

# FOIA Marker

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## Office of Laura Bush - Scheduling

Ballard, Deanna

| Stack: | Row: | Sect.: | Shelf: | Pos.: | FRC ID: | Location or Hollinger ID: | NARA Number: | OA Number: |
|--------|------|--------|--------|-------|---------|---------------------------|--------------|------------|
| W      | 21   | 26     | 9      | 2     | 4740    | 17675                     | 7418         | 7497       |

Folder Title:

Binder - NSC Briefing Book for the trip of Mrs. Bush to Monrovia, Liberia, Accra, Ghana and Abuja, Nigeria 01/14/2006 - 01/19/2006

# Withdrawn/Redacted Material

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| DOCUMENT NO. | FORM              | SUBJECT/TITLE                                                  | PAGES | DATE       | RESTRICTION(S) |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|------------|----------------|
| 001          | Memorandum        | Your Trip to Africa - To: FLOTUS - From: Steve Hadley          | 2     | 01/12/2006 | P1/b1;         |
| 002          | Table of Contents | Liberia                                                        | 1     | N.D.       | P1/b1;         |
| 003          | Briefing          | Courtesy Call on President Johnson - Sirleaf of Liberia        | 2     | N.D.       | P1/b1;         |
| 004          | Talking Points    | Points to be Made for Meeting with President Johnson - Sirleaf | 1     | N.D.       | P5;            |
| 005          | Report            | [Report] [with attachment]                                     | 3     | 01/09/2006 | P1/b1;         |
| 006          | Report            | [Report] [with attachment]                                     | 3     | 01/08/2006 | P1/b1;         |
| 007          | Report            | [Report] [with attachment]                                     | 3     | 01/09/2006 | P1/b1;         |

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| 008          | Report            | Domestic Political and Economic Overview                      | 2     | N.D. | P1/b1;         |
| 009          | Report            | Economy                                                       | 2     | N.D. | P1/b1;         |
| 010          | Talking Points    | Points to be made on Women's Empowerment                      | 1     | N.D. | P5;            |
| 011          | Q and A           | Press Q 7 A's for Liberia                                     | 1     | N.D. | P5;            |
| 012          | Table of Contents | Ghana                                                         | 1     | N.D. | P1/b1;         |
| 013          | Briefing          | Discussions with President John and Mrs. Theresa Kufuor       | 2     | N.D. | P1/b1;         |
| 014          | Talking Points    | Points to be Made with President John and Mrs. Theresa Kufuor | 1     | N.D. | P5;            |

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| 015          | Report         | [Report] [with attachment]                                    | 3     | 01/09/2006 | P1/b1;         |
| 016          | Report         | [Report] [with attachment]                                    | 3     | 01/09/2006 | P1/b1;         |
| 017          | Report         | Domestic Political and Economic Overview                      | 2     | N.D.       | P1/b1;         |
| 018          | Talking Points | Points to be Made on Domestic Political and Economic Overview | 1     | N.D.       | P5;            |
| 019          | Report         | Economy                                                       | 2     | N.D.       | P1/b1;         |
| 020          | Talking Points | Points to be made on Women's Empowerment                      | 1     | N.D.       | P5;            |
| 021          | Q and A        | Press Q & A's for Ghana                                       | 2     | N.D.       | P5;            |

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| 022          | Table of Contents | Nigeria                                                                          | 1     | N.D.       | P1/b1;         |
| 023          | Briefing          | Discussiona with President Olesegun Obasanjo                                     | 3     | N.D.       | P1/b1;         |
| 024          | Talking Points    | Points to be Made for Discussions with President Olesegun Obasanjo               | 1     | N.D.       | P5;            |
| 025          | Report            | [Report] [with attachment]                                                       | 3     | 01/09/2006 | P1/b1;         |
| 026          | Report            | Domestic Political and Economic Overview                                         | 2     | N.D.       | P1/b1;         |
| 027          | Report            | Economic Overview                                                                | 2     | N.D.       | P1/b1;         |
| 028          | Talking Points    | Building Blocks Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program (AGSP) [with attachments] | 6     | N.D.       | P5;            |

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**NSC BRIEFING BOOK**  
**FOR THE TRIP OF MRS. BUSH**  
**TO**  
**MONROVIA, LIBERIA,**  
**ACCRA, GHANA**  
**AND**  
**ABUJA, NIGERIA**

**January 14-19, 2006**

**CHARITY WALLACE**

# Africa Trip Overview Memo

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**Liberia**

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| Table of Contents | Liberia       | 1     | N.D. | P1/b1;         |

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**FOIA IDs and Segments:**

2014-0528-F

**OA Num.:**

7497

2015-0191-F

**NARA Num.:**

7418

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## U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

### BIOGRAPHY

**Donald E. Booth**

Ambassador, Liberia

Term of Appointment: 07/29/2005 to present



Donald E. Booth was confirmed by the United States Senate on June 16 and attested by President George W. Bush on June 21, 2005 as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America. Ambassador Booth replaces Ambassador John Blaney who departed Liberia on July 13, 2005.

Prior to this appointment, Ambassador Booth, a member of the Senior Foreign Service, most recently served as Director of the Office of Technical and Specialized Agencies at the Department of State's Bureau of International Organization Affairs.

Ambassador Booth previously served as Director of the Office of West African Affairs. Prior to this position, he served as Deputy Director of the Office of Southern African Affairs. Ambassador Booth was also the Economic Counselor in Athens and the Division Chief for Bilateral Trade Affairs at the Department of State. He has attended the National War College, served as an International Relations Officer in the Office of Eastern European Affairs and was the desk officer for the Office of Egyptian Affairs and the Office of East African Affairs. Ambassador Booth was also stationed at embassies in Bucharest, Brussels and Libreville.

Ambassador Booth's service in Liberia will be his second posting here. He previously served as a Commercial Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia from 1979-1981.

Ambassador Booth earned a bachelor's degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University, a master's degree in Business Administration from Boston University and a master's degree in National Security Studies from the National War College.

Ambassador Booth is married to Anita Booth and they have three children.

Released on August 23, 2004



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## The George W. Bush Library

| FORM   | SUBJECT/TITLE                            | PAGES | DATE | RESTRICTION(S) |
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## LIBERIAN PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

The Presidential Inauguration for Liberia's 24<sup>th</sup> President, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, will be held at the Capitol Building with morning and afternoon receptions at the Executive Mansion. The Capitol Building was modeled after the United States Capitol building with a rotunda, Senate wing, and House of Representatives wing. Situated across the street from the Executive Mansion (approximately 700 meters away), the Capitol was dedicated on December 8, 1949. It occupies an area of approximately 30 acres, and is bound to the north and east by the University of Liberia Campus, to the south by the Executive Mansion, and to the west by the Temple of Justice (Supreme Court). On the front of this mostly concrete building is the Seal of Liberia which reads "The Love of Liberty Brought Us Here." The ship on the seal represents the first ship that brought American settlers, the rising sun represents the dawn of a new republic, the dove with the letter in its mouth represents Liberia's foreign relations, the wheel barrow and spade represent Liberia's natural resources, and the palm tree represents products from the land. During the civil war, the Capitol was looted and bullet holes are still visible.

The Executive Mansion was dedicated on January 3, 1964, during the administration of President William V.S. Tubman. It serves as residence and contains offices as well as reception rooms. The Executive Mansion is an eight-story building situated on the beach. The President's office is located on the fourth floor. The residential quarters are on the sixth and eighth floors. The grounds of the Mansion cover approximately 40 acres. The structure is built of corrugated steel, concrete and glass by Milton & Richards Architects, Ltd., and Stanley Engineering Company of Africa, Ltd. The front of the Mansion faces the sea, but the entrance is on the street side of the building.

Before its construction, presidents resided and worked from the old Executive Grounds on Broad Street downtown. The Mansion is the foremost symbol of power in Liberia. During the civil war, it became a target for rebel groups in the most militarized part of the city. Since its construction, almost all Liberian heads of state who occupied it have died in office and two were brutally murdered. Foreign heads of state, including President Jimmy Carter, President John F. Kennedy, and many others, have visited the Mansion in the past. The Tea House is located to the south of the Mansion, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.

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| FORM           | SUBJECT/TITLE                            | PAGES | DATE | RESTRICTION(S) |
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| Talking Points | Points to be made on Women's Empowerment | 1     | N.D. | P5;            |

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Ghana

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| Talking Points | Points to be Made with President John and Mrs. Theresa Kufuor | 1     | N.D. | P5;            |

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4740

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2014-0528-F

### **OA Num.:**

7497

2015-0191-F

### **NARA Num.:**

7418

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# U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

## BIOGRAPHY

**Pamela E. Bridgewater**

Ambassador, Ghana

Term of Appointment: 06/07/2005 to present



Pamela Bridgewater was nominated on May 11, 2005, by President Bush to be the next Ambassador to the Republic of Ghana and the U.S. Senate confirmed her in June. From September 2004 through May 2005 Ambassador Bridgewater served as Diplomat-in-Residence at Howard University.

Ambassador Bridgewater was appointed U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs in December 2002 and served there through September 2004. She managed the Department's relationship with 16 countries in West Africa, Economic and Commercial Policies and Programs, and Public Diplomacy Programs for all of Africa below the Sahara. Her superb skills in public diplomacy meant that she was able to comprehend and enhance the global objectives of public diplomacy while consistently focusing on the personal diplomacy and specific programs that bring daily successes with foreign counterparts and which create the foundation of mutual understanding with the US. At the height of the civil war in Liberia, she was named Special Coordinator for Peace in Liberia.

Pamela Bridgewater's life journey has taken her from the halls of Walker-Grant Elementary and High School in Fredericksburg, Virginia, to Virginia State University in Petersburg, to countries all over the world. She has led diplomatic efforts that have helped to change the course of world events.

Ms. Bridgewater served as U.S. Ambassador to Benin from 2000-2002 and Deputy Chief of Mission in Nassau, Bahamas from 1996-1999. Bridgewater was the longest serving U.S. Diplomat in South Africa (Pretoria, 1990-1993, Durban 1993-1996) and the first African-American woman to be appointed Consul General in Durban. She also served in Brussels, Belgium and in Kingston, Jamaica.

Bridgewater entered the U.S. Foreign Service in 1980 after a teaching career at Morgan State University and Bowie State University in Maryland, and Voorhees College in South Carolina.

She earned a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Virginia State, and a Master's Degree in Political Science from the University of Cincinnati. She advanced to candidacy for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in International Studies at The American University School of International Service.

She was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws Degree from Virginia State University in 1997, and received the National Order of Benin in 2002.

Recognized for her innovative approach to promoting U.S. business interests in Benin specifically, and in Africa overall, Bridgewater received the 2002 Charles E. Cobb, Jr. Award for Initiative and Success in Trade Development.

She is also the recipient of three Department of State Superior Honor Awards and Senior Presidential Performance Pay. She speaks fluent French.

Released on October 7, 2005

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|--------|------------------------------------------|-------|------|----------------|
| Report | Domestic Political and Economic Overview | 2     | N.D. | P1/b1;         |

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## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY IN GHANA

Women in Ghana are recognized under law as having equal rights as men in all spheres of life. The 1992 Constitution recognizes equality of all persons before the law and prohibits discrimination on the grounds of gender. However, women account for less than 10 percent of people in public office in Ghana. There are only 25 women in the 230-member Parliament. Women make up 19 percent of the Council of State. Though there has been some percentage increase in the number of women elected to District Assemblies, their participation continues to be extremely low.

Violence against women, including rape and domestic violence, is a significant problem. According to non-governmental organization estimates, one in three women experience domestic violence, and most abuses go unreported and therefore seldom come before the courts. The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs completed a nationwide sensitization campaign for a draft domestic violence bill, which the Ministry plans to introduce to Parliament this year. The Criminal Code bans the practice of forced marriages.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is a serious problem in Ghana. According to a recent study by the Ministry of Health, the prevalence rate among females ages 12 to 19 in the north is approximately 14 to 15 percent. The law prohibits FGM; nonetheless, members of the legal community advocated for legislation to close loopholes in the law and extend culpability to those who aid in carrying out FGM and to citizens who commit the crime outside the country's borders. This legislation did not pass.

The Ministry of Women's and Children's Affairs addresses gender and children's issues; however, women continue to experience societal discrimination. Women in urban centers and those with skills and training encounter little overt bias, but resistance to women entering nontraditional fields persists. Women, especially in rural areas, remain subject to burdensome labor conditions and traditional male dominance. Traditional practice and societal norms often deny women their statutory entitlements to inheritances and property, a legally registered marriage (and with it, certain legal rights), and the maintenance and custody of children.

Women's rights groups are active in educational campaigns and in programs to provide vocational training, legal aid, and other support to women. The government is active in educational programs, and many officials are active, outspoken advocates of women's rights.

A new trafficking in persons statute was adopted in 2005, which provides specific stiff penalties for trafficking of women and children, and charges the Department of Social Welfare with responsibility for overseeing rescue, shelter, counseling and other services for trafficked persons. The United States Agency for International Development assists with family planning services and HIV/AIDS outreach. The U.S. Embassy, through its Democracy and Human Rights Fund, assists a variety of women's grassroots organizations.

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## HIV/AIDS IN GHANA

The HIV epidemic in Ghana has shown a different pattern from those in many countries in sub-Saharan Africa. National levels of HIV infection are estimated to have risen more slowly than elsewhere, from around 2.4 percent in 1994 to around 3.4 percent in 2002. The Government of Ghana estimates that at the end of 2004 there were 404,000 adults and children living with HIV. HIV prevalence is highest in the eastern region of Ghana and lowest in the northern regions of the country. Prevalence is generally higher in urban areas, in mining and border towns, and along main transportation routes. Heterosexual intercourse is the mode of transmission for about 80 percent of HIV cases, with mother-to-child transmission accounting for another 15 percent.

There is a disproportionately high rate of HIV infections among women with a women-to-man ratio of 2:1. This has led to an increase in the number of pediatric AIDS cases. Adding to the crisis is the rising number of AIDS orphans. Approximately 9,600 children under age 15 are living with HIV/AIDS, and at the end of 2003, nearly 170,000 children under age 17 had lost one or both parents to AIDS. At that time only a few thousand of these children had received assistance such as food aid, health care, protection services, or educational or psychosocial support.

Although HIV prevalence appears to have stabilized, risks for explosive growth remain. It is increasingly recognized that national-level trends may well mask important concentrations of HIV, especially in vulnerable groups. Some populations thought to be at risk include sex workers, transport workers, prisoners, sexual partners of people living with HIV/AIDS, and men who have sex with men and their female sexual partners.

Though not a Focus Country under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the United States Government has extensive programs to combat HIV/AIDS in Ghana. About \$7 million of USAID annual aid in Ghana is spent to combat HIV/AIDS. Projects that receive support include: management and advocacy programs that help ensure a well-coordinated country response, efforts to strengthen the Ghana AIDS Commission, regional HIV/AIDS committees, the National AIDS Control Program (NACP), and NGOs (including faith- and community-based organizations).

There is strong government and community support for HIV/AIDS programs and policies. The U.N. joint program on HIV/AIDS

reports that Ghana is well advanced in applying the "Three Ones" principles. First, the National Strategic Framework is well recognized by all partners and there is a strong commitment to its implementation. Second, the Ghana AIDS Commission is acknowledged by all partners as the national coordinating body for all the HIV and AIDS efforts in country. Third, the National Monitoring and Evaluation Plan designed in 2004 provides a strong basis for one monitoring and evaluation system in the country. Religious leaders have embraced Ghana's national program encouraging compassion and support for people living with HIV/AIDS. In a historic communiqué presented to Vice President Alhaji Aliu Mahama, 23 Muslim and 25 Christian religious leaders committed themselves to work with the government and other stakeholders in a united front on the war against HIV/AIDS.

## AFRICA EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Primary school enrollment in African countries is among the lowest in the world, with 36 percent of children in Africa not in school. Education in most of Africa is adversely affected by limited funds and lack of adequate numbers of teachers, classrooms, and learning materials. In June 2002, President Bush announced the Africa Education Initiative (AEI), which focuses on increasing access to quality basic education opportunities in Africa through scholarships, textbooks, and teacher training programs. It is implemented by the United States Agency for International Development.

In June 2005, President Bush doubled the funding under AEI and expanded efforts to improve access to education and training for marginalized students and teachers; out-of-school youth, orphans, and other vulnerable children; and access to productivity-increasing job skills training and development for youth and their families. The total initiative is \$600 million from FY 2002 through FY 2010.

**Ambassadors Girls' Scholarship Program.** In Africa, girls account for 60 percent of the approximately 42 million children who are not enrolled in school. AEI is working to bridge this gender gap by providing 550,000 scholarships by 2010, mostly to African girls at the primary and secondary levels, so that they can grow up to assume positive roles in the education, political, and economic sectors of their countries. Support may include tuition, books, uniforms, and other essentials needed to ensure continued access to education opportunities. Scholarship recipients also benefit from mentoring activities that promote self-development and provide positive role models for the girls.

**Textbooks and Other Learning Materials.** The AEI, in partnership with African institutions and American minority-serving institutions, will develop 15 million textbooks and related learning and teaching materials and distribute them in Africa. This partnership emphasizes relevant content, institutional capacity building, and the long-term sustainability of the partnerships between the African institutions and their American counterparts.

**Teacher Training.** The pursuit of universal access to education places enormous stress on already burdened education systems in Africa. Recruiting, training, and supporting enough teachers to provide quality learning can be particularly challenging. To meet this challenge, AEI is developing, promoting and expanding innovative methods for training more than 920,000 teachers and



administrators to improve the quality of learning for millions of African children.

AEI provides support to strengthen the focus on HIV/AIDS mitigation and prevention. AEI increases the capacity of African education systems to manage the impacts of HIV/AIDS on teachers, students, and the quality of education. Many of the scholarship and teacher training programs include HIV/AIDS prevention and Life Skills curricula.

The initiative also increases parent and community involvement in children's education through such activities as sponsoring reading programs and strengthening parent associations. This will help schools and school systems become more transparent and responsive to the needs of civil society.

Beginning in FY 2007, AEI will begin including outreach to marginalized populations such as orphans and vulnerable children, out-of-school youth, and Muslims; rehabilitation of schools; and the use of information technologies.

Recognizing that the education of African children is vital to Africa's future economic growth and lasting democracy, AEI is designed to improve education opportunities for Africa's children so that they and their families can enjoy the benefits of literacy and learning.

As of December 2005:

- AEI had provided 120,000 scholarships in 40 countries;
- Over 2.1 million textbooks and other learning materials have been distributed; and
- Nearly 60,000 new and over 250,000 current teachers in 15 countries had been trained.



### CHRISTIANSBORG CASTLE

Christiansborg Castle was first a fortified Portuguese house and then a Swedish lodge in the mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century, before being captured by the Danish in 1657. After briefly losing the site to the Dutch, the Danish transformed it into a trading fort in 1661 and named it after the recently deceased Danish King Christian IV. The Danish used the fort primarily for trade in gold and slaves (until Denmark abolished its slave trade in 1803). For brief intervals, the Danes lost the fort to Portugal and a local Ghanaian chief, and finally sold it to Britain in 1850.

Between 1876 and 1890, the British colonial governors resided in the castle. They abandoned it until 1901, during which time it was used as a police mess and an insane asylum. From 1902-1957, it reverted back to being the residence of the Governor of British Gold Coast. It became the residence of Ghana's first President, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah, in 1960 and has since remained the Seat of Government.

## ACCRA TEACHER TRAINING COLLEGE

The Accra Teacher Training College was originally opened 1962, as a replacement for the colonial era Government Training College. It began as a day teacher training college with a teaching staff of eight members.

The college grants a 3-year certificate. It currently has approximately 547 students on campus (Year 1 and Year 2 students) and another 265 students in training placements (student teachers) at primary school. The student body composition is approximately 60 percent men and 40 percent women. All "on campus" students live at the College.

The objective of the site visit is to launch the Textbook and Learning Material Program (TLMP) activity, which is an essential component of the President's Africa Education Initiative (AEI). TLMP will enhance girls' and boys' learning opportunities in Ghana primary schools by providing high-quality, cost-effective textbooks and learning materials to school children.

TLMP seeks to build the capacity of host country educators to provide more and better learning tools at the primary level. It also seeks to strengthen the capacity of host country education institutions. United States implementing partners (Minority Serving Institutions) will develop linkages with African institutions to support the development of textbooks and other learning materials, which will be sustained after the completion of the project. This will advance the AEI's broader goal of raising the quality of education for African children, especially girls.

For the TLMP activity in Ghana, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has awarded the Chicago State University a \$3 million agreement to work with the Ministry of Education and Sports in Ghana and USAID to develop and distribute 600,000 teaching and learning materials from 2005 to 2008.

KORLE-BU TEACHING HOSPITAL  
FEVERS UNIT (HIV/AIDS TREATMENT CARE AND SUPPORT)

Ghana, a country of 20.2 million people, has an estimated adult HIV/AIDS prevalence rate of three percent, with 360,000 people living with HIV/AIDS. United States funding for Ghana's HIV/AIDS programs has remained stable at \$7 million from FY2004 to FY2006.

Korle-Bu is Ghana's largest public teaching hospital. It houses one of four major integrated HIV/AIDS treatment care and support centers in the country. The center hosts a comprehensive package of services including both in-patient and out-patient services, access to antiretroviral treatment therapy as well as psycho-social support and daily nutritional supplementation distribution.

The center, referred to as the Fevers Unit, supports approximately 1,000 patients. Korle-Bu was one of the first U.S.-funded HIV treatment sites in all of Africa. The first grant to Korle-Bu from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) was signed in 2001. This program has evolved into a joint effort between many partners; it is a good example of creating sustainability within the health care system. At present, a Global Fund grant to the Ministry of Health supports the provision of antiretroviral drugs. However, access to antiretroviral drugs still remains a challenge, as the local procurement systems are weak. Each year, the United States Government contributes approximately \$500,000 to the Fevers Unit (both directly and indirectly) for training, logistics, capacity building, and care and support for people living with HIV/AIDS. The United States Government is also working with the Government of Ghana to build institutional capacity, improve the policy environment and help create a viable and manageable system for drug procurements and distribution.

Stigma and discrimination in Ghana disproportionately affect HIV-positive women and children and make them less willing to obtain counseling and testing, treatment and care. This site has become the preferred center for HIV-positive women and children, because it is known to be friendly to them. The Fevers Unit has been an innovator in involving people living with HIV/AIDS in its program planning and including them in the

counseling program; this served as a lesson to other treatment and care programs in Ghana.

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BUILDING BLOCKS  
KORLE-BU

- America is supporting treatment for over 400,000 men, women, and children in the fifteen focus countries that receive special emphasis in the President's Emergency Plan. However, the work of the Emergency Plan is not limited just to these nations -- it extends to over 120 nations around the world, including Ghana.
- The United States provided Ghana with \$7 million a year to fight the ravages of AIDS, from FY 2004 through FY 2006. In addition to that direct aid, we provided almost one-third of the support Ghana receives through the Global Fund.
- Today, we are at a site that is jointly supported by the Ghanaian Government, the United States and the Global Fund. It is an example of the concerted international effort to beat back this disease.
- As one of the first U.S.-funded HIV/AIDS treatment sites in all of Africa, Korle-Bu has taught us valuable lessons about the most effective ways to deliver comprehensive care, including supporting the delivery of life-saving antiretrovirals.
- It is important to note that people living with HIV/AIDS have been vital to the success of Korle-Bu. They have been, and continue to be, full participants in the planning and development of the programs here. The emphasis on involving people living with AIDS has significantly contributed to stigma reduction and a real focus on comprehensive care that meets the needs of those people served here.
- In turn, Korle-Bu's atmosphere and comprehensive programs that include counseling and nutritional support, have made this site a welcoming place for women who may previously have been intimidated by less supportive environments.
- Further, the United States has applied the lessons we have learned at Korle-Bu as we have implemented programs around the world.

- Korle-Bu continues to lead by example. Korle-Bu is developing into a locally sustainable clinic, with ever-increasing support from the Ghanaian Government and the Global Fund.

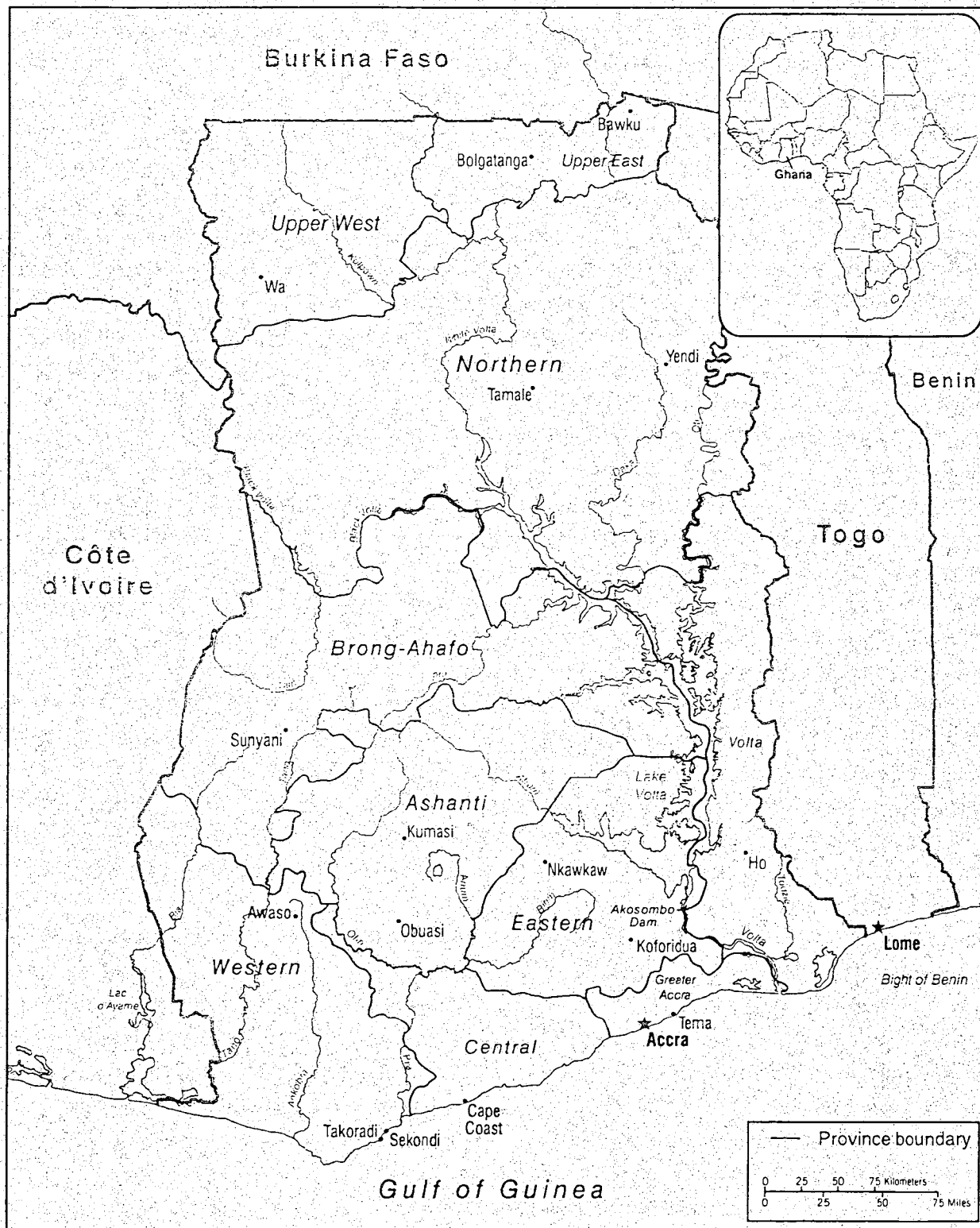
U.S. EMBASSY ACCRA  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mrs. Bush might acknowledge those who worked on the visit:

- Ambassador Pamela E. Bridgewater
- Deputy Chief of Mission Jerry Lanier
- USAID Director Sharon Cromer and her staff: Dennis Weller, Larry Dolan, and Bethanne Moskov (education and HIV events)



# Ghana



**Nigeria**

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| Briefing | Discussiona with President Olesegun Obasanjo | 3     | N.D. | P1/b1;         |

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| Report | [Report] [with attachment] | 3     | 01/09/2006 | P1/b1;         |

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# U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE

## BIOGRAPHY

### **John Campbell**

Ambassador, Nigeria

Term of Appointment: 05/20/2004 to present



Ambassador Campbell was sworn in as Ambassador to Nigeria on May 18 and arrived at post on May 20. His most recent previous assignment was as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Human Resources.

A career Foreign Service Officer since 1975, his overseas postings included Lyon, Paris, and Geneva, and he served as Polcouns at Lagos, Nigeria (1988-1990) and Pretoria/Cape Town, South Africa (1993-96). Assignments at the Department have included Dean, School of language Studies at the Foreign Service Institute, Deputy Executive Secretary, Director of UN Political Affairs in IO, and P staff.

Mr. Campbell was born in Washington, D.C. in 1944. He earned the BA and MA degrees from the University of Virginia and Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1970. He was a 1990-91 State Department Senior Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University. From 1970 to 1975 he taught British and French history at Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, Virginia.

Released on August 23, 2004

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## AFRICA EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Primary school enrollment in African countries is among the lowest in the world, with 36 percent of children in Africa not in school. Education in most of Africa is adversely affected by limited funds and lack of adequate numbers of teachers, classrooms, and learning materials. In June 2002, President Bush announced the Africa Education Initiative (AEI), which focuses on increasing access to quality basic education opportunities in Africa through scholarships, textbooks, and teacher training programs. It is implemented by the United States Agency for International Development.

In June 2005, President Bush doubled the funding under AEI and expanded efforts to improve access to education and training for marginalized students and teachers; out-of-school youth, orphans, and other vulnerable children; and access to productivity-increasing job skills training and development for youth and their families. The total initiative is \$600 million from FY 2002 through FY 2010.

**Ambassadors Girls' Scholarship Program.** In Africa, girls account for 60 percent of the approximately 42 million children who are not enrolled in school. AEI is working to bridge this gender gap by providing 550,000 scholarships by 2010, mostly to African girls at the primary and secondary levels, so that they can grow up to assume positive roles in the education, political, and economic sectors of their countries. Support may include tuition, books, uniforms, and other essentials needed to ensure continued access to education opportunities. Scholarship recipients also benefit from mentoring activities that promote self-development and provide positive role models for the girls.

**Textbooks and Other Learning Materials.** The AEI, in partnership with African institutions and American minority-serving institutions, will develop 15 million textbooks and related learning and teaching materials and distribute them in Africa. This partnership emphasizes relevant content, institutional capacity building, and the long-term sustainability of the partnerships between the African institutions and their American counterparts.

**Teacher Training.** The pursuit of universal access to education places enormous stress on already burdened education systems in Africa. Recruiting, training, and supporting enough teachers to provide quality learning can be particularly challenging. To meet this challenge, AEI is developing, promoting and expanding innovative methods for training more than 920,000 teachers and

administrators to improve the quality of learning for millions of African children.

AEI provides support to strengthen the focus on HIV/AIDS mitigation and prevention. AEI increases the capacity of African education systems to manage the impacts of HIV/AIDS on teachers, students, and the quality of education. Many of the scholarship and teacher training programs include HIV/AIDS prevention and Life Skills curricula..

The initiative also increases parent and community involvement in children's education through such activities as sponsoring reading programs and strengthening parent associations. This will help schools and school systems become more transparent and responsive to the needs of civil society.

Beginning in FY 2007, AEI will begin including outreach to marginalized populations such as orphans and vulnerable children, out-of-school youth, and Muslims; rehabilitation of schools; and the use of information technologies.

Recognizing that the education of African children is vital to Africa's future economic growth and lasting democracy, AEI is designed to improve education opportunities for Africa's children so that they and their families can enjoy the benefits of literacy and learning.

As of December 2005:

- AEI had provided 120,000 scholarships in 40 countries;
- Over 2.1 million textbooks and other learning materials have been distributed; and
- Nearly 60,000 new and over 250,000 current teachers in 15 countries had been trained.

## AMBASSADOR'S GIRLS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program (AGSP) provides scholarships and mentoring activities to girls from the most disadvantaged circumstances (orphans, those with physical disabilities, and those from economically poor households). The program, administered by Ambassador Campbell, focuses on preparing a new generation of Nigerian leaders at the early stages of their academic and social development by giving girls the opportunity, skills, and incentives to continue their education so that they may fully participate in civil society and national development. The AGSP is implemented by U.S. NGO "World Education International," in partnership with the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations of Nigeria.

The program seeks to increase the number of girls who stay in school and to augment the enrollment of girls in educational institutions that provide programs for students with special physical needs. The scholarships assist girls to complete at least a 4-year period within primary or secondary levels within the Nigerian education system. With the completion of each level of education, the girls' possibilities for personal well-being, self-sufficiency and contributions to their families and communities also increase.

Through the AGSP, over 1,250 disadvantaged girls in Nigeria are able to attend primary and/or secondary or special needs schools through the provision of 4-year scholarship awards. In addition to tuition costs and school fees, the scholarship may also cover the costs of uniforms, transport to school, books, and even boarding fees where applicable. This program reaches all six geopolitical zones of Nigeria.

The program also encourages girls to stay in school during the scholarship period and beyond through complementary mentoring programs, which are developed with local NGOs, community-based groups, and religious organizations. The program provides small grants to groups in each state, to facilitate regular visits to the scholarship recipients to encourage the development of good study habits, teach life skills, and present positive role models to the girls.

## HIV/AIDS

Nigeria is one of fifteen countries worldwide designated for assistance under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the significant increase in resources it entails. PEPFAR implementation builds on strong partnerships with the Government of Nigeria, nongovernmental organizations, faith-based organizations, and the business sector to expand existing activities and create new public-private and private-private partnerships to reduce HIV transmission and alleviate the health and socioeconomic burdens of the disease.

Nigeria now accounts for 10 percent of the world's HIV/AIDS cases. As a result, AIDS has left over one million orphaned children in Nigeria. The potential impact of the disease is a major security issue for the country and the region as a whole. Along with Ethiopia, China, India, and Russia, Nigeria is projected to be one of the five "next wave" countries that will double or triple the number of global HIV cases by the end of the decade. The high proportion of young Nigerians and the early age of first sexual intercourse fuel this potential for explosive growth. Other factors contributing to the rapid spread of the disease include a very weak health system, lack of trained health professionals, high levels of untreated sexually transmitted infections, low condom use, poverty, low literacy levels, general poor health, the low status of women, polygamy, the high burden of tuberculosis (TB) and co-infection, stigmatization, and the denial of HIV infection among vulnerable groups.

When President Obasanjo was elected, his government was confronted with a national seroprevalence rate of 5.4 percent among prenatal clinic attendees, or nearly 3 million infections among the general population. While the new government has vastly strengthened the national response to the epidemic, in the near term the outlook is poor. Most recent estimates from UNAIDS and national studies show the following:

- At least 4 million Nigerian adults are infected with HIV;
- Approximately 53 percent of these infections are among women, 47 percent are among men;
- Approximately 1.8 million Nigerian children have been orphaned by the disease;
- Seroprevalence at the state-level ranges from a low of 1.2 percent in southwestern Osun state to a high of 12 percent in eastern Cross River state; and

- In the absence of major efforts to control the disease, it is estimated that by 2010 the number of infected Nigerians will reach a staggering 7 to 10 million.

Based on data from women seeking prenatal care, HIV prevalence is highest in young adults aged 20-24 (5.6 percent in 2003), and is 1.7 percent among young women less than 15 years old. Some 44 percent of Nigerians are under 15 years of age. Nigerians have an early age of sexual debut: more than 25 percent of women have had sex by age 15 and 50 percent by age 18.

Nigeria has the fourth largest TB burden in the world with some 300,000 cases, but only 10 to 15 percent of active cases are detected. The treatment success rate was 79 percent in 2000; a high default rate of 11 percent keeps the treatment success rate below the global target of 85 percent. Of further concern is the rise in HIV-TB co-infection. HIV prevalence among TB patients increased from 2.2 percent in 1991 to 19 percent in 2000. Approximately one million Nigerians are infected with both HIV and TB and another 50,000 or more are added each year.

The United States Government is working with partners to:

- Build logistics management systems;
- Support advocacy and policy activities aimed at reducing stigma and discrimination;
- Provide care and support for 1,750,000 people living with HIV/AIDS and orphans and vulnerable children by 2008;
- Treat 350,000 HIV-positive patients with antiretroviral drugs by 2008; and
- Prevent 1,145,545 new infections by 2008.

By the end of September 2005, the PEPFAR program had reached the following intermediate targets:

- 58,292 Nigerian women received prevention of mother to child transmission services in FY 2005;
- 31,205 individuals were provided with home-based, facility-based or community-based care and support, many of them children;
- The United States Government funded training for 245 caregivers to provide care for 3,485 HIV/AIDS orphans and vulnerable children;
- 33,235 HIV-positive patients received TB treatment;
- 98,019 people accessed voluntary, confidential counseling and testing and received their results; and

- 18,885 patients were receiving United States Government-funded antiretroviral treatment.



## MUSLIM COMMUNITY

Nigeria's nearly 70 million Muslims have been traditionally moderate and often suspicious of Middle Eastern influence. However, the Muslim community is increasingly vulnerable to radicalization given the extremely poor social indicators in Muslim areas and chronic breakdowns in rule of law. The twelve northern states adopted Sharia law between 1999 and 2001, but the process has increased disillusionment among most northerners since violence and corruption among elites has not abated. The waning influence of traditional leaders has also created a power vacuum.

Nigeria has experienced bloody communal rioting between Christian and Muslim communities. Elements of both communities have initiated violence at different times. The root causes are often highly localized issues involving commercial and political interests of specific individuals or small groups. As violence escalates, it becomes generalized into Muslim and Christian camps. Radicals on both sides exacerbate tensions between Muslims and Christians in Nigeria, but many Nigerians routinely socialize across religious lines. While many ethnic groups are identified as either traditionally Muslim or Christian, the Yoruba people include many followers of both faiths. President Obasanjo is a Yoruba and a Christian. Statistics being imprecise, both the Muslim and Christian communities believe that they are the largest.

Since September 2001, the United States Government has increased its counterterrorism posture and stepped up outreach to Muslim communities. The United States Embassy initiated Magama, a Hausa-language magazine that reaches 8,000 Muslims in northern Nigeria, and co-produced with the Nigerian Television Authority a documentary on Muslim life in America to spotlight our own Muslim population.

The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of Transition Initiatives provided funding to support several initiatives that engaged Muslim clergy in Kano and Kaduna states such as Interfaith Mediation Center in Kaduna. The Embassy sponsored a dialogue in early 2005 with Muslim activists and intellectuals to explore mutual perceptions on such topics as Islam, terrorism, and poverty elimination. The conclusion of that conference and a subsequent conference on Sharia held in Abuja is that the most effective way to change



the perceptions and opinions of Nigerian Muslims is to cooperate on projects to improve their lives and incomes.

Our current outreach efforts emphasize educational, economic, and humanitarian assistance. Public diplomacy programs send 20 high school students a year to the United States for study and have established English-language labs in two northern Nigeria high schools. We have also awarded micro-scholarships to 20 needy students at the same schools.

A pivotal element in our outreach strategy is the establishment of American Corners, which are joint cultural centers with Nigerian partners (usually universities or libraries). The Corners provide information on U.S. policies, institutions, and society. They are equipped with computers, Internet access, VCRs, reference and specialized American books, and references on study in the United States. So far, we have established 10 American Corners: five in the south (Ibadan, Abeokuta, Port Harcourt, Calabar, and Enugu) and five in the north (Jos, Kano, Kaduna, Bauchi, and Abuja). The Embassy has signed memoranda of understanding with partners in Maiduguri and Sokoto, which gives us access in the northeast and northwest.

USAID's \$95 million COMPASS program supports integrated health and education activities in four states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Three of the four states are in the north. In primary education, COMPASS will focus on student attendance, retention, and achievement in 350 schools, 25 percent of the schools are Islamiyya schools or Quoranic schools, the Nigerian equivalent of Madrasas. A second project is the Planting Seed Reserve. This project will be implemented in Kano, Kaduna, Jigawa, and the FCT to establish a community-based and managed system for the production, storage and distribution of improved and high-yielding varieties of millet, sorghum, and cowpeas -- staple foods of northern Nigeria.

The Embassy's Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC) runs several humanitarian projects in the north ranging from renovation of a general hospital, the construction of a large secondary school, and the building of multiple seed storage/famine relief facilities. Despite relatively low costs (\$100,000-\$150,000), these grass-roots initiatives are effective. We authorized \$150,000 in FY 2005 Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Initiative funding to support ODC borehole drilling programs in northern Nigeria. We monitor public response to these projects and assess changes in attitudes. A recent study shows that over the last few years, favorable views of the United States in Nigeria

have declined, and opinion of the United States is even lower among Muslims. The United States is widely perceived by Muslims to be a strong supporter of the Obasanjo administration.

## MUSLIM OUTREACH

Muslims comprise almost 70 million of Nigeria's 140 million people, making Nigeria home to the largest number of Muslims of any country outside of Asia. Muslim communities predominate in the northern half of Nigeria, where they constitute the majority of the population. There are also substantial Muslim communities in the southwest and major cities.

The influence of political Islam is expanding and extremist elements are of growing concern in selected states in the north. There is also growing anti-Americanism among some Muslim youth in some northern states related to U.S. Middle East policies and the war in Iraq. Poverty is deeply entrenched in the rural north and is attended by disproportionately high rates of child mortality, illiteracy, and other social ills, the product of years of failure to invest in and deliver social services. The inequities between north and south are stark, further marginalizing communities and fueling the potential for unrest. The United States Government's core strategy for promoting stability and development in northern Nigeria consists of improving the delivery of critical social sector services -- basic education, maternal and child health -- and reducing poverty. The following United States Agency for International Development (USAID) programs benefit Muslims and others in selected northern states and Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

**Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM).** This program, which targets Kaduna, Kano, and Plateau States, uses the Muslim/Christian Dialogue Forum to work with joint committees of Muslims and Christians to prevent conflict and build peace. One component of this program supports Basketball for Peace, a local NGO that brings together Muslim and Christian youths to play basketball and conduct community outreach programs as a means of mitigating or preventing sectarian violence.

**Maximizing Agricultural Revenue and Key Enterprises in Targeted Sites (MARKETS).** This program relies on the private sector to lead expanded economic opportunities in the agriculture sector by increasing agricultural productivity, enhancing value-added processing and increasing commercialization. MARKETS will work with farmers, processors, and wholesalers in the North in such commodity sectors as cereals, legumes/cowpeas, and animal feed.

**Community Action for Participation in the Social Services (COMPASS).** This program began in 2004 and provides community based, integrated social sector services (basic education, maternal and child health, child spacing/family planning) in

Kano, Bauchi, and Nassarawa States, and in FCT. For the education component, COMPASS works in Kano and Nassarawa States with public primary schools, 25 percent of which are Islamiyyah schools (which teach the core Koranic curriculum in addition to contemporary education subjects such as math, English and social science). The rationale for targeting assistance to Islamiyyah schools is that these schools enroll large numbers of Muslim girls because their parents believe secular public schools are not compliant with Islam. In FY 2004, COMPASS received "Basic Education for Islamic Communities" funding from USAID, which was used for teacher training and Interactive Radio Instruction to improve literacy and numeracy in Kano and Nasarawa states.

**Pre-Packaged Malaria Treatment Program.** This is a nationwide social marketing program for prepackaged treatment of malaria. Seven of the fourteen focus states are in the North (Bauchi, Borno, Kaduna, Kano, Nasarawa, Plateau, and Sokoto).

**Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program.** A total of 1,200 Nigerian girls are expected to receive educational scholarships and mentoring support in the FCT and six states in the North (Borno, Gombe, Kano, Nasarawa, and Sokoto).

**The Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN).** Treatment, prevention, care, and support in Kano State and FCT (will expand to Bauchi and Kaduna States in 2006).

#### Kano State

- Will work with the Islamic Medical Association of Nigeria (IMAN) to reach Muslim communities with voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) and other HIV/AIDS services; IMAN will also promote "Abstinence" and "Be Faithful" strategies for HIV/AIDS prevention within these communities;
- Will support the Muslim Sisters Organization (MSO) to provide OVC and their households in Muslim communities with care and support services, including educational/psycho-social support; MSO will also strengthen the capacity of the families and communities to continue protecting and supporting OVC; and
- Will support the Development, Research and Projects Centre to build the capacity of Muslim leaders in promoting HIV/AIDS prevention strategies within their spheres of influence.

#### FCT

- Will work with the Ummah Support Group, an Islamic faith-based organization located in the National Mosque; and
- Is targeting Muslim OVC with essential services to improve their quality of life and reduce stigma and discrimination.

**Society for Family Health (SFH).** Community-level HIV/AIDS prevention activities among targeted groups in states with large Muslim populations - Abuja, Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Kaduna, Kano, Kebbi, Plateau, and Sokoto. The major activities will focus on community mobilization and sensitization of gatekeepers to provide a more supportive and enabling environment.

**National Level Islamic Programs.** Capacity Building for Jaa'matu Nasiru Islam and Ansarudeen Council members to enable them to advocate for incorporating HIV/AIDS prevention messages into regular teachings and to develop their own advocacy policy.

NATIONAL CENTER FOR WOMEN DEVELOPMENT (NCWD)

The Women's Empowerment Roundtable is a discussion entitled, "Women leading Nigeria in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." The participants will be successful Nigerian women in politics, education, agriculture, health, and civil society who will highlight the most important issues for Nigerian women and girls, including their accomplishments and setbacks. They will describe how the United States has helped women and girls thus far and where future assistance to Nigeria would produce the most positive results.

The NCWD has a mandate to promote research on the activities and achievements of women, serve as a databank on gender and development in Nigeria, facilitate the formulation of policies affecting women, and provide training and counseling on skills development and income generation.

At this center, the U.S. Ambassador to Nigeria recently launched the Shared Futures Program, which reaches out to Muslim women and youth and will distribute 10,000 education kits and 1,500 sewing machines to 11 states and the Federal Capital Territory.

### SAINT MARY'S HOSPITAL

St. Mary's hospital is one of eight health facilities under the Catholic Archdiocese of Abuja. It is a small mission health facility managed by 5 reverend sisters with a staff of 53, which includes 4 doctors and a team of social workers and counselors. St. Mary's offers medical and surgical services and a range of public health services such as routine immunizations and outreach services linked with care and support groups in parishes within the dioceses. St. Mary's began antiretroviral treatment (ART) with its own hospital funds in 2004; currently it is treating 120 people. Due to previous lack of outside financial support, patients have had to pay \$45 per month, a cost that is prohibitive to most Nigerians.

The United States Government began support to St. Mary's in 2004 to strengthen Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) services and offer Voluntary Counseling and Testing and home-based care and support services. In 2005, the United States Government expanded its support through an initiative to build local capacity by supporting the Christian Health Association of Nigeria under the Global HIV/AIDS Initiative Nigeria (GHAIN) project. This will not only greatly increase local capacity to provide ART related services, but also offer a more comprehensive package of services to a larger number of individuals. The United States Government support will allow the clinic to provide antiretroviral drugs free of charge for the first time, for up to 500 patients. Services supported by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief include counseling and testing; antiretroviral therapy; PMTCT; management of opportunistic infections including tuberculosis; laboratory monitoring of HIV and opportunistic infections; and facilitation of support groups and home-based care.



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| Talking Points | Building Blocks Ambassador's Girls Scholarship Program (AGSP) [with attachments] | 6     | N.D. | P5;            |

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