



Weekly Special Report



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INSIDE

AFRICAN ISSUES

Clinton Pledges U.S. Support to Somali Transitional Government (P 4)

Food Assistance to Kenya to Go Beyond Emergency Aid, Clinton Says (P 5)

Clinton Cites Concern for Women Farmers During Africa Trip (P 6)

Innovative Mobile Phone Project Saves Children's Lives in Africa (P 8)

School Builder Greg Mortenson Learned Life Lessons in Africa (P 9)

PEACE AND SECURITY

Obama to Lead U.N. Session on Nonproliferation (P 10)

Targeted U.S. Sanctions on Zimbabwe to Continue, Clinton Says (P 11)

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHT

No Excuses for Gender-Based Violence, Clinton Tells DRC (P 12)

Burundi's Former Child Soldiers Strive to Re-enter Society (P 14)

Clinton Celebrates Strength of Women in Africa (P 15)

DEVELOPMENT

Agriculture and Energy Key to Clinton Angola Visit on Africa Trip (p 16)

Clinton Says United States Believes in Africa's Promise (P 17)

Increasing Numbers of Kenyan Girls Benefit from Educational Boost (P 19)

BUSINESS AND TRADE

South Africa Uniquely Positioned to Spur African Economic Growth (P 20)

United States Trade Representative Ambassador Ron Kirk Visits Key Trading Partner Ethiopia

United States Trade Representative Ambassador Ron Kirk paid a three day working visit to Ethiopia. Ambassador Kirk met and held talks with Ethiopian government officials including Prime Minister Meles Zenawi. He also met with representatives of the private sector and visited several industries. During a briefing he gave to journalists at the conclusion of his visit on August 8, 2009 Ambassador Kirk said,



From left to right Ms. Florizelle Assistant STR for Africa; Ambassador Ronald Kirk; MS. Carol Guthrie, Assistant for Public & Media Affairs; Mr. Michael C. Gonzales, Chargé d' Affairs

(Continued on page 3)

Farming Is Africa's Lifeline, Clinton Says

By Charles W. Corey
Staff Writer

Nairobi, Kenya — For millions of Africans, farming is a lifeline, the only source of income and food. For the continent, agriculture is the primary economic sector and the engine of future growth, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said August 5.



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

In remarks following a tour of the Kenya Agricul-

tural Research Institute (KARI) outside Nairobi, Clinton said, "For the

global community, agricultural development could help address some of the most urgent challenges we face — chronic hunger, which afflicts nearly 1 billion people worldwide, including one in three Africans, many of whom are children."

Clinton was in Nairobi to

(Continued on page 2)

Farming Is Africa's Lifeline, Clinton Says . . .

(Continued from page 1)

attend the Eighth AGOA Forum (named after the U.S. African Growth and Opportunity Act) on the first stop of a seven-nation Africa trip that will also take her to South Africa, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Liberia and Cape Verde.

At KARI, Clinton said, scientists are developing tools to boost the productivity of Africa's farms, which is "part of a broad strategy to strengthen the entire agricultural sector — to increase incomes, to support rural communities and to drive economic growth."

"The benefits of a strong system of agriculture are great. The benefits to the world are equally so," she said, adding that most of the arable land left in the world is in Africa.

"More and more, the world will look to Africa to be its breadbasket, and I hope that when the world looks ... it is Africans and African farmers who will profit from becoming the world's breadbasket."

Clinton lamented that African agriculture "has been held back for decades by wars that have forced farmers to clear their fields, by diseases that too often strike the young and the strong, by climate change. ... Farmers in Africa have also faced the lack of investment from the private sector, governments and [the] global community."

Together, these and other factors, she said, have "eroded the foundation of African agriculture," but she noted that "that foundation is being rebuilt," with scientists at KARI taking the lead in cultivating heartier

crops that will feed more people and thrive in harsher conditions: "disease-resistant cassava plants, sweet potatoes that are enriched with vitamin A to prevent blindness, maize that can flourish in times of drought."

What is being achieved in the labs at KARI and in other African labs can go a long way toward making sure that farmers are paid well enough to support their families so people are not forced to pull their children from school or sell their livestock to survive a food shortage, she said.

"This is also time to innovate," she said, in the areas of telecommunications, microfinance and even microinsurance, in ways that help farmers flourish. In Uganda, she said, farmers are receiving text messages on their cell phones about how to diagnose and treat local crop diseases.

Another initiative, she said, will provide farmers with local weather information and farming tips, along with other information such as health advice.

"Innovations like these are what must be a comprehensive approach to agriculture — one that connects the tools developed in labs like this to the fields where farmers are every day."

Clinton pledged the Obama administration's full support for the effort to "strengthen the entire agricultural chain here in Africa and around the world," which is critical to generating economic growth and linking Africa to the rest of the world.

"We are convinced that investing in agriculture is one of the most high-impact, cost-effective strategies available for reducing poverty and saving and improving lives," and that is why it is a "signature element" of the Obama administration's foreign policy, she said.

People often mistakenly think that modern countries do not "do agriculture," she said, but "nothing could be further from the truth. If you don't do agriculture, you don't eat."

In July in Rome, Clinton said, the members of the G8 and others committed \$20 billion to end global hunger — not for short-term food aid, but for longer-term investments. The United States, she added, has pledged \$3.5 billion as part of this effort to help customize programs to stop hunger.

Praising KARI, she said the United States has been a strong partner with the institution for 40 years.

Since 2003 alone, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has provided more than \$4 million to KARI for agricultural technology development and transfer.

Clinton was joined at KARI by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, who was also in Nairobi to attend the Eighth AGOA Forum. Both officials appeared with Kenyan Minister of Agriculture William Samoei Ruto.

Ruto praised the United States, saying almost 50 percent of KARI's staff has been educated in the United States, in close concert with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

(Continued on page 3)

Farming Is Africa's Lifeline, Clinton Says . . .

(Continued from page 2)

The actions at KARI, he said, underscore the important role research is playing in making agriculture commercially viable.

He said KARI is a "clear symbol of the partnership that exists between the United States and Kenya," and that the research institute is looking at ways Kenyan farmers can benefit from more trade in their key crops of tea, coffee and cashews.

Agriculture Secretary Vilsack — whose department has worked closely with KARI for a long time — reminded the audience that it was just in 2008 that there was a world

food crisis that affected a billion

people, of whom 265 million lived in Africa.

He said USDA forecasters are warning that the number of hungry people will increase by 11 percent in 2010. For that reason, he said, "transformational change" must occur, with country-led food security plans, transparency and good governance.

Agriculture is important, he said, because farming in sub-Saharan Africa makes up almost 30 percent of GDP and employs 60 percent of the African work force.

Vilsack said he had visited an Afri

can school the day before that had

many orphans. "While I have never truly been hungry like so many in Africa," he said, "I can relate to the students I met because I too started out life an orphan.

"As a child, I thought about books and baseball. The children I met yesterday just wanted one thing: to be fed and educated. If that is not reason for us to do all we can together to make sure kids don't go hungry, I am not sure what would move us."

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦

United States Trade Representative Ambassador Ron Kirk Visits Key Trading Partner Ethiopia . . .

(Continued from page 1)

"I am here because Ethiopia is a key U.S. trading partner in Africa. I am also here because Ethiopia's story is emblematic of U.S. engagement with all of Africa on trade and development.

We have seen progress. Our countries have a robust trade relationship. AGOA is a huge part of that.

Ethiopia is doing particularly well under AGOA. Exports more than doubled from 2007 to 2008.

Ethiopia is diversifying exports. And we can see the fruits

of U.S. efforts to build trade capacity here. Yet, challenges remain." Ambassador Kirk stressed the importance of continuing to work together to enable Ethiopian exporters to take full advantage of AGOA opportunities. He said, "We must work together to build trade capacity here and across sub-Saharan Africa. We must work to become full partners in the global trading system."

The U.S. Trade Representative stated that his country supports and encourages Ethiopia's work to accede to the WTO. He said, "We commend Ethiopia for completing its First Working Party on accession in May 2008.

We encourage Ethiopia to keep working at it. America will con

tinue to provide technical assistance through USAID." Ambassador Kirk said his country also encourages further economic reforms in order to encourage investment, trade, and economic growth, and make Ethiopia more competitive ♦

Clinton Pledges U.S. Support to Somali Transitional Government

By Charles W. Corey
Staff Writer

Nairobi, Kenya — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton pledged continued U.S. support for the Somali Transitional Federal Government (TFG) and called on Eritrea to halt interference in Somalia.

Clinton appeared at a joint press conference at the U.S. Embassy August 6 following talks with Somali President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh Ahmed. She said the talks with the TFG leader were “a thorough and productive discussion about the challenges facing his country and the efforts of the international community to support the Transitional Federal Government as it stands up for the people of Somalia and against the threat of violent extremism.”

Clinton pledged continued support for the TFG and said the United States has joined the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the Arab League, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and the African Union (AU) in endorsing the Somali-led Djibouti peace process, which aims to end conflict and restore peace.

“We believe that his [Sharif’s] government is the best hope we have had in quite some time for a return to stability and the possibility of progress in Somalia,” Clinton added.

Earlier in the day, Clinton, with the help of survivors, laid a wreath at Memorial Park in Nairobi, commemorating victims of the August 7, 1998, U.S. Embassy bombing, which killed 213 people and injured



Secretary Clinton and Somali President Sharif appear at a press conference August 6 at the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi.

more than 4,000 others.

STRONGER TFG

A stronger TFG would have “positive consequences, not just for Somalia but for the region and the wider global community. It would contribute to greater regional stability and start to alleviate the greater refugee crisis afflicting Somalia’s neighbors, especially Kenya,” which is currently hosting some 300,000 refugees, Clinton said.

She commended Sharif’s government for “taking up the fight on behalf of the Somali people against al-Shabaab — a terrorist group with links to al-Qaida and other foreign militant networks.”

Al-Shabaab “and its allies,” she said, “lack regard for human rights, women’s rights, for education, health care and the progress of the Somali people. They see Somalia as a future haven for global terrorism.”

Millions of Somalis, or roughly 40 percent of the country’s population,

are in need of humanitarian assistance as they confront persistent conflict, prolonged drought and periodic disease outbreaks, she added.

Clinton acknowledged that the TFG institutions are in need of reform and support so they can make progress in delivering services to the Somali people.

“The United States and the international community must serve as an active partner in helping the TFG in helping the people of Somalia confront and ultimately move beyond the conflict and poverty that has gripped their country,” she said.

She praised the AU mission in Somalia for playing an “instrumental role” in providing security and the space in which the TFG can operate.

The United States has provided more than \$150 million over the past two years to the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) troops, and more will be provided in the next few months, she said.

Clinton also pledged to continue providing equipment and training for the TFG and supplying humanitarian assistance to the Somali people and is asking other states in the region to support the Djibouti process.

“It is long past time for Eritrea to cease and desist its support for al-Shabaab and to start being a productive rather than a destabilizing neighbor,” she said.

At the press conference, Sharif said through an interpreter that he was grateful for the meeting and that it was a good opportunity for his gov-

(Continued on page 7)

Food Assistance to Kenya to Go Beyond Emergency Aid, Clinton Says

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says the Obama administration is seeking to channel food assistance to Kenya by three means: emergency aid, working with farmers to increase productivity, and doing more to create a market for Kenyan agricultural goods.

Clinton told Metro FM radio in Nairobi August 6 that the international community, including the United States, has committed to giving \$20 billion in agricultural assistance. "Now we have to translate that into reality," she said.

"First, of course, is emergency food aid. I am very concerned about the figure of 10 million Kenyans facing starvation and malnutrition because of the continuing drought, the fourth year of inadequate or no rainfall."

But for longer-term food security, she said, the United States wants to work with Kenyan farmers to increase their productivity through soil improvement, education and new technologies, such as those being researched at the Kenyan Agricultural Research Institute.

"Let's begin to focus on helping the farmers of Kenya get better prepared for the next problem; that means a better irrigation system; that means more drought-resistant seeds; that means better-suited fertilizer to keep the soil rich," she said.

The secretary said it is very important to ensure that women, who

make up 70 percent of farmers in Kenya and other African countries, are



Prolonged droughts in Kenya have caused crop failures and forced the country to seek international aid.

given access to the new agricultural technologies.

On creating a market for Kenyan farm goods that can be exported, the secretary said she had seen dry-freezing techniques for products at the research institute. "They are using [it] to create what we call value-added groceries, and then they can export it and they can store it," she said.

Clinton used part of her interview with Capital FM in Nairobi to urge Africans and others to educate and create more opportunities for women, not only to improve their well-being, but also as a means of encouraging economic development.

"The World Bank and other economists have said over and over again that if you want to jump-start development, then give the tools to your women who are underutilized," she said. Too many women in Africa are impoverished, marginalized and unable to obtain adequate education and health care, she added.

"It perpetuates dependency, it perpetuates the cycle of poverty. And that's especially important because women are the tools and the real drivers of change in their own families," Clinton said.

The best outcome is for women to be "prepared and equipped to make decisions that are right for them," whether that means devoting their time to their career, their family, or both, she said.

On Metro FM, she advised young African women not to accept the notion that their future is of less importance than that of their brothers.

"Try to go to school as long and far as you can, try to find the time to study and to learn so that you can be more prepared and confident about your future," Clinton said. "Look for ways to continue your education, even if it might mean leaving your home so that you could be an educated woman and therefore could contribute to your family and your community" and improve the quality of life by doing things to encourage more education, greater access to health care, and more jobs in rural areas.

"Be proud of where you came from, but be motivated to try to make it better," the secretary said.

Asked about her views of women wearing the hijab, the Islamic religious head covering, Clinton told IQRA FM Radio in Nairobi she feels the decision is up to the individual.

"I want women to make their own choices. I want women to be educated enough and feel confident

(Continued on page 13)

Clinton Cites Concern for Women Farmers During Africa Trip

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Staff Writer

Washington — Women may “hold up half the sky,” as the Chinese proverb says, but in Africa, as in much of the developing world, they also do most of the strenuous work of farming and deserve special support in the battle to end hunger on the continent, says Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

In Kenya August 5, on the first full day of her seven-nation August 4–14 trip to Africa, Clinton told hundreds of African economic, trade and finance ministers — most of them men — that the future of Africa’s women is of “great personal importance” to her.

Speaking at the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum in Nairobi, Clinton said, “The social, political, and economic marginalization of women across Africa has left a void in this continent that undermines progress and prosperity every day.”

She said, “We know across Africa women are doing the work of a whole continent — gathering firewood, hauling water, washing clothes, preparing meals, raising children, in the fields planting and harvesting, and when given the opportunity of economic empowerment, transforming communities and local economies.”

President Obama’s administration wants to help, the secretary added, and is committed to strengthening agriculture in Africa, with a recent pledge of \$3.5 billion toward partnership programs on the continent.

But “to succeed in this work, we must work with women,” Clinton



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton at the Eighth AGOA Forum in Nairobi

emphasized. With women composing 70 percent of the agricultural work force in Africa, she said, “we need a good collaboration to make sure that women are equal partners with men farmers all the way through the process.”

Clinton’s concern for African women is not new, according to U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues Melanne Verveer, who recently shared an anecdote about the secretary at a discussion on women and food security sponsored by the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC).

(MCC is a U.S. government corporation that spurs development through grants to countries with a proven record of political and economic reform. Seventy percent, or \$4.5 billion, of its total worldwide grants of \$6.4 billion go to 10 African countries.)

Verveer recalled a trip to sub-Saharan Africa she made in the 1990s with Clinton, who then was U.S. first lady. “We were riding in a van with an economics minister ... who was opining about the economic decisionmaking process and

... that women really had no role in the formal economy of the country.

“As far as our eyes could see ... there were fields. And in those fields were hundreds of women bent over, many of them with little children [on their backs] ... some very young, bringing wood for fuel, others carrying water.

“And the first lady said to this gentleman, ‘How can you say that, sir? Everything we see here is women hard at work helping make a difference in this country. Can you imagine if all of them stopped working, even for one day? What would happen?’”

After her AGOA speech, Clinton and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack toured the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute (KARI), where she again touched on the plight of women in Africa and the special burden they carry as farmers as well as mothers and caregivers at home.

At KARI Clinton met with participants in the African Women in Agricultural Research and Development (AWARD) program, a two-year fellowship for African women scientists sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR).

Noting that the AWARD program supports women “working to improve farming here in Africa and to fight hunger and poverty,” Clinton said, “We need women represented in our laboratories as well as our fields.”

(Continued on page 7)

Clinton Cites Concern for Women Farmers During Africa Trip

(Continued from page 6)

Julia Sibiya, although not an AWARD recipient, is an agricultural scientist and lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe currently doing graduate work at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa.

She recently told America.gov via e-mail that from her observations and a survey she conducted in southern Africa, "the majority of those involved in small-scale agriculture are actually women. And of these women, the majority are above 45 years old."

Sibiya also confirmed Clinton's concern for the added burden African

women carry, saying, "Most of these women struggle, as they have limited income, relying mostly on pensions, and end up just practicing subsistence farming.

"However, they are willing to try out new technologies — but they indicated they would wish the government or any NGOs

[nongovernmental organizations] who are interested in agriculture to provide assistance, for example: training, equipment, seeds and loans," the African scientist concluded.

A transcript of Clinton's remarks at the AGOA Forum (<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/>

August/20090805140804eaifas0.9767877.html&distid=ucs) and a transcript of her remarks at KARI (<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/>

August/20090805170013eaifas0.8416101.html&distid=ucsi) are available on America.gov.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦

Clinton Pledges U.S. Support to Somali Transitional Government

(Continued from page 4)

ernment and the people of Somalia.

He said he presented his views in "very frank" terms and hoped such meetings would help his country "move out of this current crisis."

Sharif told reporters that what is going on in Somalia is not a civil war but a situation fueled by "people with strategic interests to make Somalia a base from which to destabilize the world."

Islam is a peaceful religion, he explained, and what terrorists want to do by killing innocent people is not operating in accordance with Islam.

"My government is committed to serve the people of Somalia faith

fully," he said.

Asked about Eritrea's continued interference in Somalia, Clinton said, "With respect to Eritrea, we are making it very clear that their actions are unacceptable, their interference with the rights of the Somali people to determine their own future [is] at the height of misplaced efforts ... and we intend to take action if they do not cease."

Sharif added that solving a problem with another problem is not right, and that what Eritrea is doing in Somalia is harming the entire Horn of Africa.

Clinton next travels to South Africa

on the second stop of her seven-nation trip. She will also visit An

gola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Liberia and Cape Verde.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦

Innovative Mobile Phone Project Saves Children's Lives in Africa

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Staff Writer

Washington — African children now have a better chance of survival thanks to an innovative health program begun by American university students and health care workers in Malawi who use mobile phones to gather timely information on child growth and malnutrition.

The Child Malnutrition Surveillance and Famine Response project in Malawi, a joint venture of Columbia University in New York City and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), allows local health care workers to send height, weight and other information through an SMS (short message service) text message. A computer receives the pre-defined data points and automatically analyzes the information for indications of child malnutrition.

The technology behind the program, Columbia University's RapidSMS, was the winner of a recent technology-development contest sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and called the Development 2.0 Innovation Challenge.

Kirsten Bokenkamp, a Columbia student who helped originate the project, told America.gov that the new mobile phone technology "demonstrated its ability to improve child nutrition monitoring and has shown that it is an effective way of sharing information among all stakeholders."

The project has proven so successful in rapidly identifying problem groups for malnutrition that the government of Malawi is "eager to

scale RapidSMS for nutritional surveillance up to a national level," Bokenkamp said.



RapidSMS Malawi team member Mari Denby, right, checks data text points on a mobile phone with child-nutrition surveillance workers.

People worldwide increasingly use information com-

munications technology (ICT) in a way that is

"revolutionizing the concept of development," says Karen Turner, director of USAID's Office of Development Partners.

Turner, whose office sponsored the Development 2.0 Innovation Challenge, said the Malawi project led to a three-month reduction in the time it took to generate the data for child nutrition, which is "significant because it means Malawi's Ministry of Health now has a better idea of how to combat the problem."

Roughly half the world's population now uses mobile phones, compared to just 10 percent with access to personal computers, according to USAID's Global Development Commons, the unit in Turner's office that conducted the Development 2.0 competition.

Turner said the goal of the contest was to identify and support technology-based organizations that

"promote a local-community approach to development employing mobile phone technology."

By harnessing the power of ICT and social networking, the USAID official said, "we have engaged and connected with a new nontraditional community, sometimes called 'crowdsourcing,' that can now remain part of the development conversation and may come up with other ideas."

Turner's remarks reinforced what Henrietta Fore, USAID administrator at the time, said at the Development 2.0 award ceremony in January: "We often find that the international development space is more closed and siloed than open and accessible. At USAID, we are taking steps to make our development knowledge as widely accessible as possible, and we are encouraging others who are involved in development to do so as well. This includes partner governments, other donors, foundations, private companies, and [nongovernmental organizations]."

According to Bokenkamp, RapidSMS Malawi is part of that new community.

"Winning the development challenge was helpful to us on many levels," she said. "We have been able to shift a student effort into a nonprofit, nongovernmental organization called Mobile Development Solutions. The prize money was also helpful in contributing to more in-depth work in Malawi, while it also provided us with recognition from potential partners."

As for the future, Bokenkamp said, "we are planning on continuing our

(Continued on page 21)

School Builder Greg Mortenson Learned Life Lessons in Africa

By Christopher Connell
Special Correspondent

Washington — A failed attempt to scale the treacherous K2 Himalayan peak led mountaineer Greg Mortenson to learn his true calling: building schools for girls in impoverished villages across Pakistan and Afghanistan. But his path toward becoming a humanitarian actually started in the shadow of another mountain, Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro.

It was there in Tanzania that Mortenson grew from infancy to adolescence and learned by example from his determined parents — teachers with a Lutheran missionary society — how to listen to, work with and trust local people in efforts to build better communities and a better world.

Mortenson's book, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Fight Terrorism and Build Nations ... One School at a Time*, has become must reading at the Pentagon for generals who would learn how to build relationships with tribal leaders in the rugged mountains of Central Asia.

Mortenson's personal story is improbable: a homeless rock-climber and trauma nurse who wrote hundreds of letters to celebrities hoping to raise the \$12,000 needed to build that first school in Korphe, Pakistan, where villagers nursed Mortenson back to health after his retreat from K2 in 1993.

The letters yielded almost nothing, but schoolchildren contributed \$623.45 in pennies, and a wealthy former climber put up the rest. Mortenson flew back to Pakistan,

bought materials and drove them up into the mountains in a colorful Bedford truck. There the surprised



Greg Mortenson introduces Angelina Jolie, left, to his daughter Amira during a World Humanitarian Day celebration in Washington.

leaders said that first they needed a bridge over the Braldu River that skirts the village — so Mortenson built that with them as well. It took three years to complete the projects, but the Central Asia Institute (CAI) was off and running.

Now there are nearly 100 schools in remote villages across Pakistan and Afghanistan that have enrolled 51,000 pupils — two-thirds girls — and dozens more temporary schools in refugee camps that sprang up after the devastating 2005 earthquake.

After years on a shoestring budget, the Bozeman, Montana-based CAI now raises and spends millions each year building schools and working to improve lives.

Mortenson has endured despite two fatwahas, or religious edicts, issued by local mullahs against him and his schools (higher Muslim authorities nullified the rulings) and being kidnapped by gunmen in Waziristan in northwest Pakistan. When mullahs said a school planned for Lalander, Afghanistan, should teach only

boys, Mortenson's team refused to proceed. The mullahs relented.

"In Africa I learned a tribal proverb as a child that I've never forgotten: If you educate a boy, you educate an individual. But if you educate a girl, you educate a community," said Mortenson, who trekked to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro when he was 11.

Mortenson was raised from infancy to age 14 in Tanzania. His mother helped organize the International School Moshi and his father led efforts to build a 640-bed hospital, the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center.

Mortenson recalled that his father "always put local people in charge, which was unusual at the time, and he insisted on it." At the hospital ribbon-cutting, the elder Mortenson predicted that within 10 years Tanzanian doctors would head every department — and that is what happened. "It's your country. It's your hospital," the elder Mortenson said at the ribbon-cutting.

His father's life was cut short by cancer at 48. "One of my great regrets is that he didn't live long enough to see that his instincts about empowering local people were not only vindicated but also inspired some copycats — because in my own way, I've adopted the exact same approach in Pakistan and Afghanistan," said the mountain-climbing son.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦

Obama to Lead U.N. Session on Nonproliferation

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr.
Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama will chair a high-level meeting of the U.N. Security Council on nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament when the United Nations convenes for the opening of the General Assembly in September, U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice said.

“The Security Council has an essential role in preventing the spread and use of nuclear weapons and is also the world’s principal multilateral instrument for global security cooperation,” Rice said in an announcement August 4 in New York.

“The session will be focused on nuclear nonproliferation and nuclear disarmament broadly and not on any specific countries,” she added.

Obama has invited the 14 leaders of the other Security Council nations to join him on September 24 during opening week. The president is expected to give his formal address to the 64th session of the General Assembly on September 23. A climate change meeting is scheduled for September 22 before the formal opening ceremonies.

Over the next several weeks, Rice said, the United States will work closely with other Security Council members to prepare for the leaders’ meeting.

The special session of the Security Council occurs while the United States holds the presidency of the council. It comes before the five-year review conference of the Nu-

clear Non-Proliferation Treaty in



U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice at a Security Council meeting.

New York April 26, 2010-May 21,

2010. The treaty requires signatory nations to not pursue nuclear weapons and a commitment from the five major nuclear powers – the United States, Russia, Britain, France and China – to move toward nuclear disarmament. And non-weapons states are guaranteed access to the civilian use of nuclear technology in the production of nuclear power.

Obama vowed in a foreign policy address April 5 in Hradcanske Square outside the medieval Prague Castle in the Czech Republic that the United States would take concrete steps toward a world free of nuclear weapons.

“We will reduce the role of nuclear weapons in our national security strategy and urge others to do the same,” Obama said. “To reduce our warheads and stockpiles, we will negotiate a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with the Russians this year.” Those talks are under way and a final agreement is expected by December.”

To achieve a global ban on nuclear testing, my administration will immediately and aggressively pursue

U.S. ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. After more than five decades of talks, it is time for the testing of nuclear weapons to finally be banned,” Obama added.

Obama said that if the world is serious about halting the spread of nuclear weapons, then it must also be serious about stopping the production of weapons-grade materials used to create them.

What foreign affairs decisions should President Obama consider? Comment on America.gov’s blog Obama Today (<http://blogs.america.gov/obama/2009/01/21/day-2-what-should-obama%e2%80%99s-top-priorities-be/>).

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦

Targeted U.S. Sanctions on Zimbabwe to Continue, Clinton Says

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — The Obama administration is continuing to target Zimbabwe's leadership with economic sanctions in an effort to influence their behavior, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says.

During an August 8 visit to the Victoria Mxenge Housing Development near Cape Town, South Africa, Clinton said she and President Obama believe "the leadership under President [Robert] Mugabe has turned its back on its own people."

She noted that more than 3 million Zimbabwean refugees have fled their country for South Africa due to a lack of opportunity and poor living conditions.

"People in Zimbabwe are starving; that's why they come here. They have no work; that's why they come here. The schools are shut. The hospitals are not working," she said.

Zimbabweans are hard workers, she said, and deserve to return to a better life in their country. "And what's stopping it?" she asked. "Bad government. Bad decisions by the leaders."

With the economic sanctions, "what we wanted to do was try to create some pressure on the leadership to do what it should do to take care of their own people," the secretary said.

In her remarks with South African Minister of International Relations Maite Nkoana-Mashabane in Pretoria August 7, Clinton said the sanc-

tions were designed not to hurt Zimbabwe's people.



Secretary Clinton's meeting with South Africa's President Jacob Zuma August 8 included talks on Zimbabwe.

South Africa has many contacts with both Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC), and Clinton said Pretoria is deeply involved in getting the two sides to completely fulfill a power-sharing agreement.

ZANU-PF and MDC formed a national unity government in February, but the Obama administration continues to have concerns over human rights violations and Mugabe's approach towards democracy and the rule of law. (See "United States Seeks to Encourage Democracy, Growth in Zimbabwe (<http://www.america.gov/st/peacesec-english/2009/June/20090612171918esnamfuak0.3818323.html>).")

Clinton said South Africa and the United States "are going to be closely consulting as to how best to

deal with what is a very difficult situation for South Africa and for the United States, but mostly for the people of Zimbabwe."

Nkoana-Mashabane likened the ZANU-PF and MDC power-sharing agreement to a forced or arranged marriage.

"They don't always work your way, but over time you get to get used to [it]. It's better than no marriage, for the sake of the people of Zimbabwe," she said.

Both she and Clinton share a deep concern over the plight of Zimbabwean refugees in South Africa, especially women and children.

"We have promised each other to work together to assist the people of Zimbabwe to move faster in the actual implementation of the agreement that they, themselves, have signed," Nkoana-Mashabane said.

Clinton also met with South African President Jacob Zuma in Durban August 8. She said her visit to the country has been an opportunity to reaffirm the importance of their bilateral relationship.

Presidents Obama and Zuma have tasked their chief diplomats, Secretary Clinton and Minister Nkoana-Mashabane, to "get to work" and to "put meat on the bones" of the relationship, Clinton said.

The two countries will also be working more closely together on "regional and global challenges that we need to be leading on," to the benefit of the broader international community, she said♦

No Excuses for Gender-Based Violence, Clinton Tells DRC

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton condemned the “terrible trend” of sexual and gender-based violence used as a tool of war, and said leaders in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and other governments in the region, as well as nonstate entities, need to make a “concerted effort” to prevent and discourage sexual violence.

Speaking in an interview with Radio Okapi in Kinshasa August 10, Clinton said the DRC’s human rights record is “in desperate need of improvement.”

The government emerged out of years of destabilizing war, and the secretary acknowledged that often human rights “are considered a luxury during a wartime.” But, she added, “there are no excuses any longer, and there has to be more expected from the government here” in terms of a commitment to promoting human rights and punishing violators, including human rights crimes against women.

“It has to start with making sure that the military of the DRC does not engage in any sexual and gender-based violence, and there has to be no impunity for anyone who does, and there has to be an effort to cut off the funding for the militias and resolve the underlying political tensions in the east,” she said.

Sexual violence in the DRC is not limited to its conflict areas, she added. Like other countries, she said, the DRC has incidents of do-

mestic violence and criminal rape, and stronger laws are needed. “There has to be strong prosecution



Congolese women demonstrate against war-related violence in the northern Kivu province of the eastern

and law enforcement and judiciary actions to make it clear that this is unacceptable, that there is no excuse for it. And that’s what I hope we will see,” Clinton said.

The secretary said the United States and others, including the United Nations, are ready to provide assistance to the DRC authorities to prevent sexual violence. Along with being the largest supporter of U.N. peacekeeping forces providing stability in eastern Congo, the Obama administration is working with the Congolese military to “train and imbue human rights and respect for the rights of women in the military,” she said. The United States is also providing women who were victimized with healing and health services, she added.

The protection and promotion of human rights, as well as good governance, institution building and a free market are very important development goals for the DRC, even if they do not seem as tangible or

visible as the construction of hospitals and roads, Clinton said.

“I’m aware that sometimes people can see the road more than they can see the protection for human rights. But you can have a country with roads that still deprives its people of human rights, that still has no economic development, so that there are no goods and services going down those roads that will actually help the people,” she said.

“I think it has to be a comprehensive effort,

and I believe the United States, with our help in education and health, is playing a very important role. And we are here to determine what else we could do,” she said.

Clinton told Kinshasa’s Raga TV August 10 that more countries and international institutions such as the World Bank would be willing to help the DRC, but need to be assured that there is good governance and the rule of law.

“People will not come to help unless they believe that their help will realize the results that we seek,” she said. “They want to make sure that whatever help they give doesn’t end up in a very few hands.”

Clinton said the DRC’s corruption and human rights situation is “very serious,” and “the impunity of people who commit either financial corruption or abuses of human rights means that the investors around the

(Continued on page 13)

No Excuses for Gender-Based Violence, Clinton Tells DRC

(Continued from page 12)

world don't come unless they think that they can get their investment secure."

She and President Obama are committed to making Africa's development and democratization a foreign policy priority of the United States, and "we think that the Democratic Republic of the Congo has tremendous potential and promise," the secretary said.

The government can make decisions over the use of its natural resources that would broadly benefit the country and its development needs. The secretary mentioned the example of Botswana, which ensured that the country retained 20 percent ownership in the De Beers Company, which was mining Botswana diamonds, and kept some of the money in the country to benefit the people.

"As a result, if you go to Botswana, you see good roads, you see clean

water, because the people and their leaders said we're not going to be exploited and we're not going to let the benefits end up in a very few hands," she said.

Currently in the DRC, an enormous amount of money is being made from the country's resources, but because of a lack of accountability, transparency and good governance, the Congolese people are not profiting. The secretary said the government needs to adopt a different development model.

"Every time someone uses a certain type of cell phone, they are using minerals that come right out of eastern Congo. What does that do for the people that I saw on the way from the airport into the city? Nothing," Clinton said. "It helps them in no way."

She suggested the government announce it will publicize "every penny that comes from any source," to show greater transparency and provide a deterrent to cor-

ruption.

Transcripts of Clinton's interviews with Raga TV (<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/August/20090811123514emffen0.2629009.html&distid=ucs>) and Radio Okapi (<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/August/20090811124443emffen0.2399103.html&distid=ucs>) are available on America.gov.

What foreign affairs decisions should President Obama consider? Comment on America.gov's blog Obama Today (<http://blogs.america.gov/obama/2009/01/21/day-2-what-should-obama%e2%80%99s-top-priorities-be/>).

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦

Food Assistance to Kenya to Go Beyond Emergency Aid, Clinton Says . . .

(Continued from page 5)

enough that if it is their choice to wear a hijab, they wear it; if it is not their choice, they do not wear it," she said.

Asked about the situation in Somalia, she also told IQRA FM that the Obama administration is supporting those who are trying to build a better future for the country, and said she is pleased that African countries have come to the aid of Somalia's Transitional Federal Government in its efforts to stabilize the country and drive out violent ex-

tremists, many of whom are not even from Somalia.

"This is not about Somalia anymore," she said. "It's about trying to gain control over a piece of territory so that you can create a terrorist haven."

The United States has "absolutely no intention of doing any kind of military action on our own," Clinton said, but she questioned the extremists' rationale of a war in which "you kill women and children, and you destroy for the sake

of destruction, to intimidate people and just break the spirits of people."

What foreign affairs decisions should President Obama consider? Comment on America.gov's blog Obama Today (<http://blogs.america.gov/obama/2009/01/21/day-2-what-should-obama%e2%80%99s-top-priorities-be/>).

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦

Burundi's Former Child Soldiers Strive to Re-enter Society

The following article was produced and originally published by the American Bar Association's Rule of Law Initiative. Additional information on the initiative's programs is available at <http://www.abanet.org/rol/>.

July 2009

ABA ROLI, Partner Organizations Strive to Reintegrate Former Child Soldiers in Burundi

Knowing nothing but war, many boys growing up in Burundi during its civil conflict were raised to be soldiers. The future of these former child soldiers rests on their successful reintegration into society. Their successful reintegration also helps keep Burundi from reverting back to civil conflicts.

The ABA Rule of Law Initiative's (ABA ROLI's) program in Burundi focuses on addressing the numerous legal, psychological, vocational and social challenges associated with reintegrating former child soldiers. By partnering with local organizations, including Fondation Stamm, TPO Burundi and the Association des Juristes Catholiques du Burundi (AJCB), and by working with other legal and social services providers, ABA ROLI is fostering a multi-disciplinary approach to reintegration.

The disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process, which aims to provide real opportunities for these war survivors, has been challenging for both the country and the former child soldiers alike. Many children, particularly former soldiers of the Forces Nationales pour la Libération (FNL), languish in prison for months or years, often without being charged. An additional complication in the

reintegration process is that many former child soldiers are detained in



ABA ROLI is partnering with Fondation Stamm to provide vocational training to former child soldiers.

prisons far from their families, which strains familial relationships and limits contact. Many are also held in provinces where they did not commit crimes, hampering the provision of legal services. Paralegals, lawyers, judges and magistrates are required to travel between prison sites and the provinces where crimes were committed to obtain and finalize case files and interview witnesses. To alleviate this burden, ABA ROLI helps to address security concerns and to cover transportation costs for justice sector officials working on former child soldiers' cases.

To bolster Burundi's weakened criminal justice system, ABA ROLI, in partnership with AJCB, Fondation Stamm, and TPO Burundi, recently organized trainings on juvenile justice and child soldier issues. The trainings, attended by 65 lawyers and paralegals and 45 police officers, helped to increase the justice system's capacity to address cases involving former child soldiers. Many of the former child soldiers are profoundly traumatized. They often lack a supportive social network or regular access to their families. For those former child soldiers that are able to return to their

families, there are often difficulties readjusting to the rules and authority at home and in their communities.

For female former child soldiers, the barriers are even greater. They have often been excluded from the DDR process, leaving them to become either social outcasts struggling to survive or an increased security threat. There is a widespread assumption that female former combatants act both physically and sexually inappropriate, which further complicates their reintegration. This stigma restricts their employment and marriage prospects. Because of their in-army and subsequent experiences, it also can be more challenging for female former combatants to manage their painful memories. ABA ROLI's partner non-governmental organization, TPO Burundi, is providing psychological counseling and support to former female combatants.

Former child soldiers of both genders often do not have vocational skills or even a rudimentary education. To address this, ABA ROLI is partnering with Fondation Stamm to provide vocational training to former child soldiers and to widen their employment opportunities, allowing them to become self-sufficient.

ABA ROLI continues to seek funding to expand its reintegration efforts for former child soldiers in Burundi.

To learn more about our work in Burundi, contact the ABA Rule of Law Initiative at rol@staff.abanet.org (<mailto:rol@staff.abanet.org>) > . (Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦

Clinton Celebrates Strength of Women in Africa

By Kelly Daniel
Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, visiting South Africa August 7 as part of a seven-nation tour of Africa, used an evening in Pretoria to focus on and celebrate one of the continent's greatest strengths: its women.

Clinton was an honored guest at a gala dinner commemorating South Africa's National Women's Day, which is celebrated August 9. The dinner was hosted by South African Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, who greeted the secretary of state upon her arrival at the Pretoria presidential guest house earlier August 7. The holiday honors a 1956 march by South African women protesting apartheid-era "pass laws" that limited freedom of movement.

Clinton and Nkoana-Mashabane both spoke of the strength of the U.S.–South African relationship in remarks given at the dinner, said Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs Terri Robl of the U.S. Embassy in Pretoria.

"It solidified the more formal meetings during the day, where the two just agreed that we're going to work together on everything, from regional issues to climate change," said Robl, who spoke to america.gov from Pretoria.

Clinton, speaking extemporaneously at times, talked about the resourcefulness of African women, of women's contributions to society and of women's roles in technology and other emerging fields, the economic officer said. Nkoana-Mashabane spoke warmly of the relationship between South Africa and the United States, and offered

"a strong tribute to Clinton and what she has accomplished," Robl



Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and South Africa's Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane.

said.

"They made the point that there is a relationship between the two countries because they are both examples of how they overcame diversity and difficult problems," Robl said of the secretary and the foreign minister. Clinton also celebrated South Africa as an engine of development in Africa.

Among the "really amazing South African women" attending the dinner, Robl said, were several of the women who participated in the 1956 march that the national holiday was created in 1994 to commemorate. South African businesswomen and female political leaders and government ministers also attended the dinner, where several people sang portions of a song written for the 1956 event.

That song gave birth to a phrase — "You have tampered with the women, you have struck a rock" — that continues to resonate as an example of women's courage and strength, according to an organization that chronicles South Africa's history. The South African History Online project, offering its analysis of the 1956 march, concludes:

"Women had once again shown that the stereotype of women as politically inept and immature, tied to the home, was outdated and inaccurate."

Clinton is using her Africa trip to underline the United States' commitment to partner with governments, the private sector, nongovernmental organizations and private citizens to build societies where individuals can realize their full potential, according to U.S. Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Johnnie Carson, speaking before the trip. Celebrating the key role that women play in achieving those goals is part of the secretary's efforts, he said.

"It was an amazing evening and it ended up with the secretary and minister up there [on stage] singing," Robl said. Both genders took part in celebrating women, she said, as one of the male South African ministers also took to the stage to serenade Clinton and Nkoana-Mashabane with the classic song made popular by American artist Aretha Franklin, "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman."

Clinton traveled to Africa on August 4 to attend the Eighth African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum in Nairobi, Kenya. She will next travel to Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Liberia and Cape Verde before returning to the United States on August 14.

The secretary's trip comes after President Obama visited Ghana in July, making this the earliest of any previous administration in which both the president and the secretary of state have visited Africa. ♦

Agriculture and Energy Key to Clinton Angola Visit on Africa Trip

By Jim Fisher-Thompson
Staff Writer

Washington — Development and agriculture, two important themes on Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's first official trip to Africa, are closely linked to energy resources in Angola — the engine fueling the war-torn nation's economic growth and the source of 7 percent of U.S. energy imports.

While oil exports make up more than 90 percent of the Angolan government's revenues, a good part of the population still lives in a countryside devastated by a 27-year-long civil war that killed 500,000 people and wrecked the agricultural sector, on which many are still dependent.

Clinton acknowledged the need to diversify Angola's economy, which is overly dependent on oil, as she participated in the August 9 signing of an initial agreement in Luanda between the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Chevron Corporation and the Cooperative League of the United States of America (an agriculture-related nongovernmental organization [NGO]) to help develop Angola's agricultural sector.

"Nowhere is the promise of agriculture as a key to a diversified economy greater than right here in Angola," Clinton told the gathering of officials, oil executives and NGO representatives.

With the partnership agreement, she said, "we are making a down payment on the future, the revitalization of small and medium holder farming in Angola. This \$6 million investment will help raise the income of Angolans, turn back hunger and drive sustainable develop-

ment. It will bolster Angola's efforts to rebuild a once vital agricultural sector destroyed by war, which again can be a source of broad-based prosperity."



A village chief in Liambo, Angola, displays high-value export crops produced and marketed with new methods learned through USAID.

The public/private sector partnership will boost agriculture in Angola by providing more financing, training and marketing support to farmers while strengthening agricultural schools. A goal is to return to Angola's pre-civil war days, before 1975, when the nation was the world's fourth-largest exporter of coffee, as well as a competitive exporter in a number of other crops.

Clinton also touched on the importance of the Chevron Corporation to Angola's development, saying, "Let me especially thank Chevron for recognizing that it is important to give back to the countries where the natural resources come from."

At 555,000 barrels a day, Angola is currently the sixth-largest exporter of crude oil to the United States, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Overall, U.S. oil imports from Africa have nearly doubled since 2002. In 2006, 22 percent of all crude oil imports to the United States came from Africa, more than from the Middle East.

David Shinn, an Africa expert and former U.S. envoy to Ethiopia who teaches political science at George Washington University, told America.gov that Angola "has been an important source of U.S. oil imports for many years and is challenging Nigeria as the largest supplier in Africa to the United States.

Shinn said, "It is important, however, to take the U.S.-Angola relationship beyond oil, which totally dominates Angola's economy. Looking to the future, Angola needs to diversify."

He added: "Angola has the potential to be a rich agricultural producer. It is a country where American agricultural technology and private investment could be profitable and lead to diversification of Angola's economy.

"The relationship with U.S. companies is close," Shinn said, and could be "a significant factor in the nation's economic development because "they were instrumental in developing the offshore oil resources."

During her two-day visit in Angola, the third stop on her seven-nation trip to the continent August 4-14, Clinton also met with President José Eduardo dos Santos and Foreign Minister Assunção Afonso dos Anjos and held a roundtable discussion with members of the National Assembly.

A transcript of Clinton's remarks at the ceremony (<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/August/20090809193019bpuh0.3768885.html&distid=ucs>) is available on America.gov.♦

Clinton Says United States Believes in Africa's Promise

By Charles W. Corey
Staff Writer

Nairobi, Kenya — “We believe in Africa’s promise. We are committed to Africa’s future. We will be partners with Africa’s people,” Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said August 5.

Addressing the opening ministerial session of the Eighth African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) Forum, Clinton said the United States and Africa have “shared aspirations for greater economic growth and prosperity across the continent.”

Clinton said on the first stop of her seven-nation trip that the journey underscores “the significance that President Obama [whose father was born in Kenya] and I place on enhancing the trade and commerce both between Africa and the United States but also within Africa.”

Clinton recalled Obama’s remarks in Ghana in June, in which he talked about shared responsibility. (See “Obama’s Speech in Ghana (<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/July/20090711110050abretnuh0.1079783.html>).”)

The flip side of that, she said, is “shared opportunity,” and how the United States and Africa can work together to help realize the potential of Africa’s 800 million people.

Africans must seize opportunities in the face of “stereotypes, clichés of poverty, disease and conflict,” she told her audience.

“The continent has enormous potential for progress,” she said. “Africa is able and making economic progress” and is “ripe with

opportunities,” she said, but she readily acknowledged that the



Secretary Clinton holds a press conference at the eighth annual AGOA Forum in Nairobi, Kenya, August 5.

“economies of many countries have slowed or stagnated under the weight of the global recession.”

She also acknowledged that there are still some African countries where some workers “earn less than \$1 a day, where mothers and fathers die of preventable diseases, where children are too often schooled with guns instead of books, and where women and girls are mistreated and even raped as a tactic of war and greed and graft are the dominant currency.”

The story that also needs to be told, she said, is that “many parts of Africa are rising to 21st-century challenges and following a road map that will turn Africa into a regional and global hub for progress and prosperity.”

Clinton said she is looking forward to seeing those signs of progress during her upcoming Africa trip, which will take her from Kenya to South Africa, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Liberia and Cape Verde.

“There is so much that is going on that needs to be lifted up and spotlighted,” she said.

She cited Rwanda as a country making “amazing” progress, with one of the fastest-growing economies and improving health indicators — all done in the wake of its 1994 genocide, in which more than 800,000 died.

And “new innovations are already transforming lives and fueling economic growth,” Clinton said.

“Farmers in both East and West Africa can click a button on their cell phone to check prices on dozens of crops. Pineapple farmers in Ghana are using PDAs [personal digital assistants] and bar-coding technologies to facilitate transport and increase crop yields. The new underwater fiber optic cable will enable hundreds of millions of people to have access to the Internet.”

Although Africa missed the first Green Revolution, Clinton said, it now has the opportunity to create its own.

“There are so many concrete examples of the opportunities to be seized,” she said.

Clinton discussed four key themes: trade; development; good governance and women. On trade, Clinton said, “As Africa’s largest trading partner, we are committed to trade policies that promote prosperity and stability,” and she echoed President Obama’s earlier remarks in Ghana that the United States wants to be Africa’s partner and not its patron. Today, she said, Africa accounts for 2 percent of global trade. But “if sub-Saharan Africa was to increase that share by only 1 percent, it would generate additional export

(Continued on page 18)

Clinton Says United States Believes in Africa's Promise . . .

(Continued from page 17)

revenues each year — greater than the total amount of annual assistance that Africa currently receives.”

The historic African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), passed by the U.S. Congress in 2000, implemented duty-free trade preferences for more than 6,000 African products. The law has “achieved demonstrable results,” she said, “but not yet enough.”

“We know it has not met its full potential,” she said. But she pledged that the United States will work with Africa “to try to make that potential real.”

“Market access alone is not sufficient,” she said, because “in too many cases, African countries do not yet have the capacity to meet the needs of the U.S. market.”

She called on African countries to make trade a greater priority in their development strategy and further open up and streamline regional trade.

On development, Clinton said the Obama administration intends to build the kinds of partnerships that will integrate assistance as a “core pillar” of U.S. foreign policy. The administration is “on a path to double foreign assistance by 2014,” she said. However, the money will be spent differently, with emphasis on delivery of long-term results, she said.

“Development assistance linked to trade policy, will, we believe, fuel dynamic, market-led growth rather than perpetuate dependency,” she said. Clinton announced that efforts will

take place in September, on the margins of the U.N. General Assembly meeting, to advance the global partnership for agriculture and food security.

On governance, Clinton said true economic progress depends not only on the hard work of millions of people, but also on “responsible governments that reject corruption, enforce the rule of law and deliver results to their people. It is not just about good governance. It is about good business.”

“Democracy does deliver,” she said, noting that a key ingredient of democracy is transparency. “A famous judge in my country once said that sunlight is the best disinfectant, and there is a lot of sunlight in Africa.”

Clinton praised the many African governments that have embraced transparency by participating in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. She called on both citizens and governments to work together to build and sustain strong democratic institutions such as an independent judiciary, a free press and a dedicated and professional civil service.

“Progress depends on good governance and adherence to the rule of law. That is critical to creating positive, predictable investment climates and inclusive economic growth,” she added.

She said the United States is still working, after 230 years, to improve its democracy.

On women, Clinton said the social, political and economic marginalization of women across Africa has left a void that “undermines progress and prosperity every day.”

Women are doing the work of the whole continent, she said, “gathering firewood, washing clothes, preparing meals, raising children, in the fields planting and harvesting — and when given the opportunity to economic empowerment: transforming communities and local economies.”

She called on all Africans to ensure that the rights of women are respected and protected and that women have the opportunity to help drive social and economic progress. That, she said, is a “moral imperative.”

Women and men across the continent are “taking responsibility” and wanting partners, she said.

“They want partners with their governments ... the private sector ... with countries like my own. There is no reason to wait. The ingredients are all here for an extraordinary explosion of growth, prosperity and progress.”

After Clinton’s speech, President Obama conveyed his best wishes to the Eighth AGOA Forum via video, saying AGOA has transformed the U.S.-Africa trade relationship.

Also speaking at the opening ministerial were Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki and Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga.

A transcript of Clinton’s remarks (<http://www.america.gov/st/texttrans-english/2009/August/20090805140804eaifas0.9767877.html>) is available on America.gov.

(This is a product of the Bureau of

Increasing Numbers of Kenyan Girls Benefit from Educational Boost

By Kathryn McConnell
Staff Writer

Washington — Increasing numbers of girls in Kenya are going to school, staying there longer and earning better grades due to the combined efforts of the U.S.-based nonprofit group Academy of Educational Development (AED), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the government of Kenya and private donors.

The goal is to raise awareness about the importance of providing girls and boys equal access to education in Kenya so they will be able to earn a living. Educated girls are less likely to be teen mothers and are more likely to protect themselves against HIV and have healthier babies, according to May Rihani, AED senior vice president and director of its global learning group.

In Kenya, AED works with schools, community residents, parents and the ministries of education and of health to advance girls' education, Rihani said.

It works with children who have lost parents to HIV/AIDS and provides scholarships to help disadvantaged girls and boys enter secondary school, she said.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton visited Kenya August 4–6 during the first leg of a seven-nation visit to sub-Saharan Africa. Her agenda includes topics such as girls' education, combating gender-based violence, trade, agricultural development, energy and good governance.

AED, which has worked in educa-

tion in Kenya since 1980, provides professional development training for teachers and encourages



Beneficiaries of the AED's girls education project talk outside Kisumu, Kenya, about the importance of girls staying in school.

women to become teachers, particularly in rural areas where they can be role models for girls. In 2005, the last year for which data are available, only 38 percent of secondary school teachers were women, Rihani said.

With funding from the General Electric Company, AED is working with 10 primary schools in the Kisumu region of southwest Kenya to create and strengthen parent-teacher associations, encourage women to take leadership roles in the associations, and motivate community residents to become involved with their schools.

AED also encourages parents to communicate with the school administrations so they are kept apprised of what their children are learning, said Andrea Bertone, director of AED's projects in Africa.

The parent-teacher associations in Kisumu, birthplace of President Obama's father, are discovering ways to encourage girls to stay in school, such as by creating school gardens where boys and girls learn

to work together. The school associations then decide how to use proceeds from sales of garden produce, often choosing to purchase school uniforms and supplies. AED's aim is to build enthusiasm among parents so they will continue to be involved with schools after AED's involvement in the region ends, Bertone said.

An AED project in Kisumu links 550 girls with mentors who serve as trusted role models. Mentors, who include teachers and respected women in the community, help the girls develop the confidence to participate in class so they can do well and to develop the skills they need to make good life choices. With mentors, girls and boys learn to talk about such issues as gender-based violence, reproductive health, how to avoid contracting HIV, good nutrition and hygiene.

In Kisumu and throughout Kenya, AED also implements the USAID-funded U.S. Ambassador's Girls' Scholarship Program. The program covers school fees at the secondary level, addresses cultural barriers to schooling and promotes community awareness of the importance of girls' education to society, Rihani said.

The program has as a priority helping the most disadvantaged children in the community, particularly orphans, and those from large families that can't afford to send all their children to school, she said.

USAID implements the scholarship program in a total of 38 countries throughout sub-Saharan Africa, USAID's Sharon Mangin Nwankwo said. In Kenya, USAID more than

(Continued on page 21)

South Africa Uniquely Positioned to Spur African Economic Growth

South Africa Uniquely Positioned to Spur African Economic Growth

By Stephen Kaufman
Staff Writer

Washington — South Africa's financial and economic success translates into both a responsibility and an opportunity for the country to help its African neighbors achieve their own development potential, says Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Speaking in Johannesburg, South Africa, August 7 to the International Development Corporation, Clinton said "it isn't easy to find countries with financial and economic policies that have been as sound as South Africa's," and the country is "uniquely positioned to advance its own economic trajectory and to propel economic growth on the African continent as a whole."

African history shows a "painful truth" through its years under colonialism and post colonialism in which its resources "have too often gone to the few and not the many," Clinton said. "[A]s rich as this continent is, the poorest people in the world reside here."

African prosperity and opportunity must now be shared and expanded, and no longer "undermined by poor governance and poor leadership and by a shortsighted approach in both the public and the private sectors," she said.

She told her South African audience that Africa's current and future economic success "hinges in great extent on the economic success of South Africa. It is both a responsibility and an opportunity for all of

you who lead the economic worth in this country."



Secretary Clinton addresses the International Development Corporation in Johannesburg, South Africa, August 7.

The country's economic policies have given it good credit, low debt and solvent, well-regulated banks. Citing bank failures around the world that contributed to the current global economic crisis, the secretary said, "Frankly, we could learn a lot from your example."

Looking at the factors behind South Africa's success, Clinton praised the country's example of embracing political reconciliation and adopting a "modern, progressive constitution" after its transition from apartheid in the 1990s. Along with economic diversification and adaptation of new technologies, South Africa has also included more of its women as "citizens and entrepreneurs."

She welcomed President Jacob Zuma's appointment of Gill Marcus as governor of the South African Reserve Bank, as well as the "many examples" of women entrepreneurs in the country.

But, "South Africa has so much more economic potential, and it cannot exist as an island of relative prosperity amid a sea of untapped

opportunity elsewhere on the continent," she said.

The United States is ready to work with South Africa to increase trade and regional integration, develop new technologies, and create more favorable business conditions through good governance and women's economic empower, she said.

With women constituting 70 percent of Africa's farmers, an increase in the continent's agricultural productivity would be "a huge boost." Africa currently has about two percent of the global world trade. "If we increase productivity by one percent across the board, that would be more than all the aid programs that come into Africa right now," Clinton said.

She said in September discussions will begin between South African and U.S. leaders with the goal of establishing a bilateral business council to promote greater economic ties.

The Obama administration also wants to support President Zuma's rural development and infrastructure plans.

Rural poverty takes its toll on urban areas as well when those coming to the cities to find work "reach a dead end, without the training and the preparation for the jobs that are available," she said.

Secretary Clinton also said she was delighted to visit with former South African president and Nobel Peace prize laureate Nelson Mandela. It is important, she said, "to continue the work of his life, the work

(Continued on page 21)

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Telling America's story

Innovative Mobile Phone Project Saves Children's . .

(Continued from page 8)

work in Malawi while also reaching out to other potential clients and partners. We are confident that mobile technology has a central role to play in the future of development projects, not only in the field of nutrition and health, but also in many other areas, including education, supply chain monitoring and agricultural practices.

"We look forward to playing a leading role in facilitating the use of RapidSMS throughout the field of international development," she said.

More information on the child malnutrition surveillance project in Malawi (<http://www.mobiledevelopmentsolutions.org/unicef.pdf>) (PDF, 8.19 MB) is

available from the UNICEF Web site. [//www.america.gov](http://www.america.gov))

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Increasing Numbers of Kenyan Girls Benefit from Educational Boost . . .

(Continued from page 19)

doubled its spending on girls' education between 2006 and 2009 to \$11 million, she added.

The Kenyan government has been very supportive of AED's education efforts. It has eliminated school tuition fees at the primary level and boosted its spending on education, Rihani said.

Mangin Nwankwo said the govern-

ment is giving special attention to "marginalized groups" in predominantly Muslim areas as well as to other groups like the seasonally migrating pastoralist communities in arid areas. Such groups generally do not have high rates of school enrollment for girls, who tend to marry early. Government financial assistance is limited because its resources are stretched thin by Kenya's population growth, she said.

USAID tries to help groups displaced by ethnic conflict or seasonal drought by setting up mobile education centers and training teachers from migrating communities so there are no time gaps in the education of these children.

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South Africa Uniquely Positioned to Spur African Economic Growth . . .

(Continued from page 20)

of dialogue, the work of outreach, the work of problem solving and creative resolution and search for solutions on so many fronts." A transcript of the secretary's remarks (<http://www.america.gov/>

[st/texttrans-english/2009/August/20090807204120ihecuor0.1798604.html](http://texttrans-english/2009/August/20090807204120ihecuor0.1798604.html)) is available on America.gov. What foreign affairs decisions should President Obama consider?

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