



FRONTLINES

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Millions cast votes in Sudan's landmark elections. See page 3.



A member of the Sudanese National Elections Commission polling staff works in Yambio, Western Equatoria state.

Photo by Louis Mazel, Department of State

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Mali focuses on agriculture to strengthen its economy. SEE PAGE 6

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AID REACHES KYRGYZSTAN

By Ben Barber

In the wake of violence that broke out last month in Kyrgyzstan, leaving at least 275 dead and displacing an estimated 375,000 people from their homes—mostly minority Uzbek citizens—USAID has committed \$25 million in medical supplies, shelter materials, water, sanitation, and other emergency relief supplies and assistance.

As of June 28, USAID staff in Bishkek reported that the situation in southern Kyrgyzstan continued to shift from emergency and humanitarian needs to recovery, reconciliation, and reconstruction needs.

U.N. refugee spokesman Adrian Edwards said "the crisis is not over" in a June 29 report

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Doctors tend to sick and wounded ethnic Uzbeks at the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border in Suratash June 14. Uzbekistan closed its frontiers to tens of thousands of refugees fleeing clashes between rival groups in Kyrgyzstan.

Photo by Viktor Drachev, AFP

Vaccines Halt Polio Outbreak in Tajikistan

By Virginija Morgan

After an outbreak of more than 413 cases of polio in Tajikistan, 1,000 teams of doctors and nurses working under a USAID grant and the Tajikistan Ministry of Health have stopped the spread of the disease nearly three months after the first cases were registered.

Largely wiped out around the world since the discovery of the polio vaccine in the 1950s, the virus remains in a few remote regions of the world. International health officials, donors such as USAID, and local governments move swiftly once outbreaks are identified—including in Tajikistan.

By June 21, new infections had stopped.

In April, the World Health Organization (WHO) confirmed seven children in Tajikistan had contracted polio. Over the next three months, 413 cases were confirmed, signaling the largest polio outbreak in the world since 2004

and outstripping traditional polio hotspots like India and Nigeria.

It was the first time such an outbreak had occurred in the Central Asian region since 2002. And, by mid-July, WHO reported nearly 700 cases of acute flaccid paralysis, a type of paralysis that is often caused by polio, in Tajikistan. Emerging cases of the paralysis usually signal the beginning of a polio outbreak.

Tajikistan was certified as polio free in 2002 a result of a vigorous effort over several years by many donors, including USAID. Since then, country health officials conducted annual immunizations to ensure that the country remained polio free.

"Certainly, there were children who missed the opportunity to be vaccinated due to migration from Tajikistan and inside of the country," said Tajik Deputy Health

see **POLIO** on page 5 ▶

Afghan Aid Chief Steps Down

After 14 months heading the largest USAID office in Agency history—in Afghanistan—managing more than \$2 billion a year in programs during a war, Bill Frej is stepping down from a long career in foreign assistance.

"We have completely transformed the aid program and made agriculture the number one priority," said Frej in an interview in Washington.

Since he came to Kabul in March 2009 to head about 150 U.S. employees at the Agency compound opposite the U.S. Embassy—and dozens more at outposts across the mountainous Asian nation of 29 million—Frej has led USAID staff and partners to engage local leaders to set priorities for development programs.

see **AID** on page 12 ▶



An Afghan vendor arranges mangoes on a mobile stand in Kabul June 16. Fruit production levels have increased in Afghanistan in recent years but problems with packaging and distribution are stifling the country's ability to reach markets beyond its borders. For more on global difficulties with agricultural market expansion, see page 2.

Photo by Shah Mital, AFP

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Interview with Shenggen Fan, Global Food Policy Leader

Shenggen Fan, the director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute, discussed world hunger recently with FrontLines editor Ben Barber. In 2009, IFPRI received \$10 million out of its \$63 million budget from USAID, which was its largest source of funding.

Q: Despite advances in hybrid seeds, chemical fertilizer, and science, hunger continues to afflict a new total of 1 billion people. Why is it we have all these achievements and still we're unable to keep up?

FAN: First, technologies are necessary but they are not a sufficient condition for improvement.

Second, these modern technologies remain beyond the reach of many smallholders. In Africa, less than one-third of farmers use modern seeds compared to over 80 percent in Asia.

Third, because modern inputs can be expensive and can require higher output to offset the greater cost, they can entail increased risk if there's a drought or a flood, for example.

Fourth, African agricultural extension systems have not been able to develop seeds that are tradeable in Africa.

Even if you increase production with modern technology and inputs, you still have to provide adequate access to the energy and micronutrients in the food. In India, despite high economic and agricultural growth, many people remain hungry. There's a disconnect between agricultural growth and a reduction in hunger and poverty.

Q: Has the dispute over genetically modified food gone away or does it still block many farmers from getting higher yields?

FAN: Again, technologies alone cannot solve the complex problems of hunger and poverty. Some, including biotechnology, do have great potential to benefit poor populations in developing countries. Because this possibility exists, I believe it would be irresponsible not to assess the potential of genetically modified crops such as nutrient-enriched, drought-tolerant, and disease-resistant

varieties. Evidence on the potential benefits and risks is needed by all stakeholders, including NGOs, governments, scientists, and, more importantly, consumers and producers. Ultimately, regulatory bodies should ensure that the products are safe to humans, animals, and the environment, and then consumers should choose what to eat.

Q: So is there still a lot of possibility to increase yields and plant more GMO?

FAN: I think there's potential to use biotechnology to increase yields, but sound regulatory policy is needed to reduce the health, environmental, and other risks, and maximize the benefit for consumers and society.

Q: Okay, if you were given a limitless budget—billions and billions of dollars—from the World Bank and USAID, from all of the aid groups, what three steps would you take to provide every human being with sufficient food?

FAN: Even with limited resources, we can still achieve a world free of hunger. It is a matter of political will, and of how we work together.

First, donors and investors should fulfill their commitments. The G8 in 2005 pledged 0.75 percent of their gross domestic product (GDP) for development assistance: Today, it's only half of that.

Second, we need to ensure that that money is used efficiently and effectively to increase smallholders' productivity.

Third, we must recognize that many poor people are not able to participate in growth because they don't have good health or they lack access to other productive assets. In such cases, we need to adopt a targeted approach to protect the poorest people and to make sure that they can build their human or financial assets.



Shenggen Fan

Through this, they can come to participate in the growth process.

Furthermore, donors should really try to build each country's capacity to pursue its own strategy and investment plans for food security. Through research and analysis, organizations such as IFPRI can help build capacity but the key is food security programs that are led and driven by the countries themselves.

Q: Norman Borlaug once told me that building roads in Africa was the key to fight hunger, that roads would reduce the cost of transporting fertilizer to farmers and the cost of sending harvests to the market. Do you agree, and is enough being done to create those roads?

FAN: In fact, maybe 10 years ago, when Norman Borlaug was in this building, he told me that Africa needed three things—rural roads, number one; number two, rural roads; number three, rural roads. I very much agree that more and better roads in Africa could reduce input costs and allow better access to markets.

We're finding, in India and parts of Africa, that the returns

on rural roads are very high both in terms of promoting agriculture and helping poverty reduction.

Q: How can the donor community end sharecropping and other forms of land ownership which leave millions of people as landless laborers or renters of land; and end systems in which speculators dictate the price?

FAN: Well, sharecropping was most widespread in Asia during the Green Revolution period, the '70s and '80s. It served a purpose: without it, few farmers would have had access to land. It worked in the context of certain cultural norms, however, and has proven less desirable as societies have changed.

Obviously, people without land are subject to exploitation by landowners or land-grabbers

from other countries. To secure the land for smallholders is critical, and you need good governance, regulation, and contract enforcement.

Q: Hernando de Soto points out that, if small farmers in Latin America had the title of their land, they could get a loan and buy a small tractor or irrigation.

FAN: In some instances, I agree. Smallholders may need to establish ownership of the land in order to access credit and generate income for the family. But the issue is broader and more nuanced than this, and it leaves open the question of the right type of title.

In some settings, evidence suggests that communal land tenure has a better effect than individual ownership in terms of local decisionmaking, gender dynamics, cultural preservation, and natural resource management. And in any case, ownership doesn't preclude an active rental market. In China, for example, farmers who leave the countryside for insecure jobs in the city rent out their land for the income

and to preserve the option of returning to their farms should they become unemployed.

Q: If subsidies and trade protection by wealthy countries ended, what impact would that have on food production and availability?

FAN: We would expect global food prices to rise. Smallholder farmers in many developing countries who produce more than their households consume would benefit and would have incentives to increase production. However, there would be risks as well, especially for poor urban consumers and subsistence farmers. National policies would need to manage social safety nets carefully.

Any such process would have to be gradual so that farmers in developing countries could adjust to higher prices. Food prices went up in the last few years but smallholders were not able to respond because this happened too suddenly and they lacked access to inputs, infrastructure, and financial information to seize the opportunity. At the same time, poor consumers were not sufficiently protected from the price shocks.

Q: What are the cutting-edge food policies and scientific advances that you believe will do the most to shrink hunger?

FAN: In my view, we need a significant re-orientation of food policies and interventions. We should come away from top-down, donor-driven, or capital city-driven programs that tell countries or people what they should do and what is best for them. We should involve more farmers' and grassroots organizations, such as those emerging across Africa.

We should support countries that are willing to pursue evidence-based food policies and implement country-driven strategies. A country-driven strategy can really help smallholders and local communities. We have to make sure they increase smallholder production and we have to monitor progress and

see **INTERVIEW** on page 14 ►

MISSION OF THE MONTH



A voter in Pariang, Unity state, has his finger dipped in ink to indicate he has received his ballots to vote.

In Sudan, Millions Cast Their First Votes in Landmark Elections

By Angela Stephens

Challenge

In April, Sudan held its first multiparty elections since 1986, fulfilling a major requirement of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) that ended the country's 22-year, north-south civil war.

The United Nations described Sudan's elections as among the most complex and challenging on record—including contests for president of Sudan, president of the regional government of Southern Sudan, state governors, and legislators on the national, state, and southern regional levels.

In all, more than 16,000 candidates vied for 1,841 parliamentary and executive positions.

Most Sudanese had never voted in their lives. In southern Sudan, where 85 percent of the population is illiterate, voters had 12 separate ballots to consider.

In some areas of Sudan, including the western region of Darfur, democratic elections were hindered by insecurity and conflict. Last December, security forces in Khartoum responded harshly to political demonstrators who demanded legal reforms for free and fair elections—arresting and injuring protestors, including prominent opposition politicians. This triggered unrest in southern Sudan, including attacks

on ruling National Congress Party offices in several locations.

Less than a month before the elections, Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir threatened to expel international election observers after the Carter Center, which is funded by several donors including USAID, suggested that the National Elections Commission had the authority to declare “a minor delay” in election dates to ensure distribution of sufficient voting materials to more than 15,000 polling stations spread across Africa's largest country.

Innovative Response

USAID provided a nationwide assistance program covering all aspects of the electoral process, including: voter registration, training for elections officials and political parties, result tabulation, civic and voter education, voting materials, and domestic and international election observation.

Voter registration efforts reached citizens in most parts of Sudan, despite significant logistical and security challenges and significant concerns about the accuracy of the final voter roll. Voter registration also stretched outside Sudan in an effort to enfranchise diaspora communities. More than 100,000 Sudanese citizens registered to vote from abroad.

S U D A N



Results

Polling was largely peaceful and orderly and, despite logistical challenges, voters turned out in good numbers to cast their ballots.

While international observers noted many deficiencies in the elections and concluded that they did not meet international standards, they also recognized the importance of the event as part of Sudan's democratic transformation, including revitalizing civil society and civic participation.

“After a long period of dormancy, Sudanese parties and civic groups across the country began to mobilize,” the Carter Center said in a statement following the elections.

According to the European Union election observation mission, “this election saw the development of the capacity of civil society: hundreds of groups, encompassing thousands of individual citizens, displayed high levels of commitment and engaged in election observation for many days.”

The African Union concluded that, despite logistical challenges, “these elections constitute a fundamental milestone towards realizing the democratic transformation” of Sudan, and “have thus afforded the majority of the Sudanese citizens [the opportunity] to exercise their civic and democratic rights by electing representatives of their choice for the first time in 24 years.”

USAID continues to help Sudan fulfill the remaining requirements of the CPA, including preparations for referenda in 2011 on self-determination for southern Sudan and the Abyei Area; support for popular consultations in Blue Nile and Southern Kordofan that will allow citizens to express their views of the CPA through their democratically elected state legislatures; and assistance in completing state elections that were delayed from April 2010. ★

INSIGHTS

FROM ADMINISTRATOR DR. RAJIV SHAH



This administration's Global Health Initiative (GHI) is about helping partner countries achieve major advances in health by working smarter, building on past successes, and making some tough decisions.

To achieve these advances, the GHI will invest \$63 billion—more than double what we spent on health during the preceding six years and a significant commitment of resources during a very difficult fiscal time. We will focus on getting more value for every dollar spent and, ultimately, saving millions of additional lives worldwide.

GHI builds on remarkable progress in public health. Over the last decades, we have made huge strides through a variety of disease-specific or intervention-specific campaigns. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is the largest single effort by any country to combat a single disease. The president's malaria initiative reduced the intolerable burden of malaria through a package of proven control measures.

The work of the professionals in this agency and of diverse leaders and advocates working in these campaigns leaves a legacy that goes beyond the lives saved. Their work helped teach the world that rampant disease imperils global stability. Because of their work, communities understand that support for global health is critical, the faith community has increased its activity and commitment, and brand-conscious consumers like myself own Red watches or t-shirts and wear them with great pride.

A bipartisan consensus was forged that we should do more to spend our resources to save lives abroad. I thank you for that. And yet, in isolation, nearly all of us agree that disease-specific approaches also have some serious deficiencies.

Our siloed, single-disease focus means that, in many countries, the same health system that can prevent the transmission of AIDS to an infant is unable to prevent that same child from dying of diarrheal disease. Our disease-driven focus sometimes crowds out other cost-effective, lifesaving interventions.

The GHI will use data and clear metrics of success, doubling the number of babies born free of HIV, halving the burden of malaria, cutting the under-5 mortality rate by a third, and reducing maternal mortality by 30 percent. But unlike previous health initiatives, GHI will focus, from the outset on, as President Obama states, creating the conditions that will reduce the need for future aid.

As many of you know, the child survival revolution in the 1980s contributed to rapid progress by mobilizing global medical systems and political support. That successful movement was driven largely by the force and charisma of one man's leadership, Jim Grant of UNICEF, and, of course, Bill Foege of the CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), Peter McPherson of USAID, and many others.

Despite the tremendous successes of that movement to raise immunization rates in many cases to over 80 percent and to save millions of lives, any movement that rests on the tirelessness of one individual or even a small group of leaders is inherently unsustainable.

In the early 1990s, as attention and funding slowly shifted to other areas, immunization coverage and child survival slowed; DTP3 (three-dose diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis) immunization rates dropped almost 60 percent globally, and much more so in many countries. We as a donor community have an obligation to keep countries off of this seesaw of donor trends. That is exactly what underpins the GHI vision.

Some of GHI's defining features include expanding proven treatment and prevention strategies in TB, HIV, malaria, and a range of neglected tropical diseases. It also will expand what works in nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, family planning, and maternal and child health.

GHI also will create an environment where it's safe to report on things that don't work, because that's ultimately the only way that we can experiment and learn.

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GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

BRIEFS

Bangladeshi Schools Expand Curriculum

DHAKA, Bangladesh—Science, English, and computing classes will be made mandatory in Islamic religious schools as part of an overhaul of the Bangladesh education system, a government official said June 22, according to Agence France-Presse.

The reforms are part of efforts to bring the country's madrassas, which are considered by critics to be a breeding ground for militants, into the mainstream schooling structure.

Bangladesh already funds some madrassas in exchange for control over the curriculum and greater flexibility over admittance—including allowing girls to study at the 16,000 traditionally all-male seminaries.

Nearly 3 million, mostly poor, pupils attend state-sponsored madrassas, accounting for 10 percent of the country's total student population. A further 2 million students attend unrecognized religious schools.

Killer of USAID Employees Recaptured

KHARTOUM, Sudan—Sudanese security officers have recaptured one of four men who escaped from prison after being sentenced to death for the murder of USAID employees John Granville and his Sudanese driver Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama, the Khartoum daily *Akhbar al-Yawm* reported June 22, according to Reuters.

"The National Intelligence and Security Service has captured the escaped prisoner Abdel Raouf Abu Zaid Mohamed Hamzah, who is one of the four men sentenced to death for the murder of [the] U.S. diplomat," said the paper, quoting "reliable sources."

Granville and Rahama were shot as they drove home from New Year celebrations in Khartoum early on Jan. 1, 2008.

Campaign to Help Newborns Breathe

Because as many as 800,000 babies die each year due to difficulties breathing just after childbirth, USAID and other donors have started the Helping Babies Breathe campaign, an international effort to prevent birth asphyxia. The campaign was launched in Washington in June.

Helping Babies Breathe is an initiative of the American Academy of Pediatrics, USAID, the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and Save the Children.

The campaign will train health ministries in about 10 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America where USAID has maternal and newborn health programs. Save the Children is implementing it in 18 countries. The curriculum may eventually be used in most of the 68 countries where 90 percent of mother or newborn deaths occur and where 46 percent of births lack a trained attendant, the *Washington Post* reported June 20.

The goal is to teach midwives and traditional birth attendants in poor countries how to help the small percentage of newborns who need assistance in starting to breathe.

With a dry towel, a suction bulb, and a mask, a baby can be assisted with first breaths. A doll is used for training in how to assist those with breathing difficulties.

Experts predict that training in how to assist newborns with breathing problems and to perform newborn resuscitation could reduce deaths from birth asphyxia by about 30 percent and deaths attributed to premature birth by up to 10 percent. They say 500,000 lives a year might be saved.

Child Mortality Rates Rise in Africa

NAIROBI, Kenya—Ten African countries have halved their poverty rates over the last two decades, but child mortality rates have increased in six sub-Saharan nations, a report on the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals released June 22 said, according to the Associated Press.

The countries that halved their poverty rates since 1990 include Ethiopia and Egypt as well as post-conflict Angola. However, in Nigeria and Zimbabwe, the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty has risen.

Sub-Saharan Africa was the only region in the world with increased under age 5 mortality, which has risen in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Kenya, and Zambia. Thirty-four of the world's 36 countries with child mortality rates above 100 per 1,000 births are in sub-Saharan Africa. The others are Afghanistan and Myanmar.

The Millennium Development Goals Report Card, which was sponsored in part by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, was released to coincide with meetings of G-8 and G-20 countries in Canada June 26.

Buffett, Gates Press Billionaires to Donate

Warren Buffett and Bill Gates are pressing fellow billionaires to commit to at least half their wealth to charity.

Buffett and Gates started a drive called "The Giving Pledge" to encourage high-profile philanthropic promises, according to the initiative's website, Bloomberg reported June 16.

A pledge of the majority of an individual's fortune is "an understandable and quite reachable bar for the wealthiest—many will exceed it," according to a document posted on the website.

Buffett, the world's third-richest person and chairman of Berkshire Hathaway Inc., has pledged more than 99 percent of his wealth to philanthropy. The greatest part of his fortune, estimated in March at \$47 billion by *Forbes* magazine, is given in annual installments to the Gates Foundation.

"Bill and Melinda Gates and I are asking hundreds of rich Americans to pledge to at least 50 percent of their wealth to charity," Buffett wrote in a pledge on *Fortune's* website.

Buffett said 1 percent of his wealth is enough for him and his family, and "neither our happiness nor our well-being would be enhanced" by keeping more. Buffett seeks about \$600 billion in commitments, *Fortune* said, based on the calculation of half of the \$1.2 trillion in net worth of the 400 richest individuals compiled by *Forbes* magazine.

"It would easily double or triple the amount of philanthropy in America," said Melissa Berman, president of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, a non-profit organization that has advised the

Gates Foundation on "The Giving Pledge" initiative.

Zambia AIDS Funds Blocked

The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria said it had blocked the disbursement of \$137 million to the Zambian Ministry of Health since August after finding evidence of spending the ministry could not account for, the *New York Times* reported June 17.

The fund, a major international donor, concluded that the ministry was "not able to safely manage grants" and demanded the return of \$8 million. The fund's statement, confirming a Reuters report, is likely to heighten concerns that government corruption is deepening. The United Nations Development Program will take over management of grants originally provided to the ministry, the fund said.

USAID, Agriculture to Start Borlaug Fund

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton announced the creation of the Norman Borlaug Commemorative Research Initiative, the *Voice of America* reported June 30.

The initiative is a cooperative venture of USAID and the Department of Agriculture. The two agencies will combine their resources, knowledge, commitment, and expertise to work together to reduce hunger and poverty.

To pay for the initiative, the Department of State has requested a nearly 50 percent increase in funding for international agricultural research in 2011.

Already, U.S. scientists are partnering with counterparts in other countries to develop technologies such as drought and disease-resistant seeds of staple crops and rice that will flourish even when submerged in water, or conversely, rice that keeps growing through long droughts.

The new initiative bears the name of Norman Borlaug, the U.S. agronomist and Nobel Prize laureate who is considered to be the father of the Green Revolution. His work saved over a billion people from starvation.

From news reports and other sources. ★

FRONTLINES: JULY'S PAST

1970: The July 16 edition of *FrontLines* reports that USAID has signed a \$20 million grant agreement to help India with its family planning efforts, with a goal of reducing the birth rate by 40 percent during the next decade. The population problem was the top development priority for the country that was operating 34,000 rural family planning centers in addition to 800 mobile units.

1980: How technology might impact the third world was the topic of a July 3 *FrontLines* article written by an Office of Science and Technology employee. With a quarter of the world's population living in poverty; population growth in the next 20 years equal to growth "from the birth of Christ to 1950"; and increasing energy costs, unemployment, crime, and starvation; developing countries will need to turn to advances in technology to help address the challenges.

1990: USAID provides \$850,000 in relief and medical supplies to Iran following two earthquakes in the Gilan and Zanjan provinces, reports the July *FrontLines*. Andrew Natsios, director of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, says that the first earthquake, 7.7 in magnitude, "may be one of the worst in the last 20 years." An additional \$5 million in cash and emergency relief supplies was donated by private American organizations.

2000: Microenterprises, or businesses with fewer than 10 employees, are featured in the June/July *FrontLines* as a key way for people to rise out of poverty. Credit unions and loan guarantees allow more entrepreneurs to start businesses as USAID-funded programs help small businesses around the world, including in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guinea, Honduras, and Tanzania. "Afforded the opportunity to work and own a business, poor people everywhere are capable of successfully managing and building their own businesses," says Rep. Ben Gilman (R-N.Y.). ★

Bono's ONE Group Says African Aid Up \$13 Billion

By Michael Del Moro

U2 lead singer Bono's ONE campaign reports that by 2011, the G8 countries will have delivered \$13 billion in aid to sub-Saharan Africa. That is 61 percent of the commitments made at Gleneagles, Scotland, in 2005, according to the campaign's 2010 DATA Report.

commitments toward the region at Gleneagles in 2005.

"By any measure, \$13.7 billion, which is the number that has been delivered over this period, is pretty dramatic," said Lane. "It is more than double the rate in increase in the five years leading up to Gleneagles."

Lane noted a decline in malaria cases and increases in education among African children as examples of collective commitments that worked.

"I don't think many people believe that \$13.7 billion would have flowed to Africa from the G7 without the mutual pressure that the G8 commitment yielded. I think that's a good thing and we want to find ways as an organization ... to garner additional shared commitments with some greater specificity," he said.

Advocacy groups such as ONE have been calling on the current U.S. administration to develop a global plan for combating extreme poverty.

"I should point out that this report...is largely a Bush administration achievement," Lane said. "We will also say that, I think, President Obama has pivoted in a way that builds on that."

"The U.S. really has to live up to its commitment in order to have any credibility in the world," said Joshua Bolten, who sits on the ONE board of directors and is a former White House chief of staff.

Lane described the United Kingdom as the "superstar" in terms of reaching its goals for aid increases, whereas the United States has been the largest absolute contributor with \$5.4 billion in aid since 2005. Italy, which had set ambitious goals but failed to reach them, brought down the G8 average.

The discussion also focused on helping African nations help themselves. ★

POLIO from page 1

Polio is a highly infectious viral disease that invades the nervous system. It can cause paralysis—one in 200 cases leads to irreversible paralysis, usually in the legs—and even death. The disease mainly affects children under age 5. The only way to prevent polio is through vaccination.

Prevention, and other organizations to carry out vaccination campaigns, surveillance, and community mobilization throughout Central Asia.

The Ministry of Health mobilized doctors and nurses to carry out vaccinations throughout the country. In addition, officials kicked off a massive com-

munications campaign to inform the public about polio immunization.

In addition to vaccinations, millions of leaflets, posters, and banners in Tajik, Uzbek, Russian, and Dari were distributed in health centers, schools, kindergartens, markets, and mosques. Doctors and nurses visited homes in rural areas, encouraging parents and caregivers to ensure that all

children are vaccinated in every round to build up immunity.

"We are thankful to our international partners for their support of the polio immunization drive in Tajikistan," Dr. Mirzoyev said.

Polio is a highly infectious viral disease that invades the nervous system. It can cause paralysis—one in 200 cases leads to irreversible paralysis, usually in the legs—and even death. The disease mainly affects children under age 5. The only way to prevent polio is through vaccination.

As of June 21, the immunization campaign was drawing to a close, and no new polio cases had been reported. Both the health specialists and the donor community are hopeful the outbreak has died out.

"Now that the outbreak has been stopped, it is important that we work together with the Ministry of Health of Tajikistan to strengthen the national health system, disease surveillance, and sanitation systems so that polio does not reemerge again," said Bryn Sakagawa, deputy director of the Health and Education Office at USAID's Central Asia regional office. ★



David Lane, CEO and president of ONE, discussed the successes of G8 countries in reaching their development goals over the past five years during a conference at the Center for Strategic and International Studies June 10.

Government officials and development experts met June 10 at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington to discuss the report and the growth in foreign aid to Africa.

"We clearly believe that the last five years, the period since Gleneagles, have seen historic increases in aid flows and in debt cancellations in Africa and there's a lot to show for it," said David Lane, president and CEO of ONE. "You could focus on disappointments, and I could highlight some of those, but, in fact, by the year 2009, the G7 had delivered on 44 percent of the commitments made to double assistance to Africa."

According to Lane, debt cancellations and direct aid helped vaccinate 257 million children and put 42 million of them into primary school.

ONE is an aid advocacy organization with 2 million members. Its report analyzes the varying achievement among the G8 nations that made specific

Minister Aazam Mirzoyev during a press interview in May. "Some of them have not been vaccinated year after year. They have a role in the outbreak, because they do not have a shield against the disease."

USAID has pledged \$3 million for renewed efforts with WHO, UNICEF, regional ministries of health, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and



A mark is placed on a child's hand to show that he has received a round of polio vaccine.

THE REGIONS

MIDDLE EAST

Disabled Lebanese Gain Work Skills and Jobs

By Elias Alhaddad

Over 20 Lebanese with disabilities completed a training course and job placement event May 26 aimed at including persons with disabilities in Lebanon's social and economic development.

"I will have a great future out of this training I am receiving at

In addition to gaining work skills, each trainee helped raise awareness of the need to reduce barriers for people with disabilities and expand their access to employment.

the American University of Beirut Medical Center," said Ziad Al Awadi, who became a trainee at the center in August 2009.

Al Awadi is one of more than 20 people with disabilities who received training in English, computer literacy, and communication skills as a part of USAID's Towards Inclusive Development in Lebanon (TIDiL) project, which also provided on-site, follow-on training through 11 USAID partner organizations.

In addition to gaining work skills, each trainee helped raise awareness of the need to reduce barriers for people with disabilities and expand their access to employment.

Citizens with disabilities are among the most vulnerable in any society and endure exclusion from socioeconomic opportunities. According to a 2003 study conducted by the Lebanese Physically Handicapped Union, over 50 percent of people with disabilities in Lebanon were jobless. USAID's TIDiL program

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Ziad Al Awadi, a physically challenged trainee, at his workstation at the American University of Beirut Medical Center. Al Awadi enters data on patients' medical records using a coding system for each type of disease.

AFRICA



As part of its focus on agricultural growth to strengthen economic development, Mali recently sent a delegation to the United States to learn about food security policies. Pictured: Offerings at a Malian market

From Mali to Michigan: Sharing Lessons on Food Security

By Kevin Hernandez

Mali's top food policy makers returned to their home country in April and quickly carried out plans and ideas learned during a trip to the United States to learn about U.S. food security policies and programs.

A predominantly Muslim democracy, Mali has made

broad-based agricultural growth the backbone of its economic development strategy.

Mali faces three key challenges in agriculture: increasing the technologies and skills available to farmers and others; strengthening the ability of national and local governments

to design and carry out development programs; and developing more effective coordination between various levels of government.

The U.S. government, through its Feed the Future

see **MALI** on page 15 ▶

EUROPE & EURASIA

Civic Action Group Monitors Elections, Education, and Housing in Ukraine

By Erin Concors

KYIV, Ukraine—As a student at Cherkassy University, Olha Aivazovska helped organize political demonstrations and sit-ins against corruption and lack of government transparency. At one of the protests she coordinated, students locked themselves in a university building on a seven-day hunger strike.

As part of a Ukrainian civic action group, Aivazovska and her friends rallied thousands of demonstrators across the nation to fight government corruption and election fraud.

"A new generation had grown up in Ukraine, and that new generation was willing to come out into the streets and stand up for their rights," Aivazovska said of the time.

see **UKRAINE** on page 13 ▶



Olha Aivazovska began her career as a civic activist while a student in Cherkassy, Ukraine, organizing protests and a hunger strike to combat corruption. Now she leads the NGO OPORA, which is known as a "rising star" among civic organizations in Ukraine.

LATIN AMERICA

Jamaican Youths Urged to Stay in School

By Ruth Chisholm

Thousands of Jamaican students have improved their reading and math, and thousands of school dropouts have returned to school, thanks to programs supported by USAID.

Yet high rates of illiteracy, dropout, and unemployment, coupled with serious health problems and crime, threaten to undermine the progress of Jamaican youth who make up 36 percent of the country's population.

Although Jamaica provides universal access to primary education, 30 percent of primary school dropouts are illiterate and 11,000 students drop out by the time they reach the ninth grade. The youth unemployment rate is more than twice the national rate and they are vulnerable to HIV transmission and gang crime.

With 50 percent of Jamaica's income slated to service debt repayments, there are limited resources available for social programs to reverse these trends.

USAID's office in Jamaica supports an e-learning program called GoGSAT that helps students prepare for a secondary school placement exam. To date, 80 percent of those in the program have entered secondary school.

USAID also helped form the Jamaica Youth Advocacy Network. The group, designed by young people, focuses on youth sexual and reproductive health

issues; crime and violence prevention; education and training; and music, culture, and society.

The director of USAID's office in Jamaica, Karen Hilliard, said she and her team have learned much from the past projects.

"These themes, combined with innovative programs and strong partnerships, are what will help us to achieve even greater success," Hilliard said.

Programs like A Ganar, carried out with Partners for the Americas, and OBRA, a joint venture with the International Youth Foundation, are serving young people in creative ways.

A Ganar uses sports to teach life skills like teamwork and discipline as well as customer service and informational technology. OBRA is working with private companies to secure

see **JAMAICA** on page 14 ▶



A student at Jamaica's Ascot High School demonstrates the use of technology.

ASIA



Both students and teachers use interactive tools in the Know About Business course.

Kazakhstan Schools Teach Business Basics

By Virginija Morgan

"I don't want to boast, but the students love my classes," said Tazabek Sambetbay, referring to the Know About Business course that USAID is helping to roll out in Kazakhstan.

"Uncle Tazabek," as his students have come to call him, is a teacher at the Almaty Lyceum of New Technologies, one of some 800 vocational schools in Kazakhstan.

The course, which covers marketing and managing a small business, enables young people to expand their employment options after leaving school in Kazakhstan, where unemployment among young people runs as high as 26 percent in some provinces.

Even though the country's vocational school system annually releases thousands of graduates into the labor market, employers complain that they cannot find qualified specialists. Because of staff shortages, schools are often required to teach subjects their staff know rather than the skills that the market needs.

The schools blame the faulty budgeting system. Since 2000, many of the vocational schools have been funded from provincial budgets that tend to reduce support to the education system.

Sambetbay readily agrees that many of his students have a poor attitude towards education and do not shine in academic subjects, but "excel at their specialty classes and at the Know About Business course." The course engages students through the use of technology and games.

"It's so different from the traditional, lecture-based approaches that we are using for other subjects," Sambetbay said.

The course, co-funded by Chevron and Baker Hughes, was

Even though the country's vocational school system annually releases thousands of graduates into the labor market, employers complain that they cannot find qualified specialists.

see **KAZAKHSTAN** on page 14 ▶

FOCUS ON KYRGYZSTAN

KYRGYZSTAN from page 1

by Voice of America. Some 375,000 people were “still in need of humanitarian support,” said Edwards.

He noted that in Osh, aid workers have seen significant destruction in some areas, with nearly all the houses set on fire.

“People are still deeply traumatized by the violence of earlier this month,” Edwards said.

“In these neighborhoods, we are still seeing many people sleeping in the open, often within completely destroyed homes and yards... there are no services, as you

have heard, such as water and electricity. In many parts of the city, people report being deprived of health services. Many have lost identity documents either through looting or in fires.”

The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) was distributing a one-month ration of high energy biscuits to the roughly 75,000 ethnic Uzbeks who had fled to neighboring Uzbekistan following the outbreak of violence and have subsequently returned to Kyrgyzstan.

WFP has provided food assistance to approximately 240,000

individuals since the outbreak of violence.

USAID assistance includes some \$15 million from the Complex Crises Fund (CCF) to directly respond to the evolving situation in Kyrgyzstan. USAID is using the CCF—a new mechanism that enables the administrator of USAID, in consultation with the secretary of state, to respond to emerging or unforeseen crises—to support rapid community improvement and stabilization activities.

USAID assistance is being delivered by U.N. agencies as well as NGOs, including the

“People are still deeply traumatized by the violence of earlier this month.”

International Resource Group, the Save the Children Federation, and the Agency for Cooperation and Technical Development.

The fragile interim government of Kyrgyzstan appealed to Russian peacekeeping troops to end the rioting but Moscow, which maintains an air base in the country, rejected the appeal.

European countries also refused to intervene.

It remained unclear what ignited the riots in which mobs and possibly military or police forces composed almost entirely of ethnic Kyrgyz attacked the minority Uzbeks who have lived in the country for generations. ★



Ethnic Uzbeks wait in line for food in a refugee camp outside Begabad June 15.



Kyrgyz refugees play football in a refugee camp outside Osh June 24.

FOCUS ON KYRGYZSTAN



Kyrgyz refugees sit in their tent at sunset on the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border near Dostukh June 19.



A man helps an elderly ethnic Uzbek in front of his burned-out house in Osh June 15.



An ethnic Uzbek woman cries as she passes by a burned-out house in Osh June 24.



Ethnic Uzbek refugees cross the Kyrgyz-Uzbek border on their way back to Kyrgyzstan near Vlksm June 18.

All photos by Viktor Drachev, AFP

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

New Defense Strategy for a New World

By Tom Daschle and Bill Frist

It is staggering to consider the myriad changes since we each entered Congress. Things like cell phones and the Internet were straight out of a science fiction movie then. Now, our grandchildren are so technologically connected by Facebook and MySpace that a schoolchild in Rwanda can check in with a pen pal in South Dakota or Tennessee in seconds.

Life's frenetic pace and growing global interdependence have had a profound impact on the way America must engage with the world.

Our greatest threats are no longer from another country, as was the case during the Cold War. Today, they are as likely to come from infectious diseases, failed states, economic despair, nonstate actors and terrorism—issues that cannot be addressed through military might alone. This requires a new approach, drawing on a renewed commitment to development and diplomacy—as well as our military strength.

America's military is still the world's finest, but it must be matched by equally agile and robust diplomatic arms if we are to remain safe and secure.

We agree with Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who said about the war on terror: "We cannot kill or capture our way to victory." Smart development investment translates to fewer U.S. boots on the ground.

What we must do is use our full complement of powers—defense, development and diplomacy—to help troubled nations build stable governments and address the needs of their people; not just for food, water, and shelter but also for health, education, and the opportunity to learn marketable skills.

To do this, we have to invest in our future by bolstering the nation's international affairs budget. This is something the two of us—and Democrats and Republicans as a whole—agree on.

As the military does its job in stabilizing troubled states, vigorous humanitarian and diplomacy efforts can ensure that we build a lasting peace by strengthening communities and governments, reinforcing the foundations for growth and opportunity, and neutralizing those who wish our country harm.

Our foreign assistance dollars pay strong dividends economi-

cally, as well. Americans' security and prosperity are tied to the security and prosperity of people around the globe. In the past 40 years, trade has tripled and U.S. exports account for approximately one out of every five American jobs.

We know the value of American generosity and have witnessed the remarkable difference public and private aid can make in people's lives.

Today, developing countries represent 40 percent of U.S. exports. Programs supported by the international affairs budget increase economic opportunities, promote our business interests around the world, and create U.S. jobs through increased exports.

While helping the world's poor brings the United States national security and economic benefits, it also demonstrates our commitment to alleviating poverty. Both of us have traveled many times to developing nations—not just as elected officials but also in our personal capacities to work with international charities and deliver humanitarian aid.

We know the value of American generosity and have witnessed the remarkable difference public and private aid can make in people's lives.

Whether it's a Peace Corps volunteer introducing a local

farmer to a new crop that is more nutritious and marketable, or a women's group receiving a small loan to start a basket-weaving business to provide for their families, America spreads a message to the people of the world that we are a valuable partner—and friend. Aid works. And it works best by putting tools in the hands of others to build their own better tomorrow.

Republicans and Democrats have long worked together to make a difference in the world through humanitarian efforts, and those investments have paid off. In the past 50 years, child deaths worldwide have been reduced by more than half; polio has been nearly eradicated.

Former President George W. Bush created the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief with bipartisan support—and millions of people in Africa are alive today as a result.

President Barack Obama is working with Republicans and Democrats in Congress to implement his plan to address global hunger and food security and to emphasize maternal and child health through the Global Health Initiative.

The international affairs budget is now before Congress, and we were gratified to see a growing consensus on its importance.

In recent months, 247 members of Congress—Democrats and Republicans—wrote the president to urge an increase in his fiscal year 2011 request. As we support robust investment in our tools of smart power, we also welcome executive branch and congressional initiatives to modernize those tools to ensure accountability, be responsive to in-country needs, and achieve the impact our interest and ideals require.

We realize the deficit is soaring and money is tight in Washington. Few know better than the two of us that the budget is a balancing act of limited resources and many worthy priorities.

While we have disagreed in the past on what priorities should be, we see eye to eye on why rebuilding our civilian-led tools of development and diplomacy is important.

For a small fraction of slightly more than 1 percent of the federal budget, our investment in helping others to help themselves overseas is one of the most cost-effective ways our government can keep us both safe and prosperous.

South Dakota Democrat Tom Daschle served as Senate majority leader from 2001 to 2003. Tennessee Republican Bill Frist served as Senate majority leader from 2003 to 2007. Both are advisers to the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition.

This article, which appeared in the June 7, edition of Politico, is reprinted with the authors' permission. ★

Soaps Clean Up Image and Fight Tribal Conflict

Soap operas, typically watched for their popular entertainment value, have taken on a new role in the developing world where they are introducing social change and fighting tribal rivalries in African countries.

In Kenya, a popular series called *The Team* centers on a soccer team forced to overcome diversity and cooperate to advance in the standings.

John Marks, president and founder of Common Ground Productions, discussed the show at the Wilson Center in Washington, D.C., June 15.

The show, which is partly funded by USAID, has spurred debate in Kenya about gender issues, in part because the team in the television series is co-ed and coached by a woman, according to evaluations conducted by the producers. The soap opera also sparked discussion about inter-tribal marriage.

Marks pointed out that shows like *The Cosby Show* in America were examples of media as an instrument of change.

A documentary about *The Team* aired at the Wilson Center during an event on media as a tool for social change in Africa sponsored by NGO Search for Common Ground and the International Center for Journalists.

One actress said the show has allowed Kenyans to dream and think as one in order to transcend tribal disconnect and focus on the problems of illiteracy, education, and bad governance.

The series, which will ultimately be produced in 18 countries, focuses on issues of tribalism, violent conflict, leadership, and corruption and is typically shown in Kenyan cities to a targeted audience followed by a discussion session. According to Marks, the show has consistently ranked highly among viewers and incited constructive dialogues.

Sylvia Vollenhoven, a Knight Development Journalism Fellow and founder of the Vision in Africa media organization, said that though soaps may be "dressed up in this commercial and superficial facade," they have a much deeper meaning rooted in human emotion and mythology.

Still, she called for more complexity in future shows.

"What the good [soaps] have in common is that...the characters have to have a full range of emotion, some sort of complexity." ★

PAKISTAN AID HIKES OFFER NEW STAFF CHANCES TO CREATE PROGRAMS

By Joseph Truong



Pakistani students salute during the national anthem at the opening of a tent school in the Swat valley Aug. 1, 2009.

USAID is seeking to hire 94 additional U.S. civilians for jobs in Pakistan, part of a large interagency effort to increase staff there.

Since USAID's office in Pakistan reopened in 2002, it has provided \$3.9 billion for economic growth, education, health, governance, earthquake reconstruction, and humanitarian assistance.

The Kerry-Lugar-Berman bill signed last year authorizes \$1.5 billion a year for five years in non-military assistance to Pakistan. As a result, USAID's office in Islamabad will become the second largest mission in the world and present new opportunities for development assistance.

Staffers in Islamabad cite both the quality of life and professional opportunities as two of the main draws to working in Pakistan.



Carrie Abendroth

"This is the type of job that's going to expand all of your skills You're going to be interacting with the highest levels of management here," said Michael Stewart, the former supervisory executive officer at the USAID office in Pakistan.

Among the benefits of working in Pakistan is the ability to do large-scale program design.

"I've helped to stand up a stand-alone agricultural office, and put together the entire budget, and then planned that budget for the next five years," said Carrie Abendroth, a general development officer.

"I've started a very innovative program working closely with the government of Pakistan to



Nick Marinacci

help returnees to the Swat Valley after the conflict...." she added.

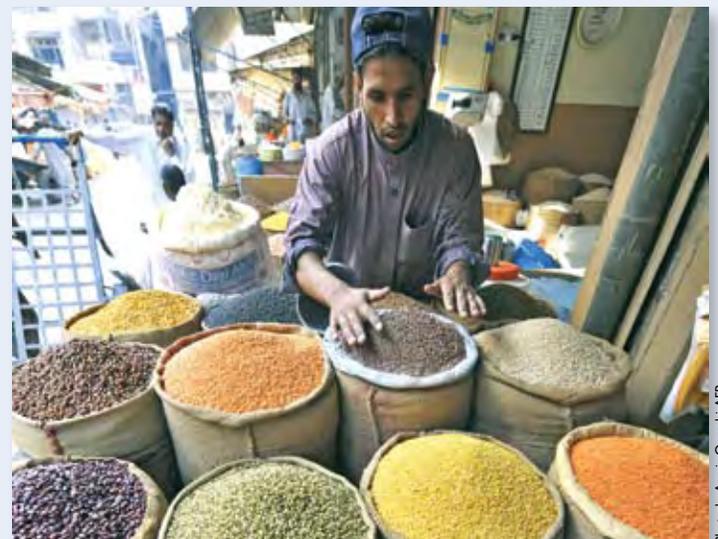
"I would say to anyone considering an assignment in Pakistan that it will be one of the more interesting assignments of your career at AID," said Nick Marinacci, country representative for the Office of Transition Initiatives.

He added that working in Pakistan is "very fast paced, there's a lot of pressure, there's a lot of scrutiny from Washington ... [but] we have an opportunity to design and begin to implement some exciting activities."

For information about working in Afghanistan and Pakistan, go to www.usaid.gov/locations/asia/countries/pakistan/. ★



An internally displaced Pakistani girl carries her younger brother as they arrive for food at a makeshift camp in Swabi May 25, 2009.



A Pakistani wholesaler arranges a display of pulses (legume seeds) outside his shop in Rawalpindi Sept. 30, 2009.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

AID from page 1



Photo by Ben Barber, USAID

Bill Frej

“We are directing 37 percent of assistance through the government of Afghanistan,” he said—double the rate when he arrived.

To build the capability of the Afghan government to handle foreign assistance and manage large programs, USAID aims to further increase the level of U.S. assistance sent through Afghan ministries in the next year or two to 50 percent, Frej said.

“When I arrived, we spent \$85 million a month. Now it is \$275 million per month. This is unprecedented,” he added. The USAID budget for Afghanistan reached \$2.8 billion this year and a supplement request is currently before Congress. That money has had an impact in one of the poorest countries in the world.

U.S. assistance helped increase countrywide school enrollment from 400,000 children—only boys—in 2001 to 6.5 million today, 40 percent of them girls, Frej said.

“I just went three hours by jeep to a village in Bamiyan at 10,000 feet that was isolated and saw children learning to write—we work with the Aga Khan Trust there.

“I’ve been to 28 of the 34 provinces and in almost every visit, seen midwives training. This place had the highest mortality rate in the world and it has been completely turned around.”

Delivering foreign aid in a war zone is difficult and required the mission to focus at first on stabilization in support of the counterinsurgency effort led by U.S. military forces and augmented by the Obama

administration with 30,000 more troops this year.

Frej said that USAID works on “stabilization—hoping it can transform to long-term development of health, education, job creation, agriculture, and infrastructure.

“The military says the war will be won by governance and development—not military force,” he said, while offering up a definition of stabilization: Clear away insurgents, hold the area, build some government presence, and transfer authority to the local police and army.

Since the U.S. engagement began in Afghanistan in 2001, following attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon hatched in Afghanistan by Osama bin Laden, USAID’s Afghan and other foreign contractors have taken almost as many casualties as the U.S. and NATO military forces—800 casualties—said Frej. “We lost 44 USAID contractors in the last four months,” Frej noted.

On July 2, four more contractors from Germany, the Philippines, and Afghanistan died when suicide bombers attacked a USAID post in Kunduz, adding to the toll of aid workers targeted by the Taliban, who hope to discourage support of the Kabul government and its U.S. allies.

Frej is moving to Santa Fe, N.M., where he plans to continue working in a think tank or university, possibly as an advisor in recruitment of the next USAID generation and putting a special focus on Hispanics and Native Americans.

He joined the Agency in 1987 and began his career in Indonesia, following his work in domestic development with the Federal Home Loan Bank’s Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation.

Frej returned to Indonesia as mission director in time to head the U.S. response to the 2004 tsunami. There he created an effective reconstruction program that included ending a long insurgency in Aceh where most of the 230,000 tsunami deaths occurred as many miles of urban housing were simply swept away.

“Aceh was the first major civilian-military assistance collaboration we have ever seen,” said Frej. U.S. helicopters flown

off carriers made it possible to deliver aid to thousands of stranded survivors isolated after roads and bridges were destroyed.

“The magnitude of the disaster caused it,” said Frej. “It established a framework for close civilian-military cooperation. We saw it again in the Pakistan earthquake, in Haiti, and in Afghanistan. It has served this Agency and the U.S. military.”

Asked if he sees the ever-expanding need for foreign aid

as a sign that he’s fighting an unwinnable struggle, Frej recalls the progress he’s seen over the decades. South Korea, Thailand, and Taiwan no longer need aid, and the same can be said for Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia, Hungary, and the Baltic states.

“USAID was in every one of those countries a positive catalyst for development,” said Frej.

He also recalls large and durable USAID projects in Afghanistan dating to the 1960s

such as the Kajaki Dam and agricultural development in Helmand—before a Soviet invasion set off 30 years of wars.

“This has been my career,” Frej said. “Looking back, nothing is more fulfilling than working for USAID. I’d highly recommend it for a new generation of people coming out of grad school or work. It provides an opportunity to make a difference in the world—to reach out to the underserved.” ★ — B.B.

Train Posters Urge Bangkok Passengers to Support Wildlife Protection



ROLLING BILLBOARD. The Bangkok transit system is urging the city’s 700,000 daily commuters to take their “piece of responsibility” to prevent wildlife trafficking and illegal logging. The campaign, backed by USAID as well as regional and Thai wildlife agencies, features a jigsaw puzzle depicting a jungle with a man and a woman as one of its pieces. Posters describe how people are increasingly upsetting the world’s ecological balance. Bangkok is a major trans-shipment point for trafficked plants and animals.

Photos by Boaz Englebreg, USAID

UKRAINE from page 6



Members of a Ukrainian civic activism organization demonstrated along Kreshchatyk Street in the capital city Kyiv before the 2004 presidential election.

Photo courtesy of OPORA

Aivazovska now leads one of the largest civic participation organizations in Ukraine, the USAID-supported NGO, OPORA.

“OPORA is a rising star among Ukrainian civil society movements, standing on the frontlines of promoting democratic reforms and sustaining election integrity in Ukraine,” said Janina Jaruzelski, director of USAID’s regional office for Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova.

OPORA was instrumental in monitoring the recent presidential election in Ukraine. The group also is monitoring standardized college admissions tests, which are one of the key anti-corruption successes of the former government.

The NGO’s roots grew from an unofficial civic activist movement of the early 2000s called PORA, which means “it is time” in Ukrainian. The group staged protests and performed street theater after group members witnessed election fraud and experienced political persecution during the first round of presidential elections in 2004. Eventually, tens of thousands participated in the grassroots Orange Revolution and the PORA movement flourished.

After the revolution, PORA’s leaders realized that the movement’s long-term goal of ensuring free and fair elections would not be effectively reached without significant improvements in

democratic governance. The group reorganized and registered as the official NGO “OPORA”—which in Ukrainian means “pillar” or “foundation”—promoting fundamental democratic reforms.

Since its formation, OPORA has continued its election monitoring efforts, rallying thousands to independently observe elections. According to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the last two major elections in Ukraine—pre-term parliamentary elections in 2007 and presidential elections in 2010—were deemed to have “met most OSCE commitments and other international standards for democratic elections” thanks in part to citizen monitoring.

Today, the USAID partner is mobilizing citizens to address housing reform and education, in addition to election monitoring. While the areas may seem disconnected, Aivazovska believes they are interrelated: All three spheres are impacted by a lingering Soviet mentality that people have no control over their lives.

“People did not feel responsibility for the destiny of their country” in Soviet times, Aivazovska said.

That perception has not changed significantly in the years since the USSR’s collapse; 62 percent of Ukrainians do not believe that they can influence the future of their

nation, according to a 2009 survey conducted by the Institute of Sociology of the Ukrainian National Academy of Science.

Together with USAID, OPORA is pushing forward key legislative reform to create condominium owners associations, and is training individuals to form associations and lead them. Such reforms are important for Ukrainians, as the majority of citizens live in privatized apartments within communal buildings. OPORA has succeeded in creating a coalition of more than 50 NGOs throughout Ukraine in support of condo association legislation.

OPORA’s involvement in educational testing dates back to 2007 and 2008 when standardized external testing was introduced through the USAID-managed Millennium Challenge Corporation Threshold Country Program to combat corruption in the university admissions system. OPORA has deployed more than 3,000 observers across Ukraine to monitor standardized admissions testing, and continues to train hundreds of volunteer observers annually.

The newly appointed minister of education was originally a vocal opponent of standardized external testing. In recent months, however, he has stated that the program will continue, although opponents of testing continue to press for changes in the program. ★

BECKMANN, LUCK WIN WORLD FOOD PRIZE

The Rev. David Beckmann and Jo Luck have dedicated their lives to feeding the hungry, one by rallying Christians to lobby for food and the other by delivering fertile cows. The two were named June 16 as winners of the 2010 World Food Prize.

“While they did not work directly together, their efforts are complementary ... they have had a dramatic impact in uplifting the lives of countless poor and hungry people around the world,” said Ambassador Kenneth M. Quinn, president of the World Food Prize Foundation, at a State Department ceremony.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said, “I personally am delighted by the announcement of the two winners for this year. I know and have worked with David Beckmann for a number of years.”

“Jo Luck is a friend of many years from Arkansas... and she has done an exemplary job of building Heifer International into one of the world’s most beloved anti-poverty organizations,” added Clinton, noting that both laureates exemplify the commitments of Norman Borlaug, who established the prize in 1986.

Beckmann, who has headed Bread for the World since 1991, led advocacy efforts that boosted the congressional flow of development assistance, quadrupled U.S. aid to Africa, and spurred reforms of the U.S. farm bill. He founded the U.S. Alliance to End Hunger in 2004.

“I am deeply honored to be a recipient of the World Food Prize,” Beckmann said on his website. “I’m hoping that the World Food Prize encourages other people to get involved in helping us change the politics of hunger.”

Luck is president of Heifer International, which gives food and animals to families in impoverished areas. Under her leadership, the organization increased its membership 20 times over, expanded to more regions of the world, and provided food to 12 million families.

Central to Luck’s organization is “Passing on the Gift”—giving income-producing animals to poverty-stricken families. Recipients are encouraged to pass on a female offspring of the animal to another family in need.

“I cannot begin to adequately express what this award means to me,” said Luck in a press release. “This is the absolute pinnacle of my professional life. And to share this prize with [Beckmann], a personal friend for whom I have great respect, is an added honor.”

Administrator Rajiv Shah and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsak also spoke at the event, recognizing the laureates for their accomplishments and calling for continued commitment to ending starvation.

Shah noted that Borlaug—father of the Green Revolution in the 1960s—had said that “it really takes only one thing to end hunger, and that is tremendous and consistent political will.”

“Today, in our opportunity to honor two leaders, Jo Luck and David Beckmann, we recognize the tremendous role they have played in building the kind of political will that Dr. Borlaug talked about,” Shah said.

Vilsak said that David Beckmann and Luck “encourage us to share—they encourage us to give of our bounty so others can be fed.”

The two winners will receive their \$250,000 prize on Oct. 14 at the Iowa State Capitol. ★ — M.D.

CONTINUED...

INSIGHTS from page 3

The initiative also focuses on country ownership. It meets the Obama administration's core development principle of working in partnership, not patronage, by supporting real, country-owned plans and being willing to redirect and realign our investments against those plans. Rather than building parallel health services, we want to strengthen host-country systems.

Women and adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable to ill health because of their reproductive role, and because of gender-based discrimination and violence. When a woman dies in childbirth, the survival and the welfare of her offspring is fundamentally threatened. We know that when a woman has access to decent care and basic knowledge about nutrition, safe drinking water, sanitation, and improved hygiene, she amplifies those benefits to her family, within her community, and across generations.

GHI will look at better ways to extend health care to more women through simple strategies and systemic changes. Family planning plays a crucial role in improving the health of women and their children throughout the world and will be a major GHI component.

The GHI is already well underway. We just announced the first set of countries where, starting this year, we will focus intensive technical and management resources.

I've greatly enjoyed meeting the nearly 400 health professionals that work here at USAID in Washington as well as the incredibly dedicated and talented teams, especially the Foreign Service Nationals that are often medical doctors or real public health professionals and political leaders that are part of our expanded team abroad. I believe greatly in their ability to offer leadership and to implement the program.

Yet, I realize that USAID must improve how we work. Many feel that we are too bureaucratic, perhaps too wrapped in our own programs and processes. And after several months of being here, I agree. Over the years, our offices in the field have been mired in excessive reporting requirements and byzantine procurement practices that do not often serve the larger purpose.

But I also saw a different story when I experienced our response to the Haiti crisis. I saw our team break free of the rules. And I saw our team demonstrate a tremendous amount of

entrepreneurial energy and decision-making to solve problems in a smart way.

We're moving forward with a package of major reforms designed to help our whole agency operate like our teams did with respect to Haiti. These reforms will free us from some of the red tape, and allow us to cut our contract costs, build more program capacity, and redouble efforts to support local ownership and capabilities. These reforms will also include a new approach to monitoring evaluation and assessment.

Though reforms are necessary, no one should underestimate what can be done right now. Our agency is determined to make progress in the stubborn numbers—11,500 people die each day from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. More than 8 million children still die a year before their fifth birthday. Most of those deaths are preventable.

I've met with the mothers who have lost those children. And now, as I soon hope to be the father of three children age 5 and under, I am both frightened and deeply excited. I can only imagine what it is like anywhere in the world to lose a child, especially when you know that loss does not have to take place. ★

LEBANON from page 6

helps NGOs assist people with disabilities to find jobs.

Experience has shown that while persons with disabilities face challenges breaking into a workforce, organizations benefit when they open their doors.

"Joumana is a person [who is] pleasant to work with," said Sonia Sisilian, supervisor of Joumana Hammoush, a person with disabilities working at Haigazian

University's Barsumian Library. "She is very refined. I am satisfied with her job."

"I have improved a lot since I first began," said Fatmeh Massalkhi, a trainee at the Center for Civic Engagement. Massalkhi, who has a visual impairment, was provided a specialized screen reader which enabled her to fully perform her assigned duties.

Mohannad Barakat, another visually impaired person, said: "Any person has difficulty adapting to a new environment. It is the same for someone with a disability. But I have adapted very quickly in my work."

The TIDiL program provides a model that may be replicated in other public and private organizations to serve more Lebanese citizens with disabilities. ★

KAZAKHSTAN from page 7

designed by the United Nations' International Labor Organization and is already successfully taught in a number of countries.

So far, students do not earn credits for attending the course, but Sambetbay is certain that many educators include parts of the Know About Business curriculum into mainstream classes. By the end of the 2009-2010 school year, the three partner organizations trained more than 500 teachers countrywide and

USAID estimates that 15 percent of all vocational school students in Kazakhstan will take the course each year.

"Teachers are very interested in the course," said Sambetbay, who trains teachers for the course. "Even teachers of philology end up writing beautiful business plans and turning out accurate budgets."

Sambetbay dreams of a time when all of the country's 600,000 vocational school

students will be able to take the Know About Business course, but for now, he needs to focus on his students, 700 future auto mechanics, and make sure they are leaving school equipped with solid business knowledge.

"We teach the course so that our graduates can open their own business and not depend on hired employment. Maybe one day I will have my car repaired in a shop that is owned by one of them," he said. ★

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enable them to adjust policy where necessary.

Q: You've recently taken over here as head of IFPRI. Do you want to move IFPRI in a particular direction or set up new policies?

FAN: I was glad to take over a successful and well established institution with a good reputation among key stakeholders. I want to continue this course.

Food security's context and challenges are always changing and we have to anticipate and adapt. Major factors affecting the prospects for food security include globalization, increasing incomes, and population growth. At the same time, climate change will reduce yields if we don't do something about it.

In addition, we have to look at the implications for agriculture and food security of economic growth and of macroeconomic policymaking—in general and particularly in light of the food, fuel, and financial crises. We also want to deepen research on the linkages between agriculture, health, and nutrition. We assume that closer cooperation between these sectors could unleash synergies.

Underlying all this work is a profound need to help countries to build their capacity to pursue their own food security programs.

Q: The USAID administrator, Rajiv Shah, recently noted that a large percentage of the USAID budget used to be on agriculture but in

recent years it fell to only 1 percent. Why did the donor nations stop investing in agriculture?

FAN: I think part of the problem was complacency. Towards the end of the '80s and in the '90s, global food prices were low. There was plenty of food.

Domestic politics in donor countries also played a role. Farm lobbies, environmental organizations, and groups opposed to what they see as corporate-led economic globalization may have affected some donors' behavior. The ensuing reduction in investment for agriculture and food security has been as widespread as it has been dramatic. For all OECD countries, not just the U.S., around 1990, the percentage of foreign aid devoted to agriculture was about 10 percent. Today, it's 4 percent.

Q: Is this protectionism?

FAN: Yes, in the case of, say, a lobby that tried to get more farm subsidies and other barriers against imports. But not all the pressure has been motivated by protectionism. Consider the many environmental concerns that have been raised, for example.

Regardless of motives, however, and to the extent that these domestic pressures have impeded agricultural development in poorer countries, the typical argument is that these countries don't need to produce more because there is food aid. It has not worked. It won't work in the future. ★

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support to prepare young people for the world of work.

Roberta Brown Ellis, director of youth policy and program development at the National Center for Youth Development, said interventions are needed amid the social upheavals and adverse situations that affect Jamaica's youth.

"The opportunity is available for many local and international donor agencies to support these

interventions," Ellis said.

"Activities like these help young people to become responsible citizens and the primary actors in their own development so they can advocate for change in their circumstances."

"There are many tried and tested approaches to youth development in Jamaica," said Hilliard. "The challenge now is to select the best ones and secure resources to take them to scale." ★

Aiding Survivors of Gender-based Violence in the DRC

Late one night, Justine* and her husband woke to find an intruder dressed in military clothing standing over them armed with a knife and gun. After tying up her husband and looting what he could, the attacker dragged Justine out into the darkness and raped her.

For two days, a shaken Justine wrestled with what to do. Her husband persuaded her to go to the Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) Kamandi health center nearby, part of a USAID initiative that provided more than \$2.7 million to the country for emergency medical services.

Nurse Katungu Kavakulu, who treated Justine at no cost, said that without the health center, Justine would have had to walk three hours to the Kayna hospital for initial treatment and four weeks of required follow-up visits—a distance great enough to discourage many women from seeking treatment.

“Since the project started, women can come to the local health center just like anyone else to seek medical assistance. We’ve seen a big increase in women presenting themselves much earlier, which means better recovery,” Katungu said.

The initiative was rolled out in response to a surge of violence in October 2008 in Rutshuru territory in North Kivu province, eastern DRC, that displaced about 250,000 people. A key component of the health program, carried out and supported by partner Merlin, is providing assistance to gender-based violence (GBV) survivors.

In addition to the physical and psychological trauma it inflicts, GBV leaves women vulnerable to unwanted pregnancies, miscarriages, HIV/AIDS, and other sexually transmitted diseases. Prompt medical treatment within 72 hours following an attack, however, can reduce many of the health risks GBV survivors may suffer.

GBV survivors are often ostracized by their communities,

causing them to avoid treatment for fear of losing their jobs, their families, or their place in society. The health centers ensure confidentiality by providing treatment services in clinics that address a variety of medical needs, allowing affected women to seek treatment without being identified as a GBV survivor.

GBV survivors are often ostracized by their communities, causing them to avoid treatment for fear of losing their jobs, their families, or their place in society.

“The additional benefit of providing health services locally cannot be underestimated,” said Paluku Mupanda, head of the local health committee in Eringeti village, North Kivu province. “Previously, when women were referred to the hospital in Beni, over 60 kilometers away, they had to travel with a health worker who was known to help GBV survivors. Communities are close here and people talk, especially taxi drivers. Now women can stay unidentified.” ★
*Not her real name.

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initiative, is working all across Africa to help governments such as Mali design and carry out agricultural development that includes work with the private sector and civil society.

USAID and Michigan State University (MSU) work with agricultural organizations in Mali. So the Malian experts spent a week in Michigan to see how the state deals with its own food security problems, especially in light of the current economic crisis. They visited with township, country, and state officials and were especially impressed with the university's extension system, where university professors work directly on problems facing farmers and others in Michigan.

The mutually beneficial nature of the trip was evident

when the delegation shared insights on how social solidarity plays a key role in the Malian approach to food security—followed by an impromptu monetary contribution during a visit to the Mid Michigan Food Bank warehouse.

Terry Link, the director of the Greater Lansing Food Bank, said: “I had the pleasure today of meeting with a delegation from Mali that was visiting MSU on a trip to investigate approaches to tackling food insecurity. I was asked to explain our local food banking system. But I really wanted to spend my time learning from them.”

From Michigan, the group traveled to Washington, D.C., where they met officials from the Departments of State and Agriculture, USAID, the World

Bank, and various research and outreach groups. They also attended a hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the Feed the Future initiative, which gave them insight into the legislative process that underlies U.S. foreign assistance.

Upon its return to Mali at the end of April, the Malian delegation incorporated insights it gained from the trip to the design of the agricultural priority plan. As a result of the discussions in Washington, Mali was also invited to send high-level representatives to the May 20 Symposium on Global Agriculture and Food Security in Washington, where the United States officially launched the Feed the Future initiative to aid 40 million people in 20 focus countries. ★

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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SPOTLIGHT ON INDONESIA

WATER SERVICE, RECYCLING REACH INDONESIAN COMMUNITIES

By Roman Woronowycz

SURABAYA, Indonesia— In this vast Asian country, local activists are working to provide clean water and proper sanitation to communities.

For five years, USAID's Environmental Services Program (ESP) has helped them.

"One of the keys to our success has been the local champions. They get things done," said Agus Hernadi, an ESP program specialist in Surabaya, East Java.

In Indonesia's second largest city, two local activists spurred successful community efforts for wider access to clean water and sanitation.

In 2005, Suhadak (like many Indonesians, he does not use a surname), a resident of Surabaya's Wonokromo neighborhood, was working to convince the local neighborhood leader that new sanitation facilities were needed to replace an outdated system that flooded regularly. At about the same time, ESP was considering a project for Wonokromo on community based sanitation and clean water services. At first, only 38 households agreed to participate. After Suhadak lent his support, participation quickly grew.

Today, with Suhadak as a central figure in organizing the neighborhood, more than 500 families are recycling inorganic waste and depositing organic matter at a composting site. They learned that better hygiene and drinking safe water reduces diarrhea and improves health. Improved solid waste management now includes waste reduction, recycling, and composting. And, residents have access to clean, efficient toilets and washing and laundering areas.

"I never imagined how good it would all turn out to be," said Suhadak, who has since been elected community leader.

In Lemah Putro, another Surabaya neighborhood, community activist Wagiran had worked unsuccessfully to provide a water utility connection to his neighborhood. Twice he thought he had reached agreement with the public water utility and twice it turned out that he was wrong. The critical issue was finding a way to guarantee individual homes could and would pay their monthly water bill.

"In the past, we have had many difficulties. Before ESP, two other NGOs tried to help. They did not succeed," explained Wagiran.

ESP succeeded by developing a community-wide plan for paying for water. Wagiran represented the community in developing the details with the utility and then convinced home owners they could afford the hook-up fee and monthly costs. Today, he heads the community group that collects the fees, provides short-term credit when needed, and pays the utility bill.

"There is a key element of trust that must be maintained for this to succeed," Hernadi said.

Wagiran has ensured that rates remain reasonable, that access to credit is easy and fair, and that everything is done transparently. Now 51 homeowners have clean water piped to their homes with more joining up for service. Each household pays about \$70 for a connection, less than a quarter of the going rate for Surabaya.

Wagiran's neighbor, Ribut, was one of the first to agree to participate. She now pays about half of the \$7 a month she used to pay a water dealer.

"It is a blessing from Allah. I am delighted that we have water at the house," said Ribut. ★



About 50 percent of Indonesia's poor lack access to clean water; 75 percent do not have adequate sanitation.



Clean hands lead to better health.



Sanitation facilities are better maintained with a sense of ownership and responsibility.

All photos by Roman Woronowycz