



FRONTLINES

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As Vietnam prepares for influenza outbreaks, this chick is immunized against the bird flu. See page 6.



Photo by Richard Nyberg, USAID

FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES:

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HIV Antibodies Discovered

Study Makes Progress Toward Vaccine

A USAID partner, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI), recently discovered that some people who are exposed to HIV create antibodies, or naturally occurring protection, against the virus. The findings are expected to play an important role in designing an eventual vaccine for HIV.

USAID and IAVI signed an agreement in 2006 to hasten development of an AIDS vaccine. IAVI tested more than 1,800 HIV positive people in several developing countries when the antibodies were discovered that block or neutralize the virus.

Results of the study, entitled "Protocol G: A Cross Sectional Study to Screen for and Generate Broadly Neutralizing Monoclonal Antibodies from HIV Infected Individuals," were published in the journal *Science* in September.

"We are delighted with IAVI's promising and novel achievements; if there is one thing USAID understands, it's the importance of setting long range goals," said David Stanton, division chief in USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS. "Translating these findings into an actual vaccine will surely take time and much more work, but IAVI's [study] provides important insight into what a vaccine might look like so it can effectively instruct the immune system to produce these powerful antibodies."

The antibody announcement came as researchers in Thailand announced Sept. 24 they had successfully tested a new AIDS vaccine that had reduced infections by 30 percent. The U.S. Defense Department spent \$100 million on the three-year test involving 16,000 Thais—half

see **HIV** on page 14 ▶



Photo by Sam Pambaky/AFP

BRACING FOR FLU

An Indian teacher supervises a class of mask-wearing children at K. R. Raval Primary school in Ahmedabad Aug. 11 as the swine flu death total was rising in that country. Officials here and in countries around the world are preparing for the global H1N1 pandemic this fall. In mid-September, President Barack Obama announced that 10 percent of the U.S. supply of H1N1 vaccine will be made available to countries that would not otherwise have access to vaccine supplies through the World Health Organization. "There is a broad international recognition that the 2009 H1N1 pandemic presents a global health risk," the White House said in a statement. "Millions of people around the world have been affected, thousands have died, and the virus continues to spread across international borders." U.S. officials are also encouraging citizens in this country to prepare for H1N1, which has already sickened thousands this flu season. See page 12 for more information about how USAID is helping staff prepare.

Borlaug, Father of Green Revolution, Dies

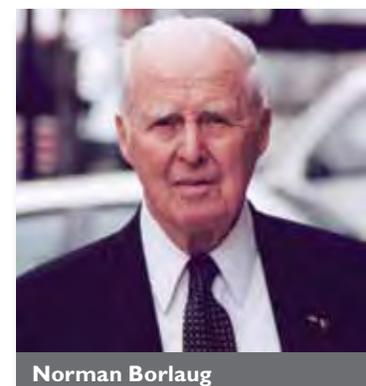
By Ben Barber

Norman Borlaug, an Iowa farmer who created high yielding wheat varieties that saved hundreds of millions of people from starvation, died Sept. 12. He was 95.

Winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1970 for his discoveries, Borlaug worked well into the final months of his life seeking to improve wheat as well as potato and other food crops.

Supported by USAID and other donors, he conducted pioneering work beginning in the 1940s at a research center outside Mexico City. The Rockefeller Foundation and the Mexican government also supported his work.

Borlaug, who studied at the University of Minnesota and earned a PhD in plant disease, knew that adding fertilizer to wheat crops would vastly



Norman Borlaug

Photo by Ben Barber, USAID

increase their yield, but that their stalks would bend and break under the weight of the grain. So he crossed high yielding wheat with a short stem variety and found it could hold up the enormous heads of grain.

Research on rice later produced short-stemmed varieties with double and triple the yield of grain.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton released a state-

ment that said: "We were saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Norman E. Borlaug, whose pioneering agricultural research improved the lives of millions of people around the world and earned him the Nobel Peace Prize, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. Only Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela and Elie Wiesel have been similarly honored with all three awards."

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USAID Acting Administrator Alonzo Fulgham arrives at Camp Bastion in Helmand Province Sept. 8 during a trip to Afghanistan and Pakistan. See page 3 for details.

Photo by Barbara Feinstein, USAID

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WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ...

REFORM THE RIGHT SHOULD EMBRACE

By Mark Green

Remarkably, a reform effort is under way in Washington that has yet to devolve into a partisan shouting match. The reform involves our foreign aid apparatus, which is in dire need of an overhaul. It matters because amid this tough economy, every taxpayer dollar is especially precious and because of the great good foreign aid can do.

The legislation that authorizes our overseas development programs is more than 45 years old, without updates or improvements in more than 20 years. At a time when our national security and foreign policy priorities have become increasingly dependent on effective development, our political leaders must act swiftly and put partisan politics aside in order to enact reforms that will make our foreign aid programs more efficient, more effective, and therefore more capable of supporting and advancing our national interests around the globe.

Despite some initial positive steps by the Obama administration and Congress, a critical constituency is missing from the discussion: congressional conservatives. As a proud fiscal hawk and a true believer in the power of U.S. foreign assistance to lift lives and enhance alliances, I urge conservatives to get more engaged and embrace the opportunity this debate presents.

I served in Congress from 1999 to 2007, when an unprecedented bipartisan coalition came together and increased U.S. foreign assistance aimed at easing the suffering of people in developing countries. Without the participation and leadership of conservatives in Congress and the George W. Bush administration, none of this would have been possible.

The vital role played by conservatives was perhaps best exemplified by the transformation of the late Sen. Jesse Helms, North Carolina Republican, who went from

being Congress' most strident anti-foreign aid voice to a co-sponsor of a bill providing \$200 million to help fight HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Mr. Helms and other conservatives, including President Bush and former Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, Tennessee Republican, were key players in passing landmark programs such as African debt relief, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the President's Malaria Initiative, and the Millennium Challenge Act (which created the Millennium Challenge Corp.).

It matters because amid this tough economy, every taxpayer dollar is especially precious and because of the great good foreign aid can do.

Without these initiatives, millions of lives would have been lost, the conditions of despair that terrorists and dictators all too effectively exploit would have deepened, and fewer developing countries would be on paths toward self-sufficiency.

Despite this important progress, U.S. foreign assistance is not as effective and supportive of our diplomacy and security efforts as it should be. Right now, foreign-assistance programs are overseen by more than 60 government offices that frequently are competitive and uncoordinated. Foreign aid budgeting has become a mess of earmarks because the Cold War-era Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) is decades out of date.

I saw firsthand how inefficient this system can be at times when I was U.S. ambassador to Tanzania in 2007-08. Early on, I would attend ribbon cuttings for U.S.-funded health clinics and other programs only to see banners with countless logos and acronyms

from organizations—including different U.S. government agencies—all taking credit for the American people's generosity. The maze of obscure names not only was unsightly, but it also confused our Tanzanian audience and diminished the diplomatic value of our work.

After sitting through a few of these events, I issued a directive creating a unified logo—an American flag with the phrase "From the American People" in Kiswahili—and requiring that it be on every press statement and event banner.

Thankfully, we see some progress. The Foreign Relations Committees in both the House and Senate have introduced reform bills that have gained some Republican support, but there is still a long way to go. The same leadership from conservatives that helped deliver millions of people in the developing world from poverty and disease over the last decade is needed to keep the foreign aid reform effort focused on increasing accountability, eliminating waste, and maximizing results.

I call upon my conservative former colleagues in Congress to rise to this challenge and join the debate. I urge the Democratic majority to run the reform process in an open and bipartisan way and keep it from becoming a debate over money and divisive social issues.

Given that foreign assistance reform is fundamentally about making the United States better at saving lives, helping more countries like Tanzania get on the road to true self-sufficiency, and highlighting our leadership and compassion abroad, we have to get it right—and we have to do it quickly.

Mark Green is a former Republican member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Wisconsin and ambassador to Tanzania. He is the director of the Malaria No More Policy Center. ★

The Great Bond

By James Bachelder

Six weeks ago I came to Jordan from the U.S., with a great desire to learn Arabic. In several ways, moving to Jordan hasn't been easy as the culture, local habits, and social restrictions are different from the ones I grew up with and know. However, the people in Amman have proved to be very hospitable, and I find Amman as one of the safest and friendliest cities I ever visited.

After a couple of weeks, a friend invited me to attend a youth event in Jerash. I did not know where Jerash was, I enjoy taking these opportunities to meet more people and use the little bit of Arabic that I have learned.

At the location, one of the first things I saw was USAID logos on banners all over the place. I could tell the organization was from my country, but I had never heard of it before. The slogan below the logo, in Arabic, was translated to me as saying: "From the American people." I felt a sense of honour to be from the U.S.

In the opening area of the event complex, I saw hundreds of youth registering for the event; I knew that was going to be a wonderful cultural experience for me.

The youth received a T-shirt and a backpack with the USAID logo on them. It was amazing to see the Jordanian youth so proud to wear their USAID T-shirts and carry around the USAID backpack. This would be difficult to get U.S. youth to do, so this was truly a sign of the great bond that has been formed between the people of Jordan and the U.S.

The event was geared towards health safety. The day went by quickly, filled with many workshops, lectures, exhibitions, a telematch, great local food, guest speakers, and a talent show.

Visiting the booths, it was great to find many USAID-funded programs. It was like watching my tax money at work before my eyes.

I listened to the heartening speech from Jay Knott, the director of USAID, who spoke to the youth, urging them forward innovatively in the areas of water conservation, education, health, and economic development. It was encouraging for me to see my country take such an interest in the youth of Jordan.

This letter to the editor is reprinted from The Jordan Times, Aug. 26, with the author's permission.

James Bachelder recently graduated from the University of Phoenix with a master's degree in information technology. He currently lives in Amman, Jordan, where he is studying Arabic. ★

FRONTLINES: OCTOBERS PAST

1969: *FrontLines* reported on an agreement between the Agency, the Goodyear Co., and the Indian government to jointly finance the \$12 million tire manufacturing facility in Ballabgarh, India. In the same issue, *FrontLines* noted a speech by then-USAID Administrator John A. Hannah urging Congress to support the creation of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation "to attract American private resources and know-how to the challenge of development."

1979: In a full-page article, *FrontLines* reported that "malaria makes a comeback." Saying that the pesticide DDT offered a chance to wipe out malaria "once and for all," Edgar Smith, a USAID health officer, said that "we were too successful" and

that, as a result, "people let down their guard and became complacent. They thought malaria wasn't a problem anymore. Funding malaria control and training programs lost priority."

1989: In a featured article, *FrontLines* noted that an "emerging information technology" could make access to information in the developing world much easier and quicker. The article invited readers to come to the Agency's Development Information Center to test the newly adopted "optical disks" or CD-ROMs.

1999: Five decades of assistance to Jordan was highlighted in a full-page *FrontLines* article. The U.S.-Jordanian celebration featured a month-long exhibit of photographs and artifacts covering 50 years of partnership. ★

MISSION OF THE MONTH



A community activist displays a new transformer USAID helped install in Turkmenistan's Bibioten Village, Dashoguz Province.

Photo by USAID

Activists Expand Community Services in Turkmenistan

By Virginija Morgan

Challenge

Most Turkmenistan citizens are reluctant to exercise their right to participate in civic activism and rely on the government to address their problems, even when a community has the resources to resolve them.

For example, even though the country has considerable hydrocarbon wealth, many rural areas lack basic infrastructure and services. Roads, water, and electricity systems have seen little renovation since the Soviet period, and in many locations have all but disintegrated, leaving the communities to struggle for even the most fundamental needs.

The government has allocated considerable amounts for upgrades as part of a \$4 billion rural development program, but because communities don't voice their needs, they often are left out of improvement plans.

Innovative Response

To encourage the development of civil society in Turkmenistan, in September 2006, USAID launched a three-year program to train activists to identify local needs, design plans to address them, and seek funding. Local officials were involved in each step of the process.

"My wife said that I was spending more time in these community meetings than at home," said Khudayberdy Yakulym, an activist in Bibioten Village of the Gorogly District, Dashoguz Province.

More than 3,000 community members from 42 communities across the country became involved—including farmers, youth, and women.

Communities designed projects for road improvement, jobs for youth and women, upgrades to electricity systems, and other ways to address pressing needs.

Project staff helped the communities resolve legal issues related to their plans. USAID provided small grants to partially finance the projects, with remaining amounts secured through community fundraising and government funding.

During the last year of the project, USAID also helped communities to develop 25 economic development plans to improve local service delivery.

Results

Communities have renovated parks, residential buildings, offices, sports fields, and playgrounds; and improved access to water, gas, electricity, and computers. Youth have received vocational training such as carpet-weaving and sewing.

TURKMENISTAN



Each community was required to contribute at least 25 percent of the cost estimate for their initiative, raising a total of \$200,000 in labor, materials, and other resources.

"Thanks to USAID, we have a good and steady supply of electricity in our homes and no longer have to plan which electrical appliance to use, so that we don't lose electricity altogether," says Yakulym.

A new transformer not only provides electricity for the current 167 households, but has enough capacity to service new construction in the community. To match the \$4,000 grant from USAID for the transformer, the community provided over \$1,300 worth of labor, meals, and transportation. The local government and the utility company replaced electrical poles and wires, built a new platform for the station, and installed the equipment.

On average, communities contributed between 70 percent and 90 percent of the required cost-share amount—through labor, transport expenses, and meals for workers—for their projects. "We are already negotiating with the local government a new project to pave the main street in our village," says Yakulym.

The project has benefited 75,000 Turkmen in rural communities across the country.

"I am confident that many of these communities will continue working with their local governments on further improvements of their local infrastructure," says Aynabat Ataeva, manager of the USAID-supported Dashoguz Civil Society Support Center. "These activists have seen how they can engage with their local governments on a variety of issues, and will keep building on this resource in the future." ★

INSIGHTS

FROM ACTING ADMINISTRATOR ALONZO FULGHAM



Acting Administrator Alonzo Fulgham visited Afghanistan and Pakistan Sept. 5-11, along with Deputy Secretary of State Jacob Lew, Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs Rich Verma, Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Paul Jones, and USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Management Drew Luten. Afterwards, he sat down with FrontLines Editorial Director Ben Barber to discuss the trip.

Q: What was your impression of USAID's work in Peshawar, Pakistan, near the volatile tribal areas along the Afghan border?

FULGHAM: Our work in Peshawar is unquestionably some of the most innovative and courageous USAID is undertaking anywhere in the world. Despite the difficult circumstances and security concerns, we work with our partners in health, education, water, sanitation, and other basic needs in communities of the Tribal Areas and North West Frontier Province where the Pakistan government has had limited access. Our support to the Swat area has been both courageous and effective and I am enormously proud of the work our Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance team has carried out in the region.

Q: Pakistani and Afghan officials say U.S. aid goes to costly U.S. contractors. Instead, they would like it to go to host government officials. How do we begin to resolve this?

FULGHAM: We are undertaking a major review of our assistance to determine how to channel it through local authorities when they are capable of managing U.S. funds. For example, the Afghanistan Ministry of Health increased its aid budget by 800 percent and other ministries are rushing to emulate those efforts. In Pakistan, we are working with the Supreme Audit Institution and the Office of Acquisitions and Assistance to identify more local institutions capable of programming U.S. assistance.

Our efforts in Pakistan are emblematic of this administration's desire to direct a greater percentage of our assistance dollars to local partners, where appropriate. As you know, development work begins with building the capacity of host-country governments, organizations, and civil society. Still, we need to be sure that our partners—government or otherwise—are able to manage programs at the standards we require for our assistance.

Q: What struck you as the most important thing you saw on this trip?

FULGHAM: The most important thing I saw, and continue to see—particularly in our work in Afghanistan—is the ability of the U.S. government to come together through a whole-of-government approach. The civilian-military relationship in Afghanistan is stronger now than I've ever seen it before, resulting in a solid strategy and direct linkages between policies and resources. If we had had that match-up of financial resources and policy previously, Afghanistan would probably be much further along on the development continuum.

Q: What are the greatest challenges facing USAID?

FULGHAM: One challenge we are facing is our ability to recruit mid-career and senior level officers for Critical Priority Country (CPC) assignments, in addition to asking our officers to do a second tour (in a CPC) away from their families. We are currently

see **INSIGHTS** on page 11 ►

BRIEFS

Childbirth Deaths Exceed 2 Million Worldwide

More than 2 million babies and mothers die worldwide each year from childbirth complications, outnumbering child deaths from malaria and HIV/AIDS, the Associated Press reported from South Africa Oct. 6.

According to a study released in early October, 1.02 million babies are stillborn and another 904,000 die soon after birth. By comparison, 820,000 children die from malaria and 208,000 die from HIV/AIDS worldwide.

About 42 percent of the world's 536,000 maternal deaths also occur during childbirth, according to the study. Deaths in Africa and South Asia account for three-quarters of the maternal and infant deaths.

The research was led by Save the Children, the Gates Foundation, and Johns Hopkins University with investigators from a dozen countries. It was published in the October journal of the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics.

Poverty is one of the main causes of these deaths. In wealthier countries, most women give birth with a skilled attendant, while in poor countries, few women do so.

Bolivia, Venezuela Anti-drug Measures Come Up Short

WASHINGTON—Burma, Bolivia, and Venezuela failed to meet international anti-drug measures, which could result in sanctions, State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said Sept. 16.

"Bolivia, Burma, and Venezuela, 'failed demonstrably' during the last 12 months to adhere to international counternarcotic agreements and take counternarcotic measures set forth in U.S. law," said Kelly in a statement.

President Obama, however, issued a national interest waiver for Bolivia and Venezuela, so some aid programs can "continue to support specific programs to benefit the Bolivian and Venezuelan people," Kelly said.

The announcement was part of the annual U.S. certification of countries that are actively participating in the effort to crack down on the illegal narcotics trade.

Some 20 countries were identified as major drug-transit or drug-producing countries in the annual report, according to *Agence France Presse*.

The three countries decertified this month were also decertified in 2008, during the presidency of George W. Bush.

U.S. funds "will continue to support" civil society and small community development programs in Venezuela, while the waiver will allow for "continued support for agricultural development, exchange programs, small enterprise development, and police training programs" in Bolivia, AFP reported.

Somali Refugees Fill Camps

NAIROBI, Kenya—Hundreds of thousands of Somali refugees are jammed into camps that are "barely fit for humans," with poor sanitation and little access to water and medicine, the British aid agency Oxfam said Sept. 3, the Associated Press reported. The camps are in Somalia, Kenya, and Ethiopia.

More than half of the Somali population—3.8 million people—need humanitarian aid, according to the United Nations.

The Dadaab complex in Kenya—the largest refugee camp in the world—is home to more than 280,000 people in an area meant to hold 90,000. Oxfam said that in the Somali town of Afgoye near the bullet-scarred capital, 485,000 people are taking shelter on a 9-mile strip of land.

Zimbabwe Food Crisis Looms

Food stocks in most rural households in Zimbabwe will be depleted by early October, warned USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network, or FEWSNET, Sept. 1.

The impending food shortages are due to poor harvests and limited access to hard currency among rural dwellers to buy maize meal and other Zimbabwean staple foods, the Voice of America reported, citing USAID reports.

FEWSNET said the situation in the cities is better because food imports have risen this year, a situation likely to continue through the end of 2009.

Forbes Matonga, national director of Christian Care, a main distribution agent for the U.N. World Food Program, told Zimbabwe's Studio 7 weekly news program that food aid is likely to be reduced from last year's levels due to insufficient donor support and poor data on need, adding that he sees more problems than FEWSNET in urban zones.

Israel, USAID, Ethiopia Launch Agriculture Project

Ethiopia's *Daily Monitor* reported Sept. 2 that Israel's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Israel Avigdor Liberman was to pay a two-day official visit to Ethiopia that week, according to the Embassy of Israel in Ethiopia.

Liberman was to meet with Ethiopian officials to sign cooperation agreements between Israel and Ethiopia, the embassy said in a statement. In addition, Liberman was also expected to take part in the official inauguration ceremony of the Butajira Center of Excellence for Horticulture, a tripartite center for propagation of tropical fruits and vegetables established by the minister of agriculture and rural development, USAID, and Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation.

USAID Supporting Displaced in Sri Lanka

The U.S. government has provided approximately \$57 million for humanitarian assistance to Sri Lanka in 2009, the Voice of America reported Sept. 1.

The sum includes \$42 million in emergency food aid and over \$11 million in emergency non-food relief to agencies such

as the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

USAID has provided the majority of this aid to help Sri Lankans who fled the conflict in the North. The aid includes food, medical care, individual hygiene and baby kits, emergency health response kits filled with bandages and medicines, and health outreach programs. Additionally, some funds will be used to build sanitation and bathing facilities as well as temporary shelters, and to pay for emergency transportation.

Study Says U.S. Should Lead in Monitoring Animal Diseases

A USAID-funded study by a panel set up by the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council recommends that the U.S. take the lead in a global effort to protect people from new outbreaks of deadly infectious diseases that originate in animals such as the H1N1 flu virus, AIDS, and SARS.

The panel noted that air travel, climate change, population growth, and rising demand for meat products from developing countries have accelerated the spread of "zoonotic" diseases.

"At the moment, it's like a wildfire," said Dr. Gerald Keusch of Boston University, who helped lead the group that wrote the report. "We deal with it as an emergency. It costs huge amounts of resources. It would be a lot cheaper and cost-effective to have a system in place.

The *Ottowan Citizen* reported that the panel called for a sustainable, integrated surveillance system to monitor animal and human populations worldwide and for moving quickly to contain new outbreaks.

Such a system could have provided early detection for the H1N1 virus, which became a pandemic weeks after it emerged in North America in March, said the panel's other co-chair, Marguerite Pappaioanou of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges.

From news reports and other sources. ★

Tanzania Tackling Malaria, Maternal Health

By Laura Ashbaugh

Although Tanzania boasts political stability and one of the fastest growing economies in sub-Saharan Africa, it still faces alarming maternal mortality, rapid population growth, and widespread poverty.

USAID is assisting Tanzania in responding to these issues by helping to reduce malaria and HIV/AIDS, prevent maternal deaths, expand agribusiness, and protect the environment, said Tanzania Director Rob Cunnane on a recent trip to Washington.

A major part of the USAID budget in the African nation of 40 million people goes towards health care, especially malaria eradication, HIV/AIDS programs, and improving maternal and child health, he said in an interview with *FrontLines*.

A USAID program has been instrumental in assisting Zanzibar to reduce malaria by over 97 percent in just two years, he said.

"The malaria eradication program in Zanzibar showed...we can have a significant impact in a fairly quick time period," Cunnane said. "It has given people a sense of what this program can achieve, and we're working to show that it can be replicated elsewhere."

Cunnane said that the mission is expanding the malaria program throughout mainland Tanzania, and it is already having an impact in the northern lake region.

Tanzania also faces alarming rates of maternal mortality, one of the highest fertility rates in Africa, and a very high unmet demand for contraceptives.

With a significant increase in funding recently, the office has begun focusing on

see **TANZANIA** on page 15 ▶

Young Acquire Skills to Find Work or Start Business

By Chris Ward

As a child selling candy in the streets of Medellin, Colombia, Adail Cano Marin seemed unlikely to become a small business owner and catalyst for local economic development.

After his father died when he was just 6 years old, Marin was forced to help provide for his family, as his mother struggled to keep her four children in school and off the city's often dangerous streets.

Unable to afford further schooling or training after high school, Marin took whatever odd jobs he could find. His prospects changed, however, when he joined *entra21*, a job training program supported by USAID and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

The program, along with another USAID program, Youth:Work, has helped tens of thousands of young people across the developing world to gain skills to succeed in an increasingly competitive environment.

Experts estimate there are more than 1.1 billion people between the ages of 15 and 25 worldwide. Some 85 to 90 million of them are unable to find jobs. About 300 million are working but earn \$2 a day or less.

Between 2001 and 2007, the first phase of *entra21* assisted nearly 20,000 such young people in 18 countries across the Latin America and Caribbean region. A recent evaluation of the International Youth Foundation



Adail Cano Marin completed an *entra21*-supported program in Medellin, Colombia, and now runs his own business. Programs that help young people join the labor market or become entrepreneurs have reached tens of thousands of youth throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

(IYF)-implemented activity indicates that 75 percent of the first phase graduates had either been placed in a job, started their own business, or returned to school. IYF and IDB launched a second phase of the program in 2007 that will reach an additional 50,000 disadvantaged young people.

Since completing the Colombia *entra21 Jovenes con Futuro* (Young People with a Future) program in November 2008, Marin, now 23, has opened a small business specializing in women's clothing that employs three workers and has generated jobs for another 10 people as suppliers and retailers.

His success is due in part to *entra21*, which helped him to develop technical and entrepreneurship skills along

with critical life skills such as teamwork, problem solving, and communication. "*Entra21* gave me the opportunity to gain a competitive skill, and taught me that it is possible to achieve the dreams that we young people have," said Marin.

IYF is incorporating its model into a new global program called Youth:Work, which allows USAID to set up youth employability programs in many countries.

Projects have begun in Jordan, Morocco, and the Caribbean.

Youth:Work Jordan, for example, is a five-year, \$30 million collaborative effort with the Jordanian government, the private sector, and NGOs. It is designed to equip out-of-work, marginalized young people in urban areas with the skills to find employment, become positive agents of change within their communities, and lead healthier lifestyles.

Each new Youth:Work project plugs into a growing network that shares best practices. An example was an event in Washington, D.C., this May on "What Works in Youth Employability." The event drew experts from around the world to discuss how to employ disadvantaged young people.

Other international conferences on youth employment were recently held in Amman,

TRAINING IRAQIS TO TREAT VICTIMS OF TORTURE

In northern Iraq's Kurdistan region, U.S. mental health researchers are assisting local professionals and trainees to provide mental health services to survivors of Saddam Hussein's regime of torture and genocide.

A network of newly-trained community mental health workers interviewed torture and genocide survivors and identified a list of priority mental health problems. These included: depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, and grief.

USAID has invested close to \$4 million in this program through its Victims of Torture Fund.

The Applied Mental Health Research (AMHR) group from Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School has assisted torture and trauma victims worldwide. But Paul Bolton, a member of the AMHR team, said the torture in Iraq was the worst of which he was familiar. Not only were people arrested and tortured but, at times, their families were brought in to watch.

"This was torture at a different level, very much both mental and physical torture," he said.

One Iraqi doctor described the need for mental health services in his country as grave.

In Iraq, the AMHR program improves the ability of torture survivors to function. Community mental health workers are trained to interview people in affected communities in order to understand local priorities and concepts of mental distress. That information is

used to address major mental health issues.

The team then works with local medical officials to set up treatment programs.

The team identified and adapted two promising interventions, neither of which have been implemented outside the West—behavioral activation and cognitive processing therapy—and trained local health care workers in their use.

Behavioral activation is a therapy designed to treat depression, based on the premise that people's mental states improve if they do things that make them happy and avoid things that are distressing. Cognitive processing therapy helps people suffering from depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Individuals suffering from those disorders exhibit distress by avoiding things that remind them of the original trauma. During treatment, counselors encourage patients to talk about their traumatic experiences and to try to respond differently in stressful situations.

Torture survivors who participate in an evaluation of the therapies receive 12 weeks of treatment and will have their symptoms and ability to function in daily life assessed before and after treatment.

The most effective therapies will form the basis of future aid for torture survivors in Kurdistan and possibly other community-based mental health programs around the world, USAID and AMHR officials said. ★



With additional funding through Caterpillar, 500 young people from impoverished urban areas in Peru are gaining skills in areas such as heavy equipment operations, mechanics, and welding through the *entra-21* program.

To learn more about the AMHR's work to address mental health issues in the developing world, read "Mending Wounded Minds" published in the magazine of the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, summer 2009 issue, at <http://magazine.jhsph.edu>.

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THE REGIONS

AFRICA

Senegal Protects Women Through Family Planning

By Sue Telingator

DAKAR, Senegal—In a recent promotional film shown in Senegal during a family planning event, the camera zooms in on a health professional who is talking about one of the most tragic cases she had witnessed.

"She was a girl of 17," Clara Cissé, a family planning counselor begins. "And she was pregnant. She had refused all methods of family planning. She had refused a cesarean section, even though it was recommended. After seven months, she became pregnant again. This time, she had a uterine rupture and finally, had to have a complete hysterectomy after having only one child."

Though the specifics change, this story is common.

In 2005, according to the USAID-funded Demographic and Health Survey (DHS), five mothers and 41 newborns in Senegal die each day from complications related to giving birth. For each mother who dies, there are at least 10 more who suffer from serious obstetric complications. In 2005, only 12 percent of women used contraception.



Aïssatou Faye, wife of Imam Ibrahima Seck, and one of their six children

The government of Senegal, together with USAID and other partners, is changing its family planning campaign and emphasizing the importance of birth spacing.

USAID's Senegal office is carrying out a five-year, \$20 million campaign to address the needs of families in their reproductive years, including increased access to care before and after the baby's birth, trained counselors to help mothers with family planning and reproductive health issues, malaria prevention programs, easier access to birth control, and specialized nutrition programs. There is also a special activity designed to encourage more male involvement in family planning issues.

Mothers risk the loss of their own life, as well as the lives of their children, by spacing births too close together and not following a pre-natal and post-natal healthcare program.

The causes are varied.

Uncertainty over who is responsible for family planning within a couple can result in neither taking proper action.

Some women hide contraception from their spouses, for fear their husbands will accuse them of being unfaithful. When the husband is the decision maker, wives are sometimes forced into having closely-spaced pregnancies, sacrificing their health and the health of their children.

Religion can also play a part in family planning constraints. Senegal is a predominantly Muslim country, and while the tenets of Islam promote safe birth spacing practices, there is a lot of misinterpretation among the population.



A man and his daughter from the Ranerou district in northern Senegal

USAID is conducting national public information and education campaigns, including outreach and family planning services to Senegal's 15 largest employers; and outreach to Senegal's growing adolescent population through a reproductive health curriculum in high school.

USAID hopes that providing a safety net will ensure fewer women will end up like the 17-year-old in the movie.

And if, in spite of all these measures, a family is still not taking advantage of family planning opportunities, external forces could play a role. Ibrahima Seck, an imam from the town of Khodoba in eastern Senegal and the father of six children, sees the economy as a strong influence on family planning decisions.

"I think the mentality is starting to change," he said. "I know of a woman who used family planning and after 12 years had only two children because the family couldn't afford more. A lack of income and unemployment are having an impact on the size of families." ★

ASIA

Vietnam Prepares for H1N1, Future Pandemics

By Richard Nyberg

HANOI—USAID is helping Vietnam develop model programs not only to contain bird flu, but to cope with H1N1 and future pandemics.

In 2003, Vietnam reported the world's first human case of avian influenza. Since then, the country has experienced more than 100 human cases, half of which resulted in deaths, and 3,000 animal outbreaks. But the number of human and animal cases has dropped significantly as Vietnam has taken measures against H5N1, the scientific designation for bird flu.

Meanwhile, thousands of Vietnamese have become infected with H1N1 in recent months, almost all of whom have recovered. Vietnamese officials say USAID's \$37 million in pandemic influenza support since 2005 has helped the country plan and react appropriately.

"USAID's avian influenza activities help us a lot to prepare for H1N1," said Nguyen Thu Ha, deputy director of the Provincial Preventative and Medicine Center in Can Tho.

"The protective equipment and disinfectant spray can also be used for H1N1," he said, referring to thousands of sets of personal protective equipment



Animal health workers in southern Vietnam immunize a chick to keep bird flu in check.

and cases of biodegradable disinfectant powder provided by USAID to high-risk provinces.

Government and development partners are looking to adapt USAID models for reporting and tracking bird flu outbreaks to help handle H1N1. U.S.-funded pilot initiatives, including two villages where special measures have been taken to reduce the risk and spread of disease in the southern Can Tho and northern Hung Yen provinces, are attracting a lot of attention.

"USAID support for Can Tho has been beneficial, especially to strengthen the surveillance system at the community level," said Luu Phuoc Hau, deputy director of the province's animal health department. "The avian and pandemic awareness level has definitely increased."

In July, USAID sponsored Vietnam's first community outbreak simulation for more

see **VIETNAM** on page 15 ▶



Animal health workers Pham Ngoc Thien, left, and Le Vu Linh from Thanh My and Vinh Trinh communes show how to vaccinate a chicken during a USAID-sponsored training session in Vietnam's Mekong Delta.

LATIN AMERICA

Agricultural Diversification—An Alternative to Illegal Migration

By Natasha Basley and Samantha Croasdaile

MONTE REDONDO, Honduras—The Amador family was down on its luck. With five sons and their growing families, Don Felipe and his wife could barely eke out a living on the land they farmed.

Crops were at the whim of the elements, often suffering from disease and too much rain. "Before, it was simply a disaster," one of the Amador brothers said, remembering how difficult life had been.

With the same arid land, however, the Amador's neighbor, Paulino Raudales, seemed to be doing just fine. In fact, more than fine—he was producing far beyond his needs and selling to grocery stores in the nearby capital city of Tegucigalpa. His secret: USAID's Rural



Tomato crop production in Honduras.

Economic Diversification Project, or RED.

RED aims to help vulnerable communities in Honduras,

said Eduardo Chirinos, the project's coordinator. According to the United Nations human development index, these are the

communities most prone to food insecurity, with low nutrition rates, and limited access to education and health services.

The RED project, however, does not simply give to the poor—it addresses food insecurity by increasing income. Instead of calling recipients of its assistance "beneficiaries," the project deals with farmers as "clients," teaching them the needed steps to maximize productivity of their land, diversify their crops, and access markets both near and far.

The Amador family had tried everything. RED was their last hope. Raudales recommended the family get in touch with the RED technical advisor assigned to the region, Marco Nunez.

The Amador family learned to use the right chemicals to lower

the risk of crop disease, and to plant their crops in a way that protected them from the elements. Before too long, with some training and technical assistance, the land began to yield the crops: tomatoes, cucumbers, and chiles. Production went up, and so did the family's sales to the local markets.

"We were planning to go *mojado* [emigrate illegally] to the United States," one of the brothers admitted, "but this program gave us a reason to stay."

Things at the Amadors' home look a lot different today. The dirt floor in the house has been replaced with a cement floor, and the broken down warehouse has been repaired.

"We now have trust in our land because we know it will produce," said Felipe Amador. ★

EUROPE & EURASIA

Forums Hold Kosovo Mayors Accountable for Promises

VITI/VITINA, Kosovo—In the days leading up to Kosovo's November 2007 elections, voters and mayoral candidates participated in public forums that were strong examples of democracy in action. (City names appear in Serbian and Albanian in this article.)

However, few mechanisms were in place to track fulfillment of campaign promises made during the mayors' tenures. A USAID-supported initiative thus provided citizens of Kosovo with an opportunity to hold elected officials accountable for their performance.

Several months after the local elections, a series of nationally televised forums called "Life in the Municipality" aired. The forums allowed citizens to check on progress toward the mayors' campaign promises, but also required prior research in measuring the one-year performance of mayors in their posts.

With USAID's support, the local organization producing the forums conducted thorough research in the municipalities in

order to measure the performance of the mayors being discussed.

Reacting to inquiries in anticipation of the televised discussion, mayors initiated a flurry of actions pertaining to their campaign promises, including a road repair project that began in Deqan/Decani; placement of waste baskets in the village of Bardhosh in Fushe Kosovë/Kosovo Polje; and new desks brought to a school in Novobërd/Novobrd.

In addition, citizens and

municipal personnel reported increased responsiveness from mayors and local administration.

The 2007 elections were Kosovo's first open list municipal elections, which allowed citizens to vote for individual candidates as opposed to only choosing a party. Kosovo's next local elections will be held on Nov. 15, the first since the country declared independence in February 2008.

This article was prepared by Worldlearning. ★



Citizens of Viti/Vitina Municipality listen as Mayor Nexhmedin Arifi updates them on progress toward campaign promises during a nationally televised forum.

MIDDLE EAST



Workers install a new road base as part of a \$5.2 million project to link villages in central West Bank.

New Road Connects Isolated West Bank Villages

NABLUS, West Bank—Residents in central West Bank were celebrating in the street when the 3-kilometer dirt road connecting the villages of Urif and Asira Al Qibliya, south of Nablus, was paved for the first time.

Young men were dancing and cheering, and children were riding their bicycles on the new asphalt road.

This road section is part of the \$5.2 million Bureen-Urif Road Project, linking the isolated villages of Bureen, Madama, Asira Al Qibliya, and Urif with the main regional highway.

Fawzi Shehadeh, mayor of Urif Village, said that 15,000 Palestinians stand to benefit.

The road project, completed in August 2009, is one of 17 projects under USAID's \$300 million Infrastructure Needs Program (INP) in the West Bank implemented by MWH Americas Inc. and International Relief and Development. With \$80 million in first-year funding, INP is constructing seven schools, two water systems, and over 60 kilometers of asphalt roads.

see **WEST BANK** on page 15 ▶

FOCUS ON UNITED WE SERVE



Photo by Paul Cohn

Fier, Albania's February 8 neighborhood park and playground was inaugurated in June. Dozens of volunteers from the U.S. Embassy painted faces, installed playground equipment, and brought American cakes, cookies, and pies. The USAID-supported project brought together local businesses, community organizations, and residents to benefit 350 families.



Photo by Louise Rodjic-EQUALS2

Weng Vasquez of USAID's office in the Philippines paints Tetuan Central Elementary School in Zamboanga City.

AGENCY VOLUNTEERS FOR 'UNITED WE SERVE'

By Ashtar Analeed Marcus

On Sept. 11—eight years after the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon—hundreds of USAID volunteers gave blood and donated books to members of the U.S. military.

The event marked the closing day of President Barack Obama's United We Serve volunteerism initiative, which started June 22 with federal government leaders setting the example.

"On this first National Day of Service and Remembrance, we can summon once more that ordinary goodness of America," Obama said, "to serve our communities, to strengthen our country, and to better our world."

At USAID, books from every literary genre were stacked high against a wall. USAID employees donated about 1,000 books plus DVDs, CDs, board games, puzzles, and electronic games and consoles such as PlayStation.

Employees came to the Legislative and Public Affairs Bureau where they fulfilled soldier wish lists with books and DVDs contributed by the work force over the previous two months. Others penned emotional letters of gratitude to the soldiers for inclusion in each outgoing box.

USAID Acting Administrator Alonzo Fulgham attended the Books For Soldiers drive.

As an independent organization, Books For Soldiers delivers books, magazines, DVDs, and other media materials to soldiers worldwide.

Fulgham also hosted the Armed Services Blood Program at the Agency's Washington headquarters where military personnel collected blood from employees for shipment to soldiers in need.

Agency field offices around the globe participated in activities including painting, children's games, and donation drives for needy communities.

Other USAID activities in Washington, led by Nancy Ruppel of the Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) Bureau, included:

- ▶ The Global Health Bureau hosted a food drive for Food and Friends.

- ▶ The Office of Human Resources sponsored a back-to-school supplies drive for needy elementary school students.

- ▶ The Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade Bureau sponsored a drive for suits and other professional clothing for Washingtonians looking for work.

- ▶ The Office of the Chief Operating Officer tutored and mentored people at the Hubbard Place Tenant Association.

- ▶ DCHA assembled HIV/AIDS prevention kits for distribution throughout Washington.

- ▶ The Europe and Eurasia Bureau sponsored the food drive for McKenna's Wagon-Martha's Table; and helped out with Street Soccer USA, playing and spending time with young athletes.

Others at USAID teamed up with charities during the three-month initiative:

- ▶ The Latin America and the Caribbean Bureau and the Office of Development Partners jointly sponsored three charitable organizations: Girls Inc., Arlington Street People's Assistance Network, and Jobs for Homeless People.

- ▶ The Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, the Management Bureau, and DCHA hosted D.C. Public School Beautification Day this year.
- ▶ The Management Bureau also sponsored an Our Daily Bread Food Program drive.

"On a day when others sought to sap our confidence, let us renew our common purpose," said Obama at a Pentagon Memorial wreath-laying ceremony. "Let us remember how we came together as one nation, as one people, as Americans, united not only in our grief, but in our resolve to stand with one another, to stand up for the country we all love." ★



Photo at left: Betty Chung, deputy assistant general counsel for legislation and policy (center left with dark glasses), and over 20 members of the McLean Bible Church reach the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro at 19,330 feet on July 1 to raise awareness for The Last Well, a faith-based nonprofit organization whose goal is to provide Liberia with clean water. Their climb, which raised more than \$35,000, followed a week of service activities, including sports camps for the children of Arusha, Tanzania (right, with Chung), working alongside MANNA Worldwide.



FOCUS ON UNITED WE SERVE



USAID's office in Albania and U.S. Embassy staff organized a school event in Gorican that included planting trees along the front sidewalk. They also donated computers from a recently closed USAID project and worked with a farmer's association to purchase and rebuild volleyball, basketball, and soccer areas.



In July, volunteers from the Europe and Eurasia Bureau helped out as teams of homeless youth and adults from various cities competed in Washington to represent the United States in the Homeless World Cup in Italy in September. USAID volunteers served food and water, manned information tables, cleaned up trash, and cheered teams on. Left to right: Caleb Drown, Abigail Lackman, Lori Rakoczy, Emily Suarez-Harris, Yireh Mercado, Luis Mercado, and Robin Phillips



Five boxes of school supplies worth \$1,000 were collected by the Human Resources Office and delivered to the Washington, D.C., public schools.



Acting Administrator Alonzo Fulgham, right, volunteered at Our Daily Bread Inc., which helps low-income residents in Fairfax, Va. The USAID Bureau for Management sponsored a food drive that collected over 800 pounds of food donations. Also pictured, left to right: Lynn Winston of the Bureau for Management, and Christina Garris and Mike Kledzik of Our Daily Bread Inc.



USAID's Office of Development Partners and the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean provided turkey sandwiches, apple sauce, fruit juice, and dessert for the Arlington Street People's Association Network in August. Pictured: Todd Kirkbride of ODP

See page 11 for an article on USAID volunteers at Martha's Table in Washington.

Photo by Patricia Adams, USAID

Photo by USAID

Photo by Jennifer List, USAID

WHERE IN THE WORLD...

JULY 19, 2009 – AUGUST 15, 2009

PROMOTED

Sandra Amin

Human Resources Specialist

Cassandra G. Bannister

Lead Security Specialist

Stephen Brown

Human Resources Specialist

Ghytana E. Butler

Supervisory Human Resources Specialist

Phyllis C. Daniels

Financial Management Specialist

Hanna Jung

Social Science Analyst

Sara Jane Keefe Heltner

General Business Specialist

Sara Anne Lemanski

Traffic Management Specialist

Anastasia Y. Liu

Economist

Hattie Mason

Human Resources Specialist

Roslyn Matthews

Program Analyst

Portia R. Persley

Supervisory Contract Specialist

Elena A. Prince

Administrative Operations Specialist

Lori L. Rakoczy

Program Analyst

Carlitha S. Ricks

Contract Specialist

Leona Sasinkova

Contract Specialist

William W. Schmitt

Social Science Analyst

Maurice L. Shines

JO (Private Enterprise)

Elwander S. Syrkes

Program Specialist

Wanda Taylor

Budget Analyst

Dorothy R. Toliver

Human Resources Specialist

Sylvia Denise Wimbley

Lead Administrative Officer

REASSIGNED

Bruce N. Abrams

Egypt/DG to Peru/OHR

Yohannes A. Araya

COMP/NE/OJT to East Africa/RFCM

Linda Q. Armstrong

COMP/NE/OJT to Philippines/OFM

David J. Barth

Egypt/DIR to EGAT/ED

Herbert R. Bauer

COMP/NE/OJT to Egypt/PSD

Ana I. Bodipo Memba

COMP/NE/OJT to Mozambique/GD

Caroline B. Brearley

Asia/SCAA to COMP/LT TRNG

Susan K. Brems

Angola to AA/GH

Samuel Carter

M/OMS to Iraq/MGT

Karen I. Cavanaugh

GH/HIDN/HS to COMP/LT TRNG

Christina Chappell

Nigeria to SA/HO

Robert W. Clark

Afghanistan/OFM to Jordan/FM

David J. Consigny

Egypt/FM to Tanzania/D

Jennifer L. Crow Yang

COMP/NE/OJT West Africa/RAAO

Adriana Davis

COMP/NE/OJT to Ghana

Regina Dennis

Ghana/PPD to Haiti/PHN

Alexander Dickie IV

Nicaragua/D to ME/IR

Katharine Joy Dow

COMP/NE/OJT to Kenya/PROG

Mark L. Driver

Egypt/DIR to Ghana

Sylva Etian

O/S LANG TRNG to COMP/FS/OS/DS

Karen B. Fall

Mali/CONT to Ghana

Qing L. Francis

COMP/NE/OJT to Bangladesh/OFM

Kay J. Freeman

COMP/LT TRNG to Mexico

Natalie J. Freeman

Africa/WA to COMP/FS

Gary F. Fuller

Asia/SCAA to Cambodia

Ramses Gauthier

COMP/FSLT to Honduras/CONT

Raymond Grant

COMP/NE/OJT to SM/PSCO

Marc A. Griego

M/MPBP/PERF to EGAT/PAICO/PAMS

Deborah L. Grieser

Uganda/D to COMP/LT TRNG

John P. Groarke

Egypt/DIR to Morocco/DIR

Luis E. Guzman

COMP/NE/OJT to Nicaragua/TAO

William C. Hansen

Albania to Caucasus

Mary M. Hobbs

Sudan/OSSP/HC to Kosovo/EGO

Nancy L. Hoffman

Dominican Republic/EXO to COMP/LT TRNG

Christian Hougen

Philippines/OED to COMP/FS

David E. Hull

COMP/FS to Armenia/EGO

Shelby P. Hunt

COMP/NE/OJT to India/EXO

Mark S. Hunter

CA/FM to Peru/CONT

Sonila Hysi

West Bank/Gaza/JOPA to Iraq/OAA

Hussain W. Imam

RSC/RFMO to COMP/FS

Michelle A. Jenning

Ethiopia/ANR to El Salvador/SOI

Melissa A. Jones

Ethiopia/SSS to Namibia

Sean M. Jones

Colombia to USAID Representative/Yemen

Cynthia Jo Judge

LAC/CAM to Afghanistan/OPPD

Gary Juste

SA/MDO to Afghanistan/OD

Yashwant Kainth

M/OMS to Philippines/EXO

Jeffrey Kaufman

COMP/NE/OJT to Afghanistan/OD

James R. Kirkland

COMP/FS/OS/DS to Nigeria

Melissa Knight

West Africa/ANRO to Senegal/D

Thomas J. Kress

Senegal/PROG to Pakistan/PDO

Ronald Jr. Kryk

DROC to Afghanistan/OD

Ky T. Lam

COMP/NE/OJT to India/PHN

Dwaine E. Lee

Macedonia to Kenya/PROG

Jeffrey A. Lehrer

El Salvador/SOI to CA/DO

Jeffrey R. Levine

Uganda/GD to EGAT/EG/EDFM

Dawn M. Liberi

COMP/DETAIL/SUP to COMP/FS/OS/DS

Sarah Ann Lynch

Afghanistan/OPPD to COMP/DETAIL/SUP

Leslie Marbury

Bolivia/EO SOT to SA/EGO

Hannah E. Marsh

ODP/OD to DCHA/VFP

Andrew Maybrook

CA/PS to Afghanistan/OPPD

Jed D. Meline

COMP/DETAIL/SUP to Nepal/D

Taraneh Milani Roohi

Caucasus/JOPA to Afghanistan/OSSD

Stephanie L. Minor

HR/OD to DCHA/PPM

Mark A. Mitchell

COMP/NE/OJT to Brazil

Diane B. Moore

Philippines/EXO to Afghanistan/OM

Verla C. L. Nathaniel

COMP/NE/OJT to Kenya/PROG

Charles Whitney Oliver

Afghanistan/PFNP to Indonesia/BHS

Alexandria L. Panehal

Ecuador/D to EGAT/I&E

Helen M. Pataki

West Africa/OMD to Jordan/D

Sangita Patel

Namibia to Armenia/SRO

Janet M. B. Paz Castillo

GH/OHA/SPER to Pakistan/OD

Charles S. Pope

COMP/NE/OJT to Russia/D

Kurt A. Pope

Bolivia/EXO to Peru/EXO

Cynthia Diane Pruett

Armenia/OD to O/S LANG TRNG

Calvin L. Revelle

SEC/BIDS/AT to SEC/BIDS

Dean Pietro Salpini

LAC/SPO to SA/RPPDO

Frederic G. Scott

Liberia to Asia/EAA

Reena Shukla

Brazil to Mozambique

Joshua J. Smith

COMP/NE/OJT to Egypt/PPS

Valerie A. Smith

Nigeria to Bangladesh/OFM

Martha Erin Soto

Cambodia to India/DIR

Donna R. Stauffer

FA/COO/PM/SIM&E to COMP/FS

Monica Stein Olson

Morocco/DIR to COMP/DETAIL/SUP

Loren O. Stoddard

India/GDO to Peru/D

Peter W. Sullivan

India/DIR to COMP/FS

Sarah Swift

Africa/WA to Africa/DP

Elizabeth B. Warfield

Egypt/HRH to India /DIR

Torina Yvette Way

Africa/WA to Africa/EA

Felicia Wilson

COMP/NE/OJT to Guatemala/OH&E

John M. Winfield

M/OMS to Uganda/D

Karl Wurster

COMP/NE/OJT to Morocco/EG

William D. Young II

COMP/NE/OJT to Sudan/OMD

Jeffrey Zahka

COMP/NE/OJT to Albania

Jessica H. Zaman

Bolivia/DEM SOT to Nicaragua/DI

RETIRED

Dennis Craig Anderson

Edward W. Birgells

James J. Dunlap

Raymond Lee Edler

Gary E. Hansen

Alan I. Reed

Martha W. Rees

MOVED ON

Laquita M. Ames

Michael D. Blackman

Richard P. Carbone

Vijitha M. Eyango

Rafaela F. Herrera

Brandon L. Iske

Rosalyn H. James

Timothy Lamping

Andrew M. Maxey

Mary Lynn McKeon

Kenneth R. McNamara

Hunter B. Mims

Stephen Norton

Carlos E. Pascual

Lauren Noelle Seely

Jason K. Singer

Aisha Talib

Food Security Begins at Home: on the Front Lines at Martha's Table

By Kerry Byrnes

For the past year and a half, dozens of USAID staff members have focused much of their working hours on developing a U.S. government strategy for a global food security initiative. Yet, after so much talk about global food security, it was a welcome break, on a recent Friday morning, with a wisp of fall in the air, for nine USAID employees to embark on the shortest TDY (temporary duty) of their lives—a 15-minute bus ride to the headquarters of Martha's Table in Northwest Washington, D.C.

This unofficial TDY proved a brief respite from the daily grind of emails, interagency meetings, and fiscal year-end funding obligations for the staff from the Agency's Office of Regional Sustainable Development in the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Martha's Table is a self-help operation geared to meeting the needs of the community's poorest—whether the need is feeding the hungry, providing day care for children so mothers can find a job, or helping low-income residents obtain a dress suit to help make the best first impression at a job interview.

While Martha's Table has a small core staff of full-time employees, the key to the operation's success is the network of



Photo by Christine Janet, USAID

Doug Ball, director of the Office of Regional Sustainable Development in the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, dices onions for soup in the Martha's Table kitchen.

hundreds of volunteers mobilized each day to carry out key functions, including donating food, cooking and packing meals, working in the day care center, tutoring older children, or selling donated used clothing in the store.

Martha's Table manager Dominick Musso provided us with an overview of the organization's history, mission, and services provided to the community, and, most importantly, detailed the immediate tasks that the USAID team would need to complete to ensure that hundreds of meals would be ready to deliver that evening to the community's poor.

After working shoulder to shoulder with community residents who had come in during our shift to help out, dozens of bins of food were filled. Team

members agreed that it felt great to have made a direct, tangible contribution to helping D.C.'s hungry.

Shortly after 1:00 p.m., Dominick told the team to finish their tasks, as a new shift of volunteers would be coming in later to distribute the food to the community.

Unlike many places overseas we focus on at USAID, our D.C. community does not suffer from a shortage of food, but it still suffers from deep-seated poverty and inequities. Martha's Table helps to break this cycle and provides an excellent opportunity to volunteer in the areas described above.

For more information, contact Dominick Musso at 202-328-6608, or see the Martha's Table Web site at: www.marthastable.org. ★



Photo by Bay Ismoyo, AFP

Indonesians search the rubble of a collapsed shop for victims of a 7.6-magnitude earthquake in Padang, West Sumatra, Oct. 1. USAID provided \$300,000 in immediate aid following the Sept. 30 quake and set aside an additional \$3 million pending an assessment of the island's needs. The Agency also deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team to Sumatra to lead the U.S. government disaster response effort.

IN MEMORIAM

William E. Garvey Jr., 87, died June 28 in La Plata, Md. Garvey was a Foreign Service Officer who joined USAID in the early 1970s. As an agricultural economist, he served in Niger, Zaire (now the Democratic Republic of the Congo), and Haiti. Before his retirement in 1978, he received a superior honor award from the State Department for his accomplishments overseas. After retiring from the Agency, Garvey worked for the Academy for Educational Development and the Cooperative League of the USA, now known as the National Cooperative Business Association. Garvey also served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Morocco and became the director of the Peace Corps office there from 1966 to 1970.

Roland W. Hanson, 82, died Aug. 12, in West Springfield, Mass. He served in the Foreign Service for over 40 years, 26 of which were with USAID, and served as auditor general. His duties with the Agency took him to Taiwan, India, Vietnam, Greece, Ethiopia, Thailand, and Panama.

Jane Kairo, 55, died Aug. 10 in Nairobi, Kenya. For more than 20 years, Kairo worked as a legal assistant with USAID's Nairobi regional legal team. She was in the country during the 1998 embassy bombings there and in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Kairo, who worked for 18 lawyers during her career at the regional office, received several USAID awards, including the Agency's 2007 ethics award. ★

INSIGHTS from page 3

in a multi-year effort to rebuild the Agency's workforce with the Development Leadership Initiative. The primary goal of our rebuilding efforts is to restore our technical and intellectual expertise as an agency and to enhance our ability to effectively deliver U.S. foreign assistance.

Q: Since you served as mission director in 2005-2006 in Afghanistan, what has changed and what have we accomplished?

FULGHAM: The reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan are

incredible. The city of Kabul is vibrant and full of traffic, despite its security problems. Children are enrolled in school, clinics are helping those needing medical services, businesses are growing as new office buildings are constructed, and markets are alive with shoppers, traders, and entrepreneurs seeking opportunities.

Increased security is needed in the south and the east in order for additional reconstruction to occur. We need to show the Afghan people that the United States and NATO are robust partners and are dedicated to the mission.

Q: USAID is a civilian agency working in a war zone. How can the Agency operate? Can officers get out of the fortified compounds?

FULGHAM: In Kabul, people are getting out more and more to meet their counterparts and are engaging at the highest levels. They are careful about security as it remains a challenge. We are working diligently with our military and State colleagues to alleviate potential bottlenecks for future civilian deployments to the capital and the provinces. ★

Sighted at USAID



Photo by Patricia Adams, USAID

For the first time, the Federal Executive Secretariat Council held its meeting at USAID headquarters Sept. 1. Chair Mary Jeffers (l) of the Federal Aviation Administration and Vice Chair Ann Brewer of the National Institutes of Health joined 30 other Council members from Cabinet and other federal offices and agencies. USAID's Executive Secretariat staff presented an overview of USAID and the Agency Correspondence Tracking System, which involves all correspondence—including letters, memoranda, basic check lists, and talking points—from and to the administrator, deputy administrator, and counselor, both within and outside the Agency.

Agency Gears Up for Unpredictable Flu Season

Agency officials are gearing up for what may be a harsh flu season this year because of the H1N1 virus.

The virus appeared in March and April in Mexico and the United States, then spread around the globe, causing mild flu for more than a quarter million people and killing nearly 3,000.

Health and safety officials say to get ready for another round of H1N1 during the traditional flu season this fall and winter, but can't yet predict just how much of an impact the highly mutable virus will have on workers here in Washington and in offices worldwide.

"We don't know," said Dennis Carroll, who is USAID's special advisor on pandemic influenza. "The current virus as we're seeing it is a relatively mild virus."

However, he added: "It has a body of features both genetic and epidemiological that indicate it is extremely unusual. It is from a class of viruses that is completely unpredictable."

Health officials fear the virus will follow the path of the infamous 1918 flu, which was mild its first year and went on to kill 50 million worldwide during a second pass the next year.

The words to live by for the fall flu season, which traditionally begins around October and November, are "be prepared."

"The best thing to do is to prepare for the worst case scenario," said Peter Garcia, who is the Agency's emergency manager.

USAID has been planning for a pandemic since 2006 when the threat was avian flu. More recently, it has mobilized the Pandemic Influenza Task Force, which includes about 10 representatives from various bureaus and offices at the Agency.

In the event of an emergency, task force members will be alerted by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and then take appropriate measures, depending on the severity of the outbreak. Staff in overseas offices will follow the lead of the chief of mission at the State Department. "The most important thing we can do is provide information," said Garcia.

In the meantime, Agency officials are encouraging prevention. Wash hands frequently and make use of the hand sanitizer stations that have been installed throughout the Agency's offices and elevator lobbies. Cough or sneeze into your elbow to keep germs from spreading. Avoid close contact with people who appear to have the flu. And, stay home if you come down with the flu until you are no longer contagious.

USAID is providing individual hand sanitizer and boxes of tissue for Washington-based workers, said Peter Bedard, USAID's manager for safety and occupational health. And safety officials have also encouraged Agency leadership to draw up contingency plans, such as teleworking, in case large numbers of workers become sick.

"We're not just focusing on the workplace," said Bedard, who added that parents with school-age children should also prepare for school closings and alternate childcare plans. He also suggested logging on to neighborhood Web sites to keep abreast of the community buzz on H1N1 outbreaks.

H1N1, which also is referred to as swine flu, causes typical flu symptoms like fever, cough, sore throat, runny nose, aches, chills, and fatigue. The CDC says a significant number of people said they also suffered through diarrhea and vomiting.

FLU PREVENTION



★ WASH HANDS FREQUENTLY.

★ COUGH OR SNEEZE INTO ELBOW.

★ AVOID CONTACT WITH THOSE WHO HAVE FLU.

★ STAY HOME IF SICK.

Unlike the typical flu, however, most of H1N1's victims have been older children and young adults—nearly all in good health. Pregnancy also appears to put women at increased risk to become seriously ill with the virus. Typically, influenza is most dangerous to the very old and the very young.

Also atypical is that this virus makes its home deep in the lungs, said Carroll, which can mean severe bronchial infection. "It has the potential to nest and replicate," he said.

H1N1 also mutates rapidly, Carroll added, making it difficult for scientists to stay a step ahead of creating a vaccine to treat flu sufferers.

Some predictions suggest half the U.S. population will get H1N1 this flu season. A vaccine is expected to be ready by October, health officials say, and will be distributed to pregnant women, emergency medical workers, and other priority groups first. ★

USAID Conference Gets Words of Encouragement from Congress

ARLINGTON, Virginia— "I'm a passionate advocate for [US]AID," said Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.). "We know the investment we make in a development assistance program can have huge rewards."

The congressman was speaking at USAID's Worldwide Education and Training Workshop in Crystal City Aug. 17-21. The event allowed attendees from around the world to discuss topics related to development and international basic education and training.

About 375 participants included Agency education officers and program staff from 36 countries as well as representatives from implementing partners and donor agencies.

Connolly said that he is working with Congress to reform foreign assistance and to make USAID more competitive, cutting edge, and powerful.

"Don't give up, help is on the way. Your mission is important," he said. "You have some advocates and partners in the U.S. Congress."

When asked by a USAID employee about the possibility of consolidating USAID and the State Department, Connolly said that he wants to keep them separate.

"My experience tells me they should be different," he said. "State has a different mission."

Connolly said that foreign assistance reform is taking time because Congress wants to ensure that USAID's flexibility is preserved.

USAID Counselor Jim Michel applauded the group for their progress in improving adult literacy, promoting gender equality, and increasing access to primary education.

"Education is an essential component of any development plan," said Michel, who also served with the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Ann Vaughn, a legislative assistant to Rep. Nita Lowey (D-N.Y.), explained the process of writing bills to fund international development and how development workers can cooperate with Congress. She stressed that there is strong political support in Congress for education development programs abroad.

"You have a lot of good friends on the Hill, and talking to us and not being afraid to answer our questions is important," she said.

The conference, hosted by the Agency's Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade, presented sessions on basic and higher education, youth and workforce development, and the congressional budget process.—L.A. ★

Looking for H1N1 information online?

Pandemic flu
www.flu.gov

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
www.hhs.gov

World Health Organization
www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en

Forum Explores Civil-Military Relations

Military and civil society experts met to discuss the importance of cooperation at a recent Administrator's Forum titled "Smart-Power and Development: Civilian-Military Cooperation."

"Successful global leadership requires all three 'Ds': defense, development, and diplomacy," then-USAID Counselor Lisa Chiles said at the July event held in the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington. "USAID has made significant strides in civil-military cooperation over the years."

The event featured Reuben Brigety, director of the Sustainable Security Program at the Center for American Progress; Linda Poteat, director for disaster response at InterAction; and Col. Greg Hermsmeyer from the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Brigety emphasized the need to send development experts with military brigades in overseas missions. He said that one military strategist in Iraq told him: "I really wish I had a Peace Corps on steroids."

"He needed most someone who understood the humanitarian impact of the

battle," Brigety said.

Brigety called for an overarching plan to define and explain foreign assistance goals, and said that USAID needs more flexibility and money.

"Development will never be as large as the military, but we can increase USAID's presence and have more finances and flexibility. This requires congressional action," Brigety said. "Until people believe that money spent on development is as important as money spent on finding

see **FORUM** on page 14 ▶

USAID Increases Work with Pakistani NGOs

As the USAID mission in Pakistan triples its budget, it is looking to partner with more Pakistani organizations. On Aug. 13, the Agency hosted a first-ever capacity building workshop for Pakistani American NGOs at USAID headquarters in Washington.

About two dozen participants learned about new opportunities to partner with USAID and how to apply for grants and contracts.

"We're looking for examples from the Pakistan diaspora community who want to cost-share with us and to share their brains and talent," said Jim Bever, director of USAID's Afghanistan/Pakistan Task Force. "President [Barack] Obama wants us to fund more Pakistani entities, going beyond those around the beltway."

Since reopening in Pakistan in 2002, USAID has provided more than \$3.4 billion to support

economic growth, education, health, governance, earthquake reconstruction, and humanitarian assistance to Pakistan. Recently, in response to increased interest in the country, the Agency increased its assistance to Pakistan from \$407 million during the 2008 fiscal year to \$1.1 billion for fiscal year 2009.

USAID is looking to expand its programs on health, education, agriculture, rule of law and, especially, job creation.

"We are still looking for ideas and we don't have all the good ideas. You do," Bever told the group.

Workshop participants briefed USAID employees about their development efforts in Pakistan and their ideas for new projects.

They also expressed their frustrations with applying for USAID grants and contracts, and with the English-only application

process. USAID representatives from the Office of Acquisition and Assistance, the Office of Development Partners, and the Diaspora Network Alliance acknowledged their concerns and offered solutions.

"If you try hard to work with us, we will try hard to work with you," Bever said.

Shamila Chaudhary, a senior advisor to Richard Holbrooke, the State Department's special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, also urged the group to communicate more with USAID and the State Department about their projects and funding needs.

Christopher Keppler, the task force's lead public information and outreach officer, said that he hopes to convene the group three times a year.

"This is the beginning of a dialogue," Keppler said.—L.A. ★

Nepalese Hospital Gets a New Wing for Eye Care and Research

By Kerrin Goodspeed

The people of Nepal can now seek improved eye care in the Tilganga Eye Center's new wing. Completed in April, the six-story, 130,000-square-foot building in Kathmandu houses the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology.

The expansion allows the hospital to treat 1,500 patients at a time and increases the center's research and training capacity.

USAID provided \$3.2 million to expand the center and purchase hospital furnishings and equipment through its American Schools and Hospitals Abroad competitive grants program.

The eye center will play an important role in the research, diagnosis, and treatment of eye diseases, as well as the training of eye care professionals. It has 10 community centers throughout the country to provide primary eye care to Nepalis in

remote districts. Tilganga has made cataract surgery affordable and accessible to the average Nepali by producing high-quality, low-cost intraocular lenses.

In partnership with the center, the Himalayan Cataract Project sends U.S. professionals to train Tilganga's staff, provides equipment for complicated surgeries, and supports the development of sub-specialty eye care.

Days before the center's new wing opened, the co-founder of the Himalayan Cataract Project, Dr. Geoffrey Tabin, was recognized by the Dalai Lama as an "Unsung Hero of Compassion" for his efforts to bring high-quality, affordable eye care to the developing world.

Other donor nations and individuals—including the Fred Hollows Foundation, and Australian Aid—also contributed to the expansion. ★



The Tilganga Eye Center in Kathmandu

Photo by Job Heintz

USAID SCHOLARSHIPS HELP STUDENTS BECOME LEADERS

By Jan Cartwright

Twenty-three scholars from Asia and the Middle East are one step closer to their dreams thanks to a USAID program called Training Future Leaders (TFL).

The program is designed to foster the next generation of leaders in USAID priority countries in Asia and the Middle East. The students come from Bangladesh, Cambodia, East Timor, India, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Nepal, the Philippines, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Yemen.

TFL provides students currently in development-related

fields with full master's degree scholarships, mentoring, and professional development such as internships. The program offers academic and practical learning, including life and work in the United States.

The program began last fall, and the first graduate of the program, Bhupinder Aulakh, received her diploma in June.

"It was a great experience for me, both in terms of learning and the social skills and network that you build up," said Aulakh, who is from India and works in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand.

She received a master's degree in public health from Harvard University.

Following graduation, Aulakh returned to Uttarakhand to serve in the state government. She helps manage public health programs and formulate policy affecting maternal and child health in the remote and mountainous Himalayan state.

"In any capacity I can, my goal is to see improvement in maternal mortality rates," said Aulakh. "USAID gave me this opportunity

to come to the U.S. and hone my skills—both knowledge and leadership—and I wish to use these skills in my work," she said.

Another student nearing graduation is Amit Shrestha, a business graduate student from Nepal. Shrestha is preparing to graduate this fall with a master's in business administration from Colorado State University.

"I always wanted to get an MBA degree from a U.S. university, and I happened to come across the TFL program, which I thought would be perfect for me, so I applied," said Shrestha.

As part of his program, students are required to create a sustainable enterprise. Working with a team from around the globe, Shrestha has helped set up a coffee and tea business for poor communities, especially women, in Ethiopia. Over the summer, he traveled to Ethiopia for five weeks to work on the project.

One day, he hopes to start his own business, using the lessons he learned through his MBA program, and the leadership skills he gained through TFL.



Youness Tihm

Youness Tihm, a student from Morocco, is enrolled in a master's program in sustainable international development at Brandeis University. As part of his degree program, students are required to complete a professional internship, and Tihm landed a one-year practicum at the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF) in New York City.

At UNDEF, Tihm has been given projects of increasing responsibility, and UNDEF has relied extensively upon Tihm's Arabic language skills.

"The people I work with have been [nothing] but great,

helpful, and welcoming to me. On the first day, my field supervisor presented everyone to me, and the executive head, Roland Rich, was very cheerful and welcoming as well," said Tihm.

Tihm is now putting together a June 2010 conference at Mohammed V University in Morocco on sustainable development.

"I believe anyone can be a leader, but opportunities are needed to help bring out the potential and hone the skills," said Tihm. "The USAID program helped me further develop these skills." ★

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

BORLAUG from page 1

"USAID mourns the passing of one of the giants of international development," USAID Acting Administrator Alonzo Fulgham said in a statement.

It was former USAID Administrator William Gaud who, in 1968, termed Borlaug's breakthrough work the "Green Revolution."

"USAID is proud to have been one of the first foreign assistance agencies that provided financial support...to advance the important work of Dr. Borlaug and his colleagues," Fulgham said.

"Few individuals have played such an important role for the benefit of so many millions of people in the developing world," he added. "Norman Borlaug was truly a citizen of the world, and the world has been his beneficiary."

Despite his numerous achievements, Borlaug did not live to see the goal he worked towards in the last two decades of his life—a Green Revolution for Africa based on higher yielding potato and other tuber crops that would be resistant to diseases. He also spoke of

"Norman Borlaug was truly a citizen of the world, and the world has been his beneficiary."

the need to build roads into the rural areas of Africa so that fertilizer could be delivered cheaply. He noted that the amount of fertilizer used on crops was lowest in Africa and so were the yields per acre.

In the early 1960s, however, Borlaug's new wheat increased Mexico's yields by 600 percent.

A short time later, in the mid-1960s, famine stalked the Indian subcontinent and Borlaug tried to persuade India to try his wheat. But Indian agriculture officials said India's traditional farming methods were best suited for the country, Borlaug said during an interview in the early 1990s.

So he went to Pakistan and persuaded the military ruler Ayub Khan to order a shipload of seed for widespread planting.



MEASURING WHEAT: At the wheat and corn research institute near Mexico City where Norman Borlaug created high-yielding miracle wheat in the 1960s, workers still cultivate new varieties of wheat to improve hardiness, yield, drought resistance, and other traits that could mean more food for millions around the world.

Only then did Indian agriculture officials decide to try the new seed, but they refused to build the necessary fertilizer factories.

"I walked into the minister's office and told him that if he did not build those factories I would summon the Delhi press corps and tell them he was killing the Green Revolution," Borlaug recalled with a face reflecting glee as well as steely determination to stand up to the senior official.

"Next day the newspapers were slipped under my hotel door and they all said that the minister decided to build those fertilizer factories.

"You have to hold their feet to the fire," he said.

Borlaug constantly urged politicians to increase foreign assistance to poor countries, especially aid that helped poor farmers increase production. At the Mexico agriculture center, Borlaug insisted on training agriculture researchers from developing countries so that a legacy of research would continue.

In 2004, Borlaug delivered the first George C. Marshall Lecture established by USAID to honor development pioneers. At that time he noted that 56 percent of countries with the highest levels of hunger were experiencing civil conflict.

A spokeswoman for Texas A&M University, where Borlaug had served on the faculty since 1984, said he died from cancer. ★

HIV from page 1

inoculated with the vaccine and half with a placebo.

Seventy-four people in the placebo group became infected during the study compared with only 51 of those who received the vaccine. The surgeon general of the U.S. Army sponsored the study and released the final results in late September.

USAID has funded the non-profit IAVI since 2001. The Agency's HIV/AIDS program began in 1986 and has spent more than \$7 billion to fight the disease which affects more than 33 million people worldwide. ★

FORUM from page 12

weapons of mass destruction, we will not move forward."

Hermesmeyer praised the recent plan for the Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review and said that the next logical step would be articulating the national strategy for global development.

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES GET FINANCING FOR CLEAN ENERGY

By Collin Green and Anay Shah

Increasing energy is essential to developing countries. It moves water and communications. It brings schools into the 21st century and allows merchants to compete in broader markets through information technology. It lights, heats, and refrigerates health clinics around the world.

But how energy is produced and used can potentially harm the environment and contribute to global climate change.

As developing countries grow, they are faced with ever-increasing demands for adequate energy services. However, many countries have trouble attracting private financing and face a range of other barriers to using clean energy options as a way to meet these needs in a climate friendly way.

The Private Financing Advisory Network (PFAN) connects small- and mid-size clean energy developers with international financiers and financial consultants. As a multilateral initiative, PFAN helps developers learn to speak the same language as their potential financiers.

In 2009, USAID joined PFAN to expand the initiative from a pilot to a global network and to help the Agency's missions interested in clean energy. When necessary, PFAN also draws on USAID's financing mechanism, the Development Credit Authority, to unleash new investment in clean energy activities.

During PFAN's pilot phase in 2006, 10 projects were selected to receive support, including a small hydroelectric power station in Mexico and a biodiesel refinery in Brazil. The two projects raised a total of \$35 million in private sector investments. In South Africa, PFAN also supported a project that converts biomass materials to clean fuel pellets for furnaces.

PFAN financial advisory services leveraged South African ZAR 10,000,000 (about \$1 million) of investment from Sephaku Holdings Ltd. Sephaku is a diversified Black Economic Empowerment Company active in the mining, commodities, and energy sectors in Southern Africa.

One upcoming project: rehabilitation and expansion of a 9.3 megawatt geothermal facility in Georgia that will provide heating and hot water. In addition, over a dozen new projects are currently undergoing initial review and analysis, including a small hydro facility in China, biofuel facilities in Mozambique and Zambia, and waste-to-energy projects in Sri Lanka and South Africa.

In March, PFAN co-hosted the Asia Forum for Clean Energy Financing in Singapore, drawing more than 120 industry experts and investors from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations region. Projects involving biogas, biocompost, clean diesel, and desalination are now receiving funding and consultant services.

In June, PFAN sponsored Clean Energy Investor Forums in Indonesia and the Philippines which each attracted more than 100 industry experts and investors. Entrepreneurs presented renewable energy business projects in biomass, biogas, wind energy, waste-to-energy, landfill methane capture, and small hydropower.

PFAN is currently supported by the International Energy Agency's Climate Technology Initiative, the International Center for Environmental Technology Transfer in Japan, and various private sector companies including the LaGuardia Foundation, FE Clean Energy, E+Co, ReEx Capital Asia, and Pan Pet Ltd. ★

"From the perspective of civil society, the lack of coherence of U.S. government at the field level is apparent," Potat added. "I think it would be fair to ask that Department of Defense, USAID, and State are held to the same accountability and flexibility."

The July Administrator's Forum was the third in a series of Agency-sponsored discussions about issues related to USAID's mission and international development. It was co-hosted with the Agency's Knowledge Services Center.—L.A. ★

TANZANIA from page 4

improving maternal health care and strengthening family planning methods and marketing for contraceptives.

USAID is working closely with the Tanzanian government and civil society to ensure women stay healthy, are educated about family planning, and have access to their preferred methods of contraception.

"In the last decade, it's been dismal in terms of contraceptive prevalence, but with increased resources, USAID will be able to be a key player in family planning and maternal health," Cunnane said. "It's a gender issue, and there has not been enough focus on maternal health in the country. We've got a long way to go."

Although Tanzania has remarkable economic growth, it's often not felt in rural areas and one-third of the population is still below the poverty line. To combat this, USAID is improving agribusiness in rural areas, which helps small farmers generate income.

In December, the first air freight solely dedicated to horticulture exports took off from the northern city of Arusha to Europe. Previously, flowers and vegetables were flown out of Kenya, which was expensive and unstable. USAID helped farmers consolidate their crops for the air

freight and set up private companies to serve the growing horticulture export industry, which involves 10,000 farmers.

"With flights full of fresh fruit and flowers now flying twice weekly from Arusha, there's huge potential for this fast growing agricultural industry in Tanzania," Cunnane said.

With the Agency's Tanzania budget increased from \$215 million to \$260 million in 2009, Cunnane said he expects the next year to bring an expansion of the health and agriculture programs, along with efforts to improve food security and address the consequences of the economic crisis.

"One of the things I love about Africa is that, despite the tragedy of poverty and lost opportunity, you see a lot of this tremendous vibrancy and there's a special joy," Cunnane said. "Once you've worked in Africa, it's hard to work anywhere else."

Cunnane said that U.S.-Tanzanian relations were strengthened by former President George W. Bush's visit to Tanzania, a Millennium Challenge Corporation compact, and Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete becoming the first African head of state to visit President Barack Obama in the White House. ★

WEST BANK from page 7

Gene Lin, USAID's senior infrastructure engineer, said: "USAID has provided Palestinians with over \$2.2 billion of assistance since 1994, of which approximately 30 percent has been used for infrastructure. The INP continues infrastructure assistance to the Palestinian people to improve their quality of life and support economic growth."

He added that "the first year of the INP has created over 140,000 person-days of employment for Palestinians as the U.S. firms are subcontracting all design and construction work to local companies."

Residents of Madama and Bureen also celebrated when their section of the 9-kilometer project was completed, connecting their villages with the regional highway. This portion of road was last rehabilitated 35 years ago, according to Bureen village elders.

The new road allows farmers to transport produce and livestock to markets in neighboring villages and sell homemade products such as jam, dried fruits, hummus, and olives.

Companies will be able to make faster pickups and deliveries, spurring economic activity and creating new jobs. The roads will also ease visits to family and friends, as well as improve access for ambulances and other emergency services.

The area will also benefit from another endeavor under the INP, the Bureen Water System Project, which will supply the village with piped water for the first time.

Before the project, residents had to hand carry water from a nearby spring, collect rainwater, or buy water from tanker trucks at great expense. The \$6.1 million project was completed in mid-September. ★

VIETNAM from page 6

than 350 people in Can Tho and Hung Yen provinces. Using unscripted scenarios, the communities identified households with suspected outbreaks, reported their findings, and coordinated appropriate responses.

"The simulation meets the expectations from province, AI steering committee, the project and international fellows," Pham Ngoc Dinh, a leading expert from the National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology, told Can Tho state television. "You enhance the community's capability to prevent the influenza epidemic in both commune and hamlet level."

To further help with early detection of pandemic

influenza, in August, USAID supported Vietnam's first hands-on training of health experts to prevent and control future outbreaks of diseases. Vietnam's Ministry of Health launched this two-year field training program with the World Health Organization and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The trained specialists, based in regional disease surveillance institutes, will gain skills in disease surveillance, response, management, and public communication.

Other USAID-funded activities include cross border pandemic exercises with China and Laos, support to develop or improve provincial pandemic preparedness plans, training of

animal health workers, public communication campaigns, and journalist training in H1N1 prevention and control measures.

The newest activity just getting underway is a nationwide assessment and plan for civil society's role in a pandemic. ★

JOBS from page 5

Jordan, and Nairobi, Kenya, co-sponsored by USAID and the World Bank and organized by IYF. The next conference in the series will be held in Bogota, Colombia, later this year.

For more information, contact Margaret Harritt of the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade at mharritt@usaid.gov. ★

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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Photo by Tom Casadevall, VDAP

Local children watch as a Volcano Disaster Assistance Program volcanologist and scientists from the Geological Survey of Tanzania discuss Ol Doinyo Lengai volcano.



Photo by John Fallister, VDAP

The Saudi Geological Survey monitors volcanic vents (cinder cones) like these at Harra Lunayyir volcano, Saudi Arabia.



Photo by Gari Mayberry, USAID

Scientists from the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program and the Geological Survey of Tanzania assess the ashfall from a recent eruption of Ol Doinyo Lengai volcano, Tanzania.

Volcano Eruption Response Helps Reduce Disaster Risk

By Meredith Metzler

Every year an average of 50 volcanoes erupt worldwide, putting lives, economic productivity, and homes in danger. USAID is responding to that risk with the world's only volcano crisis response team.

In the wake of the 1985 eruption of the Nevado del Ruiz volcano in Colombia that killed over 23,000 people, USAID established the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP) in partnership with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

VDAP scientific teams travel to volcanic areas throughout the world, using mobile volcano-monitoring equipment to assess hazards and generate eruption forecasts that allow local authorities to evacuate high-risk areas before a disaster occurs.

In June 2009, the Saudi Geological Survey (SGS) asked VDAP to help monitor the Harra Lunayyir volcanic area in northwestern Saudi Arabia. Since early 2007, the region has experienced increasing seismic activity, including swarms of micro-earthquakes, prompting fears of a possible major eruption and the evacuation of approximately 40,000 people.

A two-person VDAP team provided satellite radar data, and helped with eruption forecasting and seismic risk assessment. The scientists concluded that major eruptions or earthquakes are unlikely to happen soon, but that the risks could increase suddenly,

requiring swift evacuations.

The team also helped establish a permanent monitoring and warning system that will allow the SGS to assess the volcano in real time, 24 hours a day. In the event of seismic unrest or an eruption, the SGS will immediately issue warnings to emergency managers and the public.

Every volcano is different, so VDAP teams have to adapt their evaluations to suit the situation.

In Tanzania, Ol Doinyo Lengai volcano reawakened after 40 years of low-level activity, erupting explosively several times between September 2007 and April 2008. The explosions and accompanying ash forced evacuations and contaminated nearby water supplies and grasslands that nomadic herders depend on to feed their cattle.

Two VDAP scientists and Gari Mayberry, the geoscience advisor for USAID and USGS, traveled to Ol Doinyo Lengai at the request of the Tanzanian government in January to evaluate the risks and make recommendations. The project was particularly challenging as the volcano lacked monitoring equipment.

"We usually do not deal with volcanoes that have no monitoring equipment, so this forced us to look at the situation in a new way," said Mayberry. "We determined that disaster risk reduction education may be the most

feasible way to reduce the hazard around Ol Doinyo Lengai in the short term."

The VDAP team recommended teaching local villagers techniques to protect themselves and their animals from an eruption, and creating an emergency evacuation plan.

"As growing human populations push ever closer to volcanic zones, VDAP's work to protect lives and livelihoods will become more important," said Mayberry. "The field teams' assessments and capacity-building work with local counterparts will continue to help prevent future eruptions from becoming disasters."

Since 1986, USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance has provided \$16.7 million to VDAP. ★



Photo by John Fallister, VDAP

A Volcano Disaster Assistance Program seismologist consults with the Saudi geological survey director of the Earthquake and Volcanoes Center at a ground fissure resulting from the May 19 earthquake in Harra Lunayyir.