

Period of Performance: October 1st to December 31st, 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 fourth 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 to finalize 2021 activities for the final year of Standards Alliance Phase 1.

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 Q4, 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 four, the Standards Alliance and technical advisor, George Opiyo, began to pave the way for more targeted capacity building efforts. Mr. Opiyo continued efforts to implement the work plan he had developed in the previous quarter with input from relevant stakeholders at the African Union Commission (AUC), PAQI, USAID missions, and the US.

Mr. Opiyo submitted a proposed way forward on the Draft Strategic Plan for implementation of Annex 6 to AfCFTA to Mr. Hussein Hassan, Acting Director for the AUC Department of Trade and Industry (DTI). This plan outlines a timeline to present the Draft Strategic Framework for implementation of Annex 6 to DTI, the AfCFTA Secretariat, the Pan African Quality Institutes (AFRAC, AFRIMETS, AFSEC, ARSO), Regional Economic Communities, and the Specialised Technical Committee of Trade, Industry and Minerals (STC-TIM) during Q1 2021.

Standards Alliance continues to meet with Mr. Opiyo biweekly to troubleshoot hurdles or barriers and support his integration into the AUC. In Q4 these meetings led to a joint effort to coordinate a meeting with PTB. This meeting supported Mr. Opiyo's integration into the AUC team and with his PTB-funded colleagues.

In Q4, the Standards Alliance learned that PTB hired a second TBT Advisor, Margaret Lungu, who is a longtime Standards Alliance partner formerly serving as the program's point of contact in Zambia. While this new hire presents potential benefits to the Standards Alliance through past relationships, it may also create hurdles for Mr. Opiyo as he establishes himself as mission critical to ensure his work plan is executed. To minimize potential risks and to ensure a clear role for Mr. Opiyo, the Standards Alliance aims to support the coordination of regular calls between ANSI, USAID, PTB, and the three TBT advisors to the AUC. This calls aim to increase communication and coordination between the advisors.

Côte d'Ivoire

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

Building on the success of the first workshop held during the third quarter, ANSI, DGDDL and ISO 37101 experts reconvened in Q4 to move forward plans for a second workshop in Port-Bouët, which will be held in Q1 2021.

The second workshop will support the pilot communities of Port-Bouët and Yopougon further develop local leadership practices and determine significant sustainability issues for each community. Ultimately, this workshop will further clarify each community's sustainable development plan and establish a timeline to achieve their sustainability goals.

This event will mark the second of four planned trainings for the pilot communities. As was the case during the first workshop held in September 2020, the activity will also serve as an awareness building mission by inviting an additional 10 communities from the greater Abidjan region to observe the trainings. The incorporation of additional communities supports DGDDL's efforts to decentralize Ivorian city planning and begin training new communities using the ISO 37101 standard as a foundation.

In planning the second workshop in this series, 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 Côte 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)*

In Q4, the NQI Gap Analysis and Recommendations were completed by Mr. Jonkheer and shared with CODINORM for their initial reactions. These outputs are being reviewed by the Standards Alliance before being shared with the USAID mission in Côte d'Ivoire and passed along to the USAID West Africa mission, ASSESS, for translation. The final documents will be shared with CODINORM to help inform the development of Côte d'Ivoire's National Quality Infrastructure.

Senegal

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

In Q4, Remote Energy completed two 6-week virtual solar training courses on Battery-based PV Systems. The first course was for the DAUST instructors, 5 males and 2 females, where there was an average overall reported increase in confidence level of 31% from before and after the training. The second course was for a general Senegal student audience with a total of 30 students (14 females and 16 males) enrolled in this classes with 22 completing the coursework and 21 passing with a 70% or higher.

These trainings are the culmination of a close collaboration between ANSI and Outback Power/Remote Energy over the course of Q2 and Q3 2020. During Q3, the program had received tremendous interest, with over 300 students registering. Despite the hurdles presented by the

innovative hybrid-virtual format necessary to meet COVID-19 safety requirements, the Standards Alliance has seen tremendous results and success in this project.

Over the course of 2021, Remote Energy will finish up the hands-on curriculum necessary to navigate the equipment which Outback Power will ship and install. Teacher training for the hands-on portion will commence once the equipment has been installed. The DAUST instructors will learn how to teach the hands-on labs, and then the students who completed the coursework in the online theory course will be invited to participate in a one-day hands-on course.

Additional Outcomes from Past Events

In Q4, the community of Abobo-Baoulé reached out to the Standards Alliance to share its five-year sustainable city development plan. This plan was developed following Abobo-Baoulé's participation in the 2019 Standards Alliance workshop to build awareness for ISO37101 and best practices for sustainable city planning. The village's plan establishes a guide to achieve local economic, social, and environmental goals through community organization and action. This development will support a more stable and predictable business environment for US companies that seek to do business in Abobo-Baoulé.

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 – complete	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	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 Q4, given the COVID-19 situation, were positive and continue to demonstrate the ongoing success and resilience of the Standards Alliance.

CONCLUSION

This period of performance highlighted the strength of the Standards Alliance given the global health epidemic. In Q4, the Standards Alliance was able to build upon the flexible programming delivered throughout Q3 and lay the groundwork for further planning and programming in Q1 2021. 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 finalizing its planned activities with Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Mozambique, Zambia, and other partners.