

Period of Performance: July to September 30th, 2020

INTRODUCTION

The following report contains a summary of the major activities completed and outcomes achieved of the Standards Alliance, a public-private partnership between the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). The enclosed report contains a summary of all activities completed in the third quarter of 2020.

The [Standards Alliance](#) was announced by USAID in November 2012 as a new funding facility designed to provide capacity-building assistance to developing countries, specifically related to the implementation of the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement. In May 2013, USAID and ANSI entered into a public-private partnership, to coordinate subject matter experts from throughout the private sector-led U.S. standardization system in the delivery of training and other technical assistance to interested Standards Alliance countries. In September 2016, the ANSI-USAID agreement was extended to five additional countries (Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mozambique, Senegal, and Zambia), and the period of performance extended until September 2021.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This period of performance was dedicated primarily to implementation of activities described in the country-specific work plans in West Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Senegal) and in Southern Africa (Mozambique and Zambia); as well as planning for future 2020 and 2021 activities in all five target countries.

While the global pandemic of COVID-19 has interrupted many program activities, the Standards Alliance has adapted its programming, working closely with partners, to continue moving ahead on a number of activities. The Standard Alliance has nonetheless established contingency plans for some of the below activities which for now have been unable to move forward, however, ANSI continues to maintain contact with partners, including host countries and speakers. A general summary of these activities, according to country or region are listed as follows:

General Program Management/Promotion

- *Outreach to engage partner agencies, organizations, and countries*

ANSI updated the Standards Alliance website including the dates and locations of project activities and trainings conducted in partnership with other agencies and organizations, as well as materials from past events. Also, through regular email correspondence, ANSI updated its members and U.S. government stakeholders and continues to update stakeholders regarding the status of workshops regarding the global health situation.

- *Monitor and respond to Global Health Crisis*

In Q3, ANSI closely monitored global health developments to best ensure the health and safety of ANSI staff, Standards Alliance speakers, and host country partners. ANSI regularly assessed health threats and amended the program pipeline to quickly respond to the global health crisis caused by COVID-19. This included assessing which activities could move ahead safely and effectively through remote work, and which would be postponed based on stakeholder discussions on the benefits and importance of in-person engagement. Taking into account the remaining timeline and budget of the Standards Alliance, several activities have been canceled or removed from the Annual Plan by mutual agreement with partner countries. Further details are included in the activity descriptions below.

Africa

- *Technical Advisor to the African Union (Year 8 Annual Plan, Activity: #5)*

Beneficiaries: AfCFTA signatories

In quarter three, the Standards Alliance finalized Mr. Opiyo's contract and coordinated with the AU and relevant US government entities to organize a series of onboarding events to support Mr. Opiyo's smooth transition into his new role. In Q3, onboarding activities were completed and George resumed his duties and completed the development of his work plan for implementation in Q3.

Following the completion of the work plan, the Standards Alliance, the AUC, and the advisor met to finalize and discuss the work plan and expected outcomes in late September. Following this meeting, the work plan became official and the advisor started work on the initial stocktaking exercises to pave the way for more targeted capacity building effort in Q4. In Q4, the Standards Alliance will work with Mr. Opiyo to support the implementation of the work plan with input from relevant stakeholders at the AUC, PAQI, USAID missions, and the US.

During this time, the Standards Alliance established a working group to coordinate with Mr. Opiyo, troubleshoot hurdles or barriers, and help integrate him into the AUC. This includes an introduction of Mr. Opiyo to the USTR team and regular bimonthly meetings to assess progress. Mr. Opiyo is being more thoroughly integrated into the AUC, and is already opening up opportunities for USAID and ANSI to join AfCFTA and AUC events. Mr. Opiyo also presented a harmonized model for regional notification at the WTO TBT committee meeting on September 30th, and will attend the virtual WTO TBT Committee Meetings in Q4.

Côte d'Ivoire

- *ISO 37101 Pilot Program in Cote d'Ivoire (Year 8 Annual Plan, Activity: #3)*

After much preparation and close collaboration across ANSI, DGDDL, ISO 37101 experts, and USAID, the first workshop series (Task 3 in the project plan) was scheduled and implemented on September 15-16. The workshop was a great success, with ANSI, USAID, and ISO37101 experts collaborating and presenting remotely via WebEx, along with officials from DGDDL and communities meeting physically in Yopougon, Cote d'Ivoire, with strict COVID-19 precautions in place. This kicked off a multi-stage work plan for two communities (Yopougon and Porte Bouet) that will learn and implement ISO 37101. Throughout the pilot program, DGDDL will assess the progress of each community and use lessons learned to serve as examples for sustainable and decentralized city planning across Côte d'Ivoire.

The event marked the first of four planned trainings for the two pilot communities of Yopougon and Port Bouët to assist in their efforts to implement ISO 37101 in their communities. The activity also served as an awareness-building mission by inviting an additional 10 communities from the greater Abidjan region to observe the trainings.

DGDDL, ANSI, and USAID will continue working remotely where possible, to keep the project on track, utilizing this remote-hybrid workshop model where possible to maximize the effectiveness of in-person collaboration, while constantly assessing the COVID-19 situation in Cote d'Ivoire. The terms and timeline for this project will continue to be refined in the coming quarters to reflect ongoing travel restrictions and to ensure the health and safety of all participants and experts.

- *NQI Diagnostic in Côte d'Ivoire (Year 8 Annual Plan, Activity: #1 and 2)*

This activity aims to assess the current gaps and weaknesses of Côte d'Ivoire's NQI for targeted, future trainings to support the development of sustainable quality systems that will facilitate a predictable business climate. A final report will position Côte d'Ivoire to apply for international donor assistance to enhance its existing NQI based on recommendations from the Standards Alliance needs assessment. A call for proposals resulted in the selection of a consultant, and proposal approval. The early work on this project was able to continue despite COVID-19.

Due to issues stemming from the global health crisis, the in-person portion of this assessment has been postponed, and an alternative plan was developed. The Standards Alliance worked closely with a Quality Infrastructure (QI) expert, Kees Jonkheer, to coordinate next steps for accurately assessing Côte d'Ivoire's QI and to remotely review the World Bank QI Toolkit. At this time, Mr. Jonkheer has performed a general analysis of the Ivorian draft NQI and is in the process of scheduling meetings with the Ivorian standards body (CODINORM) and the Ministry of Trade to verify his assumptions and analysis. This discussion will build the foundation for the consultant's NQI-specific training for Ivorian government officials.

In Q2, preliminary reporting materials were received and are awaiting validation by Côte d'Ivoire. The planned in-person workshops and assessment portions will also be further considered as the global health situation evolves. Additional reporting documents were received in Q3, and continue to await validation by Cote d'Ivoire.

Senegal

- *Improving Solar Photovoltaic Technicians Standards in Senegal (Year 6 Annual Plan, Activity: #9, moved to Year 8 Annual Plan, Activity: #4)*

In Q2, ANSI worked with Outback Power/Remote Energy to discuss moving forward with remote work. On July 1st, ANSI received a detailed proposal to adjust the training program to a virtual format, leveraging innovative solutions and technologies to implement an effective program. With these adaptations, the project began in early Q3. While there are still some delays to shipping the equipment, the program has been adjusted to move ahead with the training, with the hands-on component starting in early 2021. The program received tremendous interest, with over 300 students registering. The trainings of both the instructors and the students have seen positive results, with the new remote model generating unexpected positive benefits, with value-add to the initially planned in-person program.

The program has started training 7 instructors in Q3, and has begun recruiting teachers to register for a 6-week training that will begin in Q4, with the goal of starting solar programs in various Senegal universities and schools. The Standards Alliance is already receiving positive attention and has generated a lot of interest, especially in this innovative hybrid-virtual format that Remote Energy has adapted to meet COVID19 safety requirements without losing value. All partners involved are excited to see the outcomes of this program.

Activities dropped in Standards Alliance Year 8 Annual Plan:

Due to circumstances beyond the control of the Standards Alliance, several activities that were postponed from the Year 7 Annual Plan have been dropped from the Year 8 Annual Plan by mutual agreement with in-country partners. Funding has been reallocated to strengthen current projects and for resources needed to pivot to a virtual format—a completely new venture for the Standards Alliance team.

Since previous quarterly reports included these activities, for transparency the list of activities that have been removed include:

- West Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Senegal): Strengthening West Africa's Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) Framework. Beneficiaries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Senegal (Year 7 Annual Plan, Activities: #1, #2, and #3)
- Ghana: Supporting Implementation of Ghana's Building Code (Year 6 Annual Plan, Activity: #4 moved to Year 7 Annual Plan, Activity: #13)

- Ghana: Green Label Certification Program (newly added - Year 7 Annual Plan, Activity: #14)
- Zambia: Quality Management Systems for SMEs in the Petroleum Industry (Year 7 Annual Plan, Activity: #5)
- Zambia: Energy Efficiency Standards Development (Year 7 Annual Plan #16)
- Zambia: Regulatory Impact Assessment Trainings with the Zambian Regulatory Agencies (Year 7 Annual Plan #18) – ***moved to the Standards Alliance Phase 2 work plan***

EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES

The primary outputs for the period of performance are outlined in the table below.

#	Country	Definition	Required in Work Plan?
1.	United States	Provided regular project updates and communication to government and private sector stakeholder groups outlined in the project plan	Yes
2.	United States	Posted project news and activities to the Standards Alliance website	Yes
3.	Côte d'Ivoire	NQI Health Check – in progress	Yes
4.	Côte d'Ivoire	ISO 37101 Pilot Program in Côte d'Ivoire- in progress	Yes
5.	Senegal	Improving Solar Photovoltaic Technicians Standards in Senegal- in progress	Yes
--	Zambia	Strengthening Government Agency RIA Teams – in progress	Moved to SA2 Work plan
6.	Africa	Technical Advisor to the AU – in progress	Yes

This period of performance included a combination of execution and extensive planning for future activities in fourth quarter of 2020 and early 2021, including adjusting plans, developing contingencies, and working with partners to come up with innovative solutions, in light of the ongoing global health situation. The outcomes witnessed in Q3, given the COVID-19 situation, were positive and represent the continued success and resilience of the Standards Alliance program.

CONCLUSION

This period of performance highlighted the strength of the Standards Alliance given the global health epidemic. While Q1 consisted of uncertainty and postponed events, Q2 programming focused on strengthening and adapting work streams in close coordination with stakeholders to devise innovative

solutions to continue Standards Alliance efforts, while maintaining the health and safety of all stakeholders involved, and Q3 saw the implementation of those adaptations. Programming in Q3 was able to continue in 6 planned activities, with ongoing development of new ideas and activities, where possible. The ability for the Standards Alliance to continue work and maintain networks behind the desk, showcase the resiliency of the Program and its importance in international standards development. In particular, moving ahead with the Technical Advisor to the AU Secretariat represents a significant accomplishment this quarter that will serve as a powerful example of the impact and scope of the Standards Alliance.

ANSI looks forward to building on past successes, as well as working with partners and stakeholders to continue programming for the remainder of the Standards Alliance project period. With one year left in the project, the remaining budget is fully allocated and project plans are progressing according to schedule. ANSI will continue to evaluate the global situation and maintain close communication with partners in Q4 and ongoing work with partners where possible, while also maintaining adaptability and utilizing innovative approaches in the next period. ANSI looks forward to continuing its planned activities with Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Mozambique, Zambia, and other partners.