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PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. Agency for International Development Marks Sixty Years of Development Assistance to Nigeria

Abuja -- During the month of November, the [U.S. Agency for International Development](#) (USAID) is commemorating a major milestone, marking 60 years since its founding by President [John F. Kennedy](#). Nigeria was among the first countries in the world to receive development assistance under the Agency in 1961.

For six decades, USAID has built its reputation as the world's [premier international development organization](#) by partnering with more than 100 countries to strengthen communities and improve lives.

“On this anniversary of President Kennedy’s vision of the United States as the world’s leader in providing a helping hand to countries struggling to develop,” Mission Director Anne Patterson said, “I am proud to represent USAID in Nigeria, a country with tremendous potential to be leader in West Africa if it can overcome its many challenges.”

In Nigeria and around the world, USAID partners with some of the world’s top development agencies, the United Nations, local nongovernmental and civil society organizations, and host country governments to help save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen governance, and improve health, education, and economic prosperity.

In 2021, USAID will spend \$787 million in development and humanitarian assistance in Nigeria.

Perhaps its biggest ongoing success in Nigeria has been its response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic that has wrought the country since the 1980s. Through funding from the [President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief](#) (PEPFAR) in collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Walter Reed Army Research Institute, culminating in a 2019-2020 “[surge](#)” that greatly reduced a rising trend in vulnerable areas, especially in combination with the ongoing tuberculosis and new COVID-19 pandemics. Today USAID supports testing for 2.4 million Nigerians a year, and provides free life-saving antiretroviral therapy for 89 percent of the nearly 400,000 individuals who have tested positive.

Another 62 million Nigerian mothers and children benefited from USAID [health programs](#) last year through training of public health workers, increasing access to quality medicines, and improving leadership in the health sector with a focus on primary health care.

USAID support has protected 68 million Nigerians from malaria by donations of mosquito nets through the [President's Malaria Initiative](#) (PMI), which has contributed to a drop in child deaths by 16 percent over 10 years and helped reduce malaria prevalence from 42 percent to 23 percent.

Since 2015, USAID interventions in [Education](#) have helped millions of children and youth improve their lives through better early grade reading skills, and focus especially on more than 340,000 children whose education was suspended through conflict.

Through [Feed the Future](#), 2.3 million smallholder farmers benefited from improved products, improved techniques, and access to markets and financing through USAID agriculture programs last year. Power Africa reforms will improve an enabling environment and increase private investment in the energy sector, and strengthened management of water systems to increase access to reliable water and sanitation.

USAID [Democracy and Governance](#) programs support free and fair elections, 230 civil society organizations working for more responsive governance and local solutions to ongoing economic and ethno-religious tensions between farmers and herders.

Finally, USAID is the biggest bilateral donor of [Humanitarian Assistance](#) to Nigeria, donating about \$343 million in commodities and logistical support to ensure the displaced have enough to eat and access to basic health and human rights.

All across the world, during this anniversary month of November, USAID staff and partners are reflecting on the Agency's success and challenges still to be met. Under the dynamic new leadership of Ambassador [Samantha Power](#), the Agency is poised to continue to be the premier development agency in Nigeria and across the world. Watch Administrator Power outline her new vision for global development at Georgetown University [here](#).

For more information, please contact: abujadoc@usaid.gov or visit www.usaid.gov

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PHOTO CAPTION: In this historical photo from the 1960's, USAID representative Robert Kline presents a portable radio to the Bale of Alabidun for use in the new Alabidun Community Center.

Relevant information about U.S. policies and programs in Nigeria can be found on our websites:
<http://nigeria.usembassy.gov> and www.usaid.gov/ng



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ABOUT USAID: USAID leads international development and humanitarian efforts to save lives, reduce poverty, strengthen democratic governance and help nations progress beyond assistance. In Nigeria, USAID supports health systems strengthening, transparent and accountable governance, basic education, and a more market-led, trade-friendly economy. For more information about USAID and its programs, please visit www.usaid.gov/nigeria and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) @USAIDNigeria