

Some key achievements in early fiscal year 2007

FY07 has seen an acceleration of the implementation of three important **regional HIV/AIDS projects** and the approval through the Africa Catalytic Growth Fund of a project with IGAD in the Horn of Africa. Disbursements have started on the Great Lakes Initiative on HIV/AIDS (GLIA) and will lead to direct support to 3 Refugees sites in the coming weeks. Additionally Increase of HIV/AIDS prevention activities (communication for behavior change, social marketing including the introduction of female condom) targeting truckers, sex workers, young girls and boys, and "uniformed staff" (customs, police and immigration) along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor translated. An additional outcome is the reduction of non-tariffs barriers along the Abidjan-Lagos corridor to an average of 5 to 7 check point per 100 km with maxima in Nigeria (Sèmè-Lagos) for the Abidjan-Lagos side and in Côte d'Ivoire (Lagos-Abidjan). The ARCAN project is coming out of problem status after a restructuring.

In **River Basins**, the successful organization of a donors meeting that adopted the road map for the preparation and implementation of the Sustainable Development Action Program for the Niger Basin is another accomplishment for Regional Integration in the first six months of FY07. The meeting brought together more than 20 donors who agreed on a harmonization and a coordination mechanism to effectively support the development of the Niger Basin. This could lead to a major IDA lending operation in the last quarter of FY07 of about \$46 million which will trigger co-financing from partners. Another accomplishment in that domain was the agreement to the Eastern Nile Planning Model with the Nile River Basin Commission.

The Regional Trade and Facilitation Project approved restructuring (12/13/2006) will allow the **African Trade Insurance Agency** to reach the following Key Success Indicators for CY2007:

- generate an Aggregate Gross Written Premium of US\$ 3.3 million by 31 December;
- increase Gross and Net Exposure to US\$ 226 million and US\$ 73million by 31 December, respectively;
- increase the Net Underwriting Income from US\$ 348,000(e) in 2006 to US\$ 811,000 in 2007;
- the Net Operating Loss in 2007 will not exceed US\$ 3.1 million;
- increase Net Income from a forecast loss of US\$ 6,000(e) in 2006 to a surplus of US\$ 211,000 in 2007; and
- each underwriter is expected to underwrite and close at least eight (8) new transactions, in addition to the anticipated renewals of existing policies.

Additionally, the restructuring will lead to the mobilization of co-financing, including private. The team already received a firm commitment from EIB for \$5 million Euro for Madagascar and discussions have started with the AfDB and IDB.