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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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FY 2009 FOREIGN ASSISTANCE GOALS

The United States Government (USG), through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and specifically the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), is strongly committed to a strategic mission of saving lives, alleviating suffering, supporting democracy, and promoting opportunities for people adversely affected by poverty, conflict, natural disasters, and a breakdown of good governance. These priority areas correspond to four of the five Foreign Assistance Framework Objectives: Peace and Security, Governing Justly and Democratically, Investing in People, and Humanitarian Assistance.

HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

Peace and Security

The Peace and Security objective supports critical interventions for peace and reconciliation and addresses factors contributing to violent conflict. In FY 2009, the USG invested resources for conflict management and mitigation activities in 22 countries. Programs reduced the threat of violent conflict, promoted peaceful resolution of differences, and trained advocates for peace and reconciliation in dozens of countries and regions by identifying high-risk countries, building the evidence base for effective conflict programming, and supporting innovative interventions to prevent and respond to violent conflict. Highlights include programming focusing on youth, land tenure, and community-level reconciliation, as well as technical leadership for USG missions worldwide.

Bringing together youth from populations in conflict helps build foundations for cross-cultural understanding, which strengthens those societies' ability to work together and resolve conflicts

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peacefully. In FY 2009, USG programs around the world worked to empower youths as catalysts of stability and peace. When tensions between Muslim and Christian families threatened to become violent in an internally displaced persons (IDP) camp in Mindanao, Philippines, for example, a USG-supported youth non-governmental organization on location leveraged and encouraged dialogue among community leaders, which prevented the escalation of violence.

In volatile areas of Chechnya, a USG program encouraged hundreds of youth to participate in community decision-making, to build relationships with elder generations and local government, and to gain skills in finding alternatives to violence. Similarly, in Kenya, USG support helped identify hotspots in two districts that were severely affected by post-election violence; training for 15 new and 47 existing youth self-help groups in these districts provided youth employment and helped rebuild relationships across ethnic divides. In the Middle East, a USG-supported program for Palestinian and Israeli educators developed cross-cultural understanding, leadership skills, and awareness of how to build peaceful learning environments for youth in West Bank/Gaza and Israel. Educators introduced new curricula, methods, and action plans that improved their ability to teach tolerance in Israeli and Palestinian schools.

In Lebanon, where young people live in conflict-prone areas that are hotbeds for political extremism, the USG works with local groups to involve youth in peace-building activities. In the southern city of Saida, USG partners are working with vulnerable Lebanese and Palestinian youth near Ein El Helweh, Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp; one youth-led group formed with USG support has reached out to other youth through conflict resolution workshops, peace festivals, and community development initiatives.

USG assistance provides at-risk youth with nonviolent outlets for self-expression in areas plagued by poverty and violence, while alleviating longstanding tensions between peoples. Land and resources are often a source of conflict and the USG provides technical assistance and resource support to build local institutions' capacity to address this issue. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Promoted dialogue and understanding on land rights and conflicts in Rwanda through a media initiative involving nationwide radio, magazines, and call-in shows
- Paired more than a dozen Palestinian communities with their Israeli neighbors across the border to build rainwater-harvesting systems, reconstruct wetlands, and build water conservation projects together
- Helped residents mitigate conflict along the Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan border through a USG project that provided maps of cattle corridors, pastures, and borders to residents of two villages in a pilot approach to reconciling conflicting claims before they become a source of dispute in the region

Reconciliation activities focus on community-level peace processes that bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious, or political backgrounds from areas of civil conflict and war. This approach breaks down barriers through personal contact, addresses issues of mutual concern that establish common ground for cooperation and coexistence, and seeks reconciliation for past violence or ongoing grievances between opposing parties in a conflict. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Contributed to peaceful presidential and parliamentary elections in Ghana in 2008 through conflict mitigation activities that reduced the likelihood of violence and reached 10,000 participants

- Strengthened the Yemeni Government's ability to work with tribal and community leaders to resolve conflicts and end the practice of revenge killings. (Following a training-of-trainers, one high-level Yemeni religious scholar issued a religious decree describing work with Western organizations that help Muslims resolve problems and develop their country as a religious duty.)

- Trained more than 1,500 people in Burundi to settle conflicts through judicial and grassroots non-violent mechanisms; USG support enabled community dialogue among victims and perpetrators of the 1993 mass atrocities, resulting in their own decision to enter into a reconciliation process, tackle the issue of non-returning IDPs, and orchestrate a surrender of weapons on the International Day of Peace

Highlights of USG technical leadership in FY 2009 included Guidance on Supporting Peace Processes, which provides recommendations on using development resources to support peace processes at national and local levels. Additionally, the 2009 version of the USAID Alert Lists – a rigorous, unclassified analysis of a country's risk for violent conflict – supported USAID and interagency targeting of conflict prevention resources in vulnerable countries.

Governing Justly and Democratically

USG programming under the Governing Justly and Democratically objective occurs within the context of prolonged global economic instability, the ascendency of alternative development assistance models like those of China, and continued USG military presence and engagement in Iraq and Afghanistan. Stemming democratic backsliding and tailoring democracy and governance assistance to the needs of post-conflict environments are now the strategic challenges for USG programming focused on this objective. USG targeted these challenges in FY 2009 and achieved significant results in supporting democratic processes, free and fair elections, access to justice, human rights, and criminal justice reforms; building the capacity of civil society actors and institutions; and supporting sustainable approaches to good governance.

In FY 2009, USG assistance trained 6,000 election officials, supported voter education and outreach campaigns that reached 6.6 million people, and increased the governing capacity of democratic political parties, in part by training 3,000 political party workers.

To increase access to justice, the USG supported judicial exchanges that provided technical assistance in court administration, case-flow management, and institutionalizing exchanges in Pakistan, South Africa, Kazakhstan, and the Kyrgyz Republic.

USG assistance enabled media outlets to provide greater access to justice, to build the capacity of civil society actors and institutions, and to support sustainable approaches to good governance. In Kenya, for example, the first-ever parliamentary media center was opened in 2009. The center supplies a place where parliamentarians and other officials can hold formal press conferences; the USG-supported House Live Broadcast project provides audio and video production equipment, imported from the United States, which enables live radio and television feeds of legislative proceedings. Evidence of the Kenyan Parliament's newfound independence is reflected in rulings that have challenged Presidential appointments and rejected the inclusion of questionable funds for the Prime Minister's house in the national budget.

In Nepal, USG assistance supported 36 radio stations in producing and broadcasting live radio talk shows that link Constituent Assembly (CA) representatives and local government officials with their constituents. The USG provided equipment to many of these radio stations, enabling the stations to

conduct local dialogues and linking them live to concerned decision makers, and allowing rural communities to provide feedback on constitutional topics while providing a forum for the CA members to deliver their message to their constituents. In many cases, this was the only platform where a common citizen had direct access to these officials, and the officials were able to clarify misunderstandings about a complex process such as land registration. Officials were also able to hear complaints directly that they may not have heard otherwise.

Investing in People

The USG's goal under the Investing in People objective is to improve health, education, and social services for most at-risk and vulnerable populations. In the past three decades, there have been major increases in the scope and scale of threats to the security and well-being of vulnerable populations such as children, people with disabilities, and victims of conflict-related trauma.

The USG's worldwide support to hospitals and schools enabled the construction and rehabilitation of facilities and the provision of advanced technological and medical equipment. The USAID Office of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) specifically works to provide grants to competitively-selected private, non-profit universities and secondary schools, libraries, and medical centers abroad to provide foreign nationals the benefits of American ideas and practices in education and medicine, and serve as centers which foster interchange, mutual understanding, and favorable relations with the United States.

The ASHA office currently manages a worldwide portfolio of over 200 grants and continues to award approximately 40 new grants every year. In FY 2009, 45 grants were awarded for a total of $21 million in Africa, Asia, Europe and Eurasia, Latin America, and Middle East. ASHA assistance will continue to support those exceptional institutions that best promote the ideals and practices of the United States.

In FY 2009, USG assistance also worked to invest in people via the congressionally directed funds of the Special Programs Addressing the Needs of Survivors. This program:

- Reunited more than 1,700 children with their families, brought nearly 270 people to trial for child abuse and maltreatment, particularly in cases involving accusations of witchcraft, and helped release 550 abused and imprisoned children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Trained educators in 117 schools on an inclusive education curriculum, and provided assistive devices for 70 children with disabilities in Laos
- Provided psychosocial services to over 1,785 clients in Sri Lanka, an environment that continues to pose a threat to human rights
- Began to develop pilot programs and advocacy strategies to engage people with disabilities in international development cooperation in Zambia, Pakistan, and Mexico

Humanitarian Assistance

The main goal of work done under the Humanitarian Assistance objective is to provide protection, assistance, and solutions to vulnerable populations of the world. The USG works to minimize the human costs of displacement, conflicts, and natural disasters while supporting mitigation activities that reduce the impact of humanitarian disasters and build local capacity for disaster management

and response. The USG uses emergency crisis assistance, emergency food assistance, and disaster readiness programs to achieve these goals.

In FY 2009, the USG responded to 57 disasters in 46 countries, responding within 72 hours of each declared disaster. USG's humanitarian assistance for IDPs and other vulnerable populations is needs-based and holistic; programming addresses shelter, water, sanitation, health, nutrition, economic recovery, and protection needs of displaced and other disaster or conflict-affected populations. The USG ensures that its humanitarian assistance reaches children, youth, and women, and that protection against any form of abuse or exploitation, including gender-based violence, is integrated into its programs.

The USG also assists vulnerable populations with emergency food aid implemented through private voluntary organizations (PVOs), international organizations, primarily the World Food Program (WFP), and foreign governments. During FY 2009, the USG provided food aid that allowed the WFP and PVOs to respond to emergencies in 44 countries, including 27 in Africa, 4 in Latin America, and 13 in the Asian, Near East, and Eurasian regions.

USG programs delivered food aid to food-insecure and vulnerable populations including refugees, IDPs, and natural disaster- and conflict-affected populations. In FY 2009, USG assistance:

- Addressed the humanitarian assistance gap in Darfur after the expulsion of 13 international PVOs in March 2009; distributed two-month food rations in all 3 Darfur states, reaching 1.1 million food-insecure people
- Reached beneficiaries and returnees highly dependent on food assistance, despite continued violence against humanitarian staff in Southern Sudan
- Enabled WFP and PVO partners to provide more than 580,680 metric tons of food aid rations, reaching up to 6.1 million food-insecure people in Darfur, Southern Sudan, and eastern Chad
- Supported Ethiopian PVO partners in using the Government of Ethiopia's Productive Safety Net Program to aid more than 7.5 million people with food or cash assistance; also enabled WFP and PVO partners to provide more than 418,200 MT of relief rations, a portion of which benefited drought-affected populations in Ethiopia.

The USG's most powerful tool for responding to food emergencies is through food insecurity risk-management based on the collection and analysis of early warning and vulnerability information. In FY 2009, the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) continued to improve the accuracy of famine prediction systems. In Pakistan, FEWS NET also trained Government staff to estimate agricultural production more accurately using an area frame sample and high-resolution imagery.

The USG's disaster risk reduction (DRR) programs aim at saving lives; protecting livelihoods, assets, and infrastructure before, during, and after a disaster; and increasing communities' resilience to natural hazards. USAID/OFDA programs promote self-sufficiency in DRR by strengthening the capacity of governments at all levels and communities to identify, manage, and reduce the impacts of natural disasters through sustainable, multi-sectoral programs, as well as to prepare for and respond to potential crises in a timely and efficient manner. For example, a disaster preparedness and cash-for-work program in Afghanistan contributed to increased food security for nearly 4,000 families.

Another example of a successful DRR programs is the RANET program, which targets vulnerable populations in remote areas, increasing resilience to climate-induced disasters by providing access to hydrometeorological information. With USG funding, RANET was expanded in Mozambique by building additional community radio stations to disseminate climate and weather related information to populations in vulnerable areas, allowing populations in flood-prone areas to have access to cyclone early warnings. The USG also supports global readiness and mitigation through the Volcano Disaster Assistance Program, which monitors volcanoes near populated areas and sends teams of scientists and technicians to sites to advise local authorities when a volcano begins to show signs of eruption.