facilitated access to more low-cost financing options for the public, improved agricultural productivity, strengthened health care services.

Spotlight Continued

environmental issues. Some of her most memorable moments at Environmental Affairs were her participation in the development of the 2002 National State of the Environment Report and the National Environment Action Plan.

In 2003 Madalitso decided to pursue further studies. She was accepted at the University of Reading, United Kingdom where she did her Masters Degree in Plant Diversity through a scholarship from the World Wildlife-Henry Nsanjama Foundation.

After completing her studies Madalitso returned to Malawi and

joined the Wildlife Environmental Society of Malawi (WESM), one of the biggest environmental organizations dealing with environmental education issues in Malawi. As Lilongwe Branch Manager Madalitso was in charge of various projects and played a crucial role in the implementation of community conservation activities; including training communities around Dzalanyama forest reserve, one of the tourist attractions in Malawi, and also considered as one of the nine major national wildlife reserves in the country.

In 2008 Madalitso joined the Sustainable Economic Growth team at USAID/Malawi. Madalitso works closely with USAID/Malawi partners in ensuring that environmental compliance procedures are followed in all USAID development activities in the country. Madalitso has also conducted various environmental trainings for USAID staff and implementing partners focusing on safety issues.

Outside of USAID Madalitso is a big fan of Gospel music. **Thank you and keep up the great work Mada!!**

Trailblazing Chief Leads the Way to Positive Living

—Courtesy Abra Pollock, Pact Malawi

By the time Matunkha Center community nurse Ineke Selles visited Oswel Zgambo at his home in Lupoka Village, Zgambo weighed a mere 120 lbs (54 kg). Zgambo, or Chief Lupoka, as the group village headman of Lupoka, is more commonly known, was so weakened by the HIV virus that he could barely walk. With nurse Selles' help, the two traveled together to the nearest hospital in the area, northern Malawi's Rumphi District, so that Chief Lupoka could begin antiretroviral (ARV) treatment.

The chief regained his physical strength by taking ARVs and supplementing his meals with Likuni Phala, a nutritional porridge that was provided to him by the Center. Yet back at home, Chief Lupoka felt debilitated by stigma. "Discrimination is another disease, apart from HIV" he observed. Determined to overcome this challenge too, Chief Lupoka joined the Kutemwa Support Group, one of the 13 community based organizations (CBOs), affiliated with the Matunkha Center.

"The group's members were very interested that a chief had joined their group," Chief Lupoka recalls, especially since he was the first



Chief Lupoka at his homestead

chief in the area to become involved in a People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) support group. Through the Kutemwa group, Chief Lupoka found strength and comfort in the company of fellow members, who participate in group therapy sessions, organize outreach activities, and provide home-based care and childcare to community members. He found meaning in the "memory books" that group members are encouraged to create, documenting their life stories and outlining their wishes and living wills.

The Matunkha Center, a 2009-2011 Pact Malawi grantee, with funding from USAID/Malawi, strengthens the capacity of local service providers in the surrounding rural areas. With their USAID sub-grant, the Center scales up HIV prevention programs for youth and the compre-

hensive care and support programs for the 300+ PLWHA and 2500+ orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) in the area. Matunkha works towards this goal by partnering with local community organizations, each of whom have subcommittees on a number of different health topics. Although there are currently 130 members that take part in the support groups, many believe the number of potential members to be much greater.

With funding from the United States (U.S.) President's Emergency Program for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and capacity building support from Pact, Matunkha aims to grow their membership by 150% by the end of 2010.

Impressed by his level of involvement, Kutemwa Support Group has since made Chief Lupoka its chairman. He has taken advantage of this mantle to encourage his fellow chiefs to become involved.

"Nowadays, because I've been talking to people, other chiefs who are HIV positive have joined support groups."

Mission Awards



Ambassador Bodde and USAID Mission Director Curt Reintsma congratulate Robert Katuya.



Ambassador Bodde poses with "On the Spot Award



Ambassador Bodde and Mission Director Curt Reintsma present an award to Benson Kanyanda.



Kusala Kumsinda receives an award presented by Ambassador Bodde and USAID Mission Director Curt Reintsma.



Patrick Wesner and Peter Ganser are presented with Franklin Awards by Ambassador Bodde & DCM Sullivan.



Ambassador Bodde poses with Safe Driving Award winners.

Congratulations

USAID/Malawi would like to congratulate the following employees who received an award at the Mission Award Ceremony on May 29, 2009 hosted by Ambassador Peter Bodde: **Meritorious Step Increase Awards:** Fredrick Nyirenda, Kusala Kumsinda and Mark Misomali. **Cash Awards:** FMO Team, Benson Kanyanda, Eustacia Chumbu, Pauline Rashid, Patricia Ziwa and Phillip Kasambara. **Safe Driving Awards:** Redson Mitengo (7yrs), Stodard Mazambaizo (6yrs), Eddie Sinoya (6yrs), Mabvuto Mvula (6yrs), Ganizani Gama (5yrs), Shadrick Phiri (4yrs), Mathias Alexander (3yrs), Faston Makondetsa (2yrs), Bengamin Mukhodya (1yr), Evans Kalima (1yr), Felexon Maluwa (1yr), Raymond Khanganya (1yr). **Length of Service Awards:** Faston Makondetsa (20 yrs), Mark Misomali (15 yrs) and Redson Mitengo (10yrs), **Franklin Award:** Patrick Wesner and Peter Ganser (DoS). **Group Awards:** the FMO Team. **Interagency Award to Malawi PEPFAR Team:** Matt Barnhart, Angela Odiachi, Catherine Brokenshire-Scott, Lily Banda-Maliro, Alisa Cameron, Patricia Ziwa, Ndasowa Chitule, Violet Orchardson, Roseth Bongwe, Kate Wolf. **On the Spot Cash Awards:** Theresa Kumsinda, Ernest Chikweza, Robert Masankhula, Howard Useni, Samson Mwanza, William Ndhlamini, Glory Gunde, Frederick Mtuluko, Nobby Mulinga, Tony Ndalama, Bowden Kamanga, Henry Kijingo, Mwiza Mathotho, Lucky Likongwe. **A big congratulations to all and keep up the great work!!**

HIV/AIDS Assistance Continued

Malawi is the first country to sign a partnership framework following the re-authorization in 2008 of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR II). The U.S. Mission in Malawi negotiated the framework with Malawi's Ministry of Health, Ministry of Women and Child Development, and other relevant agencies, coordinated through the National AIDS Commission.

The United States leads the world with its financial support in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. Since the establishment of the initial PEPFAR legislation in 2004, the U.S. Government's total contribution to this fight has risen from US\$2.3 billion to US\$6 billion in 2008. The U.S. is also the largest contributor to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, providing over 33% of total contributions.

Note from the editor: If you have exciting and relevant information, please share it with Ulemu Malindi, Development Outreach and Communications Specialist, for possible addition to the newsletter. Please send to umalindi@usaid.gov