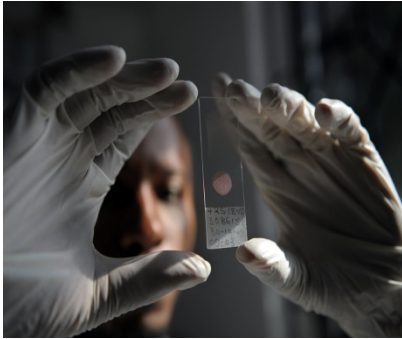




USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FACT SHEET

Science, Technology, Innovation and Partnerships



TONY KARUMBA / AFP

America has a proud history of being at the forefront of innovation to deliver unprecedented gains for humanity. Evidence has shown that when we harness American science, innovation, and entrepreneurship, we achieve the greatest leaps in social and economic development.

USAID's legacy of developing and implementing innovative breakthroughs has saved lives, created economic opportunity, and advanced human development.

IMPACTS OF USAID'S INNOVATIONS

Here are a few of the most notable, transformative impacts our work has had over the years:

- USAID collaborated with the Ford Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, and developing countries to help spark the Green Revolution, which saved millions from starvation thanks to the production of high-yield varieties of rice.
- USAID funded a procedure that adapted the mechanics behind U.S. military jet injectors for application of the smallpox vaccine. Using high pressure rather than a needle to force the vaccine through the skin eliminated the need for electricity to power the device. The worldwide smallpox eradication efforts of USAID and the Centers for Disease Control ended successfully after only 11 years.
- USAID provided the largest donor funding to establish the International Center for Diarrheal Diseases Research, where scientists conducted research to improve oral rehydration treatment. Today, almost a billion episodes of child diarrhea are treated with lifesaving oral rehydration therapy each year. Thanks to USAID's investments, child deaths from this life-threatening disease have been reduced by more than 50 percent since 1990.
- USAID, working with South African partners and researchers, helped fund the CAPRISA 004 trial, which resulted in a huge leap forward in women-controlled HIV prevention. The trial demonstrated that use of a microbicide gel containing an antiretroviral drug helps prevent the transmission of HIV.



BOBBY NEPTUNE / USAID

To continue to build on this legacy of innovation, USAID has made bolstering science, technology, innovation and partnerships in development a key priority. We are using scientific and technological research and open innovation to identify solutions to the development challenges of today such as lack of clean water, infectious diseases, food insecurity, energy, and biodiversity loss. This approach will accelerate our ability to deliver results and do so with greater efficiency.

USAID's work in science, technology and innovation represents an investment not only in the developing world but also in the American economy. The largest source of growth for U.S. products and services over the next forty years will be in the developing world. Greater prosperity in low income countries can lead to greater market potential for U.S. businesses as these economies expand. Moreover, our partnerships with U.S. universities, NGOs and the private sector enable them to maintain a competitive edge in the global economy.

FOCUS AREAS

Development Innovation Ventures (DIV): In 2010, USAID unveiled its **DIV** competition to support solutions to development problems that deliver positive impact for a fraction of the usual cost. Borrowing from the private sector venture capital model, DIV supports solutions through a proof-of-concept phase, tests them using cutting-edge analytical methods, and seeks to scale those solutions that demonstrate impact on millions of lives. Since its creation, the DIV program has awarded \$28 million to approximately 75 projects ranging from an investment to scale safe drinking water to a credit-scoring screening tool used to unlock \$1.5 million each week in private-sector lending to small businesses in Africa.

Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN): In 2012, USAID created the **HESN**, a groundbreaking new model to collaborate with American and foreign universities in support of creative solutions to global development challenges. The seven universities in the new partnership, Duke, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Michigan State, Texas A&M, The College of William and Mary, Makerere University in Uganda, and the University of California at Berkeley, have set up "Development Labs" that are working with USAID to apply science and technology to create, incubate, and scale up solutions in areas such as global health, food security, and chronic conflict.



ADRIANE OHANESIAN / AFP

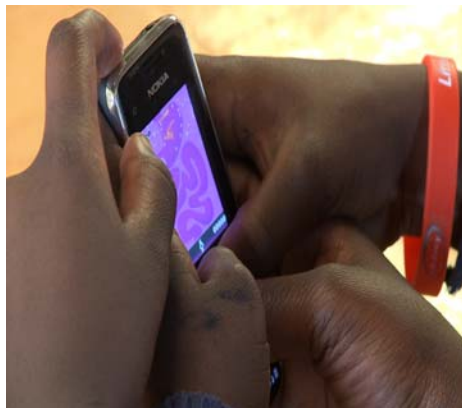
Grand Challenges for Development: Grand Challenges for Development focus on encouraging a wide array of development innovators to develop sustainable, effective solutions to some of the most challenging development problems. USAID and its partners articulate problem statements, not pre-determined solutions, and then invite a broad range of actors, including donor countries, foundations, corporations, and individuals to engage in solving these challenges. By September 2013, USAID will have launched five Grand Challenges to find and support solutions that save mothers' and children's lives in the critical 48-hour period surrounding delivery; dramatically improve early-grade reading levels; overcome critical barriers to agricultural energy levels; help grow the global movement for open government, transparency, and accountability; and improve water sustainability for food security. These five Grand Challenges are leveraging over \$125 million from other partners.

Public-Private Partnerships: Through public-private partnerships for development, USAID is implementing cost effective strategies to achieve sustained results and foster increased private sector-led growth in developing countries. In the past decade, USAID has engaged in more than 1,600 partnerships with over 3,000 distinct partners around the world—leveraging more than \$19 billion in public and private funds, on average nearly \$4 for every \$1 of USAID funding—to advance market-based solutions to promote economic growth, accelerate agriculture development, improve health outcomes, and increase access to quality education and professional training. We have found that the most effective partnerships are those which align business interests with USAID's development objectives, tap into the core capabilities of the private sector, and employ models that are cost-effective, scalable, and sustainable.

LAUNCH: Created in 2010, LAUNCH is a partnership between USAID, the Department of State, Nike and NASA, which helps innovators achieve greater impact through mentoring and support from experts and entrepreneurs. LAUNCH program cycles have focused on water, health, energy, and waste, among others. An open innovation process identifies hundreds of innovations, which are evaluated through a rigorous review process. A select number of innovators then receive mentorship from industry leaders on how to best implement and accelerate their solutions.

Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement through Research (PEER): The PEER program competitively funds developing-country researchers who collaborate with NSF- and NIH-funded U.S. researchers. These grants focus on agriculture, climate change, seismology, wildlife management, biodiversity, and child health. The PEER program aims to create opportunities for U.S. and developing country scientists to work together to address shared challenges. For example, researchers are assessing landslide risk in Lebanon; forecasting flooding risk in the volcanic terrains of El Salvador; studying marine biodiversity in Indonesia; and addressing water quality in Kenya.

Mobile Solutions: Two years ago USAID became the first bilateral development agency to launch a dedicated Mobile Solutions team. Recognizing the unique reach and power of the mobile phone, USAID is fostering transformative and market-driven solutions to empower individuals through financial inclusion, data-driven evidence and access to mobile technology. The Agency has established public-private partnerships and alliances with over 50 companies and other donors to develop large scale solutions to promote a shift away from the use of cash, close the mobile phone gender gap, facilitate more affordable Internet access and other activities, while leveraging \$30 million in investments at a 1:3.5 ratio. This year, USAID was awarded the *Best Government Policy for Mobile Development* award at GSM Association's Mobile World Congress.



ED OWLES / WORLDVIEW

Geospatial Technologies: The GeoCenter at USAID is paving the way for greater, integrated use of geospatial information technology to inform decision-making in development programming design and implementation. The GeoCenter has supported a broad network of 35 geographic information system specialists across USAID to facilitate the integration of geographical data analysis into every phase of the program cycle, from strategic planning to project design to monitoring and evaluation. As a result of the GeoCenter's technical assistance, missions in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Latin America are using geospatial information to better target social and economic development activities. For example, in South Sudan, to better understand where future water and sanitation activities should be focused, the GeoCenter helped the mission conduct a time series analysis of the areas of the city that have experienced the most rapid growth. The effort resulted in significant cost savings to the mission by avoiding the cost of purchasing imagery from commercial sources.