



GLOBAL HEALTH REPORT

USAID Focus on Children

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Agency Publication Reviews Advances in Children's Health

In observance of the upcoming United Nation's General Assembly Special Session on Children, USAID has produced the booklet, "Children – The World's Future," outlining the Agency's decades of work in helping developing countries increase opportunities for children to thrive and grow into healthy, productive adults. In addition, USAID will celebrate the past decade of achievement with a reaffirmation of its global commitment to:

- Promote child survival, health, and nutrition
- Protect children from harm
- Provide children with basic education.

The overview of USAID's work in child survival will be distributed during the UN Special Session, which has been scheduled for May. For copies, contact Elizabeth Fox at efox@usaid.gov or visit www.usaid.gov/pop_health/home/Publications/index.html.

Maternal Health Project Brings Reduction in Maternal Mortality in Nicaragua

The Global Bureau's Quality Assurance Project (QA Project) initiated a program to improve obstetrical care in the Jinotega and Matagalpa regions in the northern mountains of Nicaragua, where high maternal mortality rates have been recorded. The QA Project helped redesign the service process with changes made in streamlining waiting and visit time for pregnant women and in retraining health workers in the care of obstetric complications and in identifying danger signs. Less than a year after the program's launch, the maternal mortality rate dramatically dropped, from 202 to 73 per 100,000. The QA Project team includes prime contractor Center for Human Services, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs (CCP), and the Johns Hopkins Program for International Education in Reproductive Health. For more about the project, which is a global leader in the advocacy, development, and promotion of cost-effective methods to strengthen health care services and systems in developing and middle-income countries, visit the QA Project Web site at www.qaproject.org.

Impact of HIV/AIDS on Children and Adolescents

The publication, "USAID Project Profiles: Children Affected by HIV/AIDS," released in October, outlines the Agency's efforts to reduce the impact of the HIV/AIDS pandemic on the world's children. The publication



highlights the 62 USAID-funded initiatives implemented in 22 developing countries to support vulnerable children and adolescents. Drawing on the Agency's historical involvement with displaced children and orphans, USAID-supported activities have helped establish and refine standards to address the needs of children and adolescents affected and infected by HIV/AIDS. In the publication, the Agency's five core strategies are outlined, as are the methods for applying and measuring the progress of the intervention strategies. Finally, a country-by-country overview details the work that has been done to date. For a copy of the report, visit USAID's HIV/AIDS Web page at www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids/ or contact Gabrielle Bushman at gbushman@usaid.gov.

USAID Response to HIV/AIDS

Community/Faith-Based Organizations Involved in Battle Against HIV/AIDS

USAID has established a new initiative, Communities Responding to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic (CORE), designed to strengthen partnerships with community- and faith-based organizations. CORE's primary goals are to help reduce the social stigma that hurts many suffering from HIV/AIDS and to work on value-based initiatives that can contribute to preventing new infections. The new initiative will focus change and activity where they are most urgently needed – at the community level. The work is being advanced through:

- Small empowerment grants to grassroots organizations
- Demonstration projects with Christian, Muslim, and secular or non-denominational groups
- Provision of technical assistance and strategic planning support to establish or strengthen partnerships between USAID and community- and faith-based groups
- Expansion of quality voluntary counseling and testing services
- Involvement of persons living with HIV and AIDS at all levels of program planning and implementation.

For more information on CORE, or to view the press release announcing the Initiative, visit USAID's Web site at www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids/TechAreas/communitymobil/index.html.

USAID Hosts World AIDS Day Activities

In honor of World AIDS Day, Saturday, December 1st, USAID sponsored several events.

- On Wednesday, November 28, USAID joined the Global Health Council, Pan-American Health Organization and Abbott Labs in sponsoring "A Celebration of Partnerships," a reception honoring partners in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. In addition to a large turnout from the AIDS community, five members of Congress attended. The reception included the unveiling of an exhibit donated by photographer Rich Marchewka on the intergenerational impact of AIDS in Africa.



- On Thursday, November 29, USAID sponsored a day-long World AIDS Day program for staff and visitors to the Ronald Reagan Building. In addition to a lunchtime speaking program, the Names Quilt was on display and local HIV/AIDS service organizations provided information about AIDS prevention, testing and treatment.
- A “Morning Newsmaker” press conference was held on Friday, November 30, at the National Press Club to kick off the CORE Initiative. The press release is available at www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2001/pr011130.html.

USAID Active During Burkina Faso Conference on AIDS and STDs

This year’s International Conference on AIDS and STDs in Africa (ICASA) was held December 9 – 13 in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, with the theme “Communities Commit Themselves.” More than 2,500 participants from more than 50 countries attended the conference to discuss the latest developments in HIV/AIDS and STDs in Africa. USAID is a sponsor of the biannual meeting.

During the conference, USAID held several activities including: a training session for journalists that included discussions with AIDS experts and travel to a local AIDS clinic; a satellite session on human capacity development for HIV/AIDS; and daily press briefings to educate the 400 journalists who registered for the conference. Topics of the press briefings were:

- USAID, in conjunction with Family Health International, released “Effective Prevention Strategies in Low HIV Prevalence Settings.” The report provides countries with low HIV prevalence with a blueprint for keeping the infection rate low. www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2001/pr011209.html
- USAID released two documents describing the impact of the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa, “How Does HIV/AIDS Affect African Businesses?” and “How Are African Businesses Responding?” The press release is at www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2001/pr011210.html, and the publications are available at www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids/Publications/index.html.
- USAID and The Johns Hopkins University Center for Communication Programs released the latest issue of Population Reports, “Youth and HIV/AIDS: Can We Avoid Catastrophe?” This paper looks at the overall global picture for youth in light of the latest United Nations figures showing nearly 12 million young adults are infected with HIV/AIDS. The situation is particularly grim in sub-Saharan Africa where 8.6 million infected young adults live. For more information, see the press release at www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2001/pr011211.html.
- USAID, in conjunction with the Network of African People Living with HIV/AIDS (NAP+), released a directory listing more than 30 national and regional African associations of people living with HIV/AIDS. The directory lists the contact information of these associations in an attempt to promote their visibility, and in attempt to gain greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS in planning the programs that are intended to help them. See the



press release at

www.usaid.gov/press/releases/2001/pr011212.html. The directory is available at

www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids/Publications/index.html.

More information on USAID's HIV/AIDS program is available at www.usaid.gov/pop_health/aids/.

Global Fund Update

The Transitional Working Group (TWG), which has been responsible for establishing the foundations of the new Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria has completed its work. In January, the group will give its recommendations to a newly formed Board. The TWG, comprising more than 40 representatives from developing countries, donor countries, civil society, and the UN system, has been engaged in initial negotiations to design basic guidelines concerning the Fund's operations, including legal status, management structure, financial systems, and general eligibility criteria.

At its first meeting on 28-29 January, the new Board will review the TWG's recommendations, make refinements as needed, and adopt a framework document. After this, the Board will issue a call for proposals. Approximately \$1.6 billion has been committed to the Fund thus far from industrialized and developing country governments, corporations, foundations, and private individual contributions. A number of these commitments are multi-year, giving the Fund approximately \$700 million to disburse in 2002.

USAID staff have been deeply involved in the project. Dr. Paul Ehmer, Deputy Director of the Office of Health, Nutrition, and Infectious Diseases, has been managing the work of the TWG from offices in Brussels and Dr. Paul De Lay, Acting Director of the Office of HIV/AIDS, has participated in the fall meetings of the TWG. For more information on the Global Fund see www.globalfundatm.org.

Network Addressing Vector-Borne Diseases Established

In July 2000, the Global Bureau's Environmental Health Project (EHP) organized a workshop on vector-borne disease with program representatives from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal with an overarching goal to discuss cross-border collaboration. The workshop, held in Nepal, resulted in the creation of the BBIN Network. Under the Regional HIV/AIDS and Infectious Diseases Program, USAID will support both the development of the BBIN Network and implementation of its cross-border activities. EHP will work with BBIN network members to:

- Improve communication among network members
- Standardize diagnostic and surveillance procedures for priority infectious diseases
- Improve the quality of data available regarding the epidemiology of infectious diseases, resistance to antimicrobial drugs, vector ecology, and vector susceptibility to insecticides
- Increase information shared related to infectious diseases among BBIN network members.

The BBIN network Web site has been launched at: www.bbin.org. For information on the BBIN network and its cross-border activities,



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please contact Gene Brantly of EHP at brantlyep@ehproject.org.

Innovations, Breakthroughs, and Findings

New Emphasis on Twice-Yearly Vitamin A Supplementation

Vitamin A supplementation is recognized as a high-impact intervention to reduce child mortality in vitamin A-deficient countries. Historically, however, the program has been linked with National Immunization Days (NIDS) for polio eradication. Now that NIDs are being either scaled down or phased out as the incidence of polio declines, this link is proving problematic. There is an urgent need to develop and institutionalize alternative strategies to sustain the delivery of vitamin A to young children. At a recent workshop on post-NIDs options in Africa, sponsored by the BASICS II project and USAID's Micronutrient Program (MOST) it was agreed that combining vitamin A distribution with other preventative services in special "child health weeks" offered promise for achieving or maintaining high rates of vitamin A supplementation. For more information, visit the MOST Web site, www.mostproject.org.

Improving Injection Safety for Family Planning Clients and GAVI

Each year, an estimated 98,000 HIV infections, 22.5 million hepatitis B infections, and 2.7 million hepatitis C infections are due to unsafe injection practices. In an effort to improve injection safety for family planning clients, health workers, and communities by reducing re-use of needles and preventing needlestick injuries, USAID will supply auto-disable (AD) syringes and sharps disposable containers with shipments of the injectable contraceptive DMPA (depot medroxyprogesterone acetate), also known as Depo-Provera. Supporting guidelines have been released to instruct USAID Cooperating Agencies (CAs) on points to consider when introducing these technologies and will provide key training messages that will assist health workers to use and dispose of the new syringes and sharps containers safely and effectively.

On a separate but related front, USAID staff worked with the GAVI partners to develop an injection safety policy for the Global Alliance on Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI) and the Vaccine Fund. With approval of the policy, the GAVI Board committed over \$50 million to provide transitional (3-year) financial support to countries for AD syringes and safe disposal boxes for all routine immunizations, excluding special vaccination campaigns. Further, countries that have already established means for procuring safety injection commodities may apply for equivalent funding amounts to support injection safety programs. In either case, countries are required to submit a multi-year plan for improving injection safety that demonstrates problem analysis and local commitment to address the issue. For more details about GAVI funds, contact Steve Landry at slandry@usaid.gov or Elizabeth Fox at efox@usaid.gov. For additional information regarding the AD shipments with Depo-Provera, please contact Tabitha Keener at tkeener@usaid.gov.



USAID Policy

Post-Abortion Care

The press release accompanying President Bush's Memorandum of January 22, 2001 restoring the Mexico City Policy stated that "[t]he President's clear intention is that any restrictions do not limit organizations from treating injuries or illnesses caused by legal or illegal abortions, for example, post-abortion care." In this announcement, President Bush acknowledged that voluntary family planning services were one of the best ways to prevent abortion. USAID's Bureau for Global Health places high priority on preventing abortions through the use of family planning, saving the lives of women who suffer complications arising from unsafe abortion, and linking those women to voluntary family planning and other reproductive health services that will help prevent subsequent abortions. Post-abortion care should be a key component of both Safe Motherhood and family planning programs.

Globally, complications following an unsafe abortion account for 13 percent of all maternal deaths. Many of these deaths could be prevented by post-abortion care. USAID's post-abortion care program includes three critical elements: emergency treatment for complications of induced or spontaneous abortion; post-abortion family planning counseling and services; and linking women from emergency care to family planning and other reproductive health services.

USAID will continue to support post-abortion care activities, and foreign organizations are permitted to implement such activities without affecting their USAID family planning assistance. It should be noted that USAID does not finance the purchase or distribution of manual vacuum aspiration equipment for any purpose. Monica Kerrigan (mkerrigan@usaid.gov) and Nicole Buono (nbuono@usaid.gov) chair the Agency's Post-abortion Care Working Group and can answer any queries regarding the development or implementation of post-abortion care activities.

USAID Conducts Global Evaluation of Post-Abortion Care (PAC) Programs

In related news, USAID evaluated its global PAC programs this fall. The findings, which appear in a report released in January, describe the components of the Agency's PAC programs, present case studies from four countries (Bolivia, Kenya, Ghana, and Nepal), and conclude with an analysis of the challenges that remain and recommendations for meeting these challenges.

The report shows that remarkable achievements have been made in initiating and expanding post-abortion care programs since 1990, when USAID began funding PAC programs. The advances have been made with relatively limited funds -- an estimated \$20 million has been spent in over 40 countries with most investments coming in recent years. The achievements and expansion would not have been possible without support from other donors: USAID-funded CAs receive a considerable amount of funding for PAC from non-USAID sources. However, there is much still to be done: family planning counseling and services must be



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strengthened, linkages with other reproductive health services have received insufficient attention, and further work must be undertaken to generate understanding and demand for PAC at the community level.

For a copy of USAID's recommendations for strengthening PAC programs worldwide, contact Nicole Buono (nbuono@usaid.gov), Monica Kerrigan (mkerrigan@usaid.gov), or Catherine Hastings (chastings@poptchproject.com).

Project News

Strengthening Evidence-Based Decision Making in Health

Working through the MEASURE Evaluation Project, USAID has newly established the Routine Health Information Network (RHINO) to promote high-quality and practical approaches to the collection and use of routine health information in developing countries. RHINO comprises health and information professionals from developing country governments, donor agencies, technical groups, universities, and private voluntary organizations. Through engaging in a coordinated response, RHINO will strengthen the role of evidence-based decision making in the health sector in lesser-developed countries, and improve overall planning and management of health activities.

Institutional members of the project include USAID, PAHO, the World Bank, and John Snow, Inc. For more information on the Routine Health Information Network, please contact: [The Rhino@jsi.com](mailto:The_Rhino@jsi.com).

New Awards

New Five-Year Youth Program Awarded

USAID has awarded its new, multi-sector youth initiative, YOUTHNet, to Family Health International and its partners: CARE USA, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Emerging Markets, Ltd., Margaret Sanger Center International, and RTI International.

YOUTHNet is a global program designed to improve reproductive health and prevent HIV/AIDS among young people aged 10 – 24. YOUTHNet's design is comprehensive in order to meet the unique, complex, and often wide-ranging reproductive health needs of young people, as well as those of parents and other involved adults. It recognizes the need to segment all interventions and messages for youth based on their age, sex, life stage, marital status, culture, and geographic location, among other factors.

In developing interventions, YOUTHNet will emphasize the energy and resilience of young people and their capacity for positive behavior change, and will seek to involve youth in all aspects of the program. The program will employ an innovative social franchising approach to expand networks of youth-friendly services and programs, especially through the private sector. YOUTHNet is managed jointly by the Office of Population



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and Reproductive Health and the Office of HIV/AIDS. Shanti Conly (POP/RH) and Linda Sussman (HIV/AIDS) are the USAID Technical Advisors for the activity. For more information about YOUTHNet, please e-mail Shanti at sconly@usaid.gov or Linda at lsussman@usaid.gov.

PHRplus Project Awarded

The Bureau for Global Health has announced the final award of the Health Policy and Systems Strengthening (HPSS) Flagship Project to Abt Associates and its partners, Development Associates, Inc. (DA), Emory University Rollins School of Public Health, Philoxenia International Travel, Inc., Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), Social Sectors Development Strategies, Inc. (SSDS), Training Resources Group (TRG), Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, and University Research Corp., LLC (URC). As the follow-on to the Partnerships for Health Reform Project (PHR), the goal of Partners for Health Reform-plus (PHRplus) is to improve health system performance in delivering PHN priority interventions. PHRplus works with governments, NGOs, and communities to increase:

- Public funding for priority PHC interventions
- Access to health services by the poor
- Private sector participation in service delivery
- Coverage and sustainability of priority interventions in reproductive, maternal and child health, infectious disease control, and HIV/AIDS.

Health Tech IV

The Bureau for Global Health awarded HealthTech IV, a competitively bid, five-year cooperative agreement, to the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH). The new award will help the Bureau achieve its strategic objectives by providing a wide array of technology solutions and technology-related capabilities related to health, nutrition, and family planning product development and introduction. The range of HealthTech's capabilities include:

- Designing, testing, and adapting affordable products, diagnostics, and immunization-related systems appropriate to the needs of resource-poor populations
- Promoting understanding and collaboration between public and private sectors
- Assisting decisionmakers in the selection of health technologies most suitable for local use
- Introducing technologies with supporting training and education programs that are culturally sensitive.

This agreement is a follow-on agreement for Health Tech III with PATH. It will be housed in the Child Survival Division under the Child Health Results Package. Contact Deborah Lans at dlans@usaid.gov if you would like additional information.

New Contract for Norplant® Implants

USAID has awarded a new contract to Leiras Oy in Finland for the production of Norplant®. Leiras Oy is the only manufacturer licensed by the Population Council to manufacture Norplant® implants for distribution in developing countries. The new award is a one-year contract with



options to extend it four additional years.

Earlier this year, the results of the five-year post-marketing surveillance research of Norplant[®], IUDs, and sterilization conducted by the World Health Organization, the Population Council, and Family Health International were published. This research showed that Norplant[®] implants, along with IUDs and sterilization, prove to be very safe methods that provide highly effective, long-term protection against unplanned pregnancy. Norplant[®] implants remain effective for 5 years. However, research has demonstrated that the product is highly effective for 7 years and the Food and Drug Administration recently determined that relabeling Norplant[®] with a 7-year period of use is “approvable” and, thus, should be relabeled shortly (following receipt by the FDA of some further information). Questions about the contract can be directed to Sharmila Raj at sraj@pal-tech.com and additional information about the safety of Norplant[®] can be directed to Jeff Spieler at jspieler@usaid.gov.

Agency News

Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Global Health Sworn In

President Bush signed the commission of appointment for Dr. Anne Peterson, the Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Global Health (AA/GH) on November 5. Administrator Andrew S. Natsios administered the oath of office to Dr. Peterson on November 6.

Reorganization Update

USAID Administrator Natsios announced the first part of the Agency Reorganization on November 4 by officially establishing the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade (EGAT). The other two pillar bureaus, Bureau for Global Health (encompassing all staff in G/PHN) and the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance were officially established on November 18.

The Bureau for Global Health will comprise the Office of Population and Reproductive Health; the Office of HIV/AIDS; the Office of Health, Nutrition, and Infectious Diseases; the Office of Strategy, Planning, Budget, and Operations; and the Office of Regional and Field Coordination.

The new EGAT Bureau will encompass the Center for Environment, Center for Economic Growth and Agricultural Development, the Office of Women in Development, the Administrative Management Staff, the Office of Program Development and Strategic Planning, and the Center for Human Capacity Development.

Aid to Afghanistan/Pakistan

Most people are aware of the U.S. government's pledge to provide humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan. Shortly after September 11, USAID formed a Central Asian Task Force that will work with the Administrator and with the State Department to coordinate the broad outlines of the U.S.'s entire assistance program, including food and humanitarian aid as well as longer-term development assistance.



In the Bureau for Global Health, two-country support teams, Afghanistan and Pakistan, have been formed. Mary Ellen Stanton has taken the lead on both teams with Steve Hawkins as the alternate for Afghanistan and Sarah Harbison as the alternate for Pakistan. The country teams, working closely with ANE, are currently pulling together information about the demographic and epidemiological profiles of both countries as well as potential areas for intervention. The teams are developing possible USAID plans for PHN development assistance in the context of our other assistance programs, including food and humanitarian aid.

2001 Senior Executive Service Presidential Rank Awards

President Bush recently approved USAID's nominations for the 2001 Senior Executive Service Meritorious Presidential Rank Awards, with Duff Gillespie, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Global Health, receiving one of these prestigious honors. Rank awards recognize overall high-level performance by SES career appointees and are based on service over an extended period of time. The nominations were based on the recommendations of the Senior Executive Service Performance Review Board that met in November 2000.

40th Anniversary of USAID

USAID celebrated its 40th anniversary with a November 2 event at Agency headquarters at the Ronald Reagan Building featuring Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and Administrator Andrew S. Natsios. "USAID is an important part of our country's foreign policy team. Its work is at the core of our engagement with the world...over the long-term, our foreign assistance programs are among our most powerful national security tools," said Secretary Powell.

On November 3, 1961, President John F. Kennedy signed the Executive Order creating the U.S. Agency for International Development. In the last 40 years, USAID has been a leader in helping the developing world improve education, health, agriculture and economic development, along with promoting democracy, providing humanitarian assistance and working to prevent conflicts.

USAID has played a critical role in the progress of the developing world. Over the last forty years, its programs in health have:

- Helped decrease infant mortality from 162 to 69 per 1,000 births.
- Assisted more than 50 million couples in the developing world to use family planning. These families are now better able to feed, clothe, educate, and provide health care for their children.
- In the 28 countries with the largest USAID-sponsored family planning programs, the average number of children per family has dropped from 6.1 in the mid-1960s to 4.2 today.
- Reduced the number of polio cases reported: only 2,400 in 2000 compared to approximately 350,000 per year in the 1980s.

Over the years, USAID has been instrumental in:

- Developing and expanding the use of oral-rehydration therapy
- Leading the way in implementing and strengthening immunization programs
- Fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic in the 50 countries hardest hit.



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USAID-Funded TV Program on Environment/Population Issues Receives Award

"Arcandina," a children's television show that receives support and technical assistance from the Population Communication Services Project (PCS), has been awarded the National Conservation Achievement Award by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) for best international program. "Arcandina," which receives partial funding from USAID's Office of Population, airs weekly in Ecuador, and is the country's highest-rated children's television show. The program focuses on various environmental issues -- such as the effect of population growth on the environment -- and promotes environmental stewardship. For more information or to get a copy of one of the programs, please contact Ritu Singh at rsingh@usaid.gov.

Publications, Conferences and Seminars

FGC Donor Meeting

USAID and Wallace Global Fund hosted a two-day donors meeting on Dec. 3-4 on funding strategies to eliminate female genital cutting (FGC) globally. The goal of the meeting was to establish a regular liaison with other donors to gather information and develop a framework for research and advocacy that will enhance collaboration and coordination of elimination efforts and stimulate public understanding of FGC as a health damaging behavior. Attendees included representatives from bilateral, multilateral and foundation organizations. To build on this successful meeting, attendees agreed to meet on a semi-annual basis. For additional information, please contact Abedelhadi Eltahir at aeltahir@usaid.gov.

Using Market Segmentation to Address Contraceptive Security Issues

USAID, Commercial Market Strategies, and the Deliver Project of John Snow, Inc., hosted a December 4 meeting, Segmenting Markets to Maximize Contraceptive Security, to examine the potential role of market segmentation in addressing the global dilemma of limited contraceptive and condom supplies. During the three-hour meeting, attendees heard from numerous experts in marketing and reproductive health who appeared on panels that explored the segmentation theory and its use in policy making, supply chain implications, the role of the private sector, and they heard real world experiences from Turkey, Colombia, and Morocco. Summarizing the day's proceedings, Margaret Neuse, Director of USAID's Office of Population and Reproductive Health, acknowledged "there is a lot to learn and we're still learning." Listing the challenges ahead, she stressed the need for "building trust and accountability between the private and public sector, increasing commercial sector involvement, and persuading those who can pay but who use subsidized services to pay for what they can afford." For more information, contact Monica Kerrigan at mkerrigan@usaid.gov.



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