



FRONTLINES

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Nepal moves toward democracy. See page 3.



A USAID program is engaging Nepali citizens like this man in community activities to overcome a history of conflict.

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An Afghan woman displays her finger marked with indelible ink after casting her vote in Kabul Aug. 20. The presidential vote pitted President Hamid Karzai against a number of challengers. At press time, no final results had been announced. Months before the voting, USAID backed a voter registration campaign, worked to re-establish the country's Electoral Complaints Commission, and sponsored voter education seminars. USAID also stepped into the world of crowdsourcing, partnering with Google and others to map election-related incidents online in real time reported by people on the ground.

By Angela Rucker

Clinton Spotlights Africa's Development on 7-Nation Tour

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton turned the spotlight on some successful development programs in Africa during her 11-day, seven-country visit to the continent in August.

She toured an agriculture research facility in Kenya and revisited a housing redevelopment project in South Africa she first saw 12 years ago as first lady. She also emphasized transparency in government, denounced corruption, and used herself and President Barack Obama as an example of how political foes can put differences aside and find common ground.

And Clinton said economic successes—from million dollar trade agreements to small-time entrepreneurs making good—showed that U.S. partnerships with African countries are producing results.

"At the State Department and USAID, we are actively exploring how we can fund, design, [and]

implement development and foreign assistance that produces measurable, lasting results, while also helping people in the short run," Clinton said in a speech during her first stop in Kenya.

"In Africa and elsewhere," she said, "... we will focus on country-driven solutions that give responsible governments more information, capacity, and control as they tailor strategies to meet their needs."

After Kenya, Clinton went to South Africa, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, Liberia, and Cape Verde. She also discussed Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan, Zimbabwe, and other African countries during visits with officials.

The overarching message: "President Obama and I are committed to making the development and democratization of

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Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton plants flowers in front of a house under construction in Khayelitsha, South Africa. The house is being built by women who are members of the South African Homeless People's Federation, which helps impoverished communities apply for housing subsidies, and provides construction expertise.

Congress Debates US Aid Reforms

By John Waggoner

USAID is more critical to achieving U.S. foreign policy objectives than ever before but a steady, two-decade-long decline has eroded the Agency's capacity to fulfill its mission, said principal sponsors and witnesses at a congressional hearing on the Kerry-Lugar bill that seeks to reform foreign assistance.

"The issues that we face today—from chronic poverty and hunger to violent acts of terrorism—require that we work seamlessly toward identifiable goals," said Sen. Richard Lugar (R-Ind.), ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"The U.S. has increased development funding and elevated its priority. Yet USAID has

been allowed to atrophy. Many new programs are located outside USAID in roughly two dozen departments and agencies. We don't really know whether these programs are complementary or working at cross-purposes."

Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), the committee's chairman, expressed confidence that the bipartisan Kerry-Lugar bill "would go a long way toward improving our immediate ability to deliver foreign aid in a more accountable, thoughtful, and strategic manner."

The bill has three core components. It strengthens USAID by creating an internal evaluation and knowledge center that can

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Gay, Lesbian Partners to Get Benefits

By Laura Ashbaugh

Decades of discriminatory policies against same-sex partners of USAID employees overseas are beginning to change. Acting Administrator Alonzo Fulgham announced Aug. 4 that same-sex partners may now receive medical care at post, visas, jobs, and other benefits traditionally given only to spouses of employees.

USAID Foreign Service Officer in New Delhi Kendra Phillips and her partner submitted their application for benefits immediately after they heard the news. Phillips said she hopes that her partner will be able to

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Q and A with Josette Sheeran, Executive Director, World Food Program

Josette Sheeran is executive director of the World Food Program (WFP), which aims to feed 108 million people in 74 countries in 2009. Over the past two years, the combined effects of the food, fuel, and financial crises have sharply increased needs of the hungry poor—and WFP's operational costs—more than doubling its budget in 2008-2009. Forty percent of its resources come from the United States. On July 29, Sheeran sat down in Washington for a discussion of WFP's new challenges with FrontLines Editorial Director Ben Barber and eight other journalists.* Excerpts follow:

Q: Is the World Food Program reaching all the world's hungry?

SHEERAN: Today for the first time in human history, more than a billion people will go to bed hungry...one out of every six people on earth are on the official list of the urgently hungry. This is inherently destabilizing and inherently damaging, especially for women and children who suffer in greater numbers.

The Obama administration has shown leadership in the G-8, moving forward a bold and historic commitment to food security and ending hunger. The \$20 billion pledged during the G-8 really is on the scale of the initiative to fight HIV/AIDS globally.

We really call for urgent action. The World Food Program is facing a dangerous and unprecedented shortfall in emergency funding. This is mainly due to the fact that the needs—which were greatly increased last year due to the food crisis—have not come down. In fact, they have increased—just as we're seeing the numbers of hungry increase.

Q: And the 1 billion mark—you think that was a direct effect of the financial crisis?

SHEERAN: With the financial crisis, the incomes of the poor are being hit. Investment, trade, remittances, aid—all are down. In Kenya, up to 40 percent of the remittances have disappeared. In Tajikistan, there is over 47 percent dependence of the GDP on remittances. Foreign direct investment in countries is falling off—so day labor is falling off. We're seeing unemployment rising.

Q: How have high food prices affected WFP's assistance programs?

SHEERAN: Last year, during the food crisis, prices virtually doubled overnight from June '07 to January '08. For many of the poorest, that meant they could buy half the food for the same amount of money. This has not changed. In sub-Saharan Africa, 89 percent of the countries have higher food prices now than a year ago. It is easy to see the effect this has on those who are living on less than a dollar a day. These needs are historically alarming and high—and we are not out of the woods yet.

Q: What is your budget this year?

SHEERAN: Our budget for this year of assessed approved needs is \$6.7 billion. We expect \$3.7 billion [from donor governments]. So we are actively cutting \$3 billion of our program, which means a reduction in rations and programs throughout the world.

Q: What has been the effect of cutting back?

SHEERAN: Tragically, the axe is already falling across the board. To pick just one of myriad examples: in Guatemala, funding shortfalls mean that some 100,000 children under the age of 5, and 50,000 mothers, have lost their supply of Vitacereal—a highly nutritious blend of maize, soy, and micronutrients. And when you increase malnutrition, especially in young children, you're talking about the loss of human potential—mental and physical. We're talking about losing a generation. I mean, it's affecting real people.

Q: How about the U.S. government response to the global hunger crisis?



Josette Sheeran

SHEERAN: The United States has stepped up to the plate to help the world's hungry, as it has throughout recent history. In 2008-9, it has responded with more than \$3.6 billion for WFP's programs—a record. The \$700 million in supplemental funding from Congress this year to deal with urgent hunger needs was significant and generous.

Q: What about long-term food security?

SHEERAN: We know how to put hunger out of business—and it's not just increasing agricultural yields. Last year, there were 2700 kilocalories for every individual on Earth. The challenge is the people who cannot afford the food, or otherwise get access to it. The world will need to grow more food. The challenge of climate change, increased population growth—all of that is critical. But it's also about connecting the dots between production and the most vulnerable.

We need to step up long-term agricultural production but also "safety nets" like school feeding, livelihood protection, and nutritional interventions are absolutely vital.

Brazil, for example, is reducing the hunger numbers more dramatically than any other nation—through safety net programs that make sure poor families have access either to cash, or vouchers, or meals.

Q: What would be the impact of shifting more of U.S. donations to local purchase?

SHEERAN: Well, first I want to thank the United States: It has invested over \$120 million in local purchase through USAID—\$76.5 million of which went to WFP this past year. This is a revolution in the approach to food aid.

Flexibility is key. When we buy locally, as we are doing in places like the Democratic Republic of Congo—the people we're buying from, the poor farmers, don't need food aid. They now have an income and a guaranteed sale.

Q: There was a big push in the last few years to get developing countries to grow products—food, flowers—things that they could sell to the markets. Has there been a rethinking of this, that maybe people should go back to providing the basic foods for hunger at home?

SHEERAN: Nations are really debating their own policies. My personal view is that it is much more productive to view food security in a regional context; it's not necessary for every country to be self-sustainable on every food item. In Chad, for example, changes in weather patterns and loss of water supply are going to make it very difficult to achieve food self-sufficiency. But you have other nations right in the region that often have a surplus. We would like to see a world in which every country has a food-security approach...getting that regional cooperation, common tariffs, common markets set up is a critical part of this.

Q: How about security issues in Darfur, in Somalia?

SHEERAN: In Darfur, we face continual dangers in meeting the food needs of 4 million

people a day—and with far fewer partners, given the expulsion of NGOs. Last summer, we had 34 drivers kidnapped and missing in action at one time.

In Somalia, the situation is extremely precarious. WFP supplies 43 percent of the population with its basic food. Our people in Somalia are under constant threat and most of the NGOs have had to pull out. We lost lives there last year. But in Somalia, there was also good news: pirates were attacking our ships, but in November 2007, we started getting regular escorts from the nations of the world. As a result, we have not had a successful attack on any of our ships since. The world pulled together to protect humanitarian food; this is a huge accomplishment!

We are really urging that the United States retain its leadership in emergency action to save lives right now. Seventy percent of the 4 million people reached in Darfur today are reached by the United States. The United States is a generous nation—a leader in the fight against hunger. And for those people who are being forcibly and purposefully left behind and denied food, the United States is a champion. The United States reaches millions of schoolchildren throughout the world with a cup of food—a critical investment not only in their lives, but for the future prosperity and security of our planet.

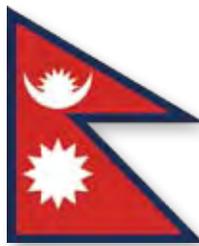
*Other journalists in attendance were from Reuters, AFP, Bloomberg, National Public Radio, Foreign Policy, Politico, National Journal, and Voice of America.★

MISSION OF THE MONTH



Citizens in the village of Bara in Nepal's Terai district discuss priorities.

N E P A L



doubled USAID's investment, totaling 11 million Nepalese rupees (nearly \$144,000).

Although the communities had few resources to pitch in, community enthusiasm generated protection as well as civic and financial support. Development of budgets by the YMCs and the community ensured transparency, and in turn led to pressure for greater accountability in local government budgets.

The positive initial response led USAID to expand its youth-led, small-scale infrastructure work in the Terai, spending nearly \$1 million in additional funding from the Department of Defense and the Agency. That helped spread these activities into 460 villages of central and eastern Terai, in a period when the threat of violence was high.

In many cases, YMCs approached local officials to secure government funding for larger development projects. For example, in a village of Siraha District, the community and local government officials were so pleased with the YMC's work that the local government planned to fund its own projects through existing YMCs.

Today, many YMCs are still active in their communities. Some have become community watchdogs to ensure that local development funding from the government is appropriately spent. Others have assumed community leadership roles.

The lessons learned from these programs are being incorporated into USAID's longer-term stabilization program in Nepal. ★

INSIGHTS

FROM ACTING ADMINISTRATOR ALONZO FULGHAM



Last month, I had the privilege of traveling to Haiti to witness first-hand USAID's commitment to the Haitian people and to underscore the United States' support for country-led plans to promote stability, implement democratic reforms, build public institutions, and provide access to services for its citizens.

In partnership with Haiti's democratically elected government, we are helping that country address its food needs, restore its depleted environment, and better respond to the natural disasters which have hit the island and left a legacy of devastation that is still visible in many regions of the country.

In addition, we are working to increase job opportunities for the Haitian people and to encourage both local and foreign direct investment.

Addressing an international congress of the Haitian diaspora in Miami just prior to my departure for Port-au-Prince, I emphasized the historic opportunity before us.

"The stars are aligned," I proclaimed, speaking to Haitians and Haitian-Americans from New Jersey to New York to Florida. Here at home, we have a president, a secretary of state, an acting USAID administrator, and a Congress unreservedly committed to Haiti's long-term development. And we are seeing that commitment on the global stage as well, with the appointment of former President Bill Clinton as the U.N. special envoy to Haiti.

The Haitian diaspora has an important role to play. Few countries have developed without the active involvement of their diasporas. And the Haitian diaspora is particularly critical—not only as a source of remittances and foreign direct investment, but also as a reservoir of talent and transferable know-how, and a compelling political voice.

For that reason, I was pleased to announce USAID's launch of the Haitian Diaspora Marketplace program, an initiative that will provide \$2 million to support investments by members of the Haitian diaspora in small and medium enterprises in Haiti.

The goals of this program are to spur economic growth, create sustainable jobs, and support productive investments in the Haitian economy. The Diaspora Marketplace is being implemented in partnership with one of Haiti's leading banks, and is designed so that members of the diaspora can find investment opportunities in manufacturing, tourism, agriculture, construction, information technology, and other areas.

Improving Haiti's investment climate is essential to job creation. With former President Clinton's announcement of an October trade and investment mission to Haiti, I encouraged our counterparts to use this date as a target for the passage of key legislation and regulations in the areas of land reform, customs, agriculture, and energy.

As a Peace Corps Volunteer stationed in Port-au-Prince during the early 1980s, I remember a time when virtually all of the world's footballs, baseballs, and baseball gloves were manufactured in Haiti. Since then, the people of Haiti have seen decades of civil war, unrest, natural disasters, and most recently, a devastating spike in food prices.

It is my firm belief, however, that change and opportunity are on the horizon. Thanks to the leadership of the current Haitian government, the indomitable will of the Haitian people, the generous spirit of the Haitian diaspora, and the cooperation of the international donor community—including USAID—Haiti now stands stronger. ★

Mobilizing Nepali Youth for Community Service

By Sven Lindholm

Challenge

In 2006, after 10 years of Maoist insurgency and political upheaval, Nepal began a transition to peace and democracy. An election in April 2008 resulted in a transitional Constituent Assembly that would draft a new constitution. Hopes and expectations for peace, security, and development were high.

However, efforts to write the constitution have bogged down in political infighting, and government efforts to bring services to underserved areas of the country have had limited success. Large parts of the country outside the capital, Kathmandu, are facing volatile security situations. But change has begun.

Since 2006, USAID has worked with a variety of Nepalese community and civil society groups to increase local participation to broaden and deepen Nepal's budding democratic culture.

Responding to the rise of ethnic politics and increasing lawlessness in the Eastern and Central Terai districts near the Indian frontier, the Agency's program shifted to community stabilization activities, looking at ways to motivate youth to invest time and energy in small-scale community development projects.

Innovative Response

USAID began supporting local NGO partners in the Terai to establish Youth Mobilization Committees (YMCs) in hundreds of villages across the region where the trend toward joining armed groups was most prominent. The idea was to engage youth around a common objective that would help weaken the social and cultural barriers that cause conflict.

The YMCs worked with their communities to select projects. The relatively low budget of these activities largely escaped political party influence and funding was seen as non-political, so communities could have a real say in the projects they wanted without fighting the local bureaucracy.

Results

Some 125,000 youth participated in the program, including 4,000 as YMC members. Activities included reconstruction of community libraries and early childhood development centers; and rehabilitation of roads, health posts, and schools.

Communities in the lowland Terai place a high value on these activities. In many villages, they were the first projects to take place in several years. Youth have been involved at all stages.

Community and local government contributions in matching funds and labor nearly

BRIEFS

Zinc Seen as Breakthrough Cure for Diarrhea

SOGOLA, Mali—Generations of residents have watched their children fall ill each rainy season with diarrhea, which kills an astonishing 1.6 million children under 5 every year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO)—more than either malaria or AIDS. It also stunts growth, and forces millions—adults and children alike—to spend weeks at a time off work or school.

But USAID, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and other groups have begun distributing zinc supplements to villagers in Bangladesh, India, Mali, and Pakistan, *Time* magazine reported. Zinc pills appear to halt diarrhea in its tracks.

“Before, we were terrified when children’s stomachs began running, because we knew some of them would die,” says Sata Djiiala in the Malian village of Morola. “Now our children are not dying of diarrhea.”

In Sogola, tablets with 20 mg of zinc daily are provided for about two weeks to children suffering from diarrhea. Throw in oral-rehydration therapy (ORT), which has been the main weapon against diarrhea for the past few decades, and a treatment costs less than 30 cents.

“Since zinc arrived, we have had no deaths from diarrhea,” said one resident.

Exactly how zinc stops diarrhea is not entirely clear. Olivier Fontaine, a diarrhea specialist for WHO, believes that since the mineral is an essential ingredient in about 300 enzymes, boosting zinc levels strengthens the body’s immunity, thus preventing diarrhea from turning deadly. A single course apparently also staves off further bouts of diarrhea for about three months.

Aid Groups Highlight Growing Threats

GENEVA—Aid groups joined together Aug. 19 to highlight the growing danger their staff members face in crisis zones around the world, where kidnappings and killings of humanitarian workers are on the rise.

As many as 122 aid workers were killed in 2008, the Associated Press reported. Only 36 aid workers were killed in 1998, according to the United Nations’ humanitarian coordination office.

“We are targeted more and more,” U.N. spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs said in an interview before World Humanitarian Day, held on the sixth anniversary of the bombing of the United Nations’ main offices in Baghdad.

The rapid increase is blamed partly on a growth in aid operations in the most lawless parts of the world, with Afghanistan, Darfur, and Somalia accounting for almost two-thirds of all attacks.

IMF Hikes Crisis Aid to \$17 Billion by 2014

WASHINGTON—The International Monetary Fund said July 29 it will sharply increase funds it lends to low income countries to help them deal with the global financial crisis, the Associated Press reported.

The IMF said it expected to provide up to \$17 billion to these countries through 2014, including up to \$8 billion over the next two years. In addition, the fund said low income countries would not have to pay interest on any outstanding IMF loans through 2011. The resources to increase lending will come in part from the sale of IMF gold, the fund said.

Bonded Labor Haunts Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh—Tens of thousands of people are working as bonded laborers in rural Bangladesh, activists told the U.N. news agency IRIN.

Even though it is illegal, entire families, including children, are bonded to their employers while they struggle to pay back loans, IRIN reported Aug. 7.

“Thousands of children are being forced into bonded labor every day because of poverty and their parents’ unemployment,” Sumaiya Khair, a human rights activist and researcher into child labor in Dhaka, the capital, told IRIN. “The biggest tragedy is that it all seems to go unnoticed,” she said.

According to Anti-Slavery International, bonded labor—or debt bondage—is probably the least-known form of slavery and yet the most widely used method of enslaving people. Although banned by international law, millions worldwide are affected, particularly in South Asia.

Some take out a loan due to a temporary financial crisis, often caused or aggravated by a poor harvest or family emergency. Once bonded, the laborer is then forced to work long hours for little or no pay, often seven days a week. Many, mostly women and children, end up as domestic servants, working in conditions that resemble servitude. Many suffer physical abuse, sometimes resulting in death, activists say.

Sept. 15 Is Day of Democracy

The U.N. General Assembly declared Sept. 15 the International Day of Democracy and called upon governments to promote democracy.

Freedom House recently reported that global freedom suffered its third year of decline in 2008 due to suppression of political opposition and civil society and growing obstacles to international assistance to reformers.

U.S. government programs in fiscal year 2009 for governing justly and democratically rose by \$411 million to \$2.67 billion. For more information on the International Day of Democracy, visit www.un.org/events/democracyday. ★

MOSCOW NGOs RECEIVE LEGAL SUPPORT

By Lorin Kavanaugh-Ulku

Russian NGOs are now getting free legal help to cope with new registration requirements and complex tax regulations.

USAID is strengthening Russian civil society by helping the NGOs get quality and affordable legal support.

The Agency worked with law firms, the American Bar Association (ABA), and the Public Interest Law Institute (PILI) to create the Pro Bono Clearinghouse. In two years, the partnership secured commitments from 16 international and six local firms to provide legal assistance to NGOs. Last year more than 90 cases were resolved—a value of \$900,000 in legal services.

“The needs are much, much larger than what we are currently filling,” said Edwin Rekosh, the executive director of PILI. “We would like to scale up what we are doing in Moscow and grow this to extend across Russia.”

The concept of pro bono law, or the practice of legal firms donating free advisory counsel and services, is new to Russia.

During the transition from communism to free markets in the 1990s, pro bono legal services weren’t a priority for local and international law firms struggling to establish themselves. NGOs mainly solicited legal advice informally.

“The reason was probably cultural,” said Alexander Lapidus, who oversees the clearinghouse at PILI in Moscow. “There was this sense among these organizations that you don’t need legal counsel until there is a really big problem.”

“A lot of people recognized the need for a pro bono clearinghouse at the same time,” said Mikki Mahan, who is with White & Case in Moscow. “The ABA had been encouraging U.S. law firms to strengthen their pro bono commitment, and USAID was making the rounds with the various law firms trying to get them onboard.”

PILI’s prior experience in the region helped it quickly adapt to the needs of Russia’s legal environment.

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Goosby New Global AIDS Chief

By Jessica DiRocco

Dr. Eric Goosby was confirmed June 23 as the global AIDS coordinator at the State Department and head of the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

“We are looking at a period where PEPFAR has reached a point of maturity,” he said, “where it has scaled and engaged in many settings in such a way to save hundreds of thousands, and indeed, millions of lives.”

First authorized in 2003 with \$15 billion, PEPFAR provided millions of people with HIV/AIDS care that they would otherwise have lacked.

When PEPFAR’s five-year authorization ended last year, Congress voted to reauthorize the program for another five years at up to \$48 billion to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.

Dr. Goosby has 25 years experience with HIV/AIDS. The medical doctor served as

the first director of the Ryan White CARE Act at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, was deputy director of the White House National AIDS Policy Office, and was director of HIV/AIDS Policy in HHS during the Clinton administration.

Since 2001, he has been chief executive officer and chief medical officer of the Pangea Global AIDS Foundation. ★



Dr. Eric Goosby is the new U.S. global AIDS coordinator.

Sudan School Helps Unite Region After War

By Jennifer Shaw and Sven Lindholm

This fall, graduates from up to 42 primary schools will pour into Sudan's war-destroyed town of Kauda to continue their studies at the only secondary school in Southern Kordofan state to offer an English-language curriculum.

The Kauda school is seen as a place that can promote integration of Sudan's north and south through education, and play a role in bringing this strategically important country back from the brink of war.

USAID supported renovation of the school after people along the former frontline of the north-south civil war said education was the most important way to improve their lives.

"Increasing access to education helps counter the feeling of state neglect in tense areas where confidence in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, or CPA, is low," said Ken Spear, the deputy country director of USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI).

In 2008, USAID helped build the first school building,

for 100 students. In early 2009, additional work began on six classrooms, four staff offices, latrines, and a kitchen.

But work stopped in March when the Sudan government expelled 13 international aid agencies after the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir.

Work has since resumed on the school, after intervention from Gen. J. Scott Gration, the U.S. special envoy to Sudan.

The CPA, signed between the Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in 2005, ended 22 years of war between the two sides. In addition to protocols on power sharing, wealth sharing, and security, the CPA stipulates that an integrated government be formed in Southern Kordofan and other parts of Sudan that were previously divided between areas controlled by Sudan's central government and areas controlled by the

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Survey Says Freedom Linked to Decreased Poverty

By Kellie Burk

A 2008 survey of 18 African countries reveals that none can be deemed a consolidated democracy based on the evaluations of the countries' own citizens.

The survey was conducted by Afrobarometer, a project that conducts national public attitude surveys on democracy and governance in Africa. The results were released on Africa Day, May 25, the 10th anniversary of the project.

Although Freedom House ranks nine of the 18 as free, many of these countries are best understood as unconsolidated, hybrid regimes, and a few may be consolidating as autocracies.

Since the survey began in July 1999, more than 105,000 interviews have been conducted in 20 countries. The survey is administered by Michigan State University through a grant from

USAID and has helped build a cadre of researchers on the continent.

The results are shared with policymakers in the executive and legislative branches in each country, civil society organizations, activists, academics, journalists, donors, and others.

The data allows researchers and policymakers to explore critical trends on the continent, including democratization and regime consolidation, the quality of local and national governance, social service delivery, poverty reduction, corruption, and institutional trust.

The latest results indicate that most of Africa's regimes fall short of the standards of full democracies. The results also indicate increasing freedom is

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Kenyan Journalists Upgrade Skills to Cover Post-Election Conflict

By Mark Koenig

Six months after post-election ethnic violence hit Kenya in December 2007, journalists and radio announcers throughout Kenya began embracing the role of educators—and even peacemakers—by reporting and airing news that humanizes “the enemy” and opens minds.

Nearly 1,500 people were killed and over a half million displaced during the violence. While some local media aggravated inter-ethnic tensions, many other journalists tried to raise Kenyan media professionalism to cover the crisis constructively.

USAID responded by supporting a new media assistance program, Support of Conflict Mitigation, Peace and Reconciliation, carried out by Internews.

Since January 2008, this program has provided rapid training and other production support to half of all radio stations in the country, setting off a dialogue on the role of the media in conflict.

Training focused on station managers, news teams, and broadcaster skills. Stations were prepared to handle

conflicts and to promote peace in their regions.

Reporters at two radio stations, in Eldoret and Kibera, discovered journalistic skills and confidence to cover the tense situations and conflicts after having been stymied earlier in their ability to report during the height of the post-electoral crisis. Other radio journalists followed their lead.

The project also gathered journalists and editors throughout the country in frank roundtable discussions about deficiencies in the media and how to raise the industry's professionalism.

During one roundtable, a displaced victim of the election violence, Peter Kariuki, recounted how he was evicted from his home because he was married to a woman from a different tribe. He was forced to hide in a bore hole for two days while his neighbors sought to kill him. After Kariuki spoke to the gathered radio journalists, nine radio stations invited him to be a live guest on their shows—the first time an internally

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FRONTLINES: SEPTEMBERS PAST

1969: New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller submitted a report on his mission to 20 Latin American countries to President Richard M. Nixon. Nixon said the report would “play a vital part of the construction of sensitive new concepts and programs” for assistance to Latin America.

1979: Hurricane David swept through the Caribbean with the Dominican Republic and Dominica receiving the brunt of the devastation. *FrontLines* reported that, in the Dominican Republic, 40 percent of the bridges were damaged and 70 percent of the food crop was lost to wind and rains. USAID contributed nearly \$3 million in relief assistance that year.

1989: On the front page, *FrontLines* reported on the deaths of 16 people aboard a plane that crashed into a mountainside in western Ethiopia. Among the passengers were Congressman Mickey Leland (D-Texas), chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger; Thomas Worrick, deputy USAID representative in Ethiopia; Worrick's wife, Roberta, an Agency contractor; Gladys Gilbert, USAID refugee assistance project officer; and Debebe Agonafer, a Foreign Service National agricultural economist. The plane was headed

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Naval Officer: Climate Change Is Security Threat

By Sam Dreiman

The changing world climate is expected to threaten U.S. national security through conflict, migration, and failing states, a senior naval officer told a forum in Washington July 30.

“Climate change will lead to conflicts and mass human migration,” said Vice Adm. Lee Gunn. “Failing states will incubate extremism.”

Gunn said climate change is one of the top four threats the United States faces, along with terrorism, energy dependence, and nuclear proliferation.

He spoke at a conference aimed at improved sharing of

information about the environment, third in a series run by the Forum on Earth Observations (www.forumoneo3.com/). The meeting brought together experts on information technology, aerospace, climate, and science to discuss how climate change information can be shared and used effectively.

One effect of climate change Gunn mentioned was water scarcity, which affects one in three people across the world. As climate change continues to affect more and more people in developing countries, particularly those where extremists

can grow, the ways the United States deals with conflict, delivers aid, and anticipates disasters will all evolve.

Gunn, speaking to *FrontLines* after his speech, cited Africa Partnerships, a naval program in which ships were sent to work with small national militaries in West Africa. With the help of USAID, the ships lifted and delivered material and provided medical care.

He also emphasized how USAID and the military need to be sensitive to what it means for local NGOs to associate and operate with the U.S. government.

Gunn is a 35-year Navy veteran and current president of the American Society Project, a national security think tank. ★

THE REGIONS

ASIA

HIV/AIDS Programs Changing Male Behavior in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—The crowded, raucous beer gardens of Phnom Penh don't always make the best classrooms, admits Ky Sok Ly. A university student by day, Ky transforms into a roving teacher by night to educate groups of men about the dangers of HIV/AIDS.

"Sometimes it's difficult to get their attention when they've been drinking," Ky said. "But most men are eager to hear our message so they can protect themselves from disease."

Ky, 21, is one of 48 outreach specialists in Cambodia working in entertainment establishments. Operating in pairs, the specialists engage men in five-minute

discussions about HIV/AIDS and sexual health.

For example, a team might approach a group of men and show them photos of five women. The team would ask the men which women look infected with HIV and which do not, in order to prompt a discussion about the dangers of assessing a person's HIV status based on appearance.

Launched in June 2008 by USAID and funded by the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the program has already reached 161,000 men. It is one of a series of USAID programs that target male clients of sex workers in an attempt to correct what has been an unbalanced



Outreach workers provide HIV/AIDS education to men in an entertainment establishment in Phnom Penh.

focus on women to promote condom use and other behaviors to prevent the spread of HIV.

see **CAMBODIA** on page 15 ▶

EUROPE & EURASIA

Georgian Farms Reap Bumper Crop After Conflict

By Michael O'Brien

One year after the devastating conflict with Russia, Georgia's farmers have gone back to work at their traditionally strong agriculture and produced a bumper crop.

Some 40,000 households working on 89,000 acres in the region most affected by the conflict have received USAID assistance and brought in a harvest estimated to be worth \$44 million.

This program has been recognized by the government of Georgia as the most important post-conflict assistance it has received.

"Last year the Russians brought us bombs and burning wheat fields," Michael Machavariani, Georgian deputy speaker of parliament, remarked at a recent ceremony to mark the harvest of the winter wheat. "The Americans brought us seed and have helped this year to produce a bumper wheat crop."

During the summer 2008 conflict, Georgian farmers fled their homes at a critical time in the growing season. Many crops were damaged or died and irrigation systems were cut off or

destroyed. Unexploded weapons and other war debris made fields unsafe to farm. In a region where the average household income is less than \$1,500 per year, few had resources to begin farming again. Without immediate assistance, some of Georgia's poorest families were at immediate risk.

Assistance to these farmers came in the winter crop planting season in October when the Agency launched the Georgia Agricultural Risk Reduction Program (GARRP) to assist with planting despite the presence of Russian troops. The program helped 7,600 farmers affected by conflict, allowing them to plant and cultivate 31,000 acres of wheat.

The initial \$5.5 million program was funded jointly through USAID and the Department of Defense. In addition, private sector farm service centers, supported by the Millennium Challenge Corporation, provided warehousing and farm services.

Higher quality seeds helped these farmers double their harvest this year and should lead to higher yields in the next four years. Of the 60,000 tons of wheat expected to be harvested in Georgia this year, nearly 40,000 will be the direct result of U.S. assistance. GARRP has been expanded to an 18-month, \$19.5 million

see **GEORGIA** on page 15 ▶



Winter wheat is plowed in Nadarbazevi Village, Gori District, Georgia.

AFRICA

Burundi's *Mamans Lumières* Illuminate Path to Child Nutrition

MUYINGA PROVINCE, Burundi—Every month, Thérèse Nizigiyimana, 43, a mother of six, teaches other mothers about reducing childhood malnutrition. She is a *Mama Lumière*, French for "Light Mother," a term coined for the way these women guide others to raise well-nourished children.

With USAID support, 10 women in Muyinga province of Burundi have been trained to lead Hearth Sessions of between eight to 12 women and their children. USAID expects to train another 50 women by September.

After the initial training, 22 of the 25 enrolled children had gained between 7 and 14 ounces each.

Previously, mothers in this community fed their children one food group a day, or even the same type of food for days. The women have begun to recognize the importance of purchasing inexpensive food such as peanuts and fish to add protein.

"We have learned about the three food groups—protein, fats, and carbohydrates—and how to mix them properly, something we didn't know how to do before," Nizigiyimana said. "By doing this, our children have gained weight, have much better appetites, and are happier overall."

Participating mothers have also assumed a larger role in the nutritive process, actively feeding their children and guaranteeing that an appropriate combination, quality, and quantity of food is eaten.

Nyabenda Hamda, 40, described the progress of the youngest of her six children, Abdoul, aged 13 months: "Before, he had a bad appetite and general malaise, but now that I have learned how to properly mix the three food groups, he has learned to crawl. He plays with the other children and is eating all the foods he needs."

Générose Ndikiminwe, 51, a mother of six and a *Mama Lumière*, said, "We want to be a model for other communities and teach them what we have learned. But to do this, we must have a sustainable system."

Community suggestions to maintain and enhance the activity include creation of a formal association, the cultivation of crops and livestock, and a micro-finance program. Dr. Irénée Ndabagiye, Muyinga's provincial medical director, suggests that linkages with other sectors, such as agriculture, would also strengthen and expand the program.

Amy Banham wrote this article while interning with *Pathfinder International*. ★



Women in Burundi celebrate the lessons they have learned from a USAID-supported child nutrition program through dance and song.

MIDDLE EAST

Iraqi Returns Home to Help Fellow Oil Engineers

BAGHDAD—More than 50 years ago, Iraq began sending its top engineering graduates to study abroad with the idea they would return home and lead the oil industry. Hussain Aziz was one of these students.

After attending Huddersfield University in Yorkshire, England, he returned to Iraq and began his career at the Daura refinery in 1969. It was his first job in Iraq's storied oil industry. He left Iraq in 1981 as a result of the Iran-Iraq War and worked in the United

Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom. In November 2008, after 27 years out of the country, Aziz returned to the refinery—again with a unique mission.

As an advisor for USAID's *Tatweer* assistance program, he paired Daura's top engineers with mentors who taught project management and the latest international practices.

"Daura has a prestigious location in the capital," Aziz said. "It supplies fuels to all of Baghdad's gasoline stations and provides a specific fuel line from Daura to Baghdad Airport. The insurgents tried to isolate Daura because they knew its strategic importance. Being in Baghdad, a lot of industries were built around Daura. In this way it



Hussain Aziz (left) greets new generations of engineers at Daura.

represents the stability of the country."

But the retirement age for many of Daura's top engineers is fast approaching. "The people with experience are due for retirement, and if we lose them,

they will be very difficult to replace," Aziz said.

In response, Daura's director general asked *Tatweer* to help create a training program at the refinery that focused on mentoring and improving key systems.

In November 2008, 13 new and five experienced engineers selected by the refinery's training department participated in the first of a series of workshops at the program's compound in the Baghdad district of Karada.

The engineers shared their concerns and insights on how to improve project management at Daura. Two more groups of engineers participated in subsequent workshops.

"We need to get in touch with the best international companies," said Ahmed, a young engineering participant. "We want to be in touch with the world."

As for Aziz's perspective on returning to help his countrymen: "I'm only repaying [Iraq] for the opportunity it gave me." ★

Tatweer Program Re-Trains Iraqi Officials

Government reform in Iraq—creating a transparent, functioning bureaucracy—is the goal of Iraq's National Capacity Development program, called *Tatweer*, Arabic for "development."

Iraq was once the gold standard for public administration in the Middle East, but years of war and violence decimated its workforce and practices.

Since 2006, USAID's *Tatweer* project has worked with 20 ministries, executive offices, and agencies to improve their abilities to deliver services to the Iraqi people.

Teams provide advice to ministries to improve public management skills in procurement, and project and budget management.

Then, training is provided to Iraqi civil servants on everything from finance to strategic planning. A train-the-trainer approach is used to ensure sustainability. As of June, the program has trained more than 70,000 civil servants and 700 trainers.

Tatweer has been essential to a smooth transition to sovereignty. ★

LATIN AMERICA

Theodora's Place Protects Jamaican Girls from Trafficking

By Ruth Chisholm

NEGRIL, Jamaica—In the picturesque resort town of Negril in western Jamaica, a USAID-supported safe house is opening this month for girls who were victims of sexual exploitation and prime targets for human trafficking.

In the safe house, called Theodora's Place, girls who are at greatest risk because of abuse from partners or family members have a place that they can call home.

"We want to show them real alternatives to the life they knew and show them that there is a place where they can be loved without giving anyone anything in return," said the Rev. Margaret Fowler, the project coordinator.

Although there are other young people in need of similar assistance, Theodora's Place can only accommodate six girls. Plans for a second safe house in Negril are under way. Courses in barbering and cosmetology will be offered.

"We don't want it to be an 'institution' and smaller numbers allow us to give the girls one-on-one attention and a family setting, which is very important," Fowler said.



A sign created by Jamaican students is part of the country's anti-trafficking efforts supported by USAID.

Negril is renowned for its sunsets and 7-mile beach. It has a spirited business community that demonstrates a strong sense of service. But there are challenges. Poverty and unemployment have contributed to the advent of human trafficking.

Jamaican women and children are trafficked within the country for commercial sexual exploitation and forced labor. This year, the State Department reported that the government of Jamaica is taking significant steps to comply with human trafficking prevention standards, but all the requirements are not yet met. The report proposes increased funding for shelter services and public awareness.

In addition to establishing the safe house in Negril, the Theodora Foundation works with youth susceptible to exploitation in their search for a way to survive. The foundation hopes to prevent trafficking by offering classes in reading, math, and business. USAID is supporting the Theodora Foundation by providing furniture and school supplies.

Fowler said that most of the students they assist can read only at the fifth grade level. The team works to get them to the ninth grade level so they can take entrance exams to enroll at a national training institute.



Safe houses like this one under construction in Jamaica offer students education and job training.

"Then they will have practical skills, be more employable, and be empowered to make positive choices," Fowler said.

USAID has helped Jamaica's anti-trafficking efforts by giving youth access to education, jobs, and life skills training. Public awareness is critical and recent anti-trafficking interventions have reached over 10,000 youth through media outreach, school, and community interventions. ★

FOCUS ON CLINTON IN AFRICA



Photo by Simon Maina, AP

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton gestures as she stands with survivors of the bombings against the U.S. embassy in Nairobi that killed 213 people in 1998. She took part in a wreath-laying ceremony Aug. 6 where she renewed the administration's commitment to combat extremism in the region and elsewhere.

CLINTON from page 1

Africa a priority in our foreign policy," Clinton said during one of several interviews, roundtable discussions, and town hall-style meetings.

She also told heads of state, particularly in oil-rich Nigeria and Angola, it was necessary for African leaders to root out corruption and embrace democratic reforms.

Efforts backed by USAID took center stage during several stops. ▶ In Kenya, Clinton toured a program that prepares women for prominent roles in agricultural development. African Women in Agricultural Research and Development receives support from USAID and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Africa's women farmers produce as much as 80 percent of food, but account for just 5 percent of those who receive training.

"Investing in women is the smart solution to Africa's hunger," said Kenyan horticulture professor Mary Abukutsa-Onyango. "It will help ensure that U.S. development resources yield maximum returns in reducing food insecurity and poverty."

Clinton was joined by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to tour the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute's (KARI) National Agricultural Research Laboratories.

USAID and the World Food Program are spending \$90 million this year to increase food security in Africa—an initiative highlighted by Obama during his July G8 talks. KARI in particular is focusing on Kenya's food security and agricultural development. There, Clinton,

Vilsack, and other officials viewed a soil-testing laboratory and maize research plot, and held discussions with KARI researchers, seed industry representatives, and female scientists on cutting edge agricultural research and training.

▶ In South Africa's Gauteng Province, the Cullinan Clinic provided a backdrop for Clinton to talk about USAID's health assistance, funded by the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Since 2006, \$575,000 in PEPFAR funds helped the clinic provide prevention and treatment for people with HIV/AIDS as well as family planning.

"Some people say that [being] HIV positive is the end of the world; it's not," said Simangele Ncumbe, who attended the event with Clinton and was diagnosed with HIV in 1994. "With your support, here I am and I look good. I started my ARVs [antiretrovirals] in 2005 at a district hospital. I am fine. I walk tall."

"I have challenges," she added. "Stigma is killing our communities; pushing down people. I didn't let it get to me."

Clinton also visited the Victoria Mxenge housing project with USAID's Southern Africa Director Carleene Dei—where 12 years earlier she and Dei helped lay the first bricks. The construction effort has gone on to complete 50,000 homes nationwide with support from USAID in partnership with the South African Homeless People's Federation.

▶ In Angola, Clinton signed an agreement with government officials to expand PEPFAR



Photo by CGIAR

Clinton tours the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute near Nairobi during her 11-day, seven-country visit to the African continent in August. While there, Clinton noted the work of a USAID-backed program that prepares women to take on key roles in food security and agricultural research.

assistance to \$17 million from \$7 million, and presided over a ceremony to mark a \$5 million alliance between the Agency and Chevron Corp. focusing on agriculture.

▶ In the DRC, Clinton made an unprecedented stop in Goma, visiting two rape victims and denouncing sexual attacks that are committed in times of civil war. (See sidebar, page 9).

▶ In Liberia, where Clinton received perhaps the most enthusiastic greeting, the secretary touted the progress the country has made since its civil war. Improvements have come in infrastructure, governance, and education, but more work remains in these and other sectors, Clinton said.

"There are no quick-fixes for countries making the transition from violent conflict to lasting peace and stability," Clinton told lawmakers there who interrupted her talk with applause and cheers. "But ... Liberia has the talent, the resources, and the resilience to succeed if everyone works together on behalf of the common good."

She also said Liberia could serve as a model for other African countries. ★ 📺

African Media Welcome Clinton's Visit

African media writers saw Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's seven-country visit to Africa as a sign of a new era of relations, based on something other than Cold War ideology, interest in African natural resources, or humanitarian gestures. They welcomed her "tough words" that called on Africans to build stronger civic and democratic institutions.

After her visit to rape victims in Goma, the Democratic Republic of the Congo's private newspaper *Le Potentiel* said that Clinton now knows "what makes the heart of the Congolese beat."

In Angola, after Clinton met with President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, the government-supported *Jornal de Angola* said, "Gone are the days when the United States supported UNITA [the former rebel group, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola] to oust the Angolan authorities."

Congo's private *Forum de As* praised what it saw as the Obama administration's desire to break with "unilateralism."

After Clinton delivered strong statements against corruption and poor governance, Kenya's *Daily Nation* wrote, "it is actually a shame that we need pressure from the USA to do what is right."

In Nigeria, the independent *Daily Champion* said that "Mrs. Clinton only reminded us of what we already know." And the *Daily Independent* wrote that "if Nigeria's leadership had not brought the nation to this humiliating position through persistent misgovernance and indecent greed, Mrs. Clinton's visit would have focused, not on corruption and electoral malfeasance, but on trade relations and investments." ★

FOCUS ON CLINTON IN AFRICA



Patricia Matolengwe, right, managing director of the South African Homeless People's Federation, signals singers as Clinton looks on. Clinton revisited a Khayelitsha housing project she originally saw as first lady 12 years ago.



Internally displaced people watch as Clinton tours their camp on the outskirts of Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Aug. 11.

Photo by Roberto Schmidt, AFP

IN DRC, CLINTON URGES ACTION TO COMBAT EPIDEMIC OF SEX ASSAULTS

She called the situation evil. The acts perpetrated against women atrocities. The epidemic of rapes of women and girls in eastern Congo a crime against humanity.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, in her visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, made sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) a priority in discussions with leaders of the central African country.

The DRC was one stop during an 11-day, seven-country visit to the continent where other issues that impact women were prominently discussed. But the longstanding problems surrounding rapes in the DRC have proved among the most complex to resolve.

Statistics suggest hundreds of thousands of women have been victims of sexual assaults in Eastern Congo, a region that has seen years of fighting between the government and armed groups that oppose it. Women have been abused by government and opposition forces and internationally backed peacekeepers and staff, with far-reaching medical, emotional, and social consequences.

In announcing that the United States will provide an additional \$17 million to respond to SGBV during her visit, Clinton said the money will be spent to train health care workers and on medical care, counseling, economic assistance, and legal support for victims.

As much as \$2.9 million has been designated to help recruit and train police officers—female officers are a priority—to respond to sex assault cases and protect women and children.

Technical experts from the United States are expected to arrive in DRC this month to train police and legal staff to use mobile devices, photographs, and videos to gather evidence in rape cases. Other experts are expected to follow and focus on ways to expand U.S. support to survivors.

The new funding comes on top of several million dollars the United States has targeted for sex assaults in the region through the State and Defense Departments and USAID. For example, the Agency provided nearly \$1.2 million this fiscal year to protect women in the North Kivu and Orientale provinces. And soon USAID's office in the DRC will award a \$7 million program to increase access to services for SGBV victims

in North and South Kivu provinces.

Since 2002, USAID has allocated more than \$10 million to SGBV activities, helping survivors and local advocacy groups rack up small victories, such as creation of the 2006 law against SGBV, in their efforts to sponsor laws that protect women from sexual assault and punish the perpetrators.

The problem is entrenched, however, and continued legal assistance is necessary to implement the 2006 law and improve access to courts for victims.

Clinton acknowledged this during her visit when she urged DRC government leaders to follow through on their “zero tolerance” policy on SGBV crimes committed by members of the military. And she called on the United Nations to hold international peacekeepers accountable for their crimes as well.

“In the face of such evil, people of good will everywhere must respond,” Clinton said. “We want to banish the problem of sexual violence into the dark past, where it belongs.” ★



Photo by Roberto Schmidt, AFP

A rape victim is led to the operating room by a nurse at the Heal Africa Clinic in Goma, Aug. 10. The Congolese woman has undergone nine operations to try to repair damage following a rape by members of an armed group. Doctors at the clinic treat women who have been sexually abused and develop serious physical problems due to the violent nature of the attacks. The women stay at a transit home inside the clinic where they are treated physically and psychologically. Clinton visited Goma Aug. 11, where the United Nations says nearly 3,500 women have been raped since the beginning of the year. Hundreds of thousands of women have been victims of rape for almost a decade, usually by groups of armed men who use rape as a weapon of war.

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missions is available at:
www.usaid.gov/locations/missiondirectory.html

Links to mission Web sites:

www.usaid.gov/missions/

IN-HOUSE BRIEFS

Agency Urged to Hire More with Disabilities

USAID should hire more persons with severe disabilities, said a senior administration official at an Agency senior staff meeting Aug 6.

Christine Griffin, recently confirmed as deputy director of the Office of Personnel Management, said that USAID employees with severe disabilities were just .77 percent of its workforce, less than the federal average of .88 percent and far below the 1980s when nearly 2 percent of the federal work force had severe disabilities.

Griffin said college and university placement officials are reluctant to identify students with disabilities to recruiters and suggested that USAID contact the disability services office at each campus.

Since USAID has programs to assist the disabled abroad, Griffin said, it “would be great” if a person with a disability was representing the Agency in carrying out these programs. Gloria Steele of the Global Health Bureau announced that she has become the leader of an affinity group for USAID disabled employees.—*B.B.*



James Michel

James Michel Returns to USAID as Counselor

James Michel has returned to the Agency as counselor, the number three position in the Agency leadership and one that he held in 1999-2000.

He succeeds Lisa Chiles, who retired recently after many years of service at USAID.

Since 2001, Michel had been an independent consultant in development cooperation and senior counsel to DPK Consulting, a division of ARD Inc. that specializes in support for good governance and the rule of law.

Michel joined the State Department as an attorney in 1965 and served as the deputy

legal adviser (1977-1982) and as the principal deputy assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs (1983-1987).

He was U.S. ambassador to Guatemala from 1987 to 1989 and joined USAID in 1990 as assistant administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean. He later served as counselor, acting deputy administrator, and acting administrator. From 1994 to 1999, he was chair of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Summer Interns Consider Careers at USAID

Acting Administrator Alonzo Fulgham and then-Counselor Lisa Chiles thanked the Agency’s summer interns for their work at a reception July 30 and urged them to consider returning to USAID.

“I hope you have had a great internship and will be coming out to work with us soon,” Fulgham said at a reception hosted at USAID headquarters by the Hispanic Employee Council of Foreign Affairs Agencies. “It looks like we have

the best and the brightest right here in this room and we just need to figure out how to get you back into the building.”

Chiles told the interns that “there’s general and broad recognition around Washington about the importance of rebuilding the USAID workforce.”

Intern Fabiana Perera said she plans to apply for the Development Leadership Initiative after graduation, saying: “I want to pursue development and public service—my supervisors were so positive about the work they do. They just love what they do and showed that in the office every day.”—*L.A.*

USAID-supported Scientist Wins World Food Prize

Gebisa Ejeta, who was supported by USAID grants, won the 2009 World Food Prize for developing drought and disease resistant sorghum varieties that are now widely grown across Africa. The Ethiopian-born scientist will receive his \$250,000 award on the steps of the Iowa State Capitol.

“The fact that I come from a poor background has given me the empathy to understand the difficulties of life in rural Africa,” said Ejeta. “You need to work with farmers and demonstrate to them how this technology you developed is better than what they practice,” the Purdue University professor added.

With USAID support, his crops are now grown in his home country as well as in Eritrea, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe. USAID supported Ejeta’s education from high school in Ethiopia through his doctorate program at Purdue.—*L.A.*

USAID’s Addleton Named Ambassador to Mongolia

Jonathan Addleton, USAID’s counselor for international development at the U.S. mission to the European Union in Brussels, was named ambassador to Mongolia July 2 and confirmed by the Senate Aug. 7.

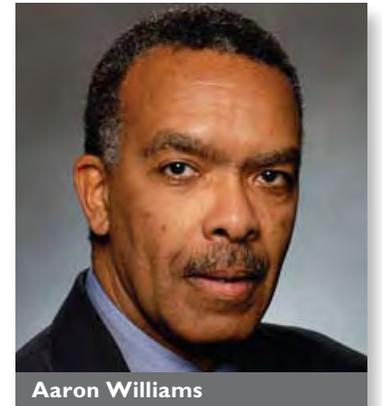
He had lived in Mongolia from 2001 to 2004 on USAID assignment.

Addleton said he asked to be ambassador to Mongolia because it was “the most effective aid program I’ve been a part of.”

He also served as USAID director in Pakistan (2006-2007) and Cambodia (2004-2006); and as program officer in Jordan, Kazakhstan, South Africa, and Yemen.

Addleton was raised in Pakistan where his parents served as missionaries. He authored *Some Far and Distant Place*, a memoir on his childhood in Pakistan (University of Georgia Press).

President Barack Obama also nominated Gayleatha Beatrice Brown as ambassador to Burkina Faso. Brown is currently the U.S. ambassador to the Republic of Benin. She served at USAID as an economic development officer and as a special assistant to the assistant administrator for Africa.—*A.A.M.*



Aaron Williams

Williams New Peace Corps Head

President Barack Obama announced July 14 that he will nominate Aaron Williams, a former senior USAID official, to be director of the Peace Corps. He was sworn in as the 18th director Aug. 24.

Williams had been the vice president for international business development with RTI International. He has designed assistance programs in Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, and Asia and reached the rank of career minister in the Senior Foreign Service. He also served in the Dominican Republic as a Peace Corps volunteer in the 1960s.

He was awarded the USAID Distinguished Career Service Award in 1998 and the Presidential Award for Distinguished Service in 1992 and 1988. ★

USAID Staff Backgrounds Forge Connections with Aid Recipients

By Sam Dreiman and Ajay Palaparty

While many of USAID’s 8,000 employees come from diverse ethnic, racial, and language groups, a number have come from a background of poverty—an experience that has made them feel even more closely the challenges of the people the Agency serves around the world.

Margaret Dula, the desk officer for Jordan, believes her background to be a large part of her motivation to work with USAID.

Growing up in the Smoky Mountains area in the heart of Appalachia, Dula’s childhood was unique. The Appalachia culture that surrounded her was one where “girls married young, and men made the money,” she said.

Dula was no exception. She married early and had her first

child a year later at age 16.

Coming from a society where the men were the heads of the family, Dula’s brother had a college fund, but not her, she said. By the time she was 17, Dula was working full time and attending night school to complete her high school education.

Inspired by the women’s movement of the 1970s, she attended community college in Northern Virginia at night and went on to graduate from George Mason University with a bachelor’s degree in contract law and accounting. She earned her master’s in world justice from Holy Names University.

After working for several years with defense contractors, she joined the Agency in 1991 to “do



Margaret Dula distributes gifts to schoolgirls in rural Jordan. A community outreach event in Al-Karak, Jordan, in November 2008 provided the Al-Adnaniya Charitable Society with office furniture and equipment. An open day for local children was also organized, which increased awareness of USAID programs in the area.

something helpful and travel,” she said. She began her career with USAID as a regional contracting

see AID on page 14 ▶

ETHIOPIA: A DELICATE BALANCE OF POPULATION, FOOD, AND ENTERPRISE

By Ashtar Analeed Marcus

Traditional farming and herding may well be at the core of the problems facing Ethiopia, the largest country in the highly unstable Horn of Africa, said Glenn Anders, outgoing director of USAID's office in Ethiopia.

The country has been plagued with repeated food scarcity and democratization challenges. But Anders sees hope.

"It's a huge and productive agricultural system, although not nearly as high in productivity as it needs to be," he said.

"They are already able to feed a great majority of their people. It's just that there are so many people that, with 80 million, when there's a crisis, it's not just the hundreds of thousands who suffer as is the case in Somalia and Kenya. It's always millions [in Ethiopia]."

The country produced more cereal in 2008 than neighboring Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda combined—16 million tons. But there was a critical lack of rain in 2008 that led to food shortages in the Horn of Africa.

That year, the United States spent \$1 billion in assistance to Ethiopia, with \$880 million coming through USAID—mainly to supply food and combat HIV/AIDS.

Anders oversaw the delivery of this \$880 million in aid for Ethiopia, including \$536 million in food aid overall.

"With this agrarian society, parts of Ethiopia make you feel like a walk back into the Bible—it is really that far behind in terms of technology," Anders said.

"With 80 million people, 65 million of whom are farmers, it's very difficult to penetrate into and change these traditional agrarian systems and make them much more productive."

But the percentage of people who are classified by USAID as "food insecure" is not out of line with many other African countries—it's just that the numbers are much larger. Anders said the problem is that there is not enough agriculturally based investment, commercialization, or manufacturing in rural areas.

"You don't want to urbanize too quickly," Anders said. "But without building up secondary towns, market towns, with rural centers of manufacturing and labor-intensive types of enterprise, too many people stay on the land as farmers. And the land can't support that many farmers."

Ethiopia lacks major mineral exports and lacks the tourism of Kenya.

USAID is helping Ethiopia branch out from an agrarian society through micro-financing, credits, and promotion of small businesses.

"The flower industry is an example of one that took off," Anders said. The country produces and exports roses from the Rift Valley, which have been successful because of the latitude, high altitudes, and low-cost labor. Within five years, the roses won a reputation in the world markets as being high quality at low price.

A large amount of assistance has focused on Ethiopians affected by HIV/AIDS.

For example, when Muti Tolcha was diagnosed with HIV, he received counseling and a \$115 grant to start a business from the Hope Center, funded by



Glenn Anders, right, shakes hands with local official Kalcha Boru in Dubluk, Oromiya, during an August 2008 ceremony to inaugurate a new livestock market as part of USAID's Pastoralist Livelihood Initiative in Ethiopia.

two Christian Orthodox organizations through the President's Emergency Plan for Aids Relief (PEPFAR). Tolcha was then able to launch his business and hire two assistants. He had learned to weave traditional white Ethiopian cloth, gabi.

"My hope is to live long to educate my children," Tolcha said, "to teach people the consequences of stigmatizing people with HIV and teach people to be tested for HIV."

The rate of HIV/AIDS infections in Ethiopia is the lowest among the countries assisted by PEPFAR. Most cases are in the capital city Addis Ababa and major towns. Less than 1 percent of rural people have HIV/AIDS, according to surveys.

With its large size, population, and economy, and its strong military, "Ethiopia is the ballast of stability for the Horn of Africa," Anders said.

Now at USAID's headquarters as a senior advisor in Washington, Anders passed the torch to USAID's former Iraq Task Force Director, Thomas Staal, who was sworn in as the Agency's Ethiopia office director July 8. ★

Why Serve in Afghanistan?



Shannon Darcy

A Q&A with Shannon Darcy, a health advisor to the Afghanistan-Pakistan Task Force who recently completed a rotation in Kabul

Q: What did you do, day to day?

A: It always varies day to day. You could come in and you could have some taskers from Washington. Or sometimes, we would get lucky enough, and we would do some field visits—meaning go visit hospitals and clinics outside of the compound, outside of Kabul.

Q: What was it like to be a woman working in Afghanistan?

A: Before I'd gone, I'd heard that it was tougher if you were a woman to work in Afghanistan, not just because of the local culture but because of the proportionate number of men to women. But I didn't find it difficult.

Q: So, give me the pitch. Why should I serve in Afghanistan?

A: Right now there's really no bigger call to arms than going to Afghanistan. You're out in the field; you're in a complex emergency. For somebody that wants to do development, that's basically a dream come true. So, I would tell anybody to do it.

Q: Do you feel like you made a difference?

A: I don't really like that phrase, "Do you make a difference?" I don't think one person makes a difference. I was part of a team, and does that team make a

difference? Sure, every single day. But the team isn't just Americans. There are three Afghans that work on our health team. And to them, I don't think they would sacrifice their life every single day to walk to the [Embassy] compound if they didn't think they were making a difference—as a team—as a part of the U.S. government team out there. And that is one thing that you notice when you're out there is the camaraderie in the mission. Not because one single person is leading this cause. It's everyone working together, socializing together, really just to—not make a difference—but make it just a better place for people to live.

Q: So should I apply?

A: Heck, yeah, man! Yeah, definitely.

USAID is actively recruiting experienced officers to serve in Afghanistan. These are non-career Foreign Service Limited appointments, for up to five years, requiring at least a bachelor's degree and eight years of relevant experience, four of which must be overseas. For more information go to www.usaid.gov/careers/fsls.html. This transcript has been edited for space. Hear more about working in Afghanistan at www.usaid.gov/locations/asia/countries/afghanistan/opportunities.html. ★



Mary Harvey

Health Agency Honors Mary Harvey for Work in Africa

Mary Harvey has been awarded the Partners in Public Health Improvement award from the Department of Health and Human Services' Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for her work in helping

African countries to detect and confirm public health emergencies in time to take action.

Harvey, a USAID public health officer, was recognized for her "steadfast and reliable commitment" to create and implement public health surveillance strategies and for her coordination with U.S. government agencies, the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa, and African ministries of health.

Since 1998, the Agency has invested \$15 million in the effort known as Integrated Disease Surveillance and Response. The partnership between USAID, the CDC, and the World Health Organization has produced not only public health surveillance, but implemented training for outbreak response, disease monitoring, laboratory enhancements, and program evaluation. By the end of 2008, 43 of the

46 countries in the program had assessed their infectious disease surveillance systems, adapted technical guidelines, and conducted training in at least 60 percent of their districts.

As part of her nomination, the CDC called Harvey "a passionate advocate and visionary champion of CDC and WHO

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CONTINUED...

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officer and worked as the Agency's procurement ombudsman before assuming her current position as a desk officer for Jordan.

Lisa Chiles, former counselor to the Agency and director of the Executive Diversity Council, said that the special experience of people from challenging socioeconomic backgrounds has enriched the agency.

"People who come from different backgrounds bring unique perspectives to the problem," said Chiles. "We seek to do all we can to encourage employment of people from different backgrounds."

Dula said her background has allowed her to forge a strong connection with the people USAID serves. "I can relate to them and want to help them better their lives," Dula said. "I've not had food before, and gone to bed hungry. I know what it's like."

She brought these experiences with her to Egypt, Guatemala, Bolivia, and Bangladesh. As part of USAID's sustainable forest program, she helped an indigenous Indian tribe in Bolivia to get a lumber contract rather than contract out the work to an American firm.

Tom Davis, chief of outreach and marketing, manages recruitment and outreach to diversity organizations. Davis said it is important to maintain diversity within the Agency.

"It is [not only] mandated that federal agencies mirror the national civilian workforce," Davis said, "but it's also important to developing countries."

MOSCOW from page 4

"When we started in Russia, we knew where we would encounter issues," Rekosh said.

Through the clearinghouse, international law firms with a strong pro bono ethic inspired Russian firms to gain experience in this sector. The local law firms, initially reticent to join the clearinghouse, found that the initiative represented an opportunity to launch their own pro bono programs.

Word quickly got around the NGO community that legal services were being provided on a pro bono basis and that the lawyers were willing to take on challenging cases.

For example, clearinghouse firms have been working for the past two years to obtain



Ron Daniel, right, hands out certificates and premium checks to small-holder coffee farmers in Haiti who marketed their coffee collectively under a newly formed cooperative in 1994.

Ron Daniel, coordinator for Foreign Service recruitment and orientation, was raised in rural towns across Kentucky. Working three jobs, Daniel's mother cared for him and his eight siblings and her younger sisters in a two-bedroom house. "She is one of my life-long heroes for all the sacrifices she made just to clothe us and keep us from starving."

Daniel managed to survive the hungry nights and became the first person in his family to graduate from college, earning a bachelor's degree from Murray State. He went on to get his master's in agricultural economics at Auburn University.

"My biggest dream was to go to Africa," he said—a place where the people were as poor as he was as a child.

He joined USAID in 1981

authorizations for Big Break, an organization that teaches life skills to 18-year-olds who are "graduating" from orphanages.

"Big Break wants to do everything by the law, and that takes a lot of time," said Tatiana Zadirako, executive director of United Way of Russia. "They need seven separate authorizations from various government ministries before they are fully authorized to provide trainings."

The clearinghouse, in conjunction with United Way of Russia and PILI, is also working to expand its reach by training Russian NGOs on a variety of daily operations including formation, amending charter documents, taxation, creating foundations, and licensing and registration issues. ★

and was soon working in Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo on various agriculture projects. In between tours in Haiti as the deputy office director for economic growth and in Egypt as an environment officer and acting office director, Daniel spent over seven years working in

CONGRESS from page 1

evaluate foreign assistance programs across government. This would restore the once "highly regarded" voice of USAID in these matters that has been allowed to wane since the 1980s.

The bill also designates the USAID mission director as responsible for coordinating all development and humanitarian assistance in a foreign country.

And the bill calls for a high level task force to advise on critical personnel issues such as new investments in staffing and expertise at USAID. The bill also encourages increased training and inter-agency rotations to build expertise and effectiveness.

Witnesses at the hearing included former USAID Administrator Peter McPherson; Jeffrey Sachs, head of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and a special adviser to the U.N. Secretary General; and the Rev. David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World.

Sachs took some aback when he suggested that "we have dropped the ball by focusing too much on my profession, economics." He said the analytical capacity of USAID needs to be rebuilt to diagnose the obstacles to sustainable economic

various capacities in the Office of Human Resources.

"Having lived in poverty, it's part of my soul. I've never felt more at home than in Africa," Daniel said. "I wanted to give back and help small farmers. I wanted to help people like my mother."

The people he assisted also related to him because he grew up in similar conditions.

"They think all Americans are rich," said Daniel. "It was eye-opening for them to see that someone in America could start from poverty and succeed." ★

FRONTLINES from page 5

to the Fugnido Refugee Camp.

1999: First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton joined officials from major food and pharmaceutical companies and international organizations in signing a declaration that created a "Vitamin A Global Alliance" and pledged "immediate, concrete" steps to eliminate vitamin A deficiency which increases the risk of blindness in children. ★

development. This means investing in cross-disciplinary expertise in agriculture, climatology, hydrology, disease control, ecology, and physical infrastructure, as well as in economics, he explained.

Official development assistance has to be put under "one programmatic roof," he said. "And that is the leadership of USAID." Moreover, he continued, "in my very strong view, not shared by everybody," the USAID administrator should be elevated to Cabinet rank, directly reporting to the president.

McPherson cautioned that, without the reforms the bill envisions and control over its budget and policy, USAID risks becoming "a super-contractor and not really an agency at all."

Beckmann added that, given the support of Congress and the priority that the president and secretary of state have placed on development, "now is the time" for foreign assistance reform.

Subsequent to the Kerry hearing on the Senate side, Howard Berman, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, released a draft outline of a new Foreign Assistance Act, signaling plans to substantially rewrite the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. ★

SUDAN from page 5

SPLM. Although more than four years have passed, structures have not yet fully merged and basic services are lacking.

The Kauda school allows youth from former SPLM-controlled areas to continue their educations in English instead of switching to Arabic, which is used in other state schools. "Arabization" of the region was seen by residents as a primary factor that drove them to take up arms against the government.

The Sudan Ministry of Finance has pledged to cover the cost to run the school and teachers' salaries, while the Ministry of Education is overseeing plans to integrate the school into the state's Civil Service structure. ★

KENYA from page 5

displaced person was featured on Kenyan radio programs.

One breakfast show host said listeners were at first aggressive toward Kariuki because of his ethnicity. But Kariuki showed remarkable calmness, and soon listeners began calling in with ideas about how to resolve the conflict.

Most remarkably, Kariuki was invited to appear on the breakfast show of KASS FM, which broadcasts to the Kalenjin community and has, in the past, been accused of propagating ethnic hatred. For over two hours he took calls from people from the same community that had displaced him.

Mitch Odero, inaugural chair of the Media Council of Kenya, said: "The national consciousness was raised by the voice of the victims represented by Peter. It caused many of us to [examine] our collective guilt."

This information was adapted from news releases on www.internews.org. Visit this Web site for more updates on the USAID/Internews program in Kenya. ★

HARVEY from page 13

partnership efforts to alleviate the impact of infectious diseases on African communities. She has forged technical and funding partnerships with other CDC programs for control and prevention of cholera, meningococcal meningitis, pandemic influenza, and yellow fever, linking them with national ministries and their local and international partners." ★

PARTNERS from page 1

secure a diplomatic passport and that it will be easier to get a visa.

When Phillips' partner fell ill with dengue fever last year, she was not eligible for medical evacuation from post. She was also denied basic medical services and vaccinations at the mission's medical unit and was not considered for employment at the post.

"The announcement will radically improve the quality of life of me and my family because we will no longer be discriminated against," Phillips said. "There were several times over the last six years abroad when the stress and challenges caused by the inequities, discrimination, and stigma became so difficult that we seriously considered leaving the Foreign Service."

Same-sex partners of USAID Foreign Service Officers and personal service contractors will now receive: diplomatic passports; inclusion in employee travel orders; inclusion in family-size calculations for housing arrangements; preferences for overseas employment; use of medical facilities; medical and emergency evacuation from posts; emergency visitation travel when immediate family members in the United States are ill; overseas allowances; and training at the Foreign Service Institute.

To receive these benefits, partners must sign an affidavit verifying that their relationship is committed indefinitely, they are not married or partnered with anyone else, and that they share responsibility for each other's welfare and finances.

GLIFAA, the Gays and Lesbians in Foreign Affairs Agencies organization, was instrumental in advocating for the policy change, said USAID's Ajit Joshi, GLIFAA's policy director. The American Foreign Service Association

estimates that close to 6 percent of the State and USAID Foreign Service is lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender (LGBT).

"We are pleased with these changes in policy," said Joshi, who works in the Agency's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance. "However, more challenges remain for the Civil Service, non-direct hires, and local hires as well as LGBT beneficiaries overseas."

Joshi pointed out that same-sex partners, unlike heterosexual spouses, are still not eligible for government health insurance, expedited naturalization of non-American partners, retirement in the United States with non-American partners, and many retirement benefits. Transgender employees also don't have health insurance that covers the medical costs of transitioning from male to female or vice-versa.

To secure those additional benefits, both the House and the Senate are considering bills that extend to domestic partners of federal employees the same benefits that heterosexual spouses enjoy, and would allow employees to sponsor their foreign partners for immigration. President Barack Obama announced support for some of these measures in June, when he signed a memorandum extending benefits for same-sex partners of federal employees.

GLIFAA is also advocating to include gender identity and gender expression in the Agency's non-discrimination personnel policy.

"This is about equality, fairness, and waging the war for talent to be competitive with the private sector. We must ensure that we represent all the faces of America when we are abroad," Joshi said. ★

GEORGIA from page 6

program that is also providing assistance to grow corn and fruit. About 10,000 families have planted 23,000 acres of corn. This includes all of the long-term internally displaced persons that were provided agricultural land by the government of Georgia.

A third component of the program is providing supplies for more than 18,000 orchard growers using electronic voucher

cards (see July *FrontLines*, page 7). This fall the project will provide winter wheat assistance to 3,500 families who could not access their land in time for spring planting due to security or the presence of unexploded weapons in their fields. The program will inject \$16.5 million into the local economy through purchases and reimbursements to Georgian businesses for services and supplies. ★

CAMBODIA from page 6

Over the last 10 years, Cambodia has been a rare success story in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. By promoting condom use in brothels, the country cut its HIV prevalence rate in half from 2 percent in 1998 to less than 1 percent in 2006. The prevalence rate among sex workers fell by 66 percent in that same period.

USAID has been the largest HIV donor in Cambodia since 1994.

However, in recent years men have increasingly sought sexual partners in karaoke bars and other entertainment venues, where they perceive the women to be less risky than in brothels. A recent police crackdown on brothels has accelerated this shift. In entertainment venues, it is common

for male patrons to meet "sweet-hearts," or semi-regular mistresses with whom they exchange money and gifts for sex.

USAID data show that while condom use is high among brothel-based sex workers, it is considerably lower among other entertainment workers. According to many entertainment workers, a major barrier to condom use is the attitudes of their male sexual partners.

A reality television show called "You're the Man," which challenges male norms and promotes male responsibility, started up in July. M.Style, a health campaign launched in late 2008, uses social clubs and internet chat rooms to encourage men who have sex with men to

protect themselves from disease.

Ky is pleased to be part of these efforts to reach high-risk men. "I'm learning skills that will help me later in life. Most important, I'm helping Cambodia develop by keeping my people healthy," she said. ★

SURVEY from page 5

linked to decreasing poverty. The link is especially clear in Zambia and Ghana, where poverty has steadily decreased as political freedom has increased since 1999, as well as in Zimbabwe, Senegal, and Madagascar, where the opposite trend has prevailed.

Read more survey results at www.afrobarometer.org. ★

FRONTLINES

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"I realize that there are among us those who are weary of sustaining this continual effort to help other nations. But I would ask them to look at a map and recognize that many of those whom we help live on the 'front lines' of the long twilight struggle for freedom—that others are new nations posed between order and chaos—and the rest are older nations now undergoing a turbulent transition of new expectations. Our efforts to help them help themselves, to demonstrate and to strengthen the vitality of free institutions, are small in cost compared to our military outlays for the defense of freedom."

—John F. Kennedy, Special Message to the Congress on Foreign Aid, March 13, 1962

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Companies display shelter, emergency vehicles, and other items produced for use by aid groups in crises and development projects around the world during the Aid & Trade convention in the Ronald Reagan Building's atrium July 9-10.

Trucks, Lamps, Bikes, and Water Kits Among New Tools for Aid Workers

By Ashtar Analeed Marcus

Humanitarian aid workers in the field from Sudan to Guatemala need all-terrain vehicles, water purification systems, solar power, and dozens of high-tech gadgets to help deliver food, water, medicine, and other assistance to the needy.

The companies that invent and produce the latest gadgets for development and humanitarian crises came to Washington's Ronald Reagan Building July 9-10 to demonstrate and sell some of their wares to hundreds of aid officials from NGOs, contractors, and the U.S. government.

Representatives from InterAction, the American Red Cross, Catholic Relief Services, the World Food Program, the U.S. Army, and USAID spoke at roundtables on the latest logistics, communications, policy, and demographic factors affecting foreign aid delivery.

Aid & Trade is a British group of NGOs, contractors, and others involved in foreign assistance. It held its annual convention in Washington this year to overlap with the 25th anniversary celebration

of its U.S. counterpart, InterAction.

Amidst the rugged Toyota and other four-wheel drive trucks on display in the Reagan atrium, and videos of mine-resistant vehicles for the Afghan or Iraqi aid programs, were tables loaded with handy field gadgets that could be useful in aid work.

► Lightweight cotton sacks on display are used to replace traditional sandbags for flood control in hurricanes, flash floods and breached sanitation lines. The FloodBloc sacks made of jute and cotton absorb five gallons of water in about three minutes. Another product, FloodSax, can hold about 45 pounds of water. Both products are recyclable and biodegradable.

► At another booth, ArcGIS, a global information systems server, explained how it could help aid teams hone in on areas of drought and famine or map the population at risk for malaria. USAID already uses this system through the Famine Early Warning Systems Network. (See March 2009 *FrontLines*, page 2.)

► Another gadget uses electricity to convert a spoonful of salt into a chlorinating solution that can purify 1,000 gallons of water. The Swiss company Bulane is exporting their Watalys generator and water purification kit to 50 countries. "It's a simple idea," said Francois Belot, development director for Bulane. "But we are creating potable water for thousands."

► To help grow food in arid climates, global positioning systems and new interpretive technology can tell an Ethiopian farmer the exact location of his seed on a multi-acre plot, drive his tractor to the exact location, and fertilize and water that centimeter of land, preserving the remaining water. Trimble Navigation has already introduced this product to 30 percent of commercial farms in the United States, said a company representative.

The latest tents, solar powered lamps, emergency airstrip lighting, and unfolding solar generators were also shown at the convention. ★



Temporary relief tents can be converted into permanent homes when synthetic material is replaced with natural elements like straw around the sturdy metal framework of the tents.



A portable emergency solar generator

Amidst the rugged Toyota and other four-wheel drive trucks on display in the Reagan atrium, and videos of mine-resistant vehicles for the Afghan or Iraqi aid programs, were tables loaded with handy field gadgets that could be useful in aid work.

Photo by Ben Barber, USAID

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