

**Period of Performance:** January 1 to March 31, 2020

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## INTRODUCTION

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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 first 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.

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## SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

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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 Mozambique; as well as planning for future 2020 activities in all five target countries.

Unfortunately, due to the global pandemic of COVID-19 many of the planned program activities had to be postponed. However, the Standard Alliance has established contingency plans for the below activities and has maintained 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 Q1, 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.

### 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)*

During Q1, ANSI in close collaboration with the key organizations in each of the three countries (CODINORM, DCI, and GSA) planned a workshop series on Good Regulatory Practices (GRP). This series aims to provide foundational knowledge on international best practices for GRP as well as examples from the U.S. government and private sector for items like public consultation, regulatory impact assessment (RIA), and transparency. ANSI solicited interested speakers from the private sector and U.S. government, and finalized the agenda and proposed program activities.

This workshop series was set to take place March 14 – 24, however, due to Covid-19, the program has been postponed until further notice. All partners involved have been contacted, and are standing by for new dates to be communicated once the global health situation becomes clearer. ANSI and the aforementioned national standards bodies will coordinate on new workshop dates to as closely as possible to implement the previously planned program for this activity.

### Côte d'Ivoire

- *ISO 37101 Pilot Program in Cote d'Ivoire (Year 7 Annual Plan, Activity: #12)*

Following the successful Standards Alliance awareness-building activity held in August 2019 on the ISO 37101 standard, ANSI received a proposal from the Côte d'Ivoire Director-General of Decentralization and Local Development (DGDDL), requesting capacity-building assistance to establish a formal framework and for the implementation of ISO 37101-2016 in local and regional establishments.

During Q1, ANSI and USAID worked with ISO 37101 experts to refine and develop a scope of work for a pilot project in Côte d'Ivoire. A proposal from the ISO 37101 experts was shared, the budget was refined, and feedback and buy-in was received from DGDDL. While in-person meetings are not currently possible due to Covid-19, the proposal has been adjusted to remote desk-work to be done up-front so that the project can stay on track, with a proposed start date

of July 2020. DGDDL, ANSI, and USAID will continue to refine the terms and timeline for this project in the coming quarters.

- *NQI Diagnostic in Côte d'Ivoire (Year 7 Annual Plan, Activity: #4)*

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 support a predictable business climate. A final report will position Côte d'Ivoire to apply for international donor support to enhance its existing NQI based on recommendations from the Standards Alliance 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. In Q1, the Standards Alliance worked closely with a Quality Infrastructure (QI) expert and consultant to coordinate the next steps for accurately assessing Côte d'Ivoire's QI and to remotely review the World Bank QI Toolkit. Preliminary reporting materials are expected to be received and validated by Côte d'Ivoire in Q2. The planned in-person workshops and assessment portions will also be further considered as the global health situation evolves.

## Ghana

- *Supporting Implementation of Ghana's Building Code (Year 6 Annual Plan, Activity: #4 moved to Year 7 Annual Plan, Activity: #13)*

During Q1, ANSI continued to coordinate with the International Code Council (ICC) and Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) to assess Ghana's newly established Building Code for consistency with the ICC International Building Code. Based on ICC's initial assessment of the code and identified gaps between the Ghana adoption and the international code, the Standards Alliance delayed plans to organize a training and is now working to help GSA identify inconsistencies in the code and effectively address potential challenges.

The ICC, GSA, and ANSI worked with the University of Miami to conduct a partial audit of the Ghana Building Code, which has provided all parties with a tracked version of the code, as well as recommendations on areas of weakness that can be used to help Ghana update the code. The review by the University of Miami found the Ghana Building Code to vary greatly from the ICC, to an extent that the ICC doesn't see a clear way forward in contributing to training or capacity-building efforts. Nonetheless, ANSI is exploring whether other paths might be possible to assist Ghana in this area.

In Q2 of 2020, ANSI will continue to work with GSA to scope out other options for improving the Ghana Building Code based on the review.

- *Ghana Green Label Certification Program (newly added - Year 7 Annual Plan, Activity: #14)*

At the end of last quarter, The USAID mission requested implementation support for Ghana's Green Label Certification Program, which was recently launched to help local farmers improve the quality & safety of their fruits and vegetables in the domestic and export market. In Q1 2020, USAID HQ and ANSI continued to work with mission staff and the Ghana Green Label Secretariat to identify areas where the Standards Alliance can provide support in 2020.

Based on these discussions, ANSI contacted the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN), who agreed to provide a 5-day training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) alongside 1-2 private sector companies. The course will be tailored to either small or larger farmers, specific sections of the supply chain, and also touch on issues related to pesticides and pest control, traceability, foreign supplier verification, and produce safety rules. ANSI was working to recruit other speakers for this workshop when the COVID-19 crisis began. ANSI will continue to work with JIFSAN and USAID to continue planning for this workshop and to recruit other potential speakers and attendees.

- *Supporting Ethical Apparel Africa's production of Medical Garments (Not listed in Annual Plan)*

In late Q1, the Standards Alliance was contacted by Ethical Apparel Africa (EEA) with a request for more information on standards related to the production of medical garments to meet the needs of the healthcare industry in West Africa. In particular, EEA was looking for more information on how to implement standards from the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI), ASTM International, and American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC) related to surgical masks and disposable medical gowns.

ANSI continues to explore potential opportunities for specific Standards Alliance activities to support EEA's standards needs.

## Senegal

- *Improving Solar Photovoltaic Technicians Standards in Senegal (Year 6 Annual Plan, Activity: #9, moved to Year 7 Annual Plan, Activity: #15)*

During Q1, ANSI signed a cooperative agreement with Outback Power, a U.S. based company, and its partner organizations Enersys and Remote Energy, for an initiative to train solar photovoltaic (PV) technicians in Senegal. While project implementation was slated to begin in Q1 2020, COVID-19 has delayed the rollout of this training program.

In Q1 ANSI, Outback Power, Enersys, and Remote Energy coordinated with Dakar American University of Science and Technology (DAUST) in Senegal to develop the course curriculum and consider a timeframe for the training activities once international travel and multiparty meetings are safe.

## Mozambique

- *Quality Management Systems for SMEs in the Petroleum Industry (Year 7 Annual Plan, Activity: #5)*

In Q1, ANSI continued to coordinate with Mozambique's national standards body (INNOQ) to facilitate training on quality management systems for SMEs in the petroleum industry. ANSI coordinated with API to develop an agenda for the proposed workshop, which was set to take place on March 24-25, 2020 in Maputo, Mozambique.

This training aims to help SMEs develop skills and gain certifications to work for the oil and gas companies who are exploring Mozambique's natural resources. This workshop will cover the basics of quality management systems (ISO9001) for SMEs, the value of ISO9001, how SMEs can prepare to be ISO9001 certified, and related quality management systems for the oil and gas industry (ISO26001 and/or API Q1). These activities will reinforce the importance of using international standards and best practice to local SMEs and Mozambique's quality institutions thereby supporting increased interest, and compliance to, international best practices in the oil and gas sector

Due to delays caused by COVID-19, ANSI continues to work closely with partners and the workshop venue to reschedule for a later date.

## Zambia

- *Energy Efficiency Standards Development (Year 7 Annual Plan #16)*

Last quarter the Standards Alliance, in collaboration with the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS), started working to develop an agenda and recruit speakers for a workshop on energy-efficiency standards. However, due to some delays on ZABS' side, the workshop arrangements were postponed. In Q1 2020, the Standards Alliance re-engaged ZABS, who indicated that it was in the process of working on an implementation plan for its Standards Strategy and would need time to complete that process to provide an update on which sectors require support.

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, the Standards Alliance reached out twice for an update and USAID also reached out to confirm ZABS interest in receiving support under the Standard Alliance. The Standards Alliance will continue to monitor developments with the COVID-19 crisis and reach out to ZABS for any updates they can provide on future workshop plans.

- *Strengthening RIA Capacity (Year 7 Annual Plan #18)*

Following discussions with the Zambia Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRA) at the last RIA training which took place in Zambia in September 2019, ANSI held a meeting to discuss the next steps for training with the RIA and Workcred experts in the U.S., who participated in the

workshops. At the workshop, it was determined that more dedicated training would be required for successful implementation of Zambia's RIA Framework within the various regulatory agencies and ministries. In this regard, the RIA and Workcred experts requested additional information from BRRRA to inform a proposal they are developing to provide longer-term training through the Standards Alliance.

In Q1, BRRRA also provided an update on their training plans for Q2 and requested a workshop in early May to sensitive RIA teams at various government agencies in Zambia. The workshop aims to equip RIA teams with skills in RIA; ensure high-quality Regulatory Impact Assessment reports; create a pool of specialized human resources within Ministries thereby reducing costs and time which may arise from outsourcing specialized services in conducting RIAs and to sensitize RIA teams in good regulatory practices.

Due to COVID-19, this workshop has been put on hold until the global health crisis is addressed. ANSI continues to work with BRRRA and RIA experts to plan for this event and is considering options to do some work via webinar where possible.

## Africa

- *Technical Advisor to the African Union*

*Beneficiaries: Zambia, Mozambique, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Senegal (Year 7 Annual Plan, Activity: #21)*

Beginning in late 2019, USAID led discussions with the African Union Secretariat about a technical advisor position that would be funded by the Standards Alliance and provide TBT-related technical support to the AU secretariat as the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) is rolled out. This activity will be significantly beneficial to future U.S. engagement with the AU and U.S.-Africa trade relations, and it presents an alternative to the high number of European-funded advisors that have been embedded within AU divisions, undermining U.S.-friendly implementation of TBT commitments.

In February 2020, the AU and USAID reached agreement on the scope of work for this advisor, and ANSI began discussions with potential partners to recruit and embed an expert. Leveraging connections made by USAID, ANSI discussed a subcontract arrangement with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA), in which AGRA will provide administrative oversight to recruit and manage the selected advisor, and contribute to ANSI's technical oversight of the advisor. By the end of March, ANSI and AGRA had substantially concluded the subcontract negotiation, and look forward to launching the full initiative in April. Next steps will include preparation of a job posting and recruitment with the involvement of a selection committee comprised of representatives from the AU, ANSI and USAID.

## EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES

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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.	Mozambique	Quality Management Systems for SMEs in the Petroleum Industry - <b>postponed</b>	Yes
6.	Ghana	Supporting Implementation of Ghana Building Code – in progress	Yes
7.	Ghana	Ghana Green Label Certification Program - <b>postponed</b>	Yes
8.	Ghana	Supporting Ethical Apparel Africa's production of Medical Garments – in progress	No
9.	Senegal	Improving Solar Photovoltaic Technicians Standards in Senegal	Yes
10.	West Africa	Strengthening West Africa's Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) Framework - <b>postponed</b>	Yes
11.	Zambia	Strengthening Government Agency RIA Teams – <b>postponed</b>	Yes
12.	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 the second and third quarters of 2020, especially including adjusting plans and developing contingencies in light of the ongoing global health situation. The outcomes witnessed in Q1, given the COVID-19 situation, were positive and represent the continued success of the Standards Alliance program.

## CONCLUSION

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This period of performance highlighted the strength of the Standards Alliance given the global health epidemic. Although most of Q1 consisted of uncertainty and postponed events, programming where possible continued. The ability to continue work and maintain networks behind the desk showcase the resiliency of the Standards Alliance and its importance in international standards development. In

particular, moving ahead with the Technical Advisor to the AU represents a significant accomplishment this quarter.

ANSI looks forward to building on past successes, as well as working with partners and stakeholders to continue programming and reschedule highly anticipated workshops. ANSI will continue to evaluate the global situation and maintain close communication with partners in Q2 and continue ongoing work with partners where possible, maintaining adaptability and utilizing innovative approaches in the next period. ANSI looks forward to continue carrying out activities with Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Mozambique, Zambia, and other partners.