



Period of Performance: April 1 – June 30, 2014

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 (Q2) of 2014.

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 implementation of the WTO Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Agreement. In May 2013, USAID and ANSI entered into a public-private partnership which will 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.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES COMPLETED DURING PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE

This period of performance under the initiative was dedicated to conducting the final needs assessments described in the project plan, developing work plans as a result of the consultations, and beginning implementation of activities described in the work plans. 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*

As the needs assessments and consultations for each partner country progressed (see below), ANSI sent regular communication through its member committees about opportunities for comment and feedback. In addition, updates were added to the Standards Alliance website including the dates and locations of assessment consultations, and trainings conducted in partnership with other agencies and organizations. Through meetings and communication, ANSI received feedback and interest from the private sector for Standards Alliance activities, including a new proposal from the American Automotive Policy Council (AAPC).

Central America (CAFTA-DR, Panama)

- *Conducted joint assessment meetings in El Salvador, Costa Rica and Guatemala*

The purpose of the meetings in Central America, as well as further consultations with U.S. stakeholders was to validate and update a preliminary proposal for CAFTA-DR

engagement that was prepared in May 2013 with input from USG staff that traveled to El Salvador and met with a variety of agencies and industry representatives. On May 26-30, ANSI traveled to San Salvador, El Salvador; San Jose, Costa Rica; and Guatemala City, Guatemala to conduct in-country assessment consultations leading towards the development of a work plan for Standards Alliance activities in the CAFTA-DR region.

Following a schedule developed with the help of an experienced local consultant, ANSI met with representatives of each national standards body, trade and/or economic ministries, chambers of commerce, USAID offices and projects and other stakeholders in the three countries. The primary objectives of all of the meetings included:

1. Identify a primary point of contact that will agree to the work plan and coordinate local input to ANSI
2. Refine proposed activities based on actual goals and desired outcomes
3. Introduce known U.S. priorities and discuss potential additional activities
4. Collect information about participants' background and their current roles and responsibilities within their respective agencies
5. Identify challenges or problem areas within the Standards Alliance initiative that are important to participants and could potentially be addressed through collaboration
6. Identify knowledge gaps
7. Identify potential stakeholders or partners not yet engaged
8. Assess factors that would influence willingness to actively participate, and determine interest in assuming a leadership role or other responsibilities
9. Assess preferences for format and frequency of periodic meetings and on-going collaboration
10. Begin to identify preliminary timeline for engagement

All of these objectives were met, and ANSI conducted similar meetings with stakeholders in the U.S. including government agencies such as the Department of Agriculture (USDA). In addition, private sector organizations from ANSI's membership and beyond have been consulted to identify specific priorities for U.S. industry. Initial sectors of interest identified on the U.S. side include electrical and electronic products, and building construction/infrastructure.

Based on the above consultations, ANSI is preparing a draft work plan that will be shared with the individual counterparts in member states and U.S. stakeholders early in Q3 2014.

■ *Proposal and planning for a Food Additive Regulations initiative led by USDA*

ANSI received a proposal from USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) for "Regional Export Development of Food Additive Regulations in Latin America". The main objective of the proposed initiative is to engage in a dialogue and educate representatives from Latin America and in the future, include other countries so that unnecessary risk management actions may be prevented and globalization and harmonization of food additive regulations may be furthered. ANSI held several discussions with USDA-FAS and USAID regarding the proposal to refine the purpose and scope. Initial support for the proposal has been secured from FAS representatives in the region and some local

partners, and additional details will be made available when the CAFTA-DR work plan is distributed early in Q3 2014.

Colombia

- *Beginning implementation phase for Colombia work plan*

As described in the work plan for the Standards Alliance in Colombia (available [here](#)), one of the first activities is a seminar on the WTO Code of Good Practice for the Preparation, Adoption and Application of Standards. Initial planning for this activity began, including outreach to USTR and other U.S. stakeholders that would be involved. Planning will continue in Q3, with the hope of conducting the seminar in Bogota in October, allowing for progress to be made on other work plan deliverables as well.

East African Community

- *Finalization of work plan for the EAC*

Following consultations conducted in Kenya and Burundi in February 2014, ANSI prepared a draft work plan of activities that captures work already conducted in conjunction with the USAID East African Trade Hub. The work plan was agreed by the Trade Hub and the national enquiry points of the five EAC member countries. ANSI has shared the draft plan with the EAC Secretariat but has not received comments. The work plan is available on the Standards Alliance website [here](#).

- *Establish timing and support for seminar on Public Consultation to Enhance Africa's Competitiveness*

As described in the work plan for the Standards Alliance in the EAC, a training and information exchange on public consultation in the regulatory and standards development processes is planned for August 6-8, 2014. ANSI prepared a draft agenda for the event and worked with the East African Trade Hub, the EAC and other local partners to secure support for the proposed activity and eventually agree on a schedule that leverages alignment with a Trade Hub regional workshop on electronic notification systems (ENS). The ongoing work of the Trade Hub to support the development of a new Kenyan ENS, NotifyKenyaTBT, will be highlighted and discussions will be facilitated leading toward scaling up the ENS regionally in EAC.

- *Enhanced cooperation between EAC member states and U.S.-based SDO's*

As a result of Standards Alliance activities conducted in previous quarters, new and strengthened connections resulted between EAC member standards bodies and U.S.-based standards developers. ASTM International reports that following the Standards Alliance meetings held in February 2014, discussions began between ASTM and the Burundi Bureau of Standards (BBN) regarding the signing of an MoU. ASTM currently has MoU's in place with the four remaining EAC member standards bodies, and expects the completion of this MoU to increase the collective benefits available to all five EAC countries under the agreements.

Indonesia

- *Development of a Uniform Plumbing Code specific to Indonesia (UPC-ID) through an open, consensus process*

BSN has appointed a technical committee with the appropriate ministries and the initial review has been completed. IAPMO technical experts met with the TC in May 2014, and are scheduled to return to meet in August of 2014 to finalize the draft for public comment. The release of the UPC-ID SNI is currently planned for Q1 2015. To date, IAPMO has worked with BSN on the following steps:

- IAPMO leadership attended a signing ceremony and press event with BSN, Ministry of Public Works, and Ministry of Industry in Jakarta to strengthen collaboration held on March 2013
- BSN added the development and adoption of UPC-ID to its 2013 Official Agenda. BSN assisted IAPMO and Ministry of Public Works in the implementation efforts of UPC-ID following the adoption of UPC-ID.
- BSN appointed a Technical Committee to work on revising the UPC for Indonesia
- IAPMO appointed a technical expert to serve as a liaison and to promote the inclusion of related international standards into the code adoption.

The BSN Technical Committee will review and revise the code and work with the IAPMO team to draft a publication for public review and comment.

Mexico

- *Conducted joint assessment meetings in Mexico*

On May 28-29, 2014 ANSI and USTR traveled to Mexico City, Mexico to conduct in-country consultations regarding the three proposals submitted by Mexico for the Standards Alliance. The objective of the meetings was the same as described above, and all of these objectives were met. On May 28, ANSI and USTR met with USAID and the U.S. Embassy to brief the representatives on the Standards Alliance objectives and status in Mexico. Additionally, meetings were held with ANCE – the Mexican association for standards and certification for the electronics sector, and representatives of ANSI member organizations in Mexico. On May 29, the U.S. delegation met with the Secretariat of Economy, Mexican Bureau of Standards (DGN), and Federal Commission for Regulatory Improvement (COFEMER) to discuss the three proposed activities.

In addition to the meetings in Mexico, ANSI conducted similar meetings with stakeholders in the U.S., including private sector organizations from ANSI's membership and beyond. Significant interest has been expressed from the private sector, and one of the primary objectives of the first stage of the Standards Alliance work plan will be to determine the feasibility of expanding work beyond the three activities proposed by Mexico to include additional private sector cooperation or initiatives to address sectoral priorities.

Middle East/North Africa

- *Agreement on draft work plans for Jordan and Morocco*

Following the in-country assessments conducted in January, ANSI developed a draft work plan of activities in Jordan and Morocco and shared this with points of contact at the Jordan Standards and Metrology Organization (JSMO) and the Moroccan Ministry of Industry, Commerce and New Technologies (MCINET). The draft plan includes engagement with the WTO TBT enquiry points to support greater awareness building among domestic stakeholders, as well as information exchange on standards and conformity assessment for the electrical and electronic sectors. Initial agreement for the work plan has been secured from MCINET and JSMO.

Peru

- *Beginning implementation phase for Peru work plan*

Peru's prioritized list of activities (provided to ANSI in Q1 2014) included training and exchange on elements of good regulatory practice (GRP). While finalization of the broader work plan is underway, initial planning for this GRP activity began, including outreach to USTR and other U.S. stakeholders that would be involved. Planning will continue in Q3, with the hope of conducting a seminar on regulatory impact assessments (RIAs) in Lima in October.

Southern African Development Community

- *Finalization of work plan for SADC countries*

Following consultations conducted in South Africa in November 2013 and a delegation visit to the U.S. in January 2014, ANSI prepared a draft work plan of activities that captures work already conducted in conjunction with the USAID Southern Africa Trade Hub. The work plan was agreed by the Trade Hub, and subsequently by points of contact in Lesotho, Malawi and Zambia. In addition, the work plan includes activities that may be carried out with partners such as SADCSTAN and the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS). The work plan is available on the Standards Alliance website [here](#).

- *Enhanced cooperation between SADC member states and U.S.-based SDO's*

As a result of Standards Alliance activities conducted in previous quarters, new and strengthened connections resulted between SADC member standards bodies and U.S.-based standards developers. ASTM International reports that as a result of Standards Alliance activities, a new MoU was signed with the Seychelles Bureau of Standards, and discussions are underway regarding MoU's with Angola, Madagascar, and Namibia. ASTM expects the completion of these MoU's to increase the collective benefits available to all SADC countries under the agreements.

Vietnam

- *Conducted joint assessment meetings in Vietnam and Laos*

A proposal for the Standards Alliance was received from Vietnam, which is a member of the Association of SouthEast Asian Nations (ASEAN). In addition to providing assistance to Vietnam, the Standards Alliance expects to leverage this proposal to increase cooperation between the U.S. and ASEAN. On April 7-11, ANSI traveled to Hanoi, Vietnam and Luang Prabang, Laos to conduct in-country consultations leading toward the development of a work plan for Vietnam/ASEAN. In Vietnam, ANSI met with the following agencies/organizations:

- USAID Mission Hanoi /Governance for Inclusive Growth (GIG) Project
- STAMEQ TBT Vietnam Office
- Vietnam Standards and Quality Institute (VSQI)
- Ministry of Industry and Trade
- U.S. Embassy Hanoi (Economic section)
- USAID Mission Hanoi /Vietnam Clean Energy Program (VCEP)

In Luang Prabang, ANSI attended as an observer at the meetings of the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ).

The objective of the meetings was the same as described above, and all of these objectives were met. ANSI conducted similar meetings with stakeholders in the U.S. including government agencies such as the Department of Commerce and USTR. In addition, private sector organizations from ANSI's membership and beyond have been consulted to identify specific priorities for U.S. industry. Initial sectors of interest identified on the U.S. side include medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics.

- *Finalization of work plan for Vietnam*

Following the assessment meetings described above, ANSI prepared a draft work plan of activities in collaboration with the USAID Vietnam GIG project. The work plan was agreed by the GIG project, and subsequently by STAMEQ. The work plan includes engagement with the TBT enquiry point and support to repair/improve its electronic notification system, training and exchange on management of technical committees for standards development, and sectoral exchange on standards and regulatory regimes for health sectors (medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and cosmetics).

Yemen (and GSO)

- *Finalization of work plan for Yemen*

Following the assessment meetings conducted in Riyadh in January 2014, ANSI prepared a draft work plan that was shared with the Yemen Standards and Metrology Organization (YSMO). The draft plan includes training and engagement for the WTO TBT enquiry point, as well as a self-assessment to identify strategic areas for improvement in standards development infrastructure. Initial agreement for the work plan has been secured from YSMO.

EVALUATION OF ACTIVITIES

The primary outcomes 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	CAFTA-DR	Conducted joint assessment consultations in El Salvador, Costa Rica and Guatemala	Yes
4	Colombia	Began implementation of work plan – Code of Good Practice activity	Yes
5	EAC	Finalized work plan with EAC member countries	Yes
6	EAC	Initiated activity on public consultation	Yes
7	EAC	Improved connections between U.S.-based SDO's and EAC members through signing of MoU's	No
8	Indonesia	BSN technical committee established and drafting begun for UPC-ID	Yes
9	Mexico	Conducted joint assessment meetings in Mexico	Yes
10	MENA	Finalized work plan for Jordan and Morocco	Yes
11	Peru	Began implementation of work plan – GRP activity	Yes
12	SADC	Finalized work plan with SADC member countries	Yes
13	SADC	Improved connections between U.S.-based SDO's and SADC members through signing of MoU's	No
14	Vietnam	Conducted joint assessment meetings in Vietnam and Laos	Yes
15	Vietnam	Finalized work plan with Vietnam	Yes
16	Yemen	Finalized work plan with Yemen	Yes

The next table summarizes each country/region's progress towards an agreed-upon work plan (targeted by end of Year One).

Country	Schedule joint assessment	Conduct joint assessment	Draft work plan	Agree on work plan
CAFTA-DR				
Colombia				
EAC				
Indonesia				
MENA				

Mexico	
Peru	
SADC	
Vietnam/ASEAN	
Yemen	

The successes of this period resulted mainly from significant progress toward the finalization of work plans for each of the Standards Alliance partner countries/regions, with all except CAFTA and Mexico complete. In addition, the final joint needs assessments were completed.

With the completion of work plans, the primary deliverable of the first year of the Standards Alliance will be achieved and the foundation established for future concrete activities. Initiating the connections and relationships that will be crucial to future success represents a huge accomplishment for the Standards Alliance that was largely concluded in this period.

Finally, some of the first outcomes from specific project activities began to be realized in this period. With the Indonesian technical committee for water sanitation established and drafting underway for a uniform plumbing code for Indonesia, an open consensus-based process for standards development is reinforced and demonstrated while achieving a developmental priority for Indonesians' health and safety.

CONCLUSION

This period of performance achieved important milestones such as the finalization of most of the 10 work plans and conducting the final joint assessments, and also witnessed significant progress toward completion of all of the first year's activities. As the Standards Alliance moves into the implementation phase of work plan activities, the primary stakeholder group and resource pool established throughout the first year will become even more active. In the next quarter, ANSI looks forward to adding to project resources such as the website, and initiating and planning several activities from the individual work plans.