# CROSSROADS

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A Newsletter of the U. S. Mission in Nigeria

# An AIDS-Free Generation is Possible

# Special Tribute Marines @ 237th Anniversary

*Marines welcome Ambassador McCulley to the Marine Ball on November 10. Photo by Idika Onyukwu.*

In a special tribute to members of the U.S. Marine Corps held in Abuja on November 10, U.S. Ambassador Terence P. McCulley said the efforts of the elite fighting force in providing security to U.S. embassies and consulates, including the U.S. Mission in Nigeria, have kept everyone safe. He spoke at a well-attended celebration marking the 237th birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

"We esteem the contribution you make to our community; we value your service; we are happy and proud to have you among us," said Ambassador McCulley.

The colorful event was attended by embassy staff, members of the diplomatic community, and other special guests.

The Marine Security Guard program dates back to 1940s, and November 10 is recognized as the date the Corps was established. The Corps is charged with the responsibility of providing security to all U.S. Foreign Missions worldwide. As far back as 1800, Marines have found themselves as protectors of American lives and property, and in the words of Secretary Clinton "they truly do not just stand at Post One; they stand for the United States, and we are all the better for it."❖

## Ambassador's Notes

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

Dear *CROSSROADS* Readers: Season's Greetings.

It has been an impressive year for the U.S.-Nigeria relationship as evident with several high profile visitors, including Secretary of State Hilary Clinton in August. The work of the Bi-National Commission, through its many working groups such as energy and transparency and good governance, along with the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement all further strengthened our friendship between our two great countries.

This edition of *CROSSROADS* centers primarily on global health, transparency, trade and investment, with a special call to aid-receiving nations like Nigeria to increase their commitment to HIV/AIDS prevention and other domestic health programs.

Access to water and proper sanitation are incredibly important for all Nigerians and related directly to good health. You can read about a laudatory water and sanitation project in Bauchi State on page 13. Such programs are all linked to fighting corruption to ensure more Nigerians have access to basic amenities.

I look forward to continue working with our Nigerian friends in the coming year to reach even more milestones related to democracy and good governance, as well as trade and investment.

Happy Holidays, and may 2013 bring peace and prosperity to us all.

*Ambassador Terence P. McCulley*


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# An AIDS-free Generation *is Possible*

*At the commissioning of U.S. Embassy-supported Seed Storage Center in Garko, Kano. Photo by Idika Onyukwu.*

## *Secretary Clinton Urges aid-receiving nations to step up their commitment to HIV/AIDS prevention and other domestic health programs*

***By Charlene Porter***

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced November 8 the United States is striving to create an "AIDS-free generation," and is calling on other nations, donors and international organizations to embrace the same goal.

In the 30 years since first identification of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) as the agent causing Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), Clinton said, the world has now reached a "historic opportunity" to overcome the disease and the human suffering and social disintegration it causes.

Clinton defined an AIDS-free generation as one where no babies are born infected with their mother's HIV in the womb; no adults risk exposure to the virus because prevention efforts are so thorough; and any person who does contract HIV receives treatment to prevent the development of AIDS.

Speaking at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, Maryland, one of the world's leading scientific organizations engaged in countering the disease, Clinton said an AIDS-free generation has been "unimaginable" in the past, but is now possible "because of scientific advances largely funded by the United States and new practices put in place by this administration and our many partners."

According to the latest global estimate calculated by the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), about 2.6 million people were newly infected with HIV in 2009, a decline of nearly 500,000 from the number of new infections a decade before. The statistic provides evidence that scientifically proven prevention

methods do work.

Clinton said expanding the adoption of those methods will be a critical step toward achieving an AIDS-free generation. The secretary of state named three prevention techniques that have proven their effectiveness:

• Medications to stop mother-to-child transmission (MTCT) of HIV during pregnancy and at birth.

• Male circumcision, shown to correlate with lower HIV prevalence rates for both biologic and social reasons.

• Drug treatment for HIV-positive persons, proven to reduce the virus in the bloodstream and to lower the risk of transmission to a sexual partner.

The United States recently granted $50 million to several research organizations to develop better data on how prevention strategies can be best applied in different communities and among different populations. Clinton announced November 8 a further $60 million investment to fund a rapid scale-up of combination prevention strategies in four sub-Saharan African nations.

Clinton's determination to strive for an AIDS-free generation comes several months after the United Nations held a special session on HIV/AIDS, adopting a declaration reaffirming the international community's commitment "to end the epidemic with renewed political will and strong, accountable leadership and to work in meaningful partnership with all stakeholders at all levels to implement bold and decisive actions."

***Secretary of State Hillary Clinton during an HID/AIDS campaign in Malawi.***

Ending the occurrence of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by 2015 was among the goals set at that June 2011 U.N. General Assembly meeting. After that announcement, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) announced an additional $75 million to invest in MTCT prevention efforts. This funding came on top of the almost $300 million that PEPFAR provides annually to protect newborns from infection.

PEPFAR was established in 2003 and became the largest commitment to elimination of a global disease ever made by a single nation. The U.S. Congress renewed the program in 2008 with authorization to spend $48 billion on HIV/AIDS and other disease programs through 2013.

Top officials at UNAIDS welcomed Clinton's announcement. "Leadership from the United States has been vital to the AIDS response to date and will be key to seizing this historic opportunity," said Michel Sidibé, executive director of the Geneva-based organization. "Secretary Clinton has reaffirmed the United States government's strong commitment to this effort and has described a vision that should inspire us all. I hope that her call will galvanize leadership from around the globe to accelerate efforts to end the AIDS epidemic."

Clinton urged other donor nations and organizations to step up their efforts consistent with these new goals, but she also called on aid-receiving nations to step up their commitment to HIV/AIDS prevention and other domestic health programs. Though she did not name them, Clinton said some countries have been counting on PEPFAR or other donors to provide all the funding for their health programs while they devote national resources to other infrastructure programs. The U.S. secretary of state said that has to stop.

"More countries need to follow the lead of South Africa, Nigeria, Senegal, Rwanda, Zambia and others that are committing larger shares of their own budgets to HIV/AIDS," Clinton said.

The Obama administration's heightened commitment to prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other global health programs comes at a time when U.S. lawmakers and the public are applying intense scrutiny to national spending and budget deficits. Some participants in that ongoing debate say the United States should cut back international development and health assistance as a means of reducing spending. Clinton had a ready answer for that argument.

"When so many people are suffering and we have the means to help them, we have an obligation to do what we can," Clinton said.❖

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*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs.)*

*Winners of the HIV/AIDS Rap Contest--Government Secondary School Gwarimpa (GSSG), performing at the 'AIDS-free Generation"competition in Abuja. Photo by Idika Onyukwu.*

# Youth Promote HIV/AIDS Awareness with Rap Music

***By Angela Colson, CDC Nigeria***

In recognition of World AIDS Day, the U.S. Mission to Nigeria hosted a youth rap contest focusing on the theme of an "AIDS-free Generation." Students from 16 secondary schools in Abuja used HIV/AIDS educational information to create rap songs that express their understanding and enthusiasm for an "AIDS-free Generation" in Nigeria. GSS Gwarimpa was named the winner of the contest. The event was supported by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Team in Nigeria, including USAID, U.S. Centers for Disease Control-Nigeria, and U.S. Department of Defense/Walter Reed.

The U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, Terence P. McCulley, served as a judge for the contest and spoke at the event. "World AIDS Day is a day to commemorate the millions of lives lost and families affected by HIV/AIDS. It also allows us to recognize the courageous individuals living with HIV who bear the burden of this disease every day," he said. "As a tribute to these individuals, the U.S. will pursue the goal of an AIDS-free generation."

He added a special note to the participants: "For centuries, the youth have been a force to reckon with in the advancement of development. Your presence here today, underscores your determination to be a part of the movement for an AIDS-free generation."

Victor Ogbodo, Acting Chief of Party FHI360, C-Change Project, and Eze Ezekwesivi, Events Coordinator, Open-Mic Forum Nigeria, also served as judges.

World AIDS Day is held on December 1 each year and is an opportunity for people worldwide to unite in the fight against HIV, show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died. The U.S. theme for 2012—"Working Together for an AIDS-free Generation"—highlights the promise of new research and prevention efforts that help stop the spread of HIV. On November 29, 2012, Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, commemorated World AIDS Day

2012 and unveiled the PEPFAR Blueprint: Creating an AIDS-free Generation that provides a roadmap for how the U.S. government will work to help achieve an AIDS-free generation. Read more about the Blueprint.

Additional World AIDS Day Activities Supported by the U.S. Mission to Nigeria:

- November 30, 2012: Wear RED day. Mission employees, families, and partners wore red in support of World AIDS Day.
- November 30, 2012: Showing of "And the Band Played On" at the Rosa Parks Library in the U.S. Embassy to Nigeria (Abuja).
- December 1, 2012: Premiere of the movie "The Inside Story: The Science of HIV/AIDS" in Lagos, Nigeria at Silverbird Theater.❖

*Ambassador McCulley presents the winning prize to GSS Gwarimpa.*

*Ambassador McCulley presents consolation prize to a participant.*

## An AIDS-free Generation

In her speech on November 8, 2011, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called on the United States and other countries to use recent scientific breakthroughs to create an AIDS-free generation. An AIDS-free generation means that

- Virtually no children are born infected with the HIV virus;
- As these children become teens and adults, they are at far lower risk of becoming infected than they would be today, thanks to a wide range of HIV prevention tools; and,
- If they do acquire the HIV virus, they have access to treatment that helps prevent them from developing AIDS and passing the virus to other.

## About HIV/AIDS in Nigeria

Nigeria carries the second heaviest burden of HIV in Africa and has an expanding population of people living with HIV.

HIV/AIDS in Nigeria: Key Facts 2012

| | |
|---|---|
| National Median HIV Prevalence | 4.1% |
| Estimated Number of People Living with HIV | 3,459,363 |
| Number of people requiring Antiretroviral Therapy | 1,499,166 |
| Number of people on Antiretroviral Therapy | 395,569 |
| New HIV Infections | 388,864 |
| Annual AIDS Death | 217,148 |

*Source: UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic, Country Progress Report, Nigeria, National Agency for the Control of AIDS,2012.*

The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has provided more than $2.5 billion U.S. dollars to fight HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. Since its inception in 2004, PEPFAR has achieved encouraging results and made significant contributions to Nigeria's HIV response including supporting life-saving anti-retroviral treatment for more than 488,000 Nigerians. Additionally, 4.2 million people have benefitted from community outreach programs and other HIV prevention interventions.

# American Visas and U.S. Citizens Services

## *What Every Intending Traveller Needs to Know*

The U.S. Mission in Nigeria would like to highlight procedures for renewal of passports by U.S. citizens and steps which prospective applicants for non-immigrant visas (NIVs) to the United States should take.

U.S. citizens are reminded that all non-emergency U.S. Citizen Services such as U.S. passport renewal are provided by appointment only. Appointments for U.S. passport renewal as well as for all other non-emergency citizen services can be made by visiting the link below: **https://evisaforms.state.gov/acs/defaultasp?postcode=LGS&appcode=1**

Complete information on U.S. passport renewal requirements, as well as downloadable forms, is available at www.travel.state.gov or by viewing this document: **http://photos.state.gov/libraries/nigeria/487468/pdfs/CRBA_checklist_and_procedure.pdf**

U.S. citizens who plan to travel are encouraged to always plan as far ahead as possible; U.S. passports are printed in the United States and take 2 to 3 weeks to prepare.

All prospective nonimmigrant visa (NIV) applicants MUST possess a valid passport. Immigration regulations of the United States as well as those of many other countries require that passports be valid for AT LEAST six months beyond the dates of travel. If your passport is due to expire within six months of your planned dates of travel, please renew your passport BEFORE you make an appointment.

The NIV appointment system for the U.S. Mission in Nigeria is managed by a third-party provider through the U.S. Travel Docs website. All NIV appointments must be made through the U.S. Travel Docs website directly. For detailed instructions on how to book a visa appointment in Lagos or Abuja and for detailed information on the required costs and documentation visit: **http://nigeria.usembassy.gov** under the "Visas" tab.

The U.S. Mission in Nigeria strongly encourages prospective applicants to book appointments themselves and does not endorse the use of third-party services, including "touts" or "fixers," to book or broker NIV appointments. The current wait time for an NIV appointment is under 10 days in both Lagos and Abuja.

To reschedule, expedite or cancel an appointment, please visit **www.ustraveldocs.com/ng/** and log in to the account you created when you made your original appointment BEFORE the original appointment date. Follow the instructions provided on that page. You may also contact the country-wide NIV appointment call center by phone at **(+234) 9460-1748.**

Prospective applicants should note that the printing of NIVs takes three business days from the time of the interview. Due to volume and logistical necessities, we are unable to expedite NIV printing. As a result, the U.S. Mission in Nigeria strongly advises prospective applicants against making irrevocable travel plans until they have their passport and NIV in hand.

For prospective applicants that have individual questions regarding the NIV application process, please email them to **LagosNIV@state.gov** or to **ConsularAbuja@state.gov.**

*U.S. Trade Representative Florizelle Liser (l), shakes hands with Nigeria Minister of Trade Olusegun Aganga (r) at 7th TIFA Meeting. At center is the U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires Jim McAnulty. Embassy photo by Idika Onyukwu.*

# Bilateral Trade

## *the Way to go*

Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Africa Florizelle B. Liser met December 4, with the Nigerian Minister of Trade and Investment Olusegun Olutoyin Aganga to discuss progress made during the seventh meeting of the U.S.-Nigeria Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council, held today in Nigeria's capital city. Assistant USTR Liser and Minister Aganga discussed several common objectives, including market access, cooperation in the World Trade Organization (WTO), issues affecting the commercial environment, implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), intellectual property rights, and improving the bilateral investment climate between the United States and Nigeria.

Nigeria is the United States' 14th largest goods trading partner with $42.2 billion in two-way goods trade in 2008, an 18 percent increase over 2007.

"Under our TIFA, we worked cooperatively with Nigeria over the years to make significant strides towards improving the environment for business and trade," Liser said. "The U.S.-Nigeria Trade and Investment Framework Agreement is part of a comprehensive U.S. effort to support the Nigerian Government's efforts to advance trade and economic development. We are using the U.S.-Nigeria TIFA Council to develop specific initiatives to expand economic opportunities for workers, farmers, businesses, and consumers in both of our countries."

**BACKGROUND**

Total U.S.-Nigerian trade was valued at $38.5 billion in 2011, up nearly 12 percent from 2010, largely due to higher oil export volumes and prices. U.S. imports

from Nigeria were valued at $33.7 billion in 2011, almost all crude oil. U.S. non-oil imports from Nigeria consisted primarily of agricultural products, such as cocoa, tobacco, rubber, feeds and grains, and nuts. U.S. exports to Nigeria were valued at $4.8 billion in 2011, an 18.4 increase from 2010. Nigeria is the world's largest importer of U.S. wheat, with purchases valued at $1.2 billion in 2011. Other major U.S. exports include transportation vehicles, processed petroleum products, such as gasoline and kerosene.

The United States-Nigeria Trade and Investment Framework Agreement was signed in 2000. It provides a mechanism for regular, high-level dialogue on enhancing U.S.-Nigeria economic ties and improving coordination on multilateral and bilateral trade and investment issues.❖

*US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton delivers remarks at the African Growth and Opportunity Act Forum at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington.*

# How AGOA Benefits Nigeria

**Q: How does AGOA benefit Nigeria and other African Countries?**

A: AGOA was passed as part of The Trade and Development Act of 2000. It provides beneficiary countries in Sub-Saharan Africa with the most liberal access to the U.S. market available to any country or region with which we do not have a Free Trade Agreement. It reinforces African reform efforts, provides improved access to U.S. credit and technical expertise, and establishes a high-level dialogue on trade and investment in the form of a U.S.-Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Forum.

**Q: How does it benefit U.S. firms?**

A: By creating tangible incentives for African countries to implement economic and commercial reform policies, AGOA contributes to better market opportunities and stronger commercial partners in Africa for U.S. companies. The Act should help forge stronger commercial ties between Africa and the United States, while it helps to integrate Africa into the global economy. U.S. firms may find new opportunities in privatizations of African state-owned enterprises, or in partnership with African companies in infrastructure projects.

**Q: Why the need for an AGOA II bill?**

A: The need for AGOA II legislation was developed in part to improve upon and clarify some of the specific provisions that were not addressed in the original AGOA legislation (or AGOA I). AGOA II is part of the Trade Act of 2002 which President Bush signed into law on August 6, 2002.

**Q: What conditions are placed on participation by African countries?**

A: The President may designate Sub-Saharan African countries as eligible to receive the benefits of the Act if they are making progress in such areas as: establishment of market-based economies; development of political pluralism and the rule of law; elimination of barriers to U.S. trade and investment; protection of intellectual property; efforts to combat corruption; policies to reduce poverty, increase availability of health care and educational opportunities; protection of human rights and worker rights, and elimination of certain practices of child labor. Progress in each area is not

*Continued on page 19*

# Combating Corruption

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

When 140 countries convened on December 9, 2003, to sign the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), this event underscored international abhorrence of the detrimental effects of corruption and global recognition that governments can only combat and prevent corruption through cooperative efforts. Since then, more nations joined the convention so that today 164 signatory countries make it one of the United Nations' most highly subscribed treaties, creating a global mandate to combat corruption and the harm it brings to society.

One of the great strengths of the convention is recognition that corruption involves a two-way street; while it is important to address the bribe payers who attempt to do business through dishonest means, it is equally important to hold accountable the bribe takers, who use their official positions for personal enrichment instead of the public good. The convention also includes stipulations on "kleptocrats," who line their pockets and steal from their nations' treasuries and their own people, preventing the provision of necessary public services, including medicines and health care for the sick and elderly, education for children, and nourishment and housing for families. Such activities weaken affected countries and their potential for economic growth.

No country remains immune from corruption. To lessen the effects of corruption on a country's economy and security, authorities must enforce anti-corruption laws, so those engaging in corrupt acts understand they cannot do so with impunity. The United States takes criminal enforcement of anti-corruption laws very seriously. In 2011, the U.S. Department of Justice prosecuted

# Hygiene and Vaccines Can Stop World's Greatest Child Killer

How to save children's lives from pneumonia has gotten a lot of attention from the Global Coalition Against Child Pneumonia (GCACP), a partnership of more than 140 government, international and philanthropic organizations. The organization sponsors World Pneumonia Day (WPD) every November 12 to raise awareness that pneumonia is the top killer of children under age 5 worldwide.

*Polio Immuization in Sokoto State*

More than 99 percent of the deaths occurring in the developing world, 1.3 million young children died from pneumonia in 2011

GCACP says the disease is both preventable and treatable with these recommendations:

Scaling up access to vaccines is one of the key strategies for quashing pneumococcal disease, the leading cause of deadly pneumonia, and that effort has made significant progress in recent years. The Republic of Congo

and won convictions against 1,107 public officials from all levels of government for engaging in acts of corruption, such as soliciting and/or accepting bribes, embezzling public funds, or trading in influence. Similarly, the U.S. became the first country to prohibit its nationals from paying bribes to foreign public officials, when it enacted the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) in 1977. Under the FCPA, each year the U.S. completes dozens of enforcement actions, penalizing companies who engage in corruption abroad, sending the message that engaging in corruption abroad is just as offensive as engaging in corruption at home.

For any country, this two-pronged approach remains necessary to protect society from the ill effects of corruption. While it is important to penalize bribe payers to dissuade them from corrupting the system, it is equally important to prosecute public officials who betray the public trust by taking bribes or embezzling public funds. Corrupt officials who have stolen government funds or who demand bribes to award government contracts cannot be allowed to enjoy the proceeds of their corruption. Through criminal prosecution, Nigeria can end the culture of impunity and return stolen assets to productive use. This will not only help build Nigeria's economy, it will also send the message to criminals who might believe Nigeria's national resources or security are for sale, by closing down avenues for promoting crime and violent extremism.

To foster the stability, security, and prosperity of its citizens, Nigeria must effectively address both sides of the corruption equation. The United States stands ready to work with Nigeria's anti-corruption institutions to bring corrupt individuals to justice, whether through technical assistance and training, or working cooperatively to find evidence or stolen assets held abroad. Working together and with other international partners, we can combat corruption effectively and make impunity a thing of the past.❖

*(Hygiene and Vaccines..cont'd)*

is one of the most recent nations to add the pneumococcal vaccine to its expanded immunization program, which is expected to reach more than 164,000 children between the ages of 1 and 2 by the end of this calendar year.

Secondly, parents have to make sure the immunization regimen is followed. "It is essential that each parent and community make sure that all the children between the age of 2 and 11 months are vaccinated."

Other preventive steps recommended by the Global Coalition Against Child Pneumonia include:

- Maternal breast feeding.
- Hand washing with clean water.
- Environmental sanitation.
- Vitamin A supplements.
- Eliminating household air pollution, especially smoke from unsafe cook stoves.

The Global Coalition Against Pneumonia asserts that pneumonia control must be accelerated if the world is to reach the United Nations' Millennium Development Goal of reducing mortality of children under age 5 by two-thirds by 2015.

Pneumonia is also a great economic burden for families, communities and governments, the coalition says. Greater disease prevention efforts could help avoid the costs of treatment and other costs that can occur due to family illness by $51 billion, according to the coalition.

U.S. organizations that are members of the coalition include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves; the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations, the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health and the American Academy of Pediatrics.❖

*USAID Country Director Dana Mansuri (2nd right) joins others to commission a borehole project in Bauchi State.*

# Improving Access to Water and Sanitation for Bauchi State Populace

The United States Government signed a memorandum of understanding with Bauchi State Government on November 27, 2012 to provide access to water and sanitation in Bauchi State through a partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID/Nigeria). The MOU was signed by his Excellency, the Executive Governor of Bauchi State, Malam (Dr.) Isa Yuguda, the U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Terence McCulley and the USAID Mission Director, Dana Mansuri.

This MOU provides a transparent framework for mutual responsibility and accountability to implement a development partnership over a three-year period and provide for regular dialogue to help in the development of Bauchi State.

Earlier in his remarks, Ambassador McCulley said: "This urban water project is a priority for the U.S. Mission in Nigeria because it aims to improve access to safe drinking water, and to reduce morbidity and mortality due to water and sanitation-related illnesses. Access to clean, safe, uncontaminated water boosts human health conditions and helps to reduce water-related illnesses."

Many residents in the urban areas of Bauchi State (including Bauchi town) lack access to adequate water services, and only about 17,000 people have household connections out of a population of almost 600,000. The USAID-supported urban water project, the Sustainable Water and Sanitation in Africa (SUWASA) supports the Bauchi State Water Board (BSWB) to achieve financial self-sufficiency and implement policies necessary for improving water sector operations.

With technical assistance from Sustainable Water and Sanitation in Africa, the Bauchi State Water Board formed revenue improvement task teams to use water more efficiently and improve revenue collection. For the first time, high-volume consumers are metered and pay for what they consume, resulting in increased revenues and improved efficiency in water use by these consumers. The state's Water and Sanitation Policy was approved by the state Executive Council and signed in November 2011.❖

# The National Stop Transmission of Polio (N-STOP) Training Program: An International Partnership to Eradicate Polio and Build Capacity in Nigeria

*By Gabrielle O'Meara and Lisa Esapa, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

*Dr. Zainul Khan, (far right) WHO Consultant, working with the N-STOP training participants on a micro-planning case study to define ward level catchment areas and plan vaccination strategies.*

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (US-CDC) in collaboration with Nigerian public health agencies, the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (N-CDC), the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH), along with international partners in the global polio eradiation fight such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (WHO), recently implemented a two-week intensive training program to build national capacity to address Nigeria's polio eradication efforts. The National Stop Transmission of Polio (N-STOP) training program was piloted July 16-27 at the Nigeria CDC/Field Epidemiology and Laboratory Training Program (NFELTP) offices in Asokoro, Abuja. Opening ceremonies included plenary lectures by Dr. Patrick Nguku, NFELTP Resident Advisor; Dr. Abdulsalami Nasidi, N-CDC Director; Dr. Okey Nwanyanwu, US-CDC Nigeria Country Director; and Dr. Frank Mahoney, Medical Epidemiologist with US-CDC.

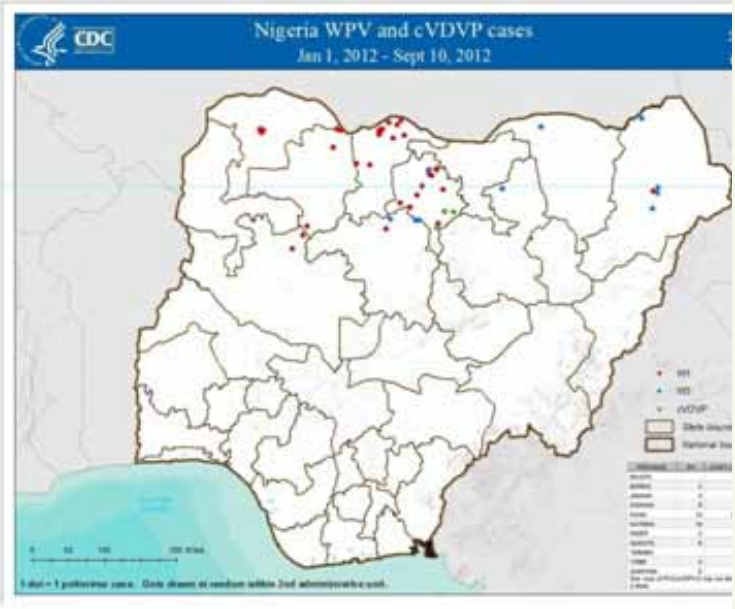
The N-STOP program is modeled after the WHO / CDC international STOP program, which annually recruits and trains hundreds of highly qualified health professional volunteers in support of polio eradication efforts. Adapting the international STOP training for a country specific audience has been piloted in Pakistan in 2011; evaluation feedback from the Pakistan N-STOP was used in the development and implementation of the N-STOP training for Nigeria. The successful execution of the N-STOP Nigeria training was due in part to collaboration among key leaders from the national and international partner agencies, who served as faculty for the course. Training was targeted to residents and graduates of Nigeria's FELTP Program, who will be N-STOP consultants, along with Immunization Coordinators from priority states in the north, with whom N-STOP consultants will be working. NFELTP residents are Nigerian public health leaders who

**Fact:** Nigeria is one of only three countries in the world where polio remains pervasive (along with Afghanistan and Pakistan). Nigeria is the only country in Africa that has never interrupted polio transmission. Therefore, many of its neighboring countries are especially vulnerable to the spread of infection. As of August 16, 2012, 83 confirmed polio cases have been reported in Nigeria this year, compared to 26 cases reported year to date in 2011.

participate in a 2-year epidemiology training program to attain skills in the detection and response to health threats and to use science and data for public health policy and programming. NFELTP is run by the African Field Epidemiology Network (AFENET) with support from US-CDC, and is modeled after CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service (EIS). NFELTP is a joint collaboration between the Federal Ministries of Health and Agriculture, leading indigenous universities, and local and international organizations. The N-STOP training program is an innovative solution to building capacity within Nigeria for strengthening polio eradication programs as well as public health surveillance. This unique 2-week intensive training combines traditional classroom lecture, with hands-on learning in the form of case studies, and interactive sessions. In addition to a focus on on routine immunization, polio eradication, and acute flaccid paralysis surveillance, the training includes key management and accountability concepts of team building, problem solving, and strategic communication to ensure that participants are prepared to serve as Independent Monitors and Evaluators for National Immunization Campaigns with a focus on improving the quality of planning and supervision of vaccination teams. The NFELTP residents and graduates, are uniquely qualified for this work, as they are familiar with the states at highest risk for poliovirus transmission and speak the local languages.

Following the 2-week training, 40 N-STOP consultants were deployed on August 1, 2012 to 40 high-risk local government areas (LGAs). Their scope of work includes using innovative Global Positioning Systems (GPS) to identify and map nomadic and scattered settlements in high-risk LGAs; finding children who have never been vaccinated and sending vaccination teams to provide them with oral polio vaccines; and conducting medical record reviews at local clinics and hospitals to identify unreported or misdiagnosed polio cases.

*National STOP training participants at closing ceremonies, Abuja.*




For more information on NFELTP, please visit the NFELTP website at www.nigeria-feltp.net. For more information on the US-CDC EIS Program, please visit the EIS website at www.cdc.gov/eis. For more information on Nigeria's polio eradication efforts, please visit the Federal Ministry of Health website at http://www.fmh.gov.ng/. For more information on the global polio eradication efforts, please visit the Global Polio Eradication Initiative website at http://www.polioeradication.org. ❖

*Adefunmilayo Tejuosho, member Lagos State House of Assembly making contributions to gender-based violence discussion in Lagos. Embassy photo by Ayodele Durodola.*

# Women's Rights are Human Rights

***By Bene Uche, Cultural Specialist***

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Consulate Lagos in collaboration with ACTS Generation, a Lagos based NGO held a one-day event to kick off the U.S. Mission's 16-Day Activism Against Gender-based violence. An enthusiastic audience comprising members of civil society, the media, and gender violence victims participated in the discussion, held on November 25, to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women.

Every year since 2000, the international community has marked the date to reaffirm its commitment to the principle that violence against women is a violation of human rights.

In her welcome remarks, Rhonda Watson, Public Diplomacy Officer, noted gender violence was not just a Nigerian issue but a global issue which cuts across borders and impacts on all people and societies. She noted President Obama has stressed how important it is to develop concerted efforts to end domestic violence against women and girls. Likewise, Secretary of State Hilary Clinton has declared that, "Women's rights are human rights." Violence against women renders them undervalued and vulnerable.

Laila St. Matthew-Daniel, Keynote Speaker and Executive Director of Acts Generation Organization gave an overview of the current African situation with special focus on Nigeria. She identified ignorance, lack of knowledge on legal rights, customs and traditions and stereotypes as some of the causes of gender violence in Nigeria. Mrs. Matthew-Daniel recommended a review of the current constitutional section on gender abuse.

Mr. Lanre Olusola, a Coach for victims of Trauma, highlighted the destruction caused to victims of abuse through an exercise on "the mind, soul and spirit." He noted abuse can be against either males or females and in all cases, the impact was psychologically, emotionally and mentally devastating. There should be collective efforts by all urging parents to pay special attention to

the upbringing of their wards.

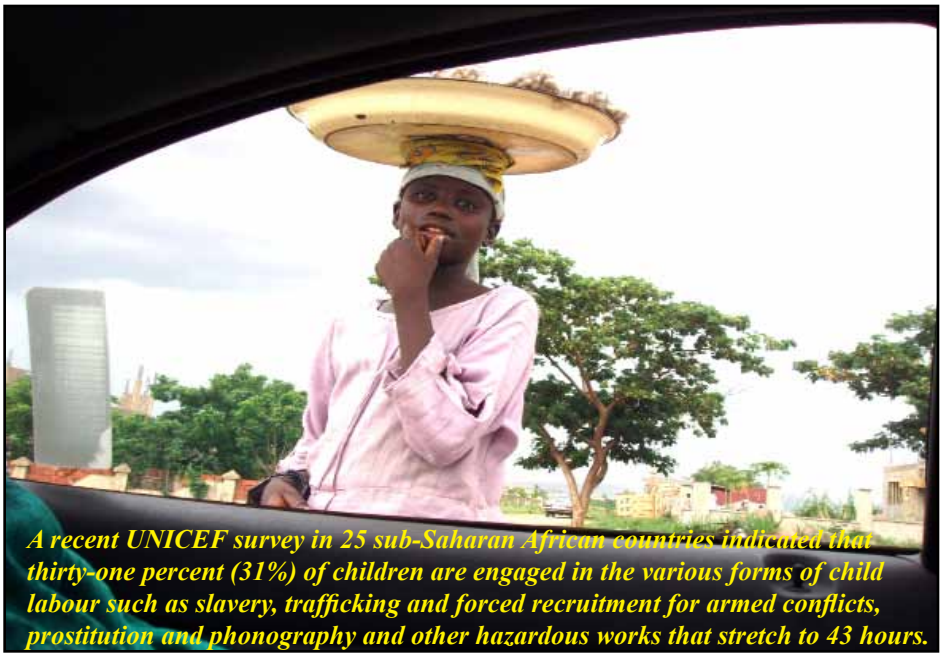
Hon. Adefunmilayo Tejuosho, Deputy Speaker, Lagos State House of Assembly, who fought for the bill on gender violence in Lagos, shared how she got the male members of the Lagos State House of Assembly to work with her in getting the bill passed. Mrs. Tejuosho also spoke on the legal implications of the bill, the Shelters for women in Lagos State and how the process had helped keep families together.

A victim of gender violence (who does not want her name in print) shared her real life experience which brought tears and emotion out of the guests. She spoke of the constant beatings she received, and the emotional and psychological pain she went through and how she finally got up the courage to leave.

Ester Ajayi-lowo, an Administrative Assistant with the Consulate Medical Unit gave insight on how parents could play a more important role in preventing child abuse in addition to ensuring that support assistants are not over tasked and given a chance to be educated.

The Q and A session raised issues of concern on how the police handle reports of gender violence and abuse. Some of the Civil Society members clamored for a more supportive role from the police, asked for more platforms on gender violence to include a broader spectrum of men in different levels including those in leadership positions. Finally, a more concerted effort was advocated to have more awareness and information spread on different media platforms to create awareness on the signs of gender abuse.

Where to go for help and the importance of more states having legislation passed against gender abuse were some of the recommendations from the discussion. Key participants agreed to form a coalition to fight the scourge of gender abuse. The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, ended with the International Human Rights Day on December 10.❖



*A recent UNICEF survey in 25 sub-Saharan African countries indicated that thirty-one percent (31%) of children are engaged in the various forms of child labour such as slavery, trafficking and forced recruitment for armed conflicts, prostitution and phonography and other hazardous works that stretch to 43 hours.*

## U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-based Violence Globally

This Strategy was developed by the Department of State and USAID in coordination with other relevant U.S. Government departments and agencies following the President's Executive Order directing agencies to prioritize this issue in their implementation of U.S. foreign policy.

The Strategy outlines a comprehensive, multi-sector approach to prevent and respond to gender-based violence through:

- Increased coordination of gender-based violence prevention and response efforts among United States Government agencies and with other stakeholders;
- Enhanced integration of gender-based violence prevention and response efforts into existing United States Government work;
- Improved collection, analysis, and use of data and research to enhance gender-based violence prevention and response efforts; and
- Enhanced or expanded United States Government programming that addresses gender-based violence.

An estimated one in three women worldwide has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence experienced by women globally Other forms of violence include human trafficking, sexual violence, including when used as a tactic of war, and harmful traditional practices, such as early and forced marriage, female genital mutilation/cutting, and "honor" killings.❖

# Kick Like a Girl

## Naija Girlz Got It!

The Public Affairs Section of the U.S. Consulate General, Lagos recently organized an exciting and colorful sporting event around the documentary "Kick Like a Girl" at St. Gregory College, Ikoyi, Lagos. Over five hundred students, mostly girls from fifteen high schools in Lagos, between the ages of 8 and 14 attended this remarkable event. The Athletic Federation of Nigeria, MTN Nigeria, Nigerian female sports figures and coaches, beneficiaries of the United States Sports program, all supported the event through their participation and contributions.

In her welcome remarks, PDO Rhonda J. Watson noted that in February 2012, the U.S. Department of State announced a global effort to engage women and girls through sports diplomacy. "Sports play a major role in our lives and participants in sports learn valuable lessons about discipline, teamwork and tolerance that help them succeed on and off the field." Mrs. Watson explained the objective of the event was to help participants, especially girls to develop a sense of identity, increase self esteem and access new opportunities that increase their involvement in school and community life.

The event featured a video screening of the documentary, "Kick Like a Girl" which tells the story of an undefeated all-girls soccer team and how they victoriously compete in the boys division. Afterwards, a lively and intense discussion on the ability of girls to achieve their highest dreams and aspirations through determination, perseverance and self confidence. Boys in the audience acknowledged the film helped them to reassess their view of girls' abilities and the way they should relate to girls. The video confirmed sports has been one of the most effective instruments of social change in our lifetime.

The Kick Like A Girl Program is intended to debunk stereotypes, serve as a vehicle to improve leadership and decision-making skills, increase self-confidence and help promote greater tolerance and understanding among participants irrespective of their age, gender, ethnicity or school affiliation.

Two speakers, Nneka Ikem, Manager of Sports and Outside Broadcasts, Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria and 2012 International Visitor Leadership Program Alumnus, and Chisom Mbonu, SuperSport TV Presenter and first Nigerian female FIFA licensed agent, spoke passionately on "Empowering Girls Through Sports" by giving practical examples of how they were able to excel in their chosen fields. They encouraged the girls to dream big, work hard and reject any inferiority complex as a result of their gender.

Moving from the lecture hall to the playing field, where participants received Naija Girls Got It branded T-shirts, the event culminated in a sports clinic and soccer competition. The girls were divided into ten groups for the sports clinics, which were conducted by highly trained and professional coaches. The clinics focused on technical skill training, tactical and fitness training including exercise, passing, receiving, shooting and heading.

Twenty-one girls were selected and divided into the red and yellow teams. The two teams engaged in a friendly competition against one another in World Cup-style event, complete with referees and an announcer. It was all fun as red team outmatched their yellow counterparts by a score of 6 to 0. But in the spirit of community, they were all announced winners just for participating and presented medals to all the players, referees, and coaches.❖

Continued from pg. 10...

# How AGOA benefits Nigeria?

a requirement for AGOA eligibility.

**Q: Does the United States have the right to set eligibility criteria for African countries?**

A: The criteria are standards which the Africans themselves have espoused and most are striving to uphold. But Congress never intended AGOA to be a blank check for all African countries, without regard to performance. It was meant to offer tangible incentives for African governments to improve their political and economic governance, not to underwrite poor policies.

**Q: What are the provisions governing apparel imports?**

A: AGOA provides duty-free and quota-free treatment for eligible apparel articles made in qualifying sub-Saharan African countries through 2015. Qualifying articles include: apparel made of U.S. yarns and fabrics; apparel made of sub-Saharan African (regional) yarns and fabrics until 2015, subject to a cap; apparel made in a designated lesser-developed country of third-country yarns and fabrics until 2012, subject to a cap; apparel made of yarns and fabrics not produced in commercial quantities in the United States; textile or textile articles originating entirely in one or more lesser-developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries; certain cashmere and merino wool sweaters; and eligible handloomed, handmade, or folklore articles, and ethnic printed fabrics. Under a Special Rule for lesser-developed beneficiary countries, those countries with a per capita GNP under $1,500 in 1998, will enjoy an additional preference in the form of duty-free/quota-free access for apparel made from fabric originating anywhere in the world. The Special Rule is in effect until September 30, 2012 and is subject to a cap. AGOA IV continues the designation of Botswana and Namibia as lesser-developed beneficiary countries (click here for further details on apparel eligibility provisions).

*Export-ready leather and craft works on display at the 7th TIFA meeting in Abuja*

**Q: Which countries fall under the per capita GNP ceiling for the Special Rule?**

A: All Sub-Saharan African countries meet the per capita GNP requirements of the Special Rule with the exception of the following: Botswana, Gabon, Mauritius, Namibia, Seychelles, and South Africa. However, countries must meet the general AGOA eligibility requirements and the requirements for apparel benefits in order to qualify for the Special Rule. AGOA II grants Lesser Developed Beneficiary Country status to Botswana and Namibia, qualifying both countries for the Special Rule. The Africa Investment Incentive Act of 2006 (AGOA IV) continues to grant lesser-developed beneficiary country status to Botswana and Namibia.

**Q: When do the apparel benefits take effect?**

A: Although the apparel benefits take effect October 1, 2000, beneficiary countries must first have an effective visa system in place to prevent illegal transshipment and use of counterfeit documentation. They must also institute enforcement and verification procedures. Details were disseminated to African governments following a cable instruction to all U.S. embassies in Sub-Saharan Africa on September 21, 2000. Countries must also be beneficiary developing countries under the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which includes 45 Sub-Saharan African countries.

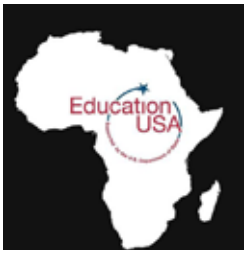
**Q: What are the Act's GSP provisions?**

A: AGOA authorizes the President to provide dutyfree treatment under GSP for any article, after the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) and the U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC) have determined that the article is not importsensitive when imported from African countries. On December 21, 2000, the President extended duty-free treatment under GSP to AGOA eligible countries for more than 1,800 tariff line items in addition to the standard GSP list of approximately 4,600 items available to non-AGOA GSP beneficiary countries. The additional GSP line items which include such previously excluded items as footwear, luggage, handbags, watches, and flat ware were implemented after an extensive process of public comment and review. ❖

# EducationUSA/Information Resources

## Abuja -- Lagos

### Do You Want to Study in the U.S.?




The *EducationUSA* Advising Centers in Abuja and Lagos provide quality, timely, accurate, unbiased information about all accredited U.S. higher education institutions for persons wishing to study in the U.S. For more information about EducationUSA and study opportunities in the United States, please visit: *http://www.educationusa.state.gov*

**Educational Advising Centers Locations:**

**Abuja:**
Embassy of the United States of America,
Plot 1075 Diplomatic Drive, Central District Area,
Abuja. Telephone: 234-09-4614251/4241/4257; Fax: 234-09-4614334/4010; E-mail: eacabuja@state.gov.
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/educationusa.abuja

**Lagos:**
U.S. Consulate General, Public Affairs Section,
2 Walter Carrington Crescent; Victoria Island-Lagos.
Telephone: 01-460-3400/2724/2725/3801/3802
E-mail: lagos@educationusa.info

**Nigerian Youth Discuss Future of Urban Development in Lagos**

In its quest to turn Lagos into a megacity of the future, several Nigerian youth said they felt the Lagos state government should focus on education and long-term solutions rather than expecting rapid and sweeping change. Read more at: http://nigeria.usembassy.gov/pe_09152012.html

*The resources highlighted below are available at the Information Resource Centers in Abuja and Lagos. To Register as a member, please visit: http://tinyurl.com/ircregistration and for all enquiries, please write to: ircabuja@state.gov (North) and wyllagos@state.gov (South).*

**World AIDS DAY 2012**

*Photo: A giant red AIDS ribbon is put on display in honor of World AIDS Day on the North Portico of the White.*

As the President stated in his Proclamation for World AIDS Day 2012: Creating an AIDS-free generation is a shared responsibility. It requires commitment from partner countries, coupled with support from donors, civil society, people living with HIV, faith-based organizations, the private sector, foundations, and multilateral institutions. We stand at a tipping point in the fight against HIV/AIDS, and working together, we can realize our historic opportunity to bring that fight to an end...Read and view more at: http://bit.

Despite the significant progress made in reducing violence against women, there is still a long way to go. Young women still face the highest rates of dating violence and sexual assault. In the last year, one in 10 teens have reported being physically hurt on purpose by a boyfriend or girlfriend. One in five young women have been sexually assaulted while they're in college. Read more at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/1is2many

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9.00 a.m. – 12 noon Friday

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