On October 25-26, USAID/Uganda Deputy Mission Director, John Mark Winfield, traveled to Sironko and Bugiri in Eastern Uganda to sign District Operational Plan (DOP) agreements with the District Local Governments. Both signing events were well attended by the District Local Government leadership and USAID Implementing Partners. The DOP concept was very well received, as each district expressed gratitude for being included among USAID/Uganda’s 19 Focus Districts, out of 112 districts in Uganda.

The Deputy Mission Director made courtesy calls to the District Leaders in which he discussed the DOP approach, underscoring its importance in enhancing coordination between USAID, its Implementing Partners, and the respective District Local Governments. He also stressed the importance of the DOPs as a core component of USAID’s efforts to improve efficiency and accountability, and optimize the use of scarce resources in the midst of a challenging economic environment.

Ms. Marion Pamela Tukahurirwa, the Sironko district Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), pledged to recommend the DOP approach to the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government, emphasizing that DOPs support transparency in service delivery, and will enhance her ability to report on all activities supported by USAID in her district. Similarly Mr. Chrizestom Kayise, the Bugiri district CAO, expressed his appreciation of the DOP approach as a means to nurture good governance.
The DOPs are a core component of USAID/Uganda’s efforts to align resources and improve collaboration and accountability, by ensuring that USAID programs are aligned with district development plans. They provide a framework for planning and coordinating USAID assistance with the districts to achieve shared development objectives through a more efficient and effective approach.

**ECONOMIC GROWTH**

**USAID Enhances Youth Innovation through Support to Young Research Scientists**

On October 11, USAID/Uganda participated in the Agriculture Bio Business Incubation (BBI) and Entrepreneurship Development Evaluation workshop. The workshop was organized by USAID’s Agriculture Biotechnology Support Program (ABSP II) in collaboration with National Agriculture Research Laboratories (NARL) in Kawanda, a Kampala suburb, as a follow-up to the training of more than 60 young research scientists and technicians in bio business.

At the end of the training, the participants were asked to develop innovative business ideas and submit a two-page concept note. About 35 concept notes were received, out of which 10 were selected for evaluation and presented before a six-member jury. The jury consisted of the Head of Management Sciences, Makerere University Business School, and members from NARL the BBI Working Group (including the Director of the Institute, ABSP II Advisor and a USAID/Uganda representative). Out of the 10 contestants, five finalists were selected to submit full business plans. Bio Biz Incubator/NARL will provide the five finalists with office space, access to the internet, and the necessary technical support.

This activity is in line with the Feed the Future Initiative in Uganda to productively engage youth in either earning a living or gaining the skills and knowledge necessary to address the challenges they face. While youth can play productive roles in their communities, they remain vulnerable to many of the broader problems facing society. USAID and its implementing partners believe this innovation will help create employment opportunities for young Ugandans, and commercialize agriculture as the engine of development in the country.

**INVESTING IN PEOPLE**

**Mayuge District Fishing Communities Receive Integrated HIV/AIDS and Health Services**

On October 11, the USAID-funded Uganda Health Marketing Group (UHMG) and the Strengthening TB and HIV/AIDS Responses in East Central Uganda (STAR-EC), partnered with Mayuge District Local Government to organize an integrated outreach campaign for HIV/AIDS and other health services. This campaign aimed to supplement the services available at health centers, and focused on most-at-risk populations.
The services were provided through an integrated model of six tents, with patients moving smoothly across different service delivery points. In this photo, clients are lined up to receive free HIV counseling and testing services.

Bwondha landing site is located in Mayuge district in East Central Uganda, 105 km from Kampala. It has an estimated population of 6,600, and an HIV prevalence of 9.5 percent, which is substantially higher than the national average of 7.3 percent. This remote fishing village has one low-level health center, staffed with one nurse and two nursing assistants.

The services were provided through an integrated model of six tents, with patients moving smoothly across different service delivery points to receive health education, malaria testing and treatment, HIV counseling and testing, medical male circumcision, CD4 testing and enrolment into care for the HIV positive, and prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV. The event was attended by over 2,000 residents including men, women, and youth.

The event was also attended by district government representatives including the Local Council V Chairman, and the Chief Administrative Officer. The district leadership commended the partnership between USAID and the district, and applauded the integrated outreach model. During the event, UHMG trained 20 new peer educators to work with the community to help increase HIV awareness and the utilization of condoms.

**Ambassador Scott DeLisi Hosts Heads of Missions Meeting to Discuss HIV/AIDS Collaboration in Uganda**

On October 11, U.S. Ambassador Scott DeLisi hosted a meeting of Chiefs of Mission at his residence in Kampala. The purpose of the meeting was to enable collaboration for broader political engagement on HIV/AIDS issues, develop a common vision and goals, and listen to other Diplomatic Missions’ concerns on efforts to fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Uganda.

The meeting was attended by Chiefs of Mission and representatives from the Irish Embassy, British High Commission, Swedish Embassy, Danish Embassy, Italian Embassy, and UNAIDS. Ambassador DeLisi highlighted the U.S. government’s deep and enduring commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS in Uganda. He noted the rising HIV/AIDS prevalence in Uganda, as reflected in the 2011 Uganda AIDS Indicator Survey, which shows that over the past five years HIV prevalence among Ugandan adults rose from 6.4 percent to 7.3 percent—with more than 120,000 new infections every year. Ambassador DeLisi emphasized that the U.S. government would continue to assist Uganda to achieve an AIDS-free generation, as outlined by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, through support to scaling-up national, evidence-based interventions.

Among the key resolutions taken at the meeting, the Ambassadors agreed to establish a joint, on-going dialogue on an HIV/AIDS partnership. They also resolved to engage with the Government of Uganda on the need to have HIV prevention emphasized at the highest levels of Government, with World AIDS Day 2012 identified as an important event which the President of Uganda might be invited to attend in person.