



**Period of Performance:** April 1 – June 30, 2019

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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 second quarter of 2019.

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 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 Zambia and Mozambique; as well as planning for future 2019 activities in all 5 target countries. A general summary of these activities, according to their country or region is listed below.

### 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.

## West Africa (Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Senegal)

- *World Trade Organization Workshop on Transparency (Added to Annual Plan in Q1)*

This weeklong training took place on the sidelines of the World Trade Organization's (WTO), Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee Meeting, which took place on June 17-21, 2019 in Geneva, Switzerland. The five-day training included 42 participants from various TBT enquiry points across the world and focused on improving their understanding of the transparency requirements and existing tools in support of member country's notifications to the WTO. The overall goal of this event was to support a more resilient and sustainable partnership between the U.S. and African countries in the area of NQI. The Standards Alliance worked with the WTO to secure invitations to the training for representatives from each partner country, and then confirmed participation and funding support from the WTO for representatives from three countries (Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Zambia).

Workshop attendees discussed WTO TBT principles, transparency in the development and alteration of technical regulations, and implementation of the TBT Agreement's *Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption, and Application of Standards*. The event provided hands-on sessions detailing relevant and new WTO tools to support transparency mechanisms for issuing notifications and comments on national regulations.

Participants of the TBT Committee Meeting also joined the 1.5-day *Thematic Session on Transparency*, which included a presentation by ANSI on Standards Alliance support for TBT enquiry points. This was the first time many of the sponsored participants attended a TBT Committee Meetings and greatly appreciated the opportunity to join group discussions that encouraged and provide learning from peer organizations, as well as networking opportunities.

## Côte d'Ivoire

- *Planning for Côte d'Ivoire ISO 37101 Sustainable Cities Workshop (Year 6 Annual Plan #2)*

During the second quarter, the Standards Alliance continued discussions and planning with CODINORM for a sensitization workshop on ISO 37101, standards *for Sustainable Development in Communities*. The event which is scheduled to take place on August 13, 2019, is intended to support Côte d'Ivoire's goal to develop and implement better community management systems in 2019. The one-day training will focus on a general implementation overview for ISO 37101 and its value, and will include approximately 50 participants from academia and the public and private sector in the urban planning sector.

ANSI has recruited two U.S. experts from ISO/TC268, the ISO technical committee developing international standards for sustainable cities and communities, as well as speakers from the University of Michigan and the U.S Green Building Council (USGBC). This event will focus on awareness-building for relevant stakeholders, but as a follow-up, a 10-15 participant technical training is planned in early 2020. In Q3, the Standards Alliance will continue to work with CODINORM to finalize the agenda and recruit participants for the awareness building event in August.

- *Planning for Petroleum Standards Workshop in Côte d'Ivoire (Year 6 Annual Plan #15)*

The Standards Alliance and CODINORM are jointly working to get more information from ECOWAS about reactivating the ECOWAS Standards Harmonization Model (ECOSHAM) Committee on Petroleum Standards. Based on discussions with GSA and CODINORM, it is our understanding that the petroleum technical committee is currently on hold. However, in recent months Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal have expressed an interest in addressing petroleum standards at the regional level and requested technical assistance on this area, working with international standards organizations such as ASTM International and the American Petroleum Institute.

ANSI is working with its members and CODINORM to develop a training agenda, which may be based in part on ASTM's Fuels Technology course. This course is taught in a participatory atmosphere and includes a lecture section and a hands-on laboratory practical section, where participants perform the prescribed test methods using the required instrumentation. The Standards Alliance also hopes to include participants from Ghana and Nigeria in a 5-day training, which will include approximately 20 participants. In Q3, ANSI will continue to plan for the upcoming workshop and also plans to engage ECOWAS through country partners to coordinate with the ECOSHAM Committee on Petroleum Standards.

## Ghana

- *Planning for Building Codes Workshop in Ghana (Year 6 Annual Plan #4)*

During the second quarter, ANSI began preparations for a workshop on Ghana's newly established Building Code, which was issued by the Ghana Standards Authority (GSA) in early 2019. This 1-2 day workshop will focus on building and construction codes and aims to help Ghana fine-tune and effectively implement the newly adopted Ghana Building Code, which is based on the International Code Council (ICC) building code. This workshop will take place in either late Q3 or Q4 in Accra, Ghana and will include U.S. speakers from ICC.

In Q3, ANSI will continue to coordinate with ICC and GSA to finalize plans for the workshop and will recruit other interested speakers to discuss building standards, codes, and best practices, which will help Ghana effectively adapt and implement their current building code.

## Senegal

- *Solar Photovoltaic Training in Senegal (Year 6 Annual Plan #9)*

ANSI is working in collaboration with the U.S. company Outback Power, and its partner organizations, to finalize the arrangements for an initiative to train solar photovoltaic (PV) technicians in Senegal. The perceived dearth of affordable, reliable energy services in Senegal is often linked to inadequate levels of resources, financial capacity, natural conditions, and policy frameworks. Justifiably, these factors often win the attention of practitioners and policy experts who care about expanding energy access. However, one element that has hitherto received less attention – despite its strong association with the above indicators – is the relatively lower level of knowledge and capacity among technicians and the resultant lack of a robust body of standards for Solar PV installation, management, and inspection.

According to IRENA's Renewables Readiness Report, in Senegal, especially, capacity and the development and coordination of standards and goals across various ministries and in the furtherance of development priorities has been an obstacle for renewable energy. Specifically, the ability to meet rural energy demands through solar energy resources (which are abundant in Senegal) is hindered by the lack of technical capacity among would-be installers and managers of systems. In a country wherein less than 60% of rural households have modern, clean energy in their homes, the development of such technical capacity and adherence to standards would have an invaluable impact on energy service provision, poverty reduction, and the quality and safety of PV installations.

To address the above confluence of issues, as well as the existing gender gap in STEM fields and technical/vocational education, the planned Solar PV Training Module will build the capacity of PV technicians and empower women to gain technical and teaching experience and attain the marketable skills to make them competitive in the PV workforce. Two 1-week training courses will be scheduled in September, and trainees will work on live systems and gain real experience programming, inspecting, diagnosing, and troubleshooting systems.

## Mozambique

- *Good Regulatory Practice and National Quality Infrastructure Roundtable (Added to Annual Plan during Q1)*

On the sidelines of the June, U.S.–Africa Business Summit in Maputo, Mozambique, the Standards Alliance in coordination with the Corporate Council on Africa held a one-day roundtable focusing on National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) and Good Regulatory Practices (GRPs). This roundtable which drew from over 1000 summit participants including the U.S. and African public and private sectors, was designed to support a more resilient and sustainable partnership between the U.S. and African countries in the area of NQI.

The event included presentations from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), ASTM International, the Mozambique National Institute for Standardization and Quality (INNOQ), the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS), Senegalese Directorate of Internal Trade (DCI), and the African Organisation for Standardisation (ARSO) on NQI and regulatory processes. Presenters provided tangible examples of how each country and region approaches quality and the institutional structures that support international, national, and cultural goals.

Approximately 40 participants attended the workshop and engaged in a candid discussion on areas for mutual collaboration to elevate quality systems, by focusing on internationally recognized best practices. Following each country presentation, speakers joined a panel discussion on best practices and methods for improving quality infrastructure through collaborative efforts between the U.S. and Africa.

- *Biofuel Standards for Household Cooking and Transportation Workshop (Year 6 Annual Plan #6)*

During the second quarter, POET and ASTM International engaged the Standards Alliance and submitted a proposal to organize a workshop on biofuels for household cooking and transportation, building off of past successes with similar events in Uganda and Zambia. POET indicated that Mozambique would be an ideal country to host a workshop in 2019, given its experience with biofuel-powered cookstoves (under the Ndzilo brand) and thus, some familiarity with the topic among multiple stakeholders.

ANSI has been collaborating with POET and ASTM International to develop content for the workshop which is scheduled to take place in mid-November in Maputo, Mozambique. The workshop aims to address health, environmental, economic issues related to traditional fuels and analyze biofuels as an effective alternative to traditional fuels. In Q3 ANSI will continue to coordinate with POET and ASTM International to finalize plans for the workshop and recruit other interested speakers and participants.

## Zambia

- *Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) 3.0 Workshop (Year 6 Annual Plan #13)*

The Standards Alliance in cooperation with the Business Regulatory Review Agency (BRRRA) of Zambia, co-hosted an intensive 5-day training workshop on Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA) in Livingstone, Zambia. The workshop was a follow-up training to the April 2019 Standards Alliance training on the same subject. The workshop was designed to promote best practices in the development of Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA), a decision-making tool to appraise the potential impacts of new/existing regulations or policy options on businesses and foreign investment. The event provided systematic training on the key steps for performing RIA and highlighted training strategies for participants to better train government colleagues to perform RIA.

Approximately 70 participants from various Zambian ministries attended the event, including the following expert speakers from Office of Management and Budget Office of Internal Regulatory Affairs (OMB OIRA), Regulatory Strategies Solution Group, Jonkheer Consulting, WorkCred and the National Trade Board of Sweden. The training featured various presentations and interactive sessions to help participants better understand and use international best practices in performing RIAs in their roles as Zambian regulators. Targeted group exercises provided hands-on guidance and opportunities to critically analyze existing RIA reports in Zambia. These sessions emphasized practical exercises on how to write and structure a RIA report, gather qualitative and quantitative data from all relevant stakeholders, conduct consultations, and effectively utilize cost-benefit and cost-effective analysis. The event resulted in a proposed course of action led by BRRRA that will further cement RIA in the regulatory process for Zambia (see planning item below).

- *Planning for Workshop on Standards to Support SMEs (Added to Annual Plan during Q2)*

During this quarter, the Standards Alliance in collaboration with the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) worked to develop an agenda and recruit speakers for a workshop on Standards to Support SMEs. The workshop, which is scheduled to take place in late August will provide practical training for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), particularly food manufacturers and farmers, who are interested in exporting their products to the U.S. market, using the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). The 2-day workshop will walk participants through the standards and conformity assessment requirements under AGOA and the necessary certifications, tools, and information that are required to access the U.S. market.

Currently, the Standards Alliance has secured U.S. speakers from the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN) and American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE), as well as the Southern African Trade & Investment Hub

(SATIH). The Standards Alliance is working to recruit 2 additional U.S. company speakers for the workshop and coordinating with ZABS, USAID and SATIH to recruit participants and Zambian speakers.

- *Planning for High-Level Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) Training (Added to Annual Plan during Q2)*

In follow-up to the recent Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) training in Zambia, BRRRA submitted a concept note to the Standards Alliance, requesting support for a high-level awareness building workshop for its regulatory officials. The proposed 5-day workshop series geared at Cabinet Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and CEOs is intended to increase their understanding and capacity to apply related RIA analytical skills when considering proposed regulations.

BRRRA indicated that during its process of amending the Business Regulatory Act No.3 of 2014, the agency observed that a number of parliamentarians, including Ministers of Parliament (MPs), were not well informed of the regulatory obligations for conducting RIA and its importance to the economy. As such, an awareness-building activity is imperative to ensure successful implementation of the Act and better regulatory decisions. In Q3, the Standards Alliance will coordinate with BRRRA and other U.S. stakeholders to finalize details for the 5-day workshop.

- *Planning for Workshop on Energy Efficiency Standards (Year 6 Annual Plan #12, adapted)*

During this quarter, the Standards Alliance in collaboration with the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS) worked to develop an agenda and recruit speakers for a workshop on energy-efficiency standards. The workshop which is scheduled to take place in late October/ Early November will focus on testing and certification of energy products, energy systems, and home appliances. This workshop is intended to respond to the current energy deficit following a prolonged 2-year drought in Zambia and the increasing demand for renewable energy and energy-efficient systems.

The Standards Alliance has secured U.S. speakers from NEMA and UL and is working to recruit a speaker from the Department of Energy and possible another U.S. company. In Q3, the Standards Alliance will continue to coordinate with ZABS and other stakeholders for this event.

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## 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.	Mozambique	Workshop on Good Regulatory Practice	Yes
4.	Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Zambia	World Trade Organization Workshop on Transparency	No
5.	Zambia	Regulatory Impact Assessment 3.0	Yes

This period of performance included a combination of execution and extensive planning for future activities in the second and third quarter of 2019. The outcomes witnessed in Q2 are positive and represent the continued success of the Standards Alliance program. In particular, the regulatory impact assessment training in Zambia, which was well received by both the private and public sector, has generated more attention and political will from regulatory agencies who are keen to learning more about the RIA process to ensure that regulations do not create unnecessary barriers to trade and investments in Zambia. In consultation with the Standards Alliance and the World Bank, BRRA is also developing an e-registry notice and comment system, which will be used by regulatory agencies during the public consultation process.

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### CONCLUSION

This period of performance achieved important milestones for the Standards Alliance such as the progress in Zambia noted above, but was also dedicated to preparing for a busy Q3 and Q4. ANSI looks forward to building off these successes in the next period and carrying out activities with Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Mozambique, Zambia, and other partners.