USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FRONTLINES

WWW. USAID.GOV MAY 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Photo courtesy of IRD

This Afghan man is learning business skills as women train for construction jobs and the Internet reaches more schools.

Afghanistan at a glance. See page 12.

FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES:

Peace and Security
Pakistan's largest wholesale market recovers from bomb fire . . . . . SEE PAGE **6**

Governing Justly and Democratically
Internet centers encourage discussion and transparency in Eurasia . . . . . SEE PAGE **6**

Investing in People
Brazil prepares youth for labor market . . . . . SEE PAGES **3**

Economic Growth
U.S. and Sweden join forces to support financing in developing countries . . . . . SEE PAGE **5**

Humanitarian Assistance
The Peace Corps: its goals, volunteers, and relationship with USAID . . . . . SEE PAGE **2**

Photo by Ben Barber, USAID

President Barack Obama announced in April that the U.S. will help entrepreneurs in Muslim-majority countries. Here, a West Bank farmer supported by USAID grows vegetables under plastic in the Jordan River Valley. See story, this page.

U.S. Agency for International Development
Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20523-6100

Penalty for Private Use $300
Official Business

PRSRT STD
Postage and Fees
PAID USAID
Permit No. G-107

At Town Hall, Shah Launches Policy Office, First Lady Hails Agency

By Angela Rucker

At his first Town Hall meeting with USAID employees May 5, Administrator Rajiv Shah said USAID will establish a policy and budget office while first lady Michelle Obama thanked the Agency for "inspiring" work overseas.

Shah introduced a number of initiatives that he said will reinvigorate the Agency and he called for greater use of science and technology in development.

Obama said that, "Over the years, your work here has touched millions of lives" through work on health care, education, disaster aid, and agriculture.

"I know that the mission has been difficult over the last decade. The work that you do has not been easy. You've often been asked to do more and more with less," she said.

Shah called for more innovation, risk taking, and transparent discussion of Agency failures so they can become learning tools. He cited the example of development innovators like the late Nobel

Photo by USAID

Administrator Rajiv Shah welcomes first lady Michelle Obama during a Town Hall meeting at the Ronald Reagan Building May 5.

see **TOWN HALL** on page 10 ▶

U.S. to Help Muslim Entrepreneurs

By Angela Rucker and Brittany Jackson

The Obama administration announced in April that USAID will help new business owners launch ventures in Egypt and other mainly Muslim countries.

A team of entrepreneurs-in-residence will try to kick start the Egypt business innovations —one of many plans announced during a two-day Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship held in Washington.

Several hundred people from more than 50 countries—not all of them Muslim—attended the conference.

High-profile entrepreneurs who work in Islamic countries said it is possible to surmount obstacles that may be unique to some countries or cultures and to play a role in transforming societies—particularly in developing countries where trade, economic growth, and job creation lag.

The event took place nearly one year after President Barack Obama pledged a "new beginning" with Muslim-majority countries during a closely watched speech in Cairo. Obama appeared at the conference to follow through on that promise.

"Today, we're fulfilling my commitment in Cairo to deepen ties between business leaders, foundations, and entrepreneurs in the United States and Muslim communities around the world," Obama said to an appreciative crowd of delegates packed into an auditorium at the Ronald Reagan Building.

"Trade between the United

see **SUMMIT** on page 10 ▶

WFP Head: Hunger Leads to 'Dangerous World'

President Calls for $1.8B Plan

One person out of six in the world is in a state of chronic hunger, said Josette Sheeran, executive director of the U.N. World Food Program (WFP), which gets 40 percent of its funding from USAID.

"A hungry world is a dangerous world," she said at an April talk at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. Hunger affects foreign policy, peace, and stability, Sheeran said.

The 2008 global food crisis pushed an additional 200 million people into hunger, yet Sheeran said that "hunger is not overwhelming" and must be handled "just one cup at a time."

Food aid isn't what it used to be. It's now sophisticated and

see **HUNGER** on page 11 ▶

Interview with Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams

Aaron Williams

New Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams, a former senior official at USAID, sat down on April 7 in his Washington headquarters office with FrontLines *editor Ben Barber to discuss his plans for the future and the USAID-Peace Corps relationship.*

Q: What are your priorities as director of the Peace Corps? What would you like to accomplish in the next few years?

WILLIAMS: Well, this is a wonderful time for the Peace Corps. The president has issued a call to service to Americans, and the Peace Corps is a part of that. He's asked us to build the Peace Corps.

And Americans are responding. Applications are up. We've got 15,000 applications for about 4,000 positions, so we have the demand. Americans want to serve. And Congress has been very supportive. We have strong, bipartisan support on the Hill.

I have three areas that I'm focusing on as my priorities.

First of all, we're going to expand the number of countries where we currently operate. We just announced this past year we are returning to Sierra Leone and Indonesia.

And almost every week, I have either meetings or letters from our ambassadors in various countries, or the ambassadors of host countries, asking us to either enter for the first time or expand our programs in the country or reenter a country.

And there are many countries where we expand existing programs such as TOEFL [Test of English as a Foreign Language]; education, which remains our number-one sector; and health, including HIV/AIDS and malaria awareness and prevention.

ICT [information and communications technology] is also growing; and small business development and agricultural development are other key sectors.

Q: How many volunteers do you have today?

WILLIAMS: 7700.

Q: Wasn't it once up as high as 15,000?

WILLIAMS: That's right. In the Kennedy/Shriver era. We'd like to attain that if we continue to receive resources.

Growth is my first priority. The second is innovation. The Peace Corps is about to celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2011. I now have the chance to take a look at all of our operations across the board—in headquarters, in the field—to see how we can innovate, reform, improve our processes and our operations.

Q: What are the main goals of the Peace Corps?

WILLIAMS: Our goals are: number one, provide Americans to countries that want trained personnel to assist them in development projects; two, give the people of those countries a better understanding of America, to see the true face of America, shoulder to shoulder, side by side, working with them at the grassroots and community level; and three, to bring that rich, varied experience back home to America and enrich our society and give Americans a broader perspective on the world.

We've got about 200,000 alumni—returned Peace Corps volunteers—who are leaders in every sector in America. We have six returned Peace Corps volunteers in the Congress. We have many returned Peace Corps volunteers who are staff in the Congress. We have leaders in government, in public health, higher education, and business. There's a chance to really engage with that community.

Q: Do many Peace Corps volunteers lean towards a development career at USAID or at other agencies?

WILLIAMS: That's a great question. After I was sworn in, I went to see the Peace Corps in action, right now in 2010, in the Dominican Republic, Nicaragua, South Africa, and Thailand. Many of the senior officials at the embassy are returned Peace Corps volunteers.

And in the USAID mission, many, many people are former Peace Corps volunteers or staff. Then, when you talk to the host governments, many of the ministers have been positively impacted by Peace Corps volunteers in the past, at a very early age in some cases; teachers that they encountered, or mentors, coaches, et cetera. So they have a very positive view of the Peace Corps.

Then, when you go out to the field and look at projects in any given country and you look at the leading NGOs—World Vision, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Save the Children, Mercy Corps—many of their project leaders are returned Peace Corps volunteers.

Q: What do you look for in volunteers—what age group, expertise? Generalists or farmers and engineers?

WILLIAMS: Enthusiasm and a willingness to serve. That's at the top of my list. Age has no bearing on it whatsoever. Our oldest volunteer is 85 years old. She's a health care worker in rural Morocco.

The vast majority tends to be in their mid to late 20s—generalists, liberal arts graduates. That's still the backbone of the Peace Corps. We also want the engineers, the health care specialists. But we take a liberal arts graduate and we train them for health projects or to teach English as a second language or to work in the ICT areas. We also train in 250 languages.

Q: Do volunteers still go out to the villages for long stays?

WILLIAMS: Oh, yeah. Often, they live in remote areas.

Q: I recall that some years ago they often stayed in the capital cities.

WILLIAMS: Well, I think that that model probably was not unusual in the '60s and the '70s. But now volunteers work all over the country, and they really focus on grassroots, village- and community-level work. We want our volunteers to be in the field, shoulder to shoulder with people working on projects that are going to become sustainable at the village level. Now, there are some advisors in secondary cities and capitals, but Peace Corps volunteers work primarily at the grassroots/village level. If you look at our HIV/AIDS programs, our malaria programs, that's where you'll find a lot of our volunteers in those sectors, working in towns and villages.

Q: Can you tell us a little bit about your own Peace Corps experience?

WILLIAMS: I served in the Dominican Republic from '67 to '70. I was a teacher trainer my first two years. I worked in a program that provided a high school education to rural schoolteachers. The average one had a sixth-grade education.

I rode on horseback and walked and rode a motorcycle to visit them and I lived with them in the villages where they lived during the week. So I spent the week out in the countryside with them and then I spent the weekends teaching. These teachers were probably 20 years older than I was. I was only 20 at the time. They gave up their weekends and their entire summer for two years to enroll and be trained in this course. This was a tremendous sacrifice for them and their families. And it was a marvelous experience for me. I had a chance to work with some very dedicated people, and I like to think I made a contribution to improving their lives and the lives of children they taught.

After two years, I was asked to go to the Catholic university in the Dominican Republic—the first private university in the nation—to create a teaching program for their senior students in the education department.

Q: You didn't have a graduate degree in teaching?

WILLIAMS: No. The Peace Corps gave me the opportunity to research American teacher training programs and I created a course for the university working with the faculty there. Pretty amazing to get that kind of leadership opportunity at 22 years of age.

And I was very fortunate because I met my wife in the Dominican Republic, which changed my life forever. Eventually, after I got my master's degree in business, I chose to join USAID and had a marvelous 22-year career there.

Q: How do you see the USAID and the Peace Corps relationship in Washington and the field?

WILLIAMS: It is absolutely a wonderful relationship. Everywhere I go in the world, I visit with the USAID mission directors, many of whom are my former colleagues and friends, and we have a very strong partnership between our Peace Corps country directors and the USAID mission.

And this is all encouraged and supported by all of the ambassadors where we have Peace Corps programs. A lot of these folks are former Peace Corps volunteers. We are looking for ways to strengthen and broaden that relationship.

I have had some preliminary talks with [USAID] Administrator [Rajiv] Shah about ways that we can strengthen and build the Peace Corps/USAID relationship.

We're part of the interagency Global Health Initiative he's leading and we interact with USAID on PEPFAR [President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief] and the Food Security Initiative. We also receive significant funds from USAID's special project assistance grants supporting grassroots projects.

Q: How do you see the young people today? Do you think that there's a rebirth of selfless international effort to improve the world?

WILLIAMS: I think you really captured it in that expression: a selfless interest in improving the world. We see that wherever

see **WILLIAMS** on page 11 ▶

Mission of the Month

Photo by Instituto Empreender

Marcelo Déda, governor of Sergipe, poses with *Enter Jovem* students during a launch of the program in the state.

Brazil's Youth Gain Employability

Challenge

Private businesses in Brazil are often unable to find qualified employees to hire. Many young people without training or skills—many of them socially and economically disadvantaged—are entering the labor force but lack the know-how needed in a rapidly changing workplace. They live in poverty because they lack the education and skills required for jobs, ensuring a continuance of this poverty.

Although nearly all of Brazil's children are enrolled in school, the quality of education for students from poor backgrounds remains low. As a result, youth unemployment rates have steadily increased from: 9.1 percent in 1991, to 14.7 percent in 2000, and to 21.1 percent in 2009. This is considerably higher than the national rates of 4.8 percent, 7.5 percent, and 9 percent, respectively.

In Brazil's poor northeast region, which accounts for nearly one-third of its population, unemployment rates for youth are as high as 52 percent. Many young people face a lifetime of low-paying jobs, often in the informal sector such as day labor or street sales. These jobs do not respond to the needs of a growing economy and do not allow the individual to break the cycle of unemployment and poverty.

Brazil has one of world's highest social-economic inequity rates and the country's economic growth is significantly hindered. High unemployment rates among youth raises concerns that the resentment and frustration that accompanies unemployment might feed violence. In a recent World Health Organization study of youth homicide rates, Brazil ranked third highest out of 60 countries surveyed. Nationally, 4 percent of all deaths in Brazil are considered homicides. Forty-eight percent of deaths of youth between the ages of 15 and 24 are considered to be homicides. In the states of Pernambuco and Rio de Janeiro, it's 55 percent.

Innovative Response

In 2004, the USAID office in Brazil began funding *Enter Jovem*, a program to train and assist youth aged 16-29 to obtain formal sector jobs in the northeast. Originally working out of community centers in the states of Bahia and Pernambuco, the program developed a method of teaching life and professional skills. Participants were finding and keeping formal sector positions.

However, after nearly four years, the program was not having much impact on policy and wasn't moving towards sustainability. In 2008, USAID focused on a new strategy of working with other organizations to increase impact and sustainability.

Through discussions with the public and private sectors, it became clear that the public school curriculum nationwide must be expanded.

Based on the program's four years of experience, and focusing on the demands of the labor market, USAID added employability, technology training, and English language elements to meet the needs of underprivileged youth.

B R A Z I L

Throughout 2008 and 2009, USAID developed partnerships with state governments, Motorola, IBM, and large Brazilian firms in the energy and construction industries.

A pilot program was started in Pernambuco to house the program in a local public school. As the Pernambuco secretary of education, school directors, coordinators, and teachers were exposed to the curriculum and teaching methods, they began expanding the methods to more classes. The pilot program, with the added English-language component, began attracting the attention of other state governments seeking to adopt *Enter Jovem's* methods.

By 2009, USAID was discussing partnerships with the states of Bahia, Ceará, Rio de Janeiro, and Sergipe to adopt the new methods in their public schools with the state governments providing financial and other contributions.

Results

As of early 2010, the program has trained 7,500 students and 800 trainers, and has raised awareness of youth employment issues among hundreds of employers in the northeast.

Placement rates in 2009 exceeded targets, and 85 percent of the young people who got jobs kept them for at least three months.

The new program is becoming sustainable and, even though the program budget has been reduced, partnerships are allowing USAID to expand the program into new states. Formal partnerships have been created with the states of Bahia, Ceará, Pernambuco, and Sergipe.

Currently, USAID is finalizing a partnership with Rio de Janeiro to support activities in their public schools which will be financed through a three-year, $1.8 million partnership with Chevron. ★

INSIGHTS

FROM ADMINISTRATOR DR. RAJIV SHAH

Last year, the number of people suffering from chronic hunger topped 1 billion for the first time.

The food crisis, followed by the financial crisis, clearly exacerbated the hunger problem. But so did years of drift among donors and governments, including our own.

The president of the United States and the secretary of state are calling upon USAID to lead a second Green Revolution.

I know this agency is up to the challenge.

Through the Feed the Future Initiative, we will be investing at least $3.5 billion over three years to reverse the trend of increasing food insecurity. Combined with the contributions of our partners, we expect to raise the incomes of 40 million people over 10 years and reach 25 million children with nutrition interventions that will prevent stunting in 10 million kids.

How will we accomplish this? Even USAID's most expert work is limited in its ability to transform systems.

Country-owned plans are key to the initiative. For years there has been talk about country-led planning. So what's new here?

As an example, since 2006, Rwanda has experienced a real increase in agricultural growth. They assembled all interested parties, developed a plan, and completed a thorough technical review in December. As of April 15th, Rwanda's $848 million plan is substantially funded, with a $275 million assist from international donors.

By the end of 2010 we should have 15 African investment plans, representing more than 600 million Africans. These plans, which must serve as the basis for all donor engagement, have the following elements: clear investment priorities, strong commitment from the highest level of leadership, transformational goals, and the involvement of civil society and the private sector.

We will increase our investments based on these plans, but we all know it's not just about how much we give. It's about how we focus our funding.

Another core principle of our Feed the Future Initiative is taking a comprehensive approach to food security across the whole value chain— from farm to table. That approach starts with a restructured research agenda.

To that end, we are working with other donors to support the CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) in its effort to reform, which includes focusing on priority staple crops and enhancing production systems.

We are expanding our partnerships with the Agricultural Research Service and the new National Institute for Food and Agriculture in areas such as wheat stem rust and livestock disease research.

We are also asking our land grant university partners to push the frontiers of productivity. Our eight current Collaborative Research Support Programs cover 115 research activities. As we increase our investment, we will focus on a smaller set of core priorities.

Developing effective markets is also a top priority. Too often have our investments resulted in a collection of projects that fail to transform a value chain or fail to leave behind a lasting market-oriented agricultural system. So we will do things differently.

First, we're aligning with private sector priorities our investments in grain storage, feeder roads, and market information systems.

Second, we are refocusing efforts to increase agri-business investment in countries. Our tools include philanthropic or corporate partnerships, use of our Development Credit Authority (DCA) to expand access to bank lending, and grant mechanisms that

see **INSIGHTS** on page 9 ▶

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

BRIEFS

USAID to Increase African Programs

NAIROBI, Kenya—Administrator Rajiv Shah said on his first trip to Africa as USAID chief that he plans to increase funding and staff for programs in Africa to help the continent reduce poverty, disease, and illiteracy, the Associated Press reported May 15.

Shah spoke during a six-day trip to Africa that included Sudan.

USAID has offices in 23 African countries. The Agency funds and runs programs to improve health, food security, democracy, and entrepreneurship in Africa.

Niger Seeks to Feed 1.5 Million

NIAMEY, Niger—Niger's transitional government announced May 17 the launch of a food distribution operation for nearly 1.5 million people facing severe shortages, Agence France-Presse reported.

"This distribution of supplies complements other operations which are already under way and involves coming to the aid of a population estimated to be a little under 1.5 million people," said spokesman Mahamadou Dan Dah.

According to the United Nations, around 7.8 million Nigeriens—more than half the population—are in need of food, out of the approximately 10 million affected by the crisis in the Sahel region.

The search for food has sent thousands flocking into Maradi, the main city in south-central Niger.

American Donations to Haiti Reach $1.3B

Four months after the Haiti earthquake, Americans have donated $1.3 billion for disaster relief there, according to the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University.

The Haiti donations are almost equal to the $1.5 billion given after the Asian tsunami in 2004, *USA TODAY* reported May 13.

About half the Haiti donations were raised by the American Red Cross, which collected $444 million, and Catholic Relief Services, which raised $136 million, according to The Chronicle of Philanthropy.

Members of a coalition of aid organizations called InterAction, which include the American Red Cross, Catholic Relief Services, World Vision, the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, and Save the Children, have planned to split their funds almost equally between immediate relief and long-term reconstruction in Haiti, InterAction President Sam Worthington said.

"We have the largest humanitarian disaster in an urban setting since World War II. It is tapping the limits of our capacity to respond," Worthington said.

Infections Cause Two-thirds of Child Deaths Each Year

More than two-thirds of the estimated 8.8 million deaths in children under 5 worldwide in 2008 were caused by infectious diseases like pneumonia, diarrhea, and malaria, according to a study on behalf of the World Health Organization and UNICEF, Reuters reported May 12.

High-income countries account for only around 1 percent of the under-5 deaths. Almost half of such deaths occurred in five countries—India, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo, Pakistan, and China.

Long Winter Leaves Mongolians in Need

GENEVA—The United Nations says nearly 800,000 people in Mongolia need humanitarian aid to recover from a long and heavy winter, the AP reported May 12.

At least 7.5 million animals—over 17 percent of Mongolia's total livestock—died this winter so far.

The U.N. said Wednesday that animals are still dying as heavy snowfall and cold temperatures continue. Malnutrition has also increased and deaths of children under 5 have jumped by 35 percent since January in the affected regions.

New British Aid Chief Halts Projects in Homeland

LONDON—The new British government has cut back aid spending on projects inside Great Britain to focus funds on fighting poverty in needy countries overseas, the *Daily Telegraph* reported May 17.

Andrew Mitchell, the new secretary of state for international development, said spending should not be spent on "frivolous" home-grown projects. He cancelled five programs, saving about $700,000, and froze all U.K.-based projects, worth $8.4 million.

Cancelled projects include a grant to a Brazilian-style dance group in London; training for outdoor education tutors and nursery school teachers on development and global issues; and booths at summer pop music festivals.

All savings will be redirected to countries where it is expected to have a greater impact on global poverty. The international aid budget has been protected from cuts that are expected in most other spending departments.

Countries Slash Health Spending After Getting Aid

LONDON—After getting millions of dollars to fight AIDS, some African countries responded by slashing their health budgets, new research says, according to the AP.

Although the international community spent billions in health aid to supplement health budgets in poor countries over many years, development money prompted some governments to spend on entirely different things which cannot be tracked, The Lancet reported April 16.

International health aid jumped from about $8 billion in 1995 to almost $19 billion in 2006, with the United States being the biggest donor.

Most countries in Latin America, Asia, and the Middle East doubled their health budgets. But many in Africa—including those with the worst AIDS outbreaks—trimmed their health spending instead.

In The Lancet study, for every dollar received from donors, poor countries transferred up to $1.14 originally slated for their health budgets elsewhere. The research was paid for by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

"We don't know what countries are doing with their own money once the donor money comes in," said Christopher Murray, director of the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington and one of the paper's authors.

Murray's paper also found debt relief had no effect on health spending.

Afghan Arrested in Scheme to Defraud USAID

KABUL—An Afghan citizen working on a project funded by USAID was arrested by Afghan authorities in May and charged with embezzling nearly $193,000 while working as a finance coordinator on a $229 million local governance program.

Ahman Samim Sediqi was responsible for depositing monthly tax payments from the Agency's implementing partner to Afghanistan's Ministry of Finance into a local bank account. When the ministry reported that it had not received the payments, an investigation was initiated. Local law enforcement officials, aided by investigators from USAID's Office of the Inspector General, discovered that the bank deposit slips Sediqi had submitted to the partner as proof of payment were not legitimate.

Sediqi remains in jail in Kabul awaiting trial.

From news reports and other sources. ★

FRONTLINES: MAYS PAST

1970: The May 6 edition of *FrontLines* reported on emergency aid to Gediz, Turkey, following an earthquake that killed more than 1,000 people, injured more than 3,000, and left 50,000 to 90,000 homeless. The Agency airlifted 1,000 tents to the area April 3.

1980: While the Foreign Assistance Act prohibits aid to communist countries, noted the May 1 *FrontLines*, assistance may take place through the Agency's Office of Reimbursable Development Programs. The office had recently provided funding for U.S. water and power specialists to travel to China to discuss development of the country's hydroelectric power.

1990: President George H.W. Bush emphasizes "the U.S. commitment to domestic and international policies that are environmentally effective and efficient" during a White House conference on global change, reported the May 1990 *FrontLines*. During an event hosted by USAID, Administrator Ronald Roskens and other Agency officials addressed conference delegates about the Agency's commitment to helping developing countries find solutions to environmental damage.

2000: *FrontLines* dedicates its April/May issue to covering the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the leading cause of death in Africa. Topics include preventing transmission of the disease from mother to child, prevention efforts, antiretroviral treatment, and the additional threat of tuberculosis on the continent. ★

U.S.-Swedish Development Agencies Agree to Back Loans

By Jane Stanley and Nancy Leahy

USAID's credit guarantee program, the Development Credit Authority (DCA), recently celebrated its 10th anniversary with a new partnership between the United States and Sweden to support private sector financing in developing countries.

Administrator Rajiv Shah and Director General of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) Anders Nordström signed an agreement March 26 that includes joint credit guarantees to partially compensate a bank's loss during a loan default. By insuring against loss, the guarantees encourage banks and other financial institutions to provide financing to creditworthy, yet underserved, borrowers.

USAID and Sida plan to issue their first joint guarantee in Bosnia.

"This partnership with Sida is very important," Shah said. "The president and this administration are firmly committed to the concept of individual entrepreneurship and the real spread of private enterprise around the world."

Shah added that donor collaboration through joint guarantees "brings together partners that have a shared base of experience and innovation"—allowing USAID and Sida to accomplish more than they could acting alone.

Since 1999, DCA has provided over $1.9 billion of private financing through 234 guarantees in nearly 70 countries, including small business owners such as Emannuel Harelimana in Rwanda. Because he received a bank loan with the help of a USAID partial credit guarantee, Harelimana was able to buy better machinery for his coffee company, CAFERWA, which has become Rwanda's third largest coffee exporter.

DCA guarantees have also promoted lending in new sectors. In Bulgaria, a credit guarantee resulted in $8.1 million in commercial financing for 30 projects that reduced carbon dioxide emissions. As a result, local banks recognized the viability of clean energy as a profitable investment and now lend to the sector without USAID support.

DCA guarantees have also helped schools to buy books, communities to rebuild after conflict and natural disasters, municipalities to deliver clean water and other services, health clinics to access new technologies, and farmers to improve their crops. ★

After 25 Million Deaths, Search Continues for HIV Vaccine

In the three decades since the HIV/AIDS epidemic began, nearly 60 million people worldwide have been infected with HIV and more than 25 million have died of HIV-related causes. Every day, at least 7,400 people become newly HIV-infected.

Despite progress in providing treatment to people who need it, these efforts cannot keep up with the number of new HIV infections. For every two individuals with HIV who begin taking antiretroviral therapy to manage the virus, five additional people become newly infected. This is why USAID continues to support the quest for a safe vaccine that could effectively prevent HIV infection—a search that is commemorated on May 18, HIV Vaccine Awareness Day.

Since 2001, USAID has contributed $134 million to try to discover an HIV vaccine through a major partnership with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative. In addition, several universities, biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies, and other U.S. government agencies are working to find a vaccine.

The first study to test an experimental HIV vaccine in humans was conducted in 1987, and some question why a safe and effective vaccine is not yet available.

"Vaccines have always been our best weapon against some of our worst diseases, including polio and smallpox. But what people seem to forget all too easily is that it often took 50 years or more to discover and develop those vaccines," said Margaret McCluskey, senior technical advisor for HIV vaccine research in the Office of HIV/AIDS, part of USAID's Bureau for Global Health.

"From each clinical trial, we learn valuable lessons that serve to better design the next clinical trial until ultimately we find a vaccine that works."

Complicating the search for a vaccine has been HIV's tricky biological properties. Unlike other viruses, HIV has the ability to hide in an infected person's cells while also rapidly mutating, escaping, and evolving. And because the virus ravages critical immune system cells designed to fight infection, most people are unable to clear the infection naturally.

Although extremely rare, some long-term HIV-infected individuals do develop antibodies that effectively neutralize the virus, however, the vaccines that have been tested to date have not been able to generate these blocking antibodies in people. And since HIV does not cause disease in animals the way it does in people, a vaccine that shows promise in animal testing may not be effective in humans. That is why human clinical studies are needed.

A major HIV vaccine study in Thailand last fall resulted in only modest gains in the vaccine search. Still, recent identification of rare but powerful naturally occurring antibodies capable of blocking HIV are encouraging renewed optimism in the pursuit of an effective HIV vaccine. ★

For the Record…

You cannot get infected with HIV if you participate in an HIV vaccine study. The vaccines used in clinical studies do not contain live versions of the virus.

U.S. EXPANDS ANTI-MALARIA EFFORT IN AFRICA

Arona Guèye, the chief nurse at the Kaymor Health Post in Senegal, makes a bold prediction.

"Malaria is backing down, and if this trend continues, the next generation of nurses will not be able to recognize a clinical severe malaria case because malaria is no longer our problem here," he said.

Guèye used to treat so many severe malaria cases that his health post was full, forcing him to treat some patients in his own house. In the most recent rainy season, however, he confirmed only 17 cases of malaria, none severe.

In Senegal, a 2008 national household survey recorded a 30 percent reduction in deaths in children under 5, compared with 2005. During the same period, household ownership of one or more insecticide-treated mosquito nets rose from 36 percent to 60 percent.

Similar declines in child deaths have been achieved in Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Sub-Saharan Africa is the epicenter of the world's malaria control activities, with about 85 percent of the world's malaria cases and 90 percent of malaria deaths. But since 2006, substantial progress has been made in delivering malaria prevention tools and providing treatment to those with confirmed malaria.

> In 2009, PMI reached over 50 million people.

On World Malaria Day, April 22, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah and Rear Adm. Tim Ziemer, coordinator of U.S. Global Malaria Programs, released the U.S. government's latest six-year strategy to combat malaria globally. The goal is to cut in half the number of cases and deaths by 2015 in 70 percent of the 450 million people who live in malaria-prone regions of sub-Saharan Africa.

"We must [take] a long-term view because backing off on funding to support ongoing control and elimination efforts will undoubtedly result in a resurgence of malaria and a subsequent loss of all of the gains we are making," said Ziemer.

The strategy also outlines efforts to stop the spread of multidrug resistance in Southeast Asia and the Americas; and links malaria prevention and treatment with maternal and child health, HIV/AIDS, neglected tropical diseases, and tuberculosis programs. The strategy also stresses international collaboration and strengthening of health systems.

It follows the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), which is led by USAID and carried out with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

The program aims to cut by 50 percent the malaria-related deaths in 15 target African countries by reaching 85 percent of the most vulnerable groups—children under age 5 and pregnant women—with prevention and treatment. In 2009, PMI reached over 50 million people.

"The U.S. government's commitment to fight malaria is a key component of our nation's foreign assistance strategy and President Obama's Global Health Initiative—a global commitment to invest in healthy and productive lives and maximize the sustainable health impact the United States achieves for every dollar invested," Shah said. ★

THE REGIONS

LATIN AMERICA

Jamaica Fights Gangs and Violence Island-wide

By Eric Beinhart

To bring down its murder rate—one of the highest in the world—Jamaica will need to improve its police force and address many complex social and economic root causes of violence.

Projects to reduce crime and violence and strengthen economic competitiveness have been established in Jamaica's inner cities. One of them is the Community Empowerment and Transformation (COMET) Project, set up by USAID in 2006 in Kingston.

COMET aims for an island-wide impact by working with the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and by supporting policy change, rather than investing in an individual city or community.

The program focuses on training the JCF and the Social Development Commission to deliver services while strengthening the relationship between the police and community. The police become part of the community rather than just law enforcement figures. The ultimate goal—crime reduction and improved quality of life.

Guns and gangs still undermine governance in Jamaica's

see **JAMAICA** on page 11 ▶

Photo by CARA Ltd.

A Jamaican policeman participates in a school activity organized by the USAID COMET Project.

EUROPE & EURASIA

Photo by IREX

Gunel Gurbanova (left), an IATP program assistant, shows Lyudmila Khalilova how to participate in an online discussion in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Web Training Connects Thousands of Displaced Eurasians

When hostilities broke out between the Georgian and Russian armies in August 2008, an estimated 10,000 families lost their houses as well as their livelihoods. They also lost contact with their larger communities.

To reconnect, many turned to the USAID-funded Internet Access and Training Program (IATP). The program introduced the Internet not only to displaced people in Georgia, but to more than 250 communities in 11 Eurasian countries during a 15-year run. IATP ended in December.

Internet centers in Georgia quickly responded to the internally displaced person (IDP) community, providing training, online events, and a new center in Gori where many of the IDPs were clustered.

The network of free Internet access points became a central factor in reducing the IDPs' isolation and providing hope for recovery. Online discussions linking government officials, NGO leaders, refugees, and IDPs allowed experts to share information and NGOs to reach out to beneficiaries while collecting reports on conditions in shelters.

"After considering many methods, simple technology turned out to be the most effective means for

see **EURASIANS** on page 10 ▶

ASIA

Pakistani Traders Recover from Bomb Fire

By Zack Taylor

KARACHI, Pakistan—Mohammed Farooq Khalid was at home relaxing one Monday afternoon last December. It was the 10th day of Muharram, and like hundreds of others, his small general merchandise shop in Karachi's Bolton Market was closed for the religious holiday.

Photo by Zack Taylor, USAID

Mohammed Farooq Khalid

A phone call alerted Farooq that a suicide bomb had ripped through a crowded procession, killing 40 people. The procession had quickly turned into a riot of looting and arson. The market was in flames, with fire spreading fast.

"My son called and told me the fire is headed for my shop," Farooq said later. "He said he wanted to go get the cash from behind the counter, but I told him, 'No, your life is more important than money.'"

Firefighters who rushed to the scene were attacked by the mob, and the market was gutted. There was little hope for Farooq as he soon realized that his sole source of income would quickly be engulfed in the blaze. Most of the destroyed businesses were either not insured or had very little insurance coverage.

The disastrous effects of the fire and riots were far-reaching, and were soon seen in the shortage of goods and forced price increases throughout an already fragile economy.

Two months later, however, Farooq and about 2,000 other market traders learned that the federal and provincial governments in Pakistan agreed to rebuild the market. The news spread quickly that the market would be reconstructed within four months.

Bolton Market is Pakistan's largest wholesale market, providing

see **PAKISTAN** on page 11 ▶

MIDDLE EAST

Job Training Transforms Unemployed Moroccan Women

Shy. Unsure. Dissatisfied. That used to describe Hanane Sami. Today, she is a confident, gracious woman who has found her niche as the project coordinator at an organization that fights social, occupational, and educational exclusion.

Born and raised in Casablanca, Sami was the youngest of eight children. Despite financial difficulties, she completed post-secondary studies. "My parents were always supportive of my studies—I was smart," she said.

Unfortunately, like thousands of other young college graduates in Morocco, Sami could not find a decent job. "I did not interview well at all. I could barely look people in the eye, much less speak to them for more than a few minutes," she said.

So what changed? Sami's response: "*Reprofilage*, of course!"

Reprofilage, which literally means re-profiling in French, is funded by USAID under the Morocco Education and Employment Alliance Program (MEEA). It provides young women with training and skills through a curriculum developed and carried out by the Association of Moroccan Business Women (known by the French acronym AFEM), the International Youth Foundation, and the Education for Employment Foundation.

Business owners in Casablanca who were members of AFEM identified an array of interpersonal and technical skills that were lacking in today's young employees. The Reprofilage program developed internships and training for young women to address the gaps. Ultimately, many of the businesses involved in the training offered jobs to the young women in the program.

Reprofilage targets young, disadvantaged, undergraduate women who have been unemployed for over two years. The six-month training course includes four months of highly interactive sessions in the classroom, and a minimum of two months' hands-on training at an enterprise.

Since 2006, the program has trained 84 young women and placed 81 of them in permanent jobs. The program has been replicated in Marrakesh, and continues to train young women with funding from other donors.

Sami admits that initially she was hesitant to participate in Reprofilage. "I thought since I had my baccalaureate diploma, why do I need more training?" she said. Nevertheless, she joined the program, and learned a range of communication skills, self-confidence, and basic business smarts, based on the McGraw-Hill "Work Place Success" training program. Technical training was also offered in office administration, sales, and other business skills.

After completing the training, Sami was offered a position as a project coordinator for a sister program called *l'Heure Joyeuse* (Joyous Hour), which trains young women for employment in the apparel sector. Both of these programs were part of the USAID-funded MEEA, which supported seven vocational training projects in Casablanca in partnership with local associations and businesses. The seven programs trained 600 unemployed Moroccan youth from 2005 to 2008. USAID funding ended in 2008 but the seven programs remain active.

As a project coordinator, Sami said she is giving back to the program that gave her "a sense of self." Sami reports that she is training a new generation of girls, not only in sewing but, more importantly, in self-respect and composure—skills that will be valuable in any field.

When asked what she sees for her future, Sami said: "I want to keep challenging myself. ★

Photo by USAID

Hanane Sami displays the work of her trainees. The clothing will be donated to mothers in need.

AFRICA

Photo by Alison Bird, USAID

Rosalina Andaca Sambuano receives scholarship materials from Angola's Vice-Minister of Education Ana Paula Ndala Fernando.

Scholarships Support Girls' Education in Angola

LUANDA, Angola—To help Angolan children raised in the aftermath of a devastating conflict, USAID programs are providing families with school fees, uniforms, books, school supplies, and food to enable children to enroll and remain in school.

In addition, mentoring programs have aided children scarred by war and dislocation, including helping them to avoid risky behaviors such as early sexual activity—more than half of Angolan girls aged 15 to 19 have at least one child. Mentoring has also enabled children far behind in school to catch up to their peers.

At a school outside Luanda on International Women's Day March 8, U.S. Ambassador to Angola Dan Mozena and USAID's director in Angola, Randall Peterson, distributed school supplies and other materials to students receiving scholarships through the USAID-funded Africa Education Initiative-Ambassadors Girls' Scholarship Program (AEI-AGSP). Angola's Vice-Minister of Education Ana Paula Ndala Fernando and Vice-Minister of Assistance and Social Reinsertion Maria da Luz Sá Magalhães also took part in the distribution.

While many countries in Southern and Eastern Africa have made progress towards parity between boys and girls in education, according to the United Nations, Angola is still lagging in overall enrollment and has a significant gender gap.

The armed conflict in Angola, which lasted for more than 40 years before ending in 2002, took a toll on the educational system, destroying schools and leaving many orphaned children without the means to pay school fees or purchase school supplies. Broken families, living in tent camps and slums that housed the growing displaced population, relied more and more on girls to stay at home to perform domestic chores and take care of younger siblings.

see **ANGOLA** on page 9 ▶

MEN KEY TO REDUCING MATERNAL DEATHS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Reducing maternal deaths by 75 percent throughout the world by 2015 will take the involvement of men in countries where it matters most, health experts say.

Photo by Save the Children

In male dominated cultures, USAID programs are helping to decrease maternal deaths by encouraging men to become involved in pregnancy and childbirth matters. Pictured: a man and child in Pakistan.

"In many of the countries where we work, these are male dominated cultures," said Lily Kak, senior maternal and neonatal health advisor in USAID's Bureau for Global Health. "We need to involve men in our programs since they are the decision makers about health care in the family." These decisions include determining family size, timing of pregnancies, and whether women have access to health care.

To improve maternal health outcomes for women in developing countries—one of the targets of the United Nation's Millennium Development Goals—men must be equal partners. "Men need to see the advantages for themselves," Kak said.

The USAID-funded Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP), now in its second year, seeks to reduce maternal deaths while encouraging men to take an active role in their partners' pregnancies.

"We have definitely seen better outcomes when we engage men in our programs," said Koki Agarwal, director of MCHIP. The program, which currently operates in 27 countries, integrates men into maternal health programs at the community level.

In Afghanistan, a largely male dominated society with a dismally high maternal death rate, USAID-supported projects have been training community midwives in an 18-month resident training program with the help of the *shura*, the local council of male village elders who have consented to let the women attend training and then assist in births when they return to the community.

"These women have become change agents themselves," Agarwal said.

In some areas of Nigeria—where a woman can't leave the home without her husband's permission—MCHIP sends in male motivators, community volunteers trained in communications, to help local men achieve their vision for a healthy family.

In Kenya, Tanzania, and Malawi, women enrolled in MCHIP programs that teach them to prevent HIV transmission to their child are encouraged to bring their male partners to clinics for follow-up treatments.

And in the conservative eastern region of Bangladesh, MCHIP trains male groups to deal with the unexpected complications that can arise during pregnancy using drawings of the human body, a practice that Agarwal says allows for open talk about these issues.

"For husbands to support, they must be well-informed and sensitized," said MCHIP team leader Steve Hodgins.

Bangladeshi men have set aside funds for transportation to hospitals in case of emergencies during pregnancy. "It would have been more difficult without male involvement to have these systems in place," said Joseph de Graft-Johnson, MCHIP's newborn and community health team leader.

Engaging men means reaching out to community elders, leaders, and religious groups, Agarwal said. But there's always a fear that these initiatives could be rejected, mainly because of traditional cultural values and perceptions that maternal health is the responsibility of women only.

In April, the medical journal The Lancet reported that, since 1980, annual maternal deaths have significantly dropped worldwide. The study cites lower pregnancy rates in some countries, higher income, and more education for women as some of the reasons for the sharp decline. And though maternal health outcomes are improving globally, the need for the involvement of men during pregnancy and childbirth persists.

Several barriers exist across the developing world that prevent the full participation of males during pregnancy. In many labor wards, men aren't present during birth because of lack of privacy for the several women who use the wards. And often, there are challenges in reaching the men, Agarwal said. When pregnancy counseling happens during the day, men often are away at work.

The solution? "Get them where they are," Agarwal said. "Go to mosques and engage them," she said. Or to job sites such as the mines in South Africa. "Opportunities to engage men at different times is critical." ★ — *B.J.*

Adviser Brings Experience from Iraq to Afghanistan

By Jan Cartwright

Life and work in a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) is nothing new for Scott Hedlund.

He started serving last November as a development advisor with the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan as part of the new wave of civilians who are serving in the country to support development efforts. He plans to stay for three years.

But before deploying to Afghanistan, Hedlund worked in Iraq for five years, including in the Baghdad and Salah-ad-Din PRTs.

"I've definitely enjoyed being overseas," said Hedlund, who spent his early career working as a juvenile court administrator and teaching courses on the U.S. West Coast at Pierce Community College, Saint Martin's College, and the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Academy.

Hedlund's first opportunity to work overseas came in 2002, when he was asked to lead a delegation to Sakhalin, Russia, to examine community needs, juvenile justice issues, police practices, and the use of force.

"I saw firsthand how people can make a difference in the perceptions of problems and the solutions to them," Hedlund said. "Based on this experience, I understood the value of interpersonal relationships in a different cultural setting."

Two years later, at age 40, he was headed to Iraq. He hasn't looked back since.

In Baghdad, Hedlund drew on his juvenile justice background, working as an international police trainer on juvenile justice issues for the country. Later, in Salah-ad-Din, north of Baghdad, Hedlund shared his management and administrative skills, serving as the State Department's chief of governance and infrastructure in the PRT. There, he helped the province establish business processes all the way down to the grassroots level to develop a robust capital accountability system and to prevent corruption and misuse of funds.

"I was lucky enough to be in Iraq for five years and see the changes occur over time as their systems developed to being sustainable," Hedlund said.

A further asset in his PRT work is his U.S. Army experience—he joined the service while still in high school. "It's been extremely important. I understand the military language and thinking processes, as well as the rank system," he said.

In Afghanistan, Hedlund's most gratifying moments have occurred when the civilian and military aid efforts have come together effectively. He recalls an instance in Jalalabad when an outlying village urgently needed help, and USAID, the State Department, a regular Army unit, and a Special Forces unit worked together to deliver the aid.

"That was a perfect example of total cooperation between agencies and personnel working towards a higher goal, with no thought of trying to control the process," Hedlund said.

Compared with Iraq, Hedlund believes Afghanistan's challenges are much more severe, including a largely uneducated population and institutions that are in their infancy. However, he notes that "the tribal mentality is similar in the outlying areas, so understanding the basic concepts of power is essential in order to accomplish your mission and not be culturally inappropriate and lose the key leaders who will help you achieve the village goals for assistance."

So what does it take to be successful in a PRT?

"I think the most functional people I have dealt with have great interpersonal skills and a high tolerance for change. Being flexible is important and understanding your role in the process of dealing with others. You have to be willing to negotiate but hold firm on what your job role is since you're a key part of the process and you were hired for your knowledge and input," Hedlund said.

Hedlund looks forward to bringing more of his experience from Iraq to Afghanistan. "People who worked in the tribal structure of Iraq have knowledge of what works, and they know what they need to do in order to accomplish the mission," he said. ★

INSIGHTS from page 3

provide small- to medium-sized firms with equity finance. The DCA alone has unlocked more than $2 billion in private sector lending that could be used more aggressively in agriculture, so we are recruiting local banks and local agricultural businesses to participate.

Third, we are encouraging partnerships with larger scale buyers of food to create durable market demand. Examples range from Wal-Mart's efforts to help Central American farmers improve post-harvest handling to the West African sustainable tree crops program that links cocoa buyers to small farmers.

But the people who matter most aren't the financiers, the ag ministers, or the aid workers. It's female farmers who are the undertapped solution to this problem.

Women produce from 60 to 80 percent of the food in the countries where we work. And when women control gains in income, they are more likely to spend those gains on family needs.

For years we've talked about the importance of women, but now we are focusing on women in everything we do.

We start by focusing on those crops—sweet potato and legumes—that women are most likely to adopt. And we are working to ensure that women get equal access to support—such as financial and extension services. To make this happen, we are expanding investments in women's producer networks and fellowships for women who pursue degrees in agriculture.

But we also are including nutrition interventions that target women and children with school feeding and micronutrient supplementation. Multilateral organizations are an important part of this effort.

Take the multi-donor trust fund erected by the World Bank. In total, $880 million has already been pledged to this fund from foundations and countries, including new development partners such as South Korea. Its steering committee will be composed of equal numbers of donor and recipient countries. And they recently committed to making all of their executive sessions open and transparent.

To ensure that all of the investments I've outlined are as high-impact as possible, we are working closely with key agencies within the U.S. government and we are reforming the way we work.

We're developing our own multi-year investment strategies so we can be better partners for the long term. And we are coordinating with other donors through both intensive diplomacy and operational partnerships in country.

And while in the past we've done retrospective program evaluation, going forward we will collect baseline data with a focus on measuring women's incomes, child malnutrition, and agricultural production.

I've turned to Ambassador Bill Garvelink to oversee the execution of the Food Security Initiative within USAID as our deputy coordinator for development. He is restructuring our more than 130 agricultural experts around the world and across agencies into a single food security program.

He'll be working with Ambassador Pat Haslach, who will serve as the deputy coordinator for diplomacy at the State Department.

So how can you help?

We need the best efforts of everyone in this agency to animate the Feed the Future Initiative. I know the staff of this agency is as acutely aware as I am that, each day, lack of food leads to the death of about 25,000 people.

We need to hold each other's feet to the fire, because we don't have a day to waste. ★

ANGOLA from page 7

AEI-AGSP in Angola addresses these problems by working through four local partners to assist orphans and vulnerable children—primarily girls, but including roughly 14 percent boys.

In many ways, Kátia Francisco de Alberto's story is typical of many Angolan children impacted by the war. Kátia never knew her father, and when her mother died, she was brought from the provinces to the capital at age 10 by a family friend who would not let her go to school and who eventually abandoned her at age 12.

Kátia spent four months on the streets crying and foraging for food. Eventually, neighbors took her to the *Centro Horizonte Azul* (CHA), a boarding school outside of Luanda for orphans. Although she was initially a reluctant student, Kátia was chosen as an AGSP scholar. She completed four grades in two years of intensive schoolwork and is currently in eighth grade.

Kátia has also blossomed socially at the center, forming friendships with girls who experienced similar difficulties in their lives. She is in daily contact with teachers who have mentored her and has a strong role model in Maria Esperança Pires dos Santos, a civil servant who founded CHA and takes an individual interest in the girls under her care. Kátia, who wants to become a biologist, said, "by benefiting from a scholarship, I became a literate person with hope in life. I can now dream of a better life."

The Women's Day event was held at CHA, where a newly constructed bakery provides vocational education and helps to sustain the center.

Addressing the crowd in Portuguese, Mozena highlighted the importance of girls' education in the construction of a "new Angola," composed not just of newly built schools and hospitals, but also of increased investment in "human infrastructure" consisting of a new generation of doctors, engineers, and teachers to lead the nation's development efforts.

Through the four AEI-AGSP partners, USAID will provide more than 2,400 scholarships this year in Angola. Altogether, about 40 countries participate in the program and 520,000 scholarships have already been awarded. ★

CONTINUED. . .

TOWN HALL from page 1

laureate Norman Borlaug, who occasionally bypassed regulations in the name of progress.

"My conclusion is we need to change the rules a little bit," Shah said. He noted that the Agency has received strong backing from President Barack Obama, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

But Shah recalled that Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) had recently said at a budget hearing that the Agency quickly needed to reform the way it carries out that mission or risk irrelevance—and a shrinking budget.

"I am convinced that right now is the time to do this," Shah said, calling the tough talk from Leahy a tremendous opportunity to elevate development. "I do expect us to take risks … because now is our time to do it."

Shah said procurement reforms set for June will reduce reliance on large contractors and set up "cleaner" reporting systems.

In August, the Agency expects to unveil human resources, or personnel, reforms and in the fall it plans to launch a new monitoring, evaluation, and transparency effort. Shah also said the Agency needs to hold "stakeholder strategy sessions" to help it work better with interagency partners, Congress, private companies, and others.

The proposals aim to deliver results faster, cheaper, and better than in the past, Shah said. He also encouraged staff to see themselves as "development entrepreneurs" so that they create ideas and carry out projects that break new ground in development and leave behind sustainable results.

The Town Hall gave Shah and Obama a chance to thank people who responded to the Haiti earthquake. Members of the Haiti Task Team had seats near the stage, as did some of USAID's longest serving employees.

Obama, who along with vice presidential spouse Jill Biden made an unannounced stop in Haiti in April, said "it was truly an inspiring visit. Wherever I went, I was amazed and incredibly touched to hear the stories of your sacrifice and your compassion and your amazing partnership with the Haitian people and folks around the world in the aftermath of that disaster.

"It was clear from my visit that people valued the work and saw this country in a different way because of the work that you were doing."

Shah said the dedication, risk-taking, and problem-solving that happened on the ground and in Washington by USAID staff in the early days after the quake is the response he wants to replicate in other areas of the Agency's work. ★

EURASIANS from page 6

communicating with our constituents," said a political party representative. "After we developed the website with IATP assistance, numerous citizens have contacted us to share or receive information."

The Internet access program, which is administered by the International Research and Exchanges Board, was started by the State Department in 1994 to link returned exchange students; USAID assumed management in 2007.

The program showed that in deprived areas, practical resource and training centers can encourage social, economic, and political development.

The centers are not just free Internet cafés. Users say the centers provide high-quality training matched to their personal and professional needs.

Community residents said the centers contributed to greater transparency by fostering access to the Internet and development of content—important factors in advancing democracy reform. They said the centers provided a sense of community, a place where they were among friends.

In Azerbaijan's rural communities, for example, the Internet centers were often the only safe public space women were allowed to come together to discuss new ideas.

Lala Agaeva, a high school student from Imishli, Azerbaijan, said: "For those women who can't go to other public places, this IATP center is a place where they can come and learn. It provides safety unlike other Internet clubs in Imishli where the majority of visitors are men."

At the conclusion of the program, the network had 83 independently administered Internet centers in Eurasian countries. During the past two years, more than 85,000 people used the centers, and about 44,000 people participated in training sessions. ★

SUMMIT from page 1

Photo by Saul Loeb, AFP

President Barack Obama speaks at the Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship at the Ronald Reagan Building April 26.

States and Muslim-majority countries has grown," he said. "But all this trade, combined, is still only about the same as our trade with one country—Mexico. So there's so much more we can do together, in partnership, to foster opportunity and prosperity in all our countries."

In addition to the Global Entrepreneurship Program, officials unveiled several new initiatives to deepen ties between the United States and Muslim countries, including:

- an exchange program for business and social entrepreneurs that will provide internships and chances for professional development;
- the Global Technology and Innovation Fund and the Innovators Fund, originally conceived of in the Cairo speech and both based in Silicon Valley, will provide $2 billion in private capital for telecommunications, health care, education, and infrastructure in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey, and Malaysia;
- partners for a New Beginning, a State Department effort including former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and the CEO of Coco-Cola, will encourage the U.S. private sector to become more involved with Muslim communities;
- an E-Mentors Corps will link business people with would-be entrepreneurs online for advice and support.

USAID also announced 13 programs the Agency will implement.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the initiatives were a "first wave" of programs that "reflect the Obama administration's commitment to a new approach to development."

"We believe that this approach is more likely to yield lasting results in the form of greater security, dignity, prosperity, and opportunity for more people worldwide," Clinton added.

With contentious issues such as Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan dividing Muslims and Americans, Obama administration officials hope that bolstering businesses and improving economic prosperity will unify the Muslim and non-Muslim worlds.

Entrepreneurs are, said Secretary of Commerce Gary Locke, "the heart of all thriving economies."

The two-day summit featured talks by Obama officials and successful Muslim entrepreneurs. Other events were conducted by NGOs and other organizations.

Multimillionaire Sandiaga Uno, the cofounder and managing director of Saratoga Capital—an Indonesia-based investment company—shared his story of struggle to become one of Indonesia's richest people.

"In business, the only certain thing is failure. Especially when you operate in a place like Indonesia," Uno said. He was laid off during the financial crisis in Asia in the late '90s. With a mountain of credit card debt and no steady income, Uno decided to go into business for himself.

"I gave up almost five times during the first five months," he said. Uno's wife even sold the jewelry she inherited from her parents to help get him started.

Uno said the early failures were a stark reality that only served to motivate him. "Failures prepare you for the worst things," he said.

The turning point came 12 years ago when he and a business partner started the first private equity firm in Indonesia focusing on natural resources. Now the George Washington University graduate has landed the number 29 spot on Forbes Asia magazine's list of the 40 richest Indonesians.

> "An **entrepreneur** is anyone with the imagination to conceive of a new product, process, or service, and the ability and persistence to turn that idea into something real."
> — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, at the close of the two-day Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship

"In the U.S., we learn the American dream," Uno said. "The dream will carry you."

Several of the most successful entrepreneurs at the event said they didn't know they were entrepreneurs until the money started rolling in. In some cultures, there is no word for it.

What exactly makes an entrepreneur in the Muslim world depends on who is doing the talking. Should they focus on enriching themselves or raising the fortunes of their countrymen? Do cultural influences really make a difference or is it government regulations that crush entrepreneurial spirit? And while microfinance is applauded, just how do these businessmen and women grow their livelihoods to compete on a global playing field?

USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah, who led a session on access to capital, said the Agency has learned that the financial tools that work best in the United States are not always effective in Muslim countries.

"One of the top concerns that entrepreneurs have articulated everywhere, and perhaps more so in the last few years because of what's been happening in our financial markets, is access to capital," said Shah, who noted USAID's support of both microfinance and the more substantial Development Credit Authority loans.

Obama said the Washington summit for Muslim entrepreneurs would be followed by a second gathering next year in Turkey. ★

CONTINUED. . .

PAKISTAN from page 6

domestic and imported goods to retailers across the country. Apart from shops, these markets had an estimated 35 shared wholesale warehouses that were the major suppliers of items such as plastic utensils, surgical equipment, medicine, clothing, shoes, paper, building hardware, and leather.

U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Anne Patterson pledged assistance of 1 billion Pakistani rupees, worth U.S. $10 million. The money would be used to replace lost revenue and help small businesses re-stock their shops in a rebuilt market.

"I'm pleased to see Pakistan's business leaders rolling up their sleeves and pitching in to support the Karachi business community," Patterson said. "The United States will help them recover as well."

To fulfill the ambassador's initiative, USAID, the American Business Council, and Khushhali Bank distributed funds to merchants affected by the fire and looting. The first 20 shop owners received their checks in a mid-February ceremony in Karachi.

"We have customers all over the country," said electronics dealer Khalil Ahmad, who estimated that 10 million to 15 million people were in some way affected by the fire.

"This assistance is most unexpected…. Now I can purchase more radios to send to the provinces. Radios are very important in Pakistan. It's the way most people get their news."

The program also encouraged market traders to register as taxpayers. Vendors holding a national tax number prior to the fire received a 50 percent bonus in compensation, and those who were not registered before the fire but applied for registration afterwards received 20 percent more than those who did not have tax numbers.

"We have learned many lessons from this event," Farooq said. "If you pay taxes, the government can help you when you need it. And we are grateful to America." ★

JAMAICA from page 6

inner city communities, eroding the rule of law and contributing to the rise of gang leaders or "dons." In some communities, dons control all facets of life, including delivering basic services that governments normally provide.

USAID-COMET first hosted the conference "Guns, Gangs and Governance," which brought together youth, NGOs, the police, academia, and entertainment to analyze the problem. COMET has since worked to address Jamaica's gang phenomenon while the government has developed a strategy to reduce the problem.

"I am impressed with USAID-COMET's significant network cutting across governments, NGOs, universities, and law enforcement," said Samuel Blake, director of the Organized Crime and Defense Unit in the Ministry of National Security. "This resource is not just an invaluable asset to the [unit]. It is also a significant contribution to crime prevention and community safety in Jamaica."

COMET's support has provided increased safety and security to several inner city communities. Violent crime in Flanker has decreased significantly in the past several years due in part to the efforts of the Flanker Peace and Justice Center, which received assistance from COMET.

The program helped the JCF develop community-based policing policy guidelines and training manuals; aided the development of safety and security plans in 56 communities; and established a hotline for anonymously reporting corruption as well as the National Integrity Action Forum, which brings together state agencies with anti-corruption mandates.

The lessons learned from the COMET Project in Jamaica are being applied to other USAID community-based policing programs.

"COMET is one of the best projects funded by an international partner and is a big shoe for any other project to fill," said Assistant Commissioner of Police Novelette Grant. ★

For more information on the USAID COMET Project, contact Christina Davis at chridavis@usaid.gov.

WILLIAMS from page 2

we go, volunteers who are doing just absolutely marvelous things at the grassroots level, working shoulder to shoulder with people in the developing world to make a difference in their lives.

And, of course, what you receive as a Peace Corps volunteer is enormous. I mean, as I did in my own personal experience in the Peace Corps, it changed my life forever, put me on the path to something I'd never even envisioned before growing up in Chicago, and so it happens every day to thousands of Americans around the world.

And I guess the last thing I would say is that from my standpoint, as you can imagine, to be asked by the president to serve as the new director of the Peace Corps, for me as a returned Peace Corps volunteer, to come back to an organization that has done so much for me in my life is pretty extraordinary, and it's a privilege to serve at the Peace Corps. ★

HUNGER from page 1

can work within global markets, Sheeran said.

The WFP head says applying food technology, such as drought resistant crops, is the way to address food shortages.

But lack of food isn't always the sole cause of hunger. Sometimes the problem lies in a lack of access to food—an issue that is linked to several other development challenges. People may not have money to buy food; or land to grow food; or water to irrigate; or roads to transport fertilizer to farms and harvests to markets.

More than a billion undernourished people live mostly in rural regions of the developing world.

President Barack Obama's 2011 budget calls for $1.8 billion to fund a new global hunger and food security initiative. Of that sum, some $1.2 billion is allotted to USAID and the State Department. For now, the WFP is trying above all to reach 18 million people in the Horn of Africa who are at risk of malnutrition or worse.

"Calories are not enough," Sheeran said. "[Food aid] is not just a humanitarian act, but a wise investment in a stable world." ★ — *B.J.*

FrontLines

IS PUBLISHED BY THE U.S. Agency for International Development, THROUGH THE BUREAU FOR LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS.

"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

Joseph A. Fredericks
Deputy Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs (Acting)

FRONTLINES STAFF

Ben Barber, *Editorial Director*
Claire McIntyre, *Production Editor*
Angela Rucker, *Writer*
Patricia Adams, *Photo Librarian*
Mary Jane Cotter, *Human Resources Coordinator and Employee Liaison*
Brittany Jackson, *Intern*

CORRESPONDENTS:

AFGE – Willy Hardin; **AFR** – Susan Quinn, Ranta Russell; **AFSA** – Francisco Zamora; **ASIA** – Jan Cartwright; **CFBCI** – Heather MacLean; **DCHA** – Rebecca Gustafson, Sven Lindholm, Amanda Eichelkraut; **EGAT** – Jane Stanley, Ashley Allen; **E&E** – Michael Hathaway; **OCRD** – Gloria Blackwell; **GC** – Harmony Wade; **ODP** – Todd Kirkbride; **GH** – Sandra Jordan, Chris Thomas, Jessica DiRocco; **IG** – Debra Scott; **LAC** – Maxine Hillary; **LPA** – Barbara Bennett; **M** – Lauren Gabler; **ME** – Hope Bryer, Jan Cartwright; **SEC** – Dwayne Moore, Lorraine Meehan

Submit notices, story ideas, feedback to FrontLines articles and requests to be added to the mailing list to FrontLines@usaid.gov.

The icon at the end of a story indicates that associated videos are available through the online version of *FrontLines*. Go to www.usaid.gov/frontlines to view these videos.

Mixed Sources
Product group from well-managed forests, controlled sources and recycled wood or fiber
www.fsc.org Cert no. SW-COC-002262
© 1996 Forest Stewardship Council
FSC
30%

PRINTED WITH SOY INK

SPOTLIGHT ON AFGHANISTAN

U.S. assistance to Afghanistan extends to agriculture, education, medicine, infrastructure, and the economic, governmental, and technology sectors. For more information, visit: http://afghanistan.usaid.gov.

Photo courtesy of IRD

Afghans attend a business skills course conducted by Land-o-Lakes.

Photo courtesy of IRD

Afghan farmers are replanting damaged and destroyed orchards.

Photo courtesy of IRD

A staff member from the USAID-funded Strategic Provincial Roads program, right, gets community input for projects in the area.

Photo courtesy of IRD

A Strategic Provincial Roads program participant collects survey data.

INTERNET ACCESS LIGHTS UP JALALABAD

JALALABAD, Afghanistan—A new public-private partnership called "Light Up Jalalabad" is bringing Internet connectivity to educational institutions in one of Afghanistan's eastern provinces.

The project—a partnership between USAID, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the La Jolla Golden Triangle Rotary Club, Nangarhar University, and Afghan partners—is building computer labs with Internet access across Nangarhar province.

With financial, administrative, and operational support from USAID, "Light Up Jalalabad" recently refurbished labs at the Nangarhar Medical School and School of Computer Science. Whereas the schools once had only a handful of functioning computers each, they now have more than 70 new computers and the equipment to maintain them.

NATO is providing funding for the Internet connectivity. These computers link users to resources across the world, giving them access to medical databases, business software, market information, and language training.

"There was no proper lab before. The computers were old and always had problems," said Abdul Hassan*, a student at the Nangarhar Medical School. "Now we have modern technology. Whenever we face a problem with our textbooks, we can come to the lab, search the Internet, and find solutions."

The project will refurbish additional computer labs at the university and begin work on labs at five high schools and Nangarhar Hospital, which may get telemedicine applications. The project will also create a central Internet café in downtown Jalalabad for local entrepreneurs.

Internet access is an educational and research tool that opens the door to economic growth. By increasing access to computers and the Internet, USAID is helping Afghanistan improve the quality of its education system, develop its workforce, and pursue economic development through advances in science and technology. ★

AFGHAN WOMEN BREAK INTO CONSTRUCTION WORK

KABUL—Stereotypes are fading in Afghanistan, where many women are occupying non-traditional positions that were long held by men. At the USAID-funded Tarakhil Power Plant near Kabul, women are proving that they are qualified to contribute to the development of their country.

Twice a day, senior fuel attendant Suraya Sahar puts on her boots, safety glasses, and hard hat to oversee the safe discharge of diesel fuel into underground tanks at the power plant. In her first job at Tarakhil, when the plant was being built, Sahar was the inspector who tested the high-wire scaffoldings to ensure that the platforms could bear the weight of workers. She used that information to recommend when harnesses or safety cables were required, keeping workers safe and construction on track.

"Being a woman in construction—this is a first-time experience," Sahar said. "There was teasing, but I didn't pay attention to it."

The same is true for Fatima Azizi, assistant to the director of information technology at USAID's Afghanistan Infrastructure and Rehabilitation Program (AIRP). After years of on-the-job training, she is skilled in information technology, from computer applications to hardware. When her job requires, she scrambles under office desks to hook up computers and printers or climbs on ladders to check on wireless routers.

"Women say that this is a man's job," Azizi said. "that it's too hard for women to do. But I know computers, and this is what I like."

These non-traditional opportunities have fostered growth and professionalism in the lives of these young women. Both of them have contributed to U.S.-funded development programs that are rebuilding the country and helping to improve the lives of other young women in Afghanistan. ★

**Names of individuals have been changed for security reasons.*