



Period of Performance: April 1 to June 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 second 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 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 Q2, 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

Activities that remain postponed:

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

- *(West Africa) 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)

As mentioned in the Q1 report, this workshop series was scheduled to take place on March 14 – 24, however, due to COVID-19, the program was 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 new workshop dates to effectively implement the previously planned program activity.

Ghana

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

In Q2, ANSI made efforts to continue working with GSA to scope out options for improving the Ghana Building Code (GBC) and shared its initial findings from a 3rd party technical review undertaken by the University of Miami. ANSI offered to request a full assessment of the GBC, to highlight areas in the code that may pose any safety or implementation challenges in the future. However, no additional input was provided to facilitate collaboration towards this effort.

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

At the end of last quarter, the USAID Ghana mission requested implementation support for Ghana's Green Label Certification Program, which was 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 could provide technical support in 2020.

Based on these discussions, ANSI contacted the Joint Institute for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (JIFSAN), who agreed to conduct a 5-day training on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) alongside 1-2 U.S. private sector companies. The plan is for JIFSAN to tailor its current GAP training to fit the needs of small or large-scale farmers, specific sections of the supply chain, and also briefly address issues related to pesticides and pest control, traceability, foreign supplier

verification, and produce safety rules. Speaker outreach and recruit proved difficult and was postponed due to concerns over the pandemic. ANSI will continue to work with JIFSAN, USAID, and Ghana Green Label representatives to plan for this workshop and to recruit other potential speakers and attendees.

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 a 2-day 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 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 certified to the ISO 9001 standard, and other related quality management systems for the oil and gas industry (i.e. 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 understanding, and compliance to, international best practices in the oil and gas sector

Despite COVID-19 related delays, ANSI will continue to stay engaged with partners on the ground and work closely with the venue to reschedule the training 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 and USAID reached out several times to reconfirm ZABS's interest in receiving support under the Standard Alliance but did not receive tangible input. 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.

Activities continuing, even if amended format:

Africa

- *Technical Advisor to the African Union (Year 7 Annual Plan, Activity: #21)*

Beneficiaries: AfCFTA signatories

In late 2019, USAID led discussions with the African Union Secretariat (AU) about creating an AU technical advisor position that would be funded by the Standards Alliance to provide TBT-related technical assistance to support the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) at the AU secretariat. This activity will significantly benefit future U.S. relations and engagement with the AU and open new opportunities for U.S. – Africa trade. The activity also presents an alternative for AfCFTA negotiations whose perspective has been limited to an EU centric viewpoint. The high number of European-funded advisors that have been embedded within AU divisions have the potential to undermine U.S.- friendly implementation of TBT commitments without interventions like this.

In February 2020, the AU and USAID, in consultation with ANSI, agreed on the scope of work for the advisor, and ANSI began outreach with potential partners to recruit and embed a local expert. Leveraging connections made by USAID, ANSI discussed and signed a subcontract with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) to provide administrative oversight, recruit, manage the incoming advisor, and provide strategic advice where appropriate.

In May 2020, the Standards Alliance reviewed resumes, conducted Advisor interviews, and selected a preferred candidate. This process was concluded with input from a predetermined selection committee, comprised of key staff from the AU, USAID, and ANSI. Following the completion of the interview process and unanimous approval by the selection committee, Mr. George Opiyo (a Ugandan national) was selected to serve as the Standards Alliance TBT Advisor to the AU Secretariat. Following his selection, Mr. Opiyo officially signed his working agreement with AGRA in early June.

Mr. Opiyo is a well-recognized TBT expert, who has received praise and accolades at the local, regional, and international level for his proficiency and professionalism in standards and related subject matter. Mr. Opiyo has been an integral part of Uganda, and East Africa's, push to enhance regional transparency on TBT issues.

Following the finalization of Mr. Opiyo's contract, the Standards Alliance 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 Q2, onboarding activities were completed and George resumed his duties and began developing his work plan for implementation in Q3. In Q3, the Standards Alliance will work to review and finalize George's work plan with input from relevant stakeholders at the AU, ARSO, and the US.

Ghana

- *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 for the healthcare industry in West Africa. In particular, EEA was looking for more information on how to implement standards related to surgical masks and disposable medical gowns from the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI), ASTM International, and American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC).

In Q2, ANSI also received a concept note and proposal from EEA and has been working closely with USAID, the West Africa Trade and Investment Hub, the Ghana USAID Mission, and EEA to refine the proposal. After multiple iterations, ANSI aims to finalize and operationalize the proposal in Q3. Due to this project's relation to USAID's COVID-19 response, this project will potentially be shifted to Standards Alliance Phase 2 programming.

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 Q2, ANSI and USAID worked with ISO 37101 experts to finalize the scope of work for the 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, which will be done up-front so that the project can stay on track.

A kick-off call was organized on June 23, 2020. During this call, the ISO37101 work team discussed the project work plan, community selection criteria, and options for remote versus in-person activities throughout the project timeline. Following this meeting, local partners at DGDDL coordinated with the 15 autonomous communities of Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire to arrange an initial sensitization training and to support the finalization of the two pilot communities. This event occurred in mid-July and was well-received, according to DGDDL.

DGDDL, ANSI, and USAID will continue working remotely where possible, to keep the project on track, pushing necessary in-person components to a later date when it is safe for all partners to travel. 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 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 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. 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.

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. 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 to proceed.

In Q2, ANSI worked with Outback Power 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, ANSI expects the project to begin in early Q3, achieving results by the end of the calendar year.

Zambia

- *Planning for online Regulatory Impact Assessment Trainings with the Zambian Regulatory Agencies (Year 7 Annual Plan #18)*

In Q2, BRRRA and the Standards Alliance continued to make plans for a training on the value and step by step process for conducting Regulatory Impact Analysis within regulatory agencies. ANSI worked to recruit Nathan Frey, a former OMB-OIRA RIA expert to draft an agenda, develop workshop materials, and facilitate the training. Initially, the plan was to implement the workshop in Lusaka once the global health crisis was controlled, however, BRRRA expressed a need to meet its program targets by Q4 2020 and indicated an interest in reformatting the training for a virtual audience.

ANSI and the RIA expert scheduled meetings to reassess plans and understand the expectations and needs for conducting a RIA workshop virtually with 92 officials, in line with local social distancing requirements. Based on those discussions, the RIA expert revised the agenda to break the RIA teams into 4 groups of 23 over 2 weeks and reassessed ways to make the virtual training both educational and engaging.

In Q3 the Standards Alliance will work with the RIA expert and BRRRA to finalize plans for the training, including getting training on how to host and deliver quality virtual workshops and pinpoint dates for the training to take place in Q3.

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.	Mozambique	Quality Management Systems for SMEs in the Petroleum Industry - postponed	Yes
6.	Ghana	Supporting Implementation of Ghana Building Code – postponed	Yes

7.	Ghana	Ghana Green Label Certification Program - postponed	Yes
8.	Ghana	Supporting Ethical Apparel Africa's production of Medical Garments – in progress	No
9.	Senegal	Improving Solar Photovoltaic Technicians Standards in Senegal- in progress	Yes
10.	West Africa	Strengthening West Africa's Good Regulatory Practice (GRP) Framework - postponed	Yes
11.	Zambia	Strengthening Government Agency RIA Teams – in progress	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 third and fourth quarters of 2020 (the first and second quarters of Year 8), 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 Q2, 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. Programming in Q2 was able to continue in 8 of the 12 activities listed above, 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 and reschedule highly anticipated workshops for those that continue to be postponed and where stakeholders continue to see value for in-person activities. ANSI will continue to evaluate the global situation and maintain close communication with partners in Q3 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.