



# FRONT LINES

www.usaid.gov

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

JANUARY 2006

## Foreign Operations Budget Approved

USAID's budget for operating expenses for the 2006 fiscal year is \$630 million, a nearly 3 percent increase over 2005 funding, but about \$50 million short of what the Agency requested from Congress, leading Agency officials to reduce hiring.

The funding was part of the \$20.9 billion foreign operations appropriations bill agreed to by a House and Senate conference committee Nov. 4. The bill covers expenditures by USAID, the State Department, and part of the Treasury Department.

"Even though we are working to streamline our business model, the low level of operating expense funds [means]...we won't

▼ SEE BUDGET ON PAGE 2



An interview with Acting Administrator Frederick W. Schieck, page 12.

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

U.S. Agency for International Development  
Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20523-6100  
Penalty for Private Use \$300  
Official Business  
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

## Quake Victims Receive Food, Shelter, Jobs

Three months after a 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck Pakistan and neighboring India, hundreds of thousands of people have received food and shelter to get them through the winter, and jobs programs for Pakistanis are well under way.

USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) has provided \$4.5 million to NGOs operating cash-for-work, cash-for-training, and voucher programs.

USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) says these kinds of programs play a key role in recovery from the massive earthquake, which left nearly 3 million people homeless and an untold number of people without a way to make a living.

Pakistanis are being paid for a range of work, including clearing debris and repairing infrastructure like roads and public works facilities, under USAID programs. For example, the American Refugee Committee is paying 169 local carpenters to provide their expertise to 7,000 families whose homes were destroyed.

Other NGOs are focused on building

shelters, a key need as winter advances. Save the Children has begun a cash-for-work program aimed at promoting earthquake-proof construction.

All told, the cash-for-work and similar programs should help 45,000 people directly and another 250,000 indirectly, OFDA says.

Since markets outside the most damaged areas of Pakistan still function, such programs give participants a way to earn cash, support their families, and stimulate recovery of local markets.

The Oct. 8 earthquake ravaged parts of Pakistan and India just weeks before winter hit.

The epicenter was near Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-administered Kashmir, and approximately 60 miles north-northeast of Islamabad.

More than 73,000 people died in Pakistan and just under 70,000 were injured. The death toll in India was much smaller—1,309—and about 6,600 people were injured.

USAID has given \$22.6 million in

▼ SEE QUAKE VICTIMS ON PAGE 2

### TSUNAMI: ONE YEAR LATER



Administrator Andrew S. Natsios visited Indonesia as White House special envoy just days before the one-year anniversary of the South Asia tsunami to mark progress in the country and the region. In his final Notes from Natsios column on page 3, the Administrator, who is stepping down from USAID this month, remembers the devastation of the tsunami and reports on the Agency's ongoing efforts to help the region recover. Also, see pages 6 and 7 for snapshot reports on some of the recovery efforts underway.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ECUADORIANS  
GET LOANS  
PAGE 8

- Mission of the Month: Liberia . . . . . 3
- Ukraine Accountants Boost Skills . . . . . 4
- Avocado Collective Bears Fruit . . . . . 8
- Democracy Magazine Published . . . . . 14
- Campaign in Egypt, Indonesia to Begin. . . . . 16

YOUR VOICE:  
ALONZO  
FULGHAM  
PAGE 13

## Indoor Spraying Fights Malaria

LUANDA, Angola—Five months after President Bush announced a \$1.2 billion Africa Malaria Initiative, the U.S. government launched a large-scale indoor spraying program in Angola in December when 300 insecticide spraying pumps cleared Angolan customs on the way to begin spraying in southern Angola.

Spraying began in two provinces on Dec. 10, in coordination with the military, in Huampata, about 25 miles south of Lubango, the capital of Huila province. By Christmas, 26,000 people had their homes protected from mosquitoes that carry malaria.

The Angola spraying campaign will cover 120,000 households and approximately 500,000 people through March.

▼ SEE SPRAYING ON PAGE 2

## Sen Delivers USAID Marshall Lecture

Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen said that democracy is vital for development as he delivered the second annual George C. Marshall Lecture at USAID Dec. 7.

"The second half of the 20th century saw the establishment of the general idea of democracy for everybody," said Sen, who won the Nobel Prize for economics in 1998 and currently teaches at Harvard.

"And yet the institutional belief, which is now reasonably common, that democracy governance as a formal political organization is suitable for every country, is of very recent origin."

Since authoritarian regimes in Asia in the 1980s such as Korea and Taiwan made rapid economic growth, Sen noted, some have asked "Is it really right to think democracy is good for development?"

"There is an often-repeated presumption that democracies do quite badly in facilitating development compared with what authoritarian regimes can efficiently achieve," Sen told a packed audience of several hundred USAID employees at Washington headquarters.

Asia's tiger economies made progress "without any help from democracy...because these authoritarian regimes were not hindered by the inflexibilities and the ineptitude of the democratic governments—that's the thesis."

Sen rejects this approach and reasons that only when governments are subjected to public scrutiny of the free media, which focus on problems and failures, do these governments respond and correct mistakes.

"Political liberties and democratic rights

▼ SEE SEN DELIVERS ON PAGE 2

## Foreign Operations Budget Approved ▲ FROM PAGE 1

be able to hire enough U.S. direct hire staff to keep pace with attrition. The work force will shrink," said Doug Menarchik, assistant administrator for Policy and Program Coordination.

Andrew S. Natsios, who is leaving as administrator Jan. 12, added: "The Agency will not diverge from its core mission of providing development and humanitarian assistance to those in need."

The legislators faced a "difficult challenge challenge," because budget requests by the three agencies were cut by nearly \$2 billion, said Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., chairman of the House Foreign Operations Subcommittee, in a statement released after budget negotiations ended.

"The conferees took on the challenge of making hard choices necessary to meet budgetary realities while funding this country's top foreign policy priorities at responsible levels," he added.

Although USAID manages over \$14 billion in resources, the Agency's total appropriation for FY 2006 is \$4.3 billion, \$93 million below 2005's enacted level. That figure includes, among other things, \$1.5 billion for development assistance, which funds programs such as providing safe drinking water and promoting elections.

Other key measures from the bill include the following:

- \$135 million in Economic Support Funds (ESF) for Egypt, with most earmarked or set aside for democracy, governance, education, and scholarships.
- \$61 million in ESF for Iraq—\$5 million for the Marla Ruzicka Iraqi War Victims Fund and \$56 million for democracy, governance, and rule of law efforts.
- \$931.4 million for Afghanistan, including \$3 million for reforestation and \$50 million for projects aimed at women and girls.
- Up to \$10 million for a new Democracy

Fund to promote democracy, governance, human rights, independent media, and rule of law.

- Establishment of a USAID coordinator for "Indigenous Peoples Issues."

The bill calls for withholding \$227.6 million in funds to Egypt until Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice reports that the country has met certain benchmarks for financial sector reform.

It also requires that no more than \$225 million in ESF funds can go to Afghanistan until the secretary certifies that government is fully cooperating with U.S.-funded poppy eradication and interdiction efforts.

The bill also restricts 12.5 percent of funds slated for Colombia until the State Department certifies the Colombian government has made progress in several areas related to human rights. Colombia will also receive \$20 million to help disarm irregular combatants.

The bill also authorizes the Agency to use up to \$75 million to continue Foreign Service Limited conversions.

Though indirectly related to the Agency, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief is to receive \$2.8 billion, up \$629 million from 2005. This includes a \$450 million contribution from the United States to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria.

The Millennium Challenge Corporation will get \$1.77 billion for 2006.

In response to the lower than anticipated budget level, the Agency is looking at a number of ways to tighten its fiscal belt.

The administrator announced that direct-hire employees may request leave without pay in instances where their absence will not disrupt office operations.

Nonessential travel by Agency staffers is also being curtailed. To cut those costs, the Agency is suggesting more use of teleconferencing. ★

## Spraying Fights Malaria ▲ FROM PAGE 1

By mid-January, 250 people are expected to be working as sprayers to cover major population centers of Huila and Cunene provinces, which have the highest levels of malaria transmission, a Global Health bureau spokesman said.

The \$1.2 billion President's Malaria Initiative, for which USAID is the lead agency, aims to cut malaria deaths by 50 percent in Angola and other focus countries over the next five years. Spraying campaigns will follow in Tanzania and Uganda during 2006.

In Angola, USAID is funding an education program in three dialects to tell people about malaria and the rationale for the spraying campaign.

It is also working with the Angolan Ministry of Health, the World Bank, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Program, the World Food Program and other partners.

The campaign is spraying insecticide on

the inside walls of houses to eliminate the mosquitoes that carry malaria.

Malaria accounts for 35 percent of deaths in children under age 5 in Angola, and 25 percent of maternal deaths. The southern provinces bordering Namibia are epidemic-prone areas.

Worldwide, malaria infects between 300 million and 500 million people annually and kills approximately 1 million.

"This is an important first step to protect children and their families where malaria is a serious killer," said Dr. Kent R. Hill, assistant administrator of the Global Health bureau.

U.S. antimalaria funds provide insecticide-treated mosquito nets to children and expecting mothers, an antimalarial medicine known as artemisinin that is a major component of the newer combination therapies for malaria, and interventions to address malaria in pregnancy. ★

Chris Thomas contributed to this article.

## Amartya Sen Delivers USAID Marshall Lecture ▲ FROM PAGE 1

are among the complements of development. That is what development is also about," he said.

He noted that authoritarian China initially grew faster than democratic India. But now India's growth is catching up and will be a little over 8 percent this year.

"Democracy and political and civil rights can enhance freedoms of other kinds, such as economic security or transparency guarantees, through giving voice to the deprived and vulnerable and citizens in general," Sen said.

"The fact that no major famine has ever occurred in a functioning democratic country with regular elections, opposition parties, and a relatively free media, even in the countries' very poor and seriously adverse food situations, merely illustrates the most elementary act of the proactive power of political liberties."

Sen said that "rulers never starve."

"However, when a government is accountable to the public, and when they see news reporting and uncensored public criticism, then the government too has good reasons to do its best to eradicate famines."

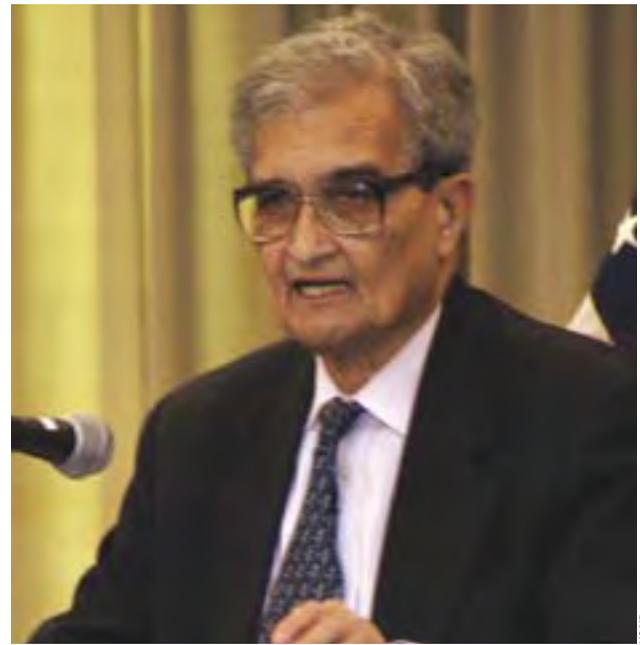
As an example, he cited Zimbabwe where "the erosion of democracy...has gone hand-in-hand with the development of famine-like conditions."

Sen said "democracy also makes a big contribution to healthcare by bringing social failures into public scrutiny."

Sharp news media criticism of India's health system led to reforms that pushed the government to sharply reduce the gap in life expectancy between India and China, he said.

Sen also noted that democracy is a force and philosophy that prevents violence and economic chaos by making all races, religions, and ethnic groups equal parts of one society that serves the common interest.

"If you look at violence generated by sectarianism including fundamentalism of any kind, it always thrives on the idea that even though we belong to many different groups, somehow one of them is a principal identity of ours." He cited efforts by Hutu suprema-



Amartya Sen delivered the 2nd Annual George C. Marshall Lecture at USAID Dec. 7.

cists to persuade people to kill Tutsis.

"I think if there's something to be proud of in India, I would say the fact that in a country with 82 percent Hindu population, at the moment none of the three positions, principal positions, are occupied by Hindus," Sen said.

"The president is a Muslim, the prime minister is a Sikh, and the leader of the ruling party is a Christian. This is possible only because people don't vote [for a candidate for]...just being a Hindu, just being a Muslim, or just being Christian."

Speaking later that day during a dinner at USAID, Sen noted that George Marshall—the founder of the U.S. foreign aid program in whose honor the lecture series was created—understood the importance of including all nationalities in efforts to create prosperity in Europe and Japan after World War II.

The Marshall Plan assisted not only U.S. allies such as France and Britain, but the defeated enemies Germany and Japan.

Sen's forthcoming book, *Identity and Violence*, deals with the way single-issue identity activists create anti-Semitism, racism, anti-immigrant sentiments in Europe, etc.

"And I think democracy has a big role in changing that," he concluded. ★

## Quake Victims Receive Food, Shelter, Jobs ▲ FROM PAGE 1

response to the United Nations' flash appeal, which included \$3 million for shelters, \$2 million for water and sanitation, \$2 million for health programs, and \$15.6 million for airlifts, food, logistics, and other kinds of relief operations.

That U.N. donation is part of the U.S.

government's \$510 million in assistance for those affected by the South Asia earthquake.

Separately, private donations from U.S. citizens and businesses are estimated to have reached nearly \$100 million. ★



## Mission of the Month



**LIBERIA**



Liberians line up to vote Oct. 11, 2005, in the first national elections in their country since 1997.

### The Challenge

It began as a beacon for freed slaves from America, and since independence in 1847, the West African country enjoyed more than a century of relative peace.

The 1980s, however, began a period of unrest. In 1989 civil war broke out after Charles Taylor and his supporters went up against the sitting government. The fighting led to 200,000 deaths and about a million refugees fleeing to neighboring countries. Even after Taylor won power in an election, the country failed to thrive and fighting began anew.

After international negotiations, Taylor resigned in 2003 and went into exile in Nigeria. A comprehensive peace agreement was brokered and the country began the long process of restoring its economy, infrastructure, government, and people back to health.

### Response

Since the peace agreement, USAID's Liberia mission has focused on the reintegration and rehabilitation of ex-combatants and those affected by the war. For example:

- A nationwide public works program that established construction brigades employing up to 25,000 people.
- UNICEF's Accelerated Learning Program, which condenses the primary school curriculum from six years to three.
- School rehabilitation and teacher training; textbooks and other educational materials; curriculum development.
- Psychological counseling and specialized training for women and children linked to ex-combatants.
- Literacy classes, rural radio programs, and peace councils.
- Reform of the Liberian Forest Development Authority to end timber-for-weapons deals that led to U.N. timber sanctions against Liberia.
- With the Departments of Justice and State, support for the rule of law, legal aid centers, public defenders, and public outreach.
- A comprehensive program of primary and reproductive

healthcare services through community clinics; assistance to Liberian NGOs delivering primary healthcare; and health policy work with the transition government.

- Programs to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Continuation of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and Food for Peace (FFP) with providing humanitarian relief and assistance, particularly to the large population of internally displaced persons. FFP also runs food-for-work programs. In addition, the Office of Transition Initiative's community reintegration program expects to reach 30,000 youth.

### Results

In Liberia's election on Oct. 11, 2005, voter turnout was 75 percent.

"It was inspiring to be a spectator of these historic elections," said Africa Bureau Assistant Administrator Lloyd Pierson, who was among the U.S. delegation of election monitors.

"People lined up for hours to cast their vote, in the glaring sun as well as the pouring rain. They were excited to vote in what many described as the first truly free election in decades."

The election—where 22 candidates ran for president—required a runoff between the two top vote-getters. Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, a Harvard University-trained technocrat, was eventually declared the winner over former football star George Weah. She is now Africa's first elected female head of state.

The \$10 million provided by the Liberia mission covered international and domestic observers and voter education campaigns.

"The completion of free, fair, and peaceful elections was a crucial step for a country recovering from 15 years of civil war," Pierson said. "However, there is little doubt that these elections are one step in a process. Liberians have to understand that the elections are the start of a reconciliation and rebuilding process, not the end."

The inauguration was scheduled for Jan. 16, to be attended by First Lady Laura Bush, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and USAID Acting Administrator Frederick W. Schieck. ★

## Notes from Natsios

★★★★★★★★



### A Year After the Tsunami Indonesia Rebounds

Before the tsunami struck South Asia last year, the people of Aceh, Indonesia, lived under very different circumstances. Aceh was in a state of emergency and conflict. Few saw peace on the horizon. No one could have predicted that a tsunami would shatter their lives.

Today, one year later, we commemorate the lost lives and recognize the reconstruction that is underway. I was pleased that the president sent me to the region as a representative to attend the one-year memorial.

On December 26, 2004, the people of Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand suffered a disaster beyond imagination. At least 280,000 people are missing or confirmed dead. The tsunami, which reached as far as eastern Africa, displaced nearly 1 million people.

The world was moved to respond with speed and compassion. The American people, through the U.S. government, quickly delivered temporary shelter, food, and clean water to those in need. Hand in hand with people from the affected countries, NGOs, and U.N. agencies, USAID worked to provide relief, stabilize the humanitarian situation, avert public health crises, and help survivors reclaim their lives.

Nearly 600,000 people affected by the tsunami in Indonesia alone have benefited from U.S. relief assistance for everything from temporary shelter, food, water purification, and sanitation to psychological and child protection programs. In Aceh, projects provided assistance to every affected district, targeting both hard-hit urban areas and hard-to-reach rural areas.

This disaster, however, was also an opportunity for change, which the Acehnese people have seized. Billions of dollars have been mobilized to help Aceh rebound. The Government of Indonesia has appointed strong leadership and created a new agency to spearhead reconstruction. A peace agreement has been signed, and now paves the way for reconstruction efforts to rebuild the lives, the communities, and the economy for the people of Aceh and for Indonesia as a whole.

The American people continue to be committed to the recovery. The United States allocated \$400.1 million to support immediate and long-term recovery in Aceh and North Sumatra—part of a \$907.3 million total U.S. contribution to relief and reconstruction in the region. There has also been an overwhelming response to the call for private contri-

▼ SEE NOTES FROM NATSIOS ON PAGE 11

## ECONOMIC GROWTH, AGRICULTURE, AND TRADE

## Egypt's Reforms Hike Jobs and Incomes

**CAIRO**—Said Gabril is one of millions of farmers along the Nile River who have benefited from 200 reforms that, with U.S. foreign aid, have accelerated the economic development of this North African country of 77 million people.

Gabril runs a medium-sized livestock farm that had 40 head of cattle on his 25 acres in the late 1990s. But his farm grew to 200 animals after business reforms

introduced him to USAID projects that taught farmers how to improve productivity, improve land management, and market their products. Now he employs 30 workers—10 times as many as before.

Gabril also modified the design of his farm—adding shade, feed bunks, and water troughs as well as improving his calf rations—after participating in observational study tours to the United States.

During the last decade, USAID supported more than 200 reforms to improve Egypt's agricultural business environment. As a result, Egypt today has more open and competitive agricultural markets, conditions favoring private investment have improved, and Egypt is exporting and trading more than ever.

Reforms have also induced efficiency and productivity of Egypt's water and land along the Nile River. Gabril's neighbors, for example, doubled their rice yields while using less water during a shorter growing season. The land and water saved was used to grow fodder crops for cattle, enabling Gabril to expand production.

Adoption of new techniques for crops, livestock, marketing, and processing were all supported by USAID over the last three decades, especially in the most recent years.

In 2004, for example, USAID's Agricultural Exports and Rural Incomes (AERI) project trained 6,000 small and medium farmers in production, harvest, and postharvest handling of green beans, melons, and medicinal or aromatic plants. Drying and oil extraction of essential and aromatic oils were also taught. AERI also worked with small dairy and livestock producers like Gabril on improving product quality.

Current efforts include providing small farmers groups with training, seminars, video presentations, and direct consultations. Farmers are trained in herd management, animal health, and dairy processing.

One of the best effects of USAID's work in Egypt has been the creation of jobs in Egypt, which annually has 1.3 million new young adults and over 800,000 people



*In Egypt, USAID support for economic policy reforms has helped to increase agriculture productivity and job growth.*

seeking employment for the first time, said Glenn Rogers, sector policy economist in the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade.

“Achieving increases in agriculture productivity from the adoption of improved technologies and more efficient methods helps raise farm incomes and create non-farm employment opportunities,” he said.

Egypt's economic opening of the agricultural sector to greater competition and foreign trade led farmers to adopt new technology that improved production of grain, cotton, fruits, and vegetables. This enabled millions of Egyptian families to improve education, escape poverty, and reduce child malnutrition, he added.

Household wealth increased between 1992 and 2000 in rural areas of Egypt where there were reforms in the business and economic environment.

In rice growing areas, households that rose above the poverty level grew from 68 percent to 95 percent. Farmers used their new income to buy better healthcare and education. In communities like Gabril's, girls' school attendance rose from an average of 71 percent to 83 percent, and the number of women with some secondary education jumped from 23 percent to 50 percent. The number of children chronically malnourished decreased from 27 percent to 19 percent.

USAID has increasingly helped expand credit programs and connect Egyptians with U.S. know-how, equipment, and agricultural inputs such as seed, herbicides, and fertilizer.

“The Egyptian experience with agricultural reform demonstrates that agricultural sector investments are an important component to address fragility in emerging markets and accelerate employment growth even with modest overall national growth rates,” Rogers said.

Gabril's improved farm production indicates that productivity in agriculture and related services may be the single most important way to promote economic progress and jobs in developing countries, he said. ★

## GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

## East-Bloc Accountants Learn New Skills

**KIEV, Ukraine**—Nadezhda Ermolenko is one of thousands of accountants in former Soviet Bloc countries who are learning how to be more credible and efficient, and in the process are reshaping their countries' economies.

Ermolenko got her accounting practitioner certificate in 2003. Two years later she passed the professional exams for the Certified International Professional Accountant (CIPA) certificate. Within months she landed a job as the financial director of the Planning and Economic Department of Versiya, a leading Ukrainian producer of laptop computers.

Ermolenko says she has learned a lot about “good managerial accounting practices.” The program has been “winning...for both me and the company.”

When the Soviet Union collapsed in December 1991, its 15 newly independent republics had dysfunctional economies lacking modern accounting skills or the ability to track finances, budgets, and depreciation. The lack of accounting standards crippled the growth of private businesses, discouraged foreign investment, and slowed the region's integration into the global marketplace.

USAID stepped in with the CIPA alliance, which sought to set up the accounting skills and standards required for conducting business, good governance, attracting investment, and facilitating regional economic progress. The project brings together professional accounting associations from across Eurasia who train and certify their members and promote international standards and practices.

The Global Development Alliance (GDA) and various missions invested \$3.5 million

in the project. Another \$10 million was put in by private organizations and other donors.

The first basic financial accounting course was developed in Russian. Then, a team member working for the USAID accounting reform project in Kyrgyzstan began offering a course and exam on financial accounting. Those who passed received a certificate of merit, which quickly gained currency among accountants.

“We knew we were onto something when we found forged certificates circulating around,” said Rick Gurley, USAID's accounting reform project officer. “The new certificates were widely respected by accountants and prospective employers, and even had real value on the street.”

The program then expanded to Kazakhstan, Ukraine, and Russia. Other Eastern and Central Europe countries are now adopting the project as well.

To date, more than 50,000 people have taken the CIPA training. Some 65,000 exams have been administered throughout Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Russia, and the five Central Asian Republics. Now 5,000 accountants have earned CIPA certificates.

“Employers are sending current employees to take the training and examinations and are beginning to require that new accounting employees have the CIPA designation,” Gurley said.

The International Financial Reporting Standards has been translated into Russian, Ukrainian, Kazakh, Kyrgyz, and Uzbek, and adopted as the national standard in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. USAID is researching the possibility of offering the CIPA program in Spanish, Chinese, Dari, and Arabic. ★



*Sergiy Kanygin takes a test at a Managerial Accounting 1 exam in Kiev last year. The test is one of thousands administered by USAID-funded accounting reform projects.*

## DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

## Local Involvement Cuts Conflict



At the Tshopo Market Rehabilitation Project in Kisangani, a grant from USAID provided construction materials and technical assistance to rehabilitate a local market and improve the commercial activities and exchange among the members of the community. Tshopo was severely affected by the war in the DRC, which caused major infrastructure damage and prevented economic exchange.

Warfare in the Congo has displaced millions since 1998, drawn in neighboring countries, and killed more people than any other conflict since World War II: about 3 million.

Although a 2002 peace agreement has been unable to end all the fighting and resettle many of the Congo's displaced people, USAID is currently carrying out work to reintegrate ex-combatants into civilian life.

The effort is an indication that grassroots activities have become a key conflict prevention strategy in some of the world's most unstable countries.

"There is increased interest in grassroots programming to address conflict because it can have an immediate and positive impact at the local level by demonstrating real change and improving people's quality of life," said Elisabeth Kvitashvili, director of the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM).

"The challenge is to balance the need for quick and tangible benefits with the need to build a process that inspires participation, cooperation, and trust."

In October, CMM and the World Bank's Post-Conflict Unit hosted a meeting to discuss where, how, and why grassroots activities can work to reduce conflict, and ways the efforts can be copied in other conflict zones.

The meeting of the Conflict Prevention and Post-Conflict Reconstruction Network attracted representatives from 13 donor

agencies, including Great Britain's Department for International Development, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit in Germany, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Founded in 1997, the Network is an informal group of conflict specialists from 31 development agencies and international organizations who meet semiannually.

The three-day conference examined community-driven development (CDD) programs that can be based at the village level, focused on local economies or working to develop local governments.

The Congo program, for example, takes a new approach to reintegration by including people not involved in fighting. The Office of Transition Initiatives, which runs the program, hopes to create a safe environment for the different segments of the population to interact and to reinforce reintegration efforts.

The conference also included field trips to Washington-area organizations involved in community development activities and conflicts. Participants attended an exhibit by 22 organizations with on-the-ground experience working with communities in conflict countries. The NGOs and other groups presented their materials, best practices, and innovations.

The CMM office is part of the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Affairs. ★

## GLOBAL HEALTH

## Clinics in Madagascar Teach Young Adults

**ANTANANARIVO, Madagascar**—Private clinics serving young people are attracting more and more clients who are learning how to prevent sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), HIV infection, and unwanted pregnancies.

The USAID-funded project opened its first private clinics in 2001—under the name Top Reseau (French for "top connection")—in two districts in the eastern province of Tamatave, Madagascar's principal port city. Three years later, Top Reseau extended its network to other cities, including Antananarivo, Antsiranana, Tolanaro, and Mahajanga. The project now includes 123 health centers.

Madagascar's citizens, known as Malagasy, are at high risk of STDs or HIV infection. A 2004 survey found that nearly 50 percent of women aged 15 to 24 had never heard of an STD, and more than 20 percent had never heard of AIDS. Only 19 percent of men and women had correct knowledge of the two main ways to prevent HIV/AIDS, the survey found.

USAID's project addresses these issues by raising awareness through mass media campaigns and sending educators into communities to talk about STDs, AIDS, and reproductive health. The main message to youth is to delay sexual activity. For those who are already active, the advice is to be faithful to one partner and use condoms.

The project runs television, radio, and billboard advertising to promote Top Reseau.

It also uses mobile video units to deliver health messages.

Such screenings typically attract large crowds who watch films about delaying sexual activity, limiting the number of partners, condom use, and STD prevention. Audiences follow up with discussions and games, and receive information on clinic services.

A team of 60 peer educators aged 18 to 20 mix humor with serious discussions about reproductive and sexual health issues at the centers. They also conduct face-to-face sessions with youth on the streets and at night clubs, bars, and sporting events.

One clinic physician, Dr. Bakoly R. of Antananarivo, said: "At the beginning, when vulnerable women were referred to me by peer educators for medical followup, I felt a little uncomfortable. I was afraid that it might impact on my clinic workload. People considering themselves as 'respectable' and at low risk for HIV might decide not to come to consult me anymore. I realized that it was not the case."

Another physician, Dr. Samuel R. of Tamatave, said that in six months his clients increased threefold.

"Because of the increased demand, I'm now asked to carry out biweekly outreach group activities in the Tamatave neighborhood to respond to more complex questions that peer educators are not able to respond to," he said. ★



A peer educator talks to students at a high school in Tana about sexually transmitted diseases, delaying sexual activity, and the use of condoms.

# Relief and Reconstruction Continues One Year After Tsunami

In December 2004, a major earthquake followed by a tsunami hit Asia and Africa, devastating many coastal areas. At least 280,000 people in eight countries perished in a few hours, and over 100,000 are still missing. Many more had their homes and livelihoods swept away.

The coastal areas of Indonesia and Sri Lanka and two Indian island chains bore the brunt of the calamity and require significant repair and reconstruction.

U.S. government assistance for tsunami recovery and reconstruction totals \$841 million. Some \$656 million was allocated for USAID's Tsunami Recovery and Reconstruction Fund.

That has helped pay for immediate life-saving food, water, medical care, and shelter.

As the situation stabilized and survivors were provided with shelter and other needs, rebuilding communities began.

Cash-for-work programs give families incomes. Loans, business advice, and training in job skills help develop new businesses and sources of income. Longer-term projects to reconstruct water systems, roads, and other critical systems are under way.

In their tsunami report card published in the December issue of *Foreign Policy*, three experts give the relief effort a grade of A, citing both a quick response and sustained commitment.

"The disaster spurred into action governments, international organizations, and hundreds of nongovernmental organizations," wrote the three—Karl F. Inderfurth, a former assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs; David Fabrycky, a professor at George Washington University's Elliot School of International Affairs; and Stephen P. Cohen, a senior fellow in foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution.

"Relief operations proceeded quickly and effectively. . . . The remarkable response prevented the widely anticipated 'second tsunami' of disease and malnutrition," they concluded. ★

## TSUNAMI RELIEF AND RECONSTRUCTION FUND

India	\$17.9 million
Indonesia	\$400.1 million
Maldives	\$10.1 million
Sri Lanka	\$134.6 million
Thailand	\$5.3 million
Regional	\$56.7 million
<b>Fund total</b>	<b>\$656.0 million*</b>

\*\$656 million was approved for the tsunami recovery and reconstruction as well as protection and control of avian influenza. \$31.3 million is committed to avian flu.

## Tsunami Survivors on India's Southeast Coast Return to Work

**NAGAPATTINAM, India**—In a fishing hamlet in Tamil Nadu state, Revathi binds books and weaves baskets, earning about \$45 a month—money that is welcome to her family hit hard by the tsunami. This extra income has helped them to cope during periods when fishing is slow.

Loganathan, a fisherman with poor eyesight, has formed a group that, after a month-long training program, began making rope. Now they make 500 to 600 kilograms of rope a month and earn \$266. Rope is in such high demand among fisher folk that they plan to expand their business to serve neighboring villages.

Revathi and Loganathan are residents of the coastal district of Nagapattinam, which bore the brunt of the tsunami in India last year. USAID carried out immediate clean-up and reconstruction efforts in the area, and then began working with affected

groups. Since then, a loan program and skills training have helped thousands of Indians rebuild their lives.

Revathi, a mother of two, got a loan and purchased a machine to bind books. Then she began training neighbors in basket weaving and bookbinding. She is one of 4,000 women to receive a loan through the program.

Through September 2005, USAID provided emergency services such as temporary shelter, water and sanitation, physical and mental health surveillance, daycare centers, recreational activities for youth, boat repair, and small loans for women. Cash-for-work programs infused money into the local economy and gave people an income, while providing clean-up and reconstruction services.

The Agency is now working on maintaining the conditions in new settlements. Some 100,000 people now have access to clean water, and toilets have been built for some 40,000 local residents.

USAID partners raised floors of shelters in the Nagapattinam District and provided tarpaulins and other materials to prepare the shelters for the anticipated annual monsoon, which turned out to be much heavier than normal.

Local authorities and villagers are also working on disaster preparedness in over 22,000 of India's most vulnerable coastal villages. Public awareness campaigns are under way, and villagers willing and able to lead local preparations and response are being identified. ★



Kavitha, left, is operating a machine that she and Muthamma (facing camera) are using to make rope.

## Coconut Fiber Machines Help Boost Sri Lanka Coir Industry



A local tradesman demonstrates the new decorticator, which vastly reduces the time it takes to remove husks from coconut shells.

**THALARAMBA, Sri Lanka**—Work has been slow since the 2004 tsunami for cabinet-maker Jayananda Nanayakara, but without the tools he received from USAID he wouldn't have any business at all, he said.

"These tools let me stand on my own two feet and provide for my family again," Nanayakara, 43, said as he presented a replica of the USAID shield with clasped hands he had carved to an Agency official. "This gift shows my appreciation for USAID, and that of my family, who harvest coconuts and produce coir," a fiber used to make rope.

He is among the participants in REVIVE, an 18-month project that helps small entrepreneurs get back to work in the hard hit south and east. It encourages Sri Lankans to rebuild through grants to local NGOs that use the funds to help individuals, families, and small businesses.

Grants are restoring the traditional spinning of coir and weaving as well as funding a new coir processing center equipped with motorized machines.

Coir is made from the fibrous husk of coconuts, which traditionally must be soaked for seven months in saltwater until soft enough to be separated by hand. Using new tech-

nology, workers can extract coir fiber from fresh coconut husk in a single day.

"The REVIVE project provides commodities, grants, and training as a package," said REVIVE's David Dyer. "We have awarded 60 grants together with training, because we're not just giving people a gift and walking away from them. In this case, we are making sure people understand how to use equipment."

The new center will play a key role in income-generating activities in the Matara District. Initially, REVIVE delivered coir fiber for 300 yarn spinners unemployed due to lack of fiber. Other new equipment will help produce products for export, such as twine, rubberized padding, and rugs. Small community producer groups will manage the process.

The project distributed processing machinery, new coir spinning wheels, lace drums, bicycles, and sewing machines.

The U.S.-supported Coir Council International will assess the compatibility of the new technology with other small industries such as yarn spinning and geo-textile weaving. ★

## Sri Lanka Tourism Returns After Tsunami with industry Reform



*Sri Lankan tourists and elephants travel the same path.*

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka**—With more than 1,600 kilometers of palm-shaded beaches, breathtaking vistas, and iconic ruins of an ancient civilization, Sri Lanka has tremendous potential as a tourist destination.

Year after year, however, the tourist industry failed to reach its potential. Despite the presence of some of the oldest Buddhist archaeological sites in Asia, game parks full of exotic animals, and rainforests to delight ecotourists, Sri Lanka couldn't break out of its long-time identity as a cheap beach destination.

It took the December 2004 tsunami, which destroyed much of Sri Lanka's beach-tourism infrastructure, to bring the issue to a head and push through major policy reform.

The government, which had a meager budget for tourism to begin with, has essentially handed over the job of boosting this business to the tourism industry.

Visitor numbers have begun to climb back to pre-tsunami levels. Between January and September 2005, there were more than 400,000 visitors to Sri Lanka, 8 percent more than in the same period last year.

That may be due, in part, to the Bounce Back Campaign. Once the country was able to accommodate tourists again, USAID provided \$3 million for Bounce Back in key international markets. As the name suggests, the campaign initiated by the private sector was aimed at countering the image that Sri Lanka wasn't yet safe or healthy for tourists after the tsunami.

Bounce Back is among the latest of USAID's efforts at boosting tourism in Sri Lanka through The Competitiveness Program (TCP), which started in 2001. TCP brought key industry players together into a "tourism cluster" to show the value of linking tourism businesses and associations. For the first time, the industry had a forum and could address common issues and engage the public sector with a prepared, unified voice.

TCP provided the cluster with specialists to advise on evaluating its strengths, weaknesses, and potential; prioritizing its needs; and crafting a strategy to make the most of what the country had to offer. A major

part of the plan included policy reform that improved both funding and spending on tourism promotion. It required the government to draft legislation to revamp and reform the policies of the Sri Lanka Tourist Board.

"USAID helped us to formulate a new strategy of diversifying the product into niche markets such as culture, nature, and adventure," said Prema Cooray, chairman of the cluster. "Bringing this new act together is something we've been fighting for over many years, but the fact that we were able to bring the industry together gave us a forum to fight much more strongly for what we felt was better for the industry."

By 2002, the cluster presented draft legislation to parliament, which agreed to raise the airport tax and collect revenues from the industry. The industry proposed a 1 percent tax on hotel and other tourism receipts, and a doubling of the airport exit tax from \$5 to \$10. The budget for tourism promotion ballooned from less than \$500,000 a year to approximately \$10 million annually.

"If the Tourism Cluster hadn't thought of itself as a leading force for both the industry and the nation, this never would have happened," said John Varley, chief of party for TCP. "Sri Lanka traditionally relies upon government rather than the private sector to take the lead and the risk in industry development—especially in tourism."

"TCP planted the idea for more self-reliance and private sector leadership." ★

## Thai Coastal Villages Rebuild Boats, Homes, Fish Farms

**BANGKOK, Thailand**—Scores of new homes are built for tsunami survivors in remote villages along the Thai Andaman seacoast here.

One project involved contributions from the American Refugee Committee, which donated a water system, while USAID is carrying out a cash-for-work project with 34 villagers who dug trenches for water distribution pipes leading from the main system to individual homes throughout a resettlement community.

The villagers donated their earnings from the cash-for-work project to buy the water pipes, and local authorities helped install the pipe system. USAID's \$3 million program aims to restart and diversify livelihoods in five target villages in Ranong Province, southern Thailand. It helps communities set up low-cost projects.

Since March, the program donated boats and equipment to 20 fishermen and employed nearly 300 villagers in cash-for-work programs. It paid villagers to collect mangrove seeds and plant them in tsunami-

affected areas. Villagers cleaned up the sewer line and have now to set up recycling systems to turn trash into products.

USAID also launched a microfinance initiative and held two trainings in late September for 250 microentrepreneurs. Some 50 loans were disbursed in October, and another 25 are being made at the start of the new year.

It also trained freshwater aquaculture entrepreneurs on fish seedling production using artificial breeding techniques. A hatchery is being built for these villagers to restart catfish raising businesses. Several demonstration projects are being held: on "cage culture" raising groupers, oysters and mussels in cages.

A year after the tsunami, USAID is also supporting the construction of a new community learning center focused on "greenbuilding." It will offer educational materials about the environment so villages can make better use of resources like sea and land. The center will also offer computer and internet services to schools and businesses. ★



*A villager digs trenches for pipelines to connect newly built homes to a new water system.*

## Indonesians Plant and Harvest on Tsunami-Washed Soil

**JANTANG, Indonesia**—This small coastal village in Aceh Besar district, badly damaged in last year's tsunami, had its first harvest this year, earning nearly \$10,000 in income.

The village is one of 56 where USAID worked on cultivating and replanting crops. Schools have been fixed, and community health workers have been promoting nutrition and health practices among surviving families.

In June, Jantang villagers started sowing

90-day cash crops in 12 hectares of tsunami-affected soil. Many did not believe that crops could ever be grown here again—that the soil would be too salty after the tsunami.

Cash-for-work programs also allowed communities to participate in the recovery process while earning immediate income.

Agency programs that work with communities promote just governance and increasing income. Projects help communities lead the reconstruction process and

help them draw up development plans.

Indonesia is the largest recipient of U.S. tsunami assistance. Across Aceh, cash-for-work programs provided income to some 58,000 workers and their families.

Aceh's economy contracted by 14 percent this year. About a quarter of the population is unemployed. USAID is creating jobs and reviving businesses through loans and training, especially for women. Grants are also replacing lost assets and creating community-managed loan funds.

An alliance with Chevron provides three-month scholarships to a vocational facility where 100 students learned masonry, construction, electrical installation, welding, computers, and bookkeeping.

As of November, USAID in this region had also reopened 80 kilometers of road. The Agency will ultimately fund reconstruction of 240 kilometers of the road from Banda Aceh to Meulaboh. ★

## AFRICA

## Kenya Avocado Collectives Bear Fruit

Before three avocado processing companies opened for business near him last year, Mbugua Gitau sold the avocados that grew in his orchard in Ichagaki through freelance buyers.

With 210 trees in his grove, the father of six should have been doing well. Instead, Gitau and his family lived in poverty. The freelance buyers, who are also called brokers, offered low prices and were often unreliable in paying up. He also lost money on rejected fruit that brokers left to spoil on the ground.

Gitau knew the brokers were taking advantage of him, but he had no other marketing options until he joined with 34 other farmers and formed the Ichagaki 'A' Avocado Business Self-Help Group. That group joined Kenya Business Development Services (Kenya BDS), a USAID-funded effort that helps owners of micro and small enterprises grow their businesses, as the first participants in its avocado oil processing program in May 2005.

Gitau's is one of 97 new avocado business groups, representing 2,800 farmers with about 24,000 trees, started last summer by farmers. The farmer groups, in turn, linked with the three new processing firms with an eye to getting better prices for their fruit.

The groups, by the end of August, delivered 178 tons of avocados. Pairing the

farmer-business groups and the processing firms with more efficient marketing led to a guaranteed market for the avocados and a 400 to 500 percent price increase per kilogram for the harvest.

Local facilitator Christine Guchu-Katee was the organizer and go-between for the farmer groups and the processors.

She and her team held 278 *barazas*, which is Swahili for village-wide meetings, for 7,700 farmers, and also met them at churches and field days, and during farm visits. Kenya BDS also reached out to local administrators and opinion leaders for support.

And, after buy-in from all sides, the team held trainings for the farmer groups, helped negotiate supply contracts, and championed the entire enterprise to ensure that business would commence as planned in June 2005 and maximize the remainder of the harvesting season.

Kenya BDS officials said the program, despite its late start during the harvest season, had a good start.

"I am surprised and impressed that there is enough fruit for all of us," said a representative from one of the processing companies. "I was initially worried that there would not be enough for all of us. I received the 10 tons, the collection was well organized, and the fruit is good and mature. This program can work."



Workers offload avocados that will be processed into oil, which is used in cosmetics. Sunny Processors began operations in May 2005 in response to the increased supply of avocados in Maragua District, Kenya. Through assistance under the USAID Kenya BDS Program, the processor is purchasing avocados directly from smallholder farmer groups.

With the expected increase in his earnings, Gitau is making plans to expand his farm. He also plans to renovate his home, buy some milk goats, and eventually, build rental homes on property he hopes to buy in nearby Maragua.

Had he sold his avocados to the processing company for an entire season, Gitau would

have quadrupled his profits from his last full harvest when he used a broker.

The Ichagaki 'A' Self-Help Group now approaches avocado farming as a business, and is already looking forward to moving into the more lucrative export market. That is Kenya BDS's goal as well. ★

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## Micro Loans Spur Small Business Growth

**QUITO, Ecuador**—Between 2001 and 2004, the number of small entrepreneurs in Ecuador who successfully sought loans to grow their businesses increased from 100,000 to 300,000—the biggest jump in Latin America.

That created a windfall for banks and other financial institutions that won their business. At the same time, microcredit loans by these institutions rose to \$300 million, up from \$85 million.

USAID is supporting this effort. After the economic and financial crises in 1999 and 2000 left many Ecuadorians out of work, the mission began working to get the country's financial intermediaries to extend credit to small, financially battered entrepreneurs.

Accessing credit from the formal financial system has been a key factor in creation or expansion of microenterprises in Ecuador. "Expansion of these small and medium-sized enterprises has been a source of new employment, especially for new entrants into the workforce, especially for workers with less education and skills," said Mission Director Alexi Panehal.

Business owner María Isabel Coral is now a regular client of Cooperativa Tulcán, one of the institutions that received assistance from a USAID microfinance project. Since getting a loan through the program, Coral has been able to buy more merchandise for her store, where she has been selling pots and pans for almost 12 years. Her profits are

now on the rise, allowing her to pay for her two daughters' higher educations.

"I had to live with loans from loan sharks before, and that was very expensive for my business," Coral said. "I never had certainty. Now I'm able to satisfy my clients' needs better because I have a greater variety of products to sell. Thanks to the loans, I'm able to educate my daughters now."

The outlook for many Ecuadorians was bleak only a few years back. Between 1998 and 2000, poverty grew from 35 percent to 68 percent. Wages fell about 40 percent, and unemployment increased from 8 percent to 17 percent. Most Ecuadorians who lost their jobs in the formal sector had no option but to start their own microbusinesses in order to survive. But they lacked credit.

So USAID provided technical assistance for lending institutions, product development, improved regulatory and lending standards, and the establishment of a shared branch network that is now able to conduct national and international transactions through ATMs. That, in turn, smoothes the transmission of remittances back to Ecuador from relatives living abroad.

Today, 24 USAID-assisted microcredit institutions are profitable, compared to 15 in 2001.

The next step for the mission is to help Ecuador adopt new services to transmit remittances and connect the local credit union system with more than 1,100 credit union branches in the United States. ★



Since getting a loan through USAID/Ecuador's microfinance program, María Isabel Coral has been able to buy more merchandise—and improve its variety and quality—for her store where she has sold pots and pans for nearly 12 years.

## ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

## Women in Timor Learn Their Rights

**DILI, Timor-Leste**—Lessons in public speaking for women in East Timor—now known as Timor-Leste—are designed to empower them to use their voices in decisions that affect their government and their lives. And the coaching has worked on Timorese women like Sabina da Silva, who attended a three-day workshop in the coastal city of Baucau and has used her newfound voice in public—and private.

“In the house, the husband always beats the wife because he says he paid for her so he can hit her when she doesn’t do what he says,” says da Silva, by way of explaining the utility of the sessions she attended. “From this training, we can be brave enough to stand up to our husbands and tell them that just because they paid a bride price doesn’t mean they have the right to beat us.”

The USAID-sponsored program is focused on strengthening women’s public speaking skills—not necessarily combating domestic violence. But the women who attended the

courses were encouraged to contribute their ideas and opinions for both their communities and their home lives.

USAID is supporting the public speaking sessions countrywide as part of an effort to increase citizen participation in Timor-Leste’s nascent political life. Timor-Leste gained independence from Indonesia in 2002 after a long, brutal struggle. Indonesia invaded the island nation in 1975, nine days after Timor-Leste proclaimed its independence from long-time colonial authority Portugal. Between 100,000 and 250,000 people died over more than two decades of conflict.

Timor-Leste has just over 1 million people and remains the poorest nation in Asia. But it is taking steps to reestablish its economy, healthcare, and government with assistance from USAID.

“Increased representation for and by women in the civic affairs of their young country helps establish and protect democratic institutions and broadens the range of

public participation,” said USAID Country Representative Flynn Fuller.

In 2005, USAID supported a second round of training sessions targeting young village women, especially those who excelled in the initial sessions. Almost 200 women have participated, and da Silva and other participants have requested that another round of training sessions be held.

In addition to the program focused on women, USAID works with community groups to provide information on political activities, support democratic values, and develop skills necessary for advocacy on community issues. ★

**“Increased representation for and by women in the civic affairs of their young country helps establish and protect democratic institutions and broadens the range of public participation,” said USAID Country Representative Flynn Fuller.**



Women from Dato, a village in Liquiça district, gained new confidence when speaking out publicly after participating in a USAID program.

## EUROPE AND EURASIA

## Democracy Conference Draws Young Leaders

**SKOPJE, Macedonia**—Roughly 60 young political leaders hailing from East Europe and the United States attended a conference in late October that allowed them to share experiences, network, and talk about how to build support for democracy principles and civic participation among youth at home.

The youth leaders, ranging in age from 18 to 30 years, represented political parties and civic groups in 17 countries—such as Macedonia, Serbia, Russia, and Romania—still undergoing transition from authoritarian regimes to free-market democracies.

“During our simulation, workshops, and

lectures, what became [apparent] for me was the great pattern of how political leaders, though young, can work in a team to promote the common result, notwithstanding any bias from our past,” said Alexander Andreev, president of the Progressive Youth Union, a democratic movement in Samara, Russia.

“I witnessed how people could act with progress and success if they are open, free, positive thinking, and democratically oriented.”

Learning how to plan a municipal budget and to work as a team with elected officials representing diverse interests motivated Andreev to join the finance committee of the Samara Public Council upon his return to Russia.

“I am going to actively work on budget and taxation issues, using the skills I developed at the seminar,” he said.

The conference,

held in Ohrid and Tetovo, brought together the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL), the International Republican Institute, and the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs for the first time on such a regional approach.

Ljupco Jordanovski, president of the Macedonian parliament, welcomed participants at an opening dinner in Skopje. In Ohrid, U.S. Deputy Secretary of Transportation Maria Cino delivered the inaugural keynote address on modern challenges to political leadership and ethics.

“This was a unique way for USAID to gather emerging leaders from developing democracies to reach across party lines in working toward the shared goals of peace, prosperity, and liberty,” said Brock Bierman, chief of staff for the Europe and Eurasia bureau, which organized the conference.

Young politicians should ignore boundaries and work on moving their countries ahead, U.S. political advisors told the group.

“The involvement of a new generation of politicians is critical to the future of democracy in this region,” said senior Republican political advisor Judy Black, former chairman of ACYPL.

“Young politicians have a shared aspiration for progress and they innately know that gender, religion, ethnicity, and geographic boundaries should not stand in their way,” she said. ★



Youth and young adult leaders from Eastern Europe and the United States get down to business at an October conference in Macedonia where they shared ideas about democracy and civic participation.

October 30, 2005—November 26, 2005

## PROMOTED

**Paulette Neal Broadus**  
ITSPEC

**Renee V. Brown**  
Administrative Assistant

**Kyung Choe**  
Democracy Specialist

**Barry Collins**  
IDI (Executive Officer)

**Larry P. Cork Jr.**  
Auditor

**Cynthia P. Covington**  
Administrative Assistant

**Markus D. Dausses**  
IDI (Executive Officer)

**Aimee M. David**  
ITSPEC

**Victor De Leon Diaz**  
IDI (Executive Officer)

**Donald Douglass**  
Supervisory Accountant

**Earl Ellington**  
Lead Contract Specialist

**Crystal C. Garrett**  
International Cooperation Specialist

**Christine M. Gottschalk**  
Disaster Operations Specialist

**Bryien H. Gray**  
ITSPEC (Network)

**June E. Greenlee**  
ITSPEC

**Connie V. Hall**  
Staff Assistant

**Carl E. Hawkins**  
Lead Public Health Program Special  
Leader

**Joseph Hirsch**  
IDI (Program/Project Development Officer)

**Joyce A. Hopkins**  
Budget & Accounting Analyst

**Sean Huff**  
IDI (Program/Project Development  
Officer)

**Joann M. Jones**  
Human Resources Specialist

**Darren A. Manning**  
IDI (Executive Officer)

**Jenny Lynn Marion**  
Special Assistant

**Eunice S. McLeod**  
Administrative Assistant

**Mark P. Murray**  
Administrative Officer

**Boniface C. Nwachu**  
Lead Accountant

**Katherine Valdez Osborne**  
Program Officer

**James F. Porter II**  
Lead Budget Analyst

**Jennifer A. Ragland**  
International Cooperation Specialist

**Christopher T. Runyan**  
Program Analyst

**Alfred Munda Sandy**  
Accountant

**Lorraine Sherman**  
IDI (Executive Officer)

**Penny R. Smith**  
Program Assistant

**Rema L. Smith**  
ITSPEC (APPSW)

**Jason K. Stewart**  
Accountant

**Marella Lou Turner**  
Management and Program Analyst

**Gloria Walker**  
Staff Assistant

**Torina Yvette Way**  
International Cooperation Specialist

**Mark A. Webb**  
Supervisory Security Specialist

**Marcelle J. Wijesinghe**  
Procurement Analyst

## REASSIGNED

**Peter Argo**  
Caucasus to CA/DO

**Edward W. Birgells**  
COMP/FS to Iraq/PO

**David M. Bogan**  
COMP/NE/OJT to RSC/RFMO

**Tanya J. Broadnax**  
M/MPI/MIC to M/CFO/APC

**Clifford H. Brown**  
COMP/FSLT to CA/DO

**Julie Chen**  
Egypt/HRH to Egypt/PO

**Mary Rita Cobb**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Senegal/D

**Laura E. Coughlin**  
COMP/NE/OJT to PHIL/PRM

**Natasha M. Demarcken**  
Guinea/HRD to Mali/GD

**Victor De Leon Diaz**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Guatemala/EXO

**Marc L. Douglas**  
EGAT/PAICO/PI to EGAT/PAICO/PAMS

**Peter G. Downs**  
Afghanistan/OPPD to India/PS

**Mervyn A. Farroe**  
Mali/PROG to Angola

**David E. Gosney**  
Iraq/PSO to Caucasus

**Daniel J. Gowen**  
DOM REP/PDIS to DOM REP/PDO

**William C. Hansen**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Indonesia/EXO

**Kent J. Howard**  
COMP/NE/OJT to RCSA/RCO

**Michael Joseph Kaiser**  
Bolivia/EO SOT to Afghanistan/OPPD

**Laura W. Libanati**  
LAC/CAM to E&E/EA

**Angela Lord**  
CA/HP to Afghanistan/OPPD

**Miguel A. Luina**  
Bolivia/FMO to COMP/FS

**Leslie Marbury**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Honduras/ANRO

**William S. Murphy**  
OIG/A/HL&C to RIG/Manila

**Kathryn Panther**  
Egypt/HDD/H to Egypt/HRH

**Amy Paro**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Nepal/PPD

**Kerry A. Pelzman**  
Russia/SSR to CA/HP

**Diane A. Perone**  
GC/LE to GC/CCM

**Roy Plucknett**  
Egypt/PROC to WB/Gaza

**Veena Reddy**  
COMP/NE/OJT to El Salvador/D

**Maria Rendon Labadan**  
COMP/LWOP to DCHA/DG

**Ernest R. Rojas**  
COMP/FSLT to Bolivia/AD SOT

**Christopher T. Runyan**  
DCHA/PVCASHA/PDM to ANE/SPO/  
SPPM

**James B. Sanford**  
Mozambique/FM to Peru/CONT

**Leona Sasinkova**  
COMP/DRI to M/OAA/EGAT

**Peter E. Schulleri**  
M/OAA/EGAT to M/OAA/GRO

**Walter E. Shepherd**  
Bolivia/FST to Bangladesh/EGFE

**Randy T. Streufert**  
SEC/PIDS to SEC/OD

**Randal Joy Thompson**  
E&E/DGST to COMP/FS

**Diane L. Travis**  
M/MPI/MIC to M/CFO/APC

**Raymond W. Waldron**  
Ecuador/GD to Ecuador/SDE

**Gloria J. White**  
M/MPI/MIC to M/CFO/APC

**Bertha H. Wimbish**  
AA/E&E to GH/PDMS

## RETIRED

**Richard J. Cain**  
**Gardenia H. Franklin**  
**Lurethia Sykes**

**James M. Anderson**  
**Caroline F. Connolly**  
**James Kenneth Isaacs**  
**Peter T. Lampesis**

## MOVED ON

**Lauren Landis**  
**Lee D. Roussel**  
**Therese M. Roy**  
**Dianne C. Tsitsos**

**Sally Elizabeth Verser**  
**David R. Waters**  
**Carol A. Wimbish Datcher**

## Kolbe Says He Will Retire



U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., chats with students during a Nov. 29 visit to the Federal Government Girls' Model School in Islamabad, Pakistan. The school houses a USAID-funded early childhood education program. Kolbe announced he would not seek reelection just before taking this trip.

U.S. Rep. Jim Kolbe, R-Ariz., chairman of the House Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee and an influential force on USAID budgets for the last several years, announced in November that he will not seek another term.

After serving in the House for nearly 22 years, Kolbe said, "I have concluded that it is time for the people of southern Arizona and me to walk down different paths."

Kolbe has worked for more than two decades on legislative issues. He served on the appropriations subcommittee, helped shape foreign policy in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, and participated in crafting the North American Free Trade Agreement to strengthen ties between Mexico and the United States.

Kolbe, 63, said he would have had to give up his chairmanship of the subcommittee at the end of this year anyway because of term limits—one of the factors in his decision not to seek reelection. He also cited the decline in civility among some in Washington as another reason to leave the post to which he has been reelected 10 times.

Kolbe will continue in the House until his term expires this year. He said he may teach or do consulting work. He also told *The Arizona Republic* that he would not rule out a role that keeps him involved with international issues. ★

### IN MEMORIAM

**Susie Clay**, 60, died Nov. 9 in Calif. Most recently, and before returning to the United States, Clay served as the education development officer in USAID/Peru, and immediately prior to that as the Nicaragua desk officer in the Latin America and Caribbean Bureau's Office of Central American and Mexican Affairs. She also held a number of other key positions throughout her 18 years at USAID.

**Arthur Wesley Tunnell Jr.**, 89, died Sept. 5 in Fort Myers, Fla. Tunnell joined USAID as part of the foreign service and worked as a comptroller in a number of countries, including Taiwan, Ethiopia, Sudan, Nigeria, Turkey, and Nepal. He was among the last Americans to leave Khartoum, Sudan, during the 1968 Arab-Israeli War, and was stationed in Lagos, Nigeria, during the 1969 Ibo War. He retired from USAID in the mid-1970s. Tunnell graduated from what is now Drexel University with a bachelor's degree in accounting. He also served in the U.S. Navy

during World War II. Before joining USAID, Tunnell worked for Standard Vacuum Oil Co. (now Mobil Oil Co.) in Sungei Gerong, Sumatra, Indonesia, for 10 years.

**Ronald A. Witherell**, 70, died Sept. 16 in Guatemala City, Guatemala. In 1961, following military service in the U.S. Air Force, he joined the newly created USAID in the management intern program. After internship, Witherell was assigned to the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean in the Office of Central American Affairs. He subsequently served overseas in El Salvador, Paraguay, and Chile, before returning to Washington as a desk officer for Jordan and Lebanon. From 1983 until his retirement in 1987, Witherell served as a chief general development officer in Honduras and as an associate mission director in El Salvador. After retirement, he worked as a consultant to both USAID/El Salvador and USAID/Guatemala.

## Notes from Natsios ▲ FROM PAGE 3

butions by former Presidents Bush and Clinton.

The results can be clearly seen in Indonesia. Our partnership with this country is restoring livelihoods, creating jobs, improving health and hygiene, creating education and training opportunities, reconstructing the Banda Aceh to Meulaboh road and its bridges, and helping communities plan. We are committed to helping the Achenese people to "build back better."

The United States knows how hard it is to pick up the pieces. We've faced our

own challenges from natural disasters this year.

Many thousands of people in the hurricane-ravaged South and Southwest are just beginning to rebuild after Katrina and Rita washed away so much.

I have been very impressed by the hard-working, dedicated people of Aceh.

The United States supports Indonesia in achieving its goals—there is no better way to commemorate the people who lost their lives in this tragedy. ★

## Hardin Elected to Union Post

Willy Hardin, a transportation claims examiner in the Management Bureau's Office of Travel and Transportation, has been elected first vice president of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE) Local 1534 for USAID. The vote was held Nov. 30.

Hardin replaces Jeremiah Perry and will fulfill the remaining term of office, which ends after elections in 2007.

No stranger to the local, Hardin has served as a steward and as executive vice president, and has assisted employees and union members in various capacities. Before coming to USAID 16 years ago, Hardin served 26 years in the Navy and, after retirement, worked for the Army as a General Schedule employee.

AFGE Local 1534 represents more than 8,000 GS employees at USAID, the State Department, and the Overseas Private Investment Corporation. A new slate of officers was sworn in in May. Those with USAID ties include the president, Lawrence

Williams; executive vice president, Sylvia Joyner; secretary, Gertrude Neely; and second vice president for USAID, Margaret Hunt—who ran against Hardin for the first vice president post in the special election. ★



Willy Hardin

## Melnyk Receives Award

Mary Melnyk, a natural resources advisor in the Asia Near East bureau, received an award from the World Cocoa Foundation for pioneering a public-private partnership for sustainable cocoa growing in Southeast Asia.

The foundation announced its 2005 Partnership Awards in October, honoring Melnyk for the SUCCESS alliance. SUCCESS stands for Sustainable Cocoa Extension Services for Smallholders.

The alliance works on improving cocoa production by encouraging small farmers to adopt good crop methods and effective integrated pest management practices. It is working with more than 340,000 farmers in Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. Annual income of farmers in Indonesia has risen on average by \$400 per year—equivalent to 50 percent of the current gross national income per capita for Indonesia. ★



Mary Melnyk, an environmental policy advisor in USAID's Asia Near East Bureau, recently received an award from the World Cocoa Foundation for the SUCCESS Alliance in Asia. Here, she is in a community-protected forest near Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh.

## Reginald J. Brown

Former USAID Assistant Administrator Reginald J. Brown died Dec. 17 in Solomons, Md. He was 65. From 1989 to 1993, Brown was an assistant administrator for the Near East Bureau, and for the Bureau of Policy and Program Coordination.

In 2001, Brown was nominated as the assistant secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, a post from which he retired in January 2005. While there he oversaw the mobilization of more than 300,000 Army Reserve and National Guard members. He came out of retirement a short time later and served as a senior executive officer for the Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, a position he held until his death.

Brown graduated from West Point and the John F. Kennedy School of Government

at Harvard University. He went on to serve in the U.S. Army from 1961 to 1971. During that time, he

was an instructor in the Social Sciences Department at West Point.

While at the Agency, Brown worked on the "AID for Trade" and "Buy American" initiatives, and helped establish a USAID presence in the West Bank and Gaza and in Japan, said John Godden of the Europe and Eurasia Bureau, who worked with Brown during his time at USAID. "Regi Brown was a man of enormous integrity with a genuine concern for the people with whom he worked," Godden added. ★



# Schieck's 40-Year Road from Quito to Acting Administrator

*FrontLines* is published by the U.S. Agency for International Development, through the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs.

**J. Edward Fox**, Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs

**Jeffrey Grieco**, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs

**Steve Tupper**, Chief of Publications

## FRONTLINES EDITORIAL BOARD

**Ben Barber** Editorial Director

**Kristina Stefanova** Acting Deputy Managing Editor

**Angela Rucker** Writer-Editor

**Claire McIntyre** Production Editor

**Rebecca Gustafson** Online Editor

**Pat Adams** Photo Librarian

**Mary Jane Cotter** Human Resources Coordinator and Employee Liaison

Contributing writers, editors, and staff include

**Rick Marshall, John Waggoner**

*FrontLines* correspondents and reporters include

**AFGE**—Jeremiah Perry; **AFR**—Christine Chumbler, Ranta Russell; **AFSA**—William Carter; **ANE**—Lori Severens; **DCHA**—Jenny Marion; **EGAT**—Dana West; **E&E**—Sarah Berry, Brock Bierman; **EOP**—Gloria Blackwell; **GC**—Stephen Kaplitt; **GDA**—Daniel Harter; **GH**—Chris Thomas; **IG**—Donna Rosa; **LAC**—Ellen Leddy; **LPA**—Barbara Bennett;

**PPC**—Joseph Duggan;

**SEC**—Randy Streufert.

Readers are encouraged to send in stories, feature articles, photos, nominations for "First Person" or "Mission of the Month" columns, and other ideas.

Letters to the editor, opinion pieces, obituaries, and requests to be added to the mailing list should be submitted by email to [frontlines@usaid.gov](mailto:frontlines@usaid.gov); by fax to 202-216-3035, and by mail to Editor, *FrontLines*, USAID, Ronald Reagan Building, Suite 6.10, Washington, D.C. 20523-6100; tel. 202-712-4330.

Production assistance for *FrontLines* is provided by IBI—International Business Initiatives, Arlington, Va.

Forty years after Frederick W. Schieck joined USAID as an intern in 1965, he takes over Jan. 12 as interim administrator of the Agency, replacing Andrew S. Natsios who leaves after five years in office for a teaching post at Georgetown University.

"We're doing well and we should keep on doing well," said Schieck, surrounded in his office by Afghan carpets, photographs of Asia, and other mementos of his decades working on international development around the globe.

"Our work has greater visibility now because more people in Washington understand the importance of development to achieving strategic goals.

"AID has received a lot of recognition in the last few years, but we also took the usual hits because of the penchant of the press to accentuate the negative. We work in difficult areas where it is not always possible to achieve everything we want to get done. But our people are committed and ought to be commended for working in difficult circumstances.

"This is very interesting work we do in USAID," he added. "To me one of the most rewarding things is to visit the field where I get a different perspective. There is a lot of gratitude by people for what we do—that is not often translated or highlighted well here in Washington."

Schieck plans to remain in his sixth-floor office where he has worked as deputy administrator for the past four years. He said he does not know how long he will serve as interim chief, whether for a few weeks or for some months before President Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice nominate a new administrator, who will then require Senate confirmation.

Schieck was brought up in Washington—his father was an Air Force officer—and earned his undergraduate degree at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service. After stints at the Department of Commerce and the Army, he earned a master's degree from Harvard Business School in 1965 and immedi-

ately joined USAID as an International Development Intern and became a loan officer.

"Most of our development assistance funding then was provided as loans to governments. My job was to work closely with government ministries to design projects and then help with their implementation," said Schieck.

Many loans were for large infrastructure projects such as power plants, ports, and roads. Others were for "softer sectors" such as education, schools, technical assistance, textbooks, health centers, training health workers, and medical equipment.

The loans to governments—similar to loans currently given out by the World Bank and other international development banks—were replaced by grants in the mid-1970s because of congressional and administration concern with the increasing debt load of poor countries. USAID continued to fund government-managed programs until the late 1980s when the Agency began to channel increasing amounts of funds through nongovernmental organizations, contractors, and universities. Today, these groups have primary responsibility for carrying out development programs for the Agency.

"I'd like to open the door to working directly with governments again where it makes sense—it builds sustainability and builds capacity," said Schieck. "Ministries that manage projects learn important lessons, which encourages them to expand these programs to benefit others in their countries using their own funding or other donor funding," he said.

"A popular misconception in the Agency today is that moving to host government agreements means turning cash over to government agencies and then taking our chances that the money would be well spent for the purposes intended. In reality, there are any number of mechanisms which would protect the Agency from misuse of funds such as making payments directly

to suppliers. Also, we need to find ways to spend more of USAID's funds in developing countries," Schieck said.

Schieck is having a series of briefings with Agency staff on the top challenges affecting the Agency, which he said includes Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, global health issues, relationships with the State Department, and the FY 2006 budget crunch.

Schieck served much of his career in Latin America, beginning in Ecuador, then Bolivia, Chile, and Guatemala, where he was mission director. He married a Bolivian woman, Sara, and they have a daughter.

He also served in Asia as mission director in the Philippines during an especially important period as the Marcos regime wound down and democracy was returned through the direct efforts of the Philippine people.

After stints as deputy assistant administrator of the bureaus for Latin America, Asia, and Policy and Program Coordination, Schieck retired in 1990 and then joined the Inter-American Development Bank for another 10 years of work in development.

In 2001, he was nominated by President Bush to be deputy administrator and he was confirmed in January 2002.

Asked to recall some of his fondest moments with USAID, he recalled a fantastic two-week drive with his brother from one USAID job in Quito, Ecuador, via Lima, Peru, to his next post in La Paz, Bolivia. It was July 1966 and the roads went up to 15,000 feet and then followed the slopes and valleys of the Andes.

Finally, coming across the arid high-altitude desert of the Altiplano at dusk, La Paz was hidden at first in a deep valley until they reached its edge and viewed thousands of lights twinkling in the darkness below. "It was a spectacular sight," he recalled, "especially since I had thought we had already reached La Paz when we entered El Alto, a collection of adobe houses near the airport with few lights to be seen." ★



Acting Administrator Frederick W. Schieck during 2003 trip to Afghanistan.

# U.S. to Double Aid to \$2.7 Billion to Help Developing Countries Boost Their Trade

**HONG KONG**—At the World Trade Organization meeting in Hong Kong Dec. 14, the United States announced it would increase support for trade by developing countries from \$1.3 billion this year to \$2.7 billion by 2010.

The goal is to provide “developing countries with the tools needed to benefit from the global trading system,” said Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Karan Bhatia, who noted that “the U.S. today is the leading single country provider of aid for trade.”

Speaking at the world meeting, USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios said food aid provided by the United States does not greatly affect world food markets as some critics at the meeting alleged.

Natsios and the Bush Administration have sought congressional permission to use some of the \$1.4 billion in U.S. food aid each year to purchase food in local markets near hunger zones—instead of continuing to supply all U.S. food aid from American farm surpluses.

But he said Europeans went too far in calling for a complete end to sending U.S. farm surpluses to deal with hunger abroad.

When Europeans recently switched from

supplying their home-grown food to giving cash, they then cut the total funding by two-thirds.

“There are now 852 million people around the world who are hungry, according to the United Nations’ statistics,” Natsios said.

“Hunger and malnutrition are still the greatest threats to health worldwide. They claim 10 million lives each year. And acute malnutrition is growing, particularly in the sub-Saharan Africa, where agricultural productivity has been in decline for a decade.

“The United States provides nearly 60 percent of all global food aid at the United Nations World Food Program... about three times the level of food assistance provided by the European Union and all European aid agencies.”

However, U.S. food aid “was less than 2 percent of U.S. agricultural trade—so it does not have any effect in global prices,” Natsios said.

Natsios warned that “in 2005, the United Nations expects to experience a \$1 billion shortfall in total food aid contributions.”

He noted that in 1995, Europe and the United States each gave about 4 million tons of food aid. But after Europeans shifted

entirely to a local purchase option—giving money rather than European surplus food—European Union aid is now down to around just under 1.5 million tons a year while U.S. aid remains at the same 4 million tons.

“This has had a significant consequence for emergency relief operations around the world,” Natsios said.

He added that food experts should have a greater say in decisions such as the European shift to local purchases.

“We don’t think these kinds of situations, these sorts of negotiations, should be the place that life or death issues should be decided on assistance issues dealing with food aid, unless experts are at the table, and they are not,” Natsios said.

He noted that in some famines or food shortages, if a donor tries to buy up food locally it would drive prices even higher and make hunger worse.

Natsios, who leaves USAID Jan. 12 to teach at Georgetown University, said that it is very troubling that “famines that used to occur every 20 years then started occurring every 10 years, then every five years, and now it’s every two years. That’s a result of bad agricultural practices and policies

within Ethiopia.”

“Ethiopian farmers cannot trade easily with Kenyan [and] Ugandan farmers,” Natsios said. “We believe if there was a free trading system—I believe, as a development person—if there was a free trade system in the Horn of Africa, there would be a reduction in the level of emergency requirements in Ethiopia, which would be good for the Ethiopian people and it would be good for the donors.”

He also said Ethiopia needed to develop a market economy capable of storing, shipping, and marketing surplus food from one season to the next or among its regions.

“So the absence of a free trading system in Africa in food is leading to more emergencies, more malnutrition, more hunger, and more famines,” Natsios said.

“Food aid is not the answer to Ethiopia’s problems with famine,” he added. “The answer is development.”

He said some progress has taken place. “We are seeing some economic growth in the country... We are putting a lot more money into agriculture—the Canadians are and the European Union is and the World Bank is.” ★

## YOUR VOICE

### Rebuilding Afghanistan

BY ALONZO FULGHAM

Your Voice, a continuing *FrontLines* feature, offers personal observations from USAID employees. The following op-ed appeared in the Dec. 19, 2005, edition of the Washington Times. Alonzo Fulgham is USAID/Afghanistan mission director.

**KABUL, Afghanistan**—Today, the new Afghan National Assembly meets, fulfilling the third and final step of the Bonn process and giving Afghans their first elected assembly since 1973.

The majority of Afghans are too young to remember the former legislature and virtually no current members have legislative experience. In many ways, the Afghans are starting from scratch, much as our own Congress did in 1789, or the French did later that same year.

Already there have been some pleasant surprises, however. With 87 women members—68 in the lower house and 19 in the upper—the Afghan Assembly has a far higher female-to-male ratio than the U.S. Congress, and many of the women appear exceptionally talented and well prepared.

Further, special parliamentary training funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development through the State University of New York has been well attended by members from all walks of life and political orientations.

Still, Americans should know better than anyone that democracy can be difficult. Ours took generations before slavery was abolished and women won the vote. The French took even longer to find a system that fulfilled the promise of liberty, fraternity, and equality.

The United States is doing much of the heavy lifting on democracy and governance here, as in public health, education, agriculture, economic growth, women’s rights, and many other sectors. We have not been perfect: The challenges here are enormous and the learning curve is steep. But after 22 years of war, the American-led coalition is giving the Afghans their first real chance to rise above a feudal and violent past.

Sad to say, you won’t learn much about that from reading most of our newspapers these days.

Let’s look back to December 2001. Imagine a land of stark and stunning beauty, dominated by some of the most forbidding mountains in the world. Three-quarters of the people are farmers, working the country’s streams and floodplains in 20,000 isolated villages. Few have roads or electricity or sanitation systems. Drought and war have devastated the country’s agriculture. Where it existed, much of the infrastructure is ruined. There is no government and thus no services.

Most schools are closed and girls are forbidden to attend. Women cannot work. The

literacy rate has dropped below 20 percent. A woman dies in childbirth every 30 minutes. Only 1 in 20 babies are delivered by a trained attendant. Twenty percent will die before age 5.

Imagine trying to address all these problems at once, in the midst of an active insurgency fueled by a terrorist network with a pre-medieval philosophy and 21st century weapons.

Yet this is what the United States is trying to do.

In just four years, the United States and our coalition partners have brought a sense of normalcy to Afghan life. Yes, there are dangerous areas, but contrary to what is generally portrayed in the media, large parts of the country are safe and stable. That is why more than 3.5 million refugees have returned home from 20 years of exile in Pakistan and Iran.

Over the past four years, USAID has trained 100,000 teachers, built or refurbished hundreds of schools, and printed some 50 million textbooks. Five million children are in school—up from 900,000 in 2001—and girls’ attendance is soaring: in Herat, for example, there are more girls in school now than boys.

USAID has also helped the Afghans double their agricultural output in just four years. We’re training nurses and midwives and built hundreds of new health clinics. We’ve rebuilt bridges, paved new roads,

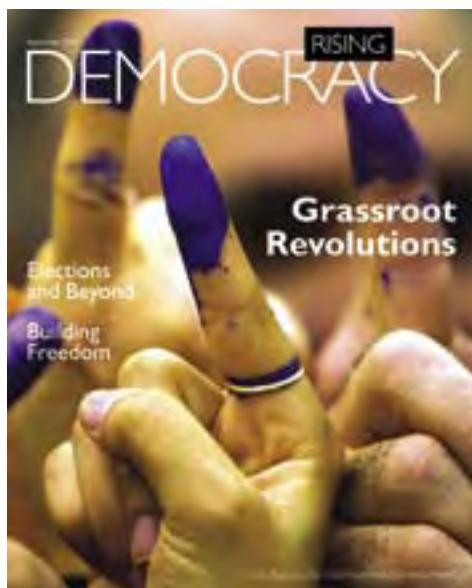


Alonzo Fulgham

opened computer centers, and helped almost every ministry in President Karzai’s Cabinet begin providing Afghans the services they deserve but have long lacked.

Not bad in just four years. At least that’s what Afghans seem to think. A recent ABC poll showed three-quarters of the Afghan people believe their country is headed in the right direction. So should the American people. ★

# Agency Publishes Democracy Magazine



Many people watched in wonder as the multicolored revolutions took place—the Orange Revolution in Ukraine, the Rose in Georgia, the Cedar in Lebanon, the Tulip in Kyrgyzstan.

Each country had a different form of government, but all were denying people a chance to choose new leaders through fair elections.

Few realized that for years, the United States and other countries and organizations had been supporting this homegrown desire

for democracy.

Support for democracy around the world is not new. After World Wars I and II, the United States supported self-determination and democracy in Czechoslovakia, Germany, Japan, Greece, and many other countries. After the Cold War ended, U.S. support helped democracy take root in former Soviet-bloc countries.

Support continues today for freedom of speech, press, religion, and assembly in the Middle East and other regions.

To explain how the United States supports democracy, USAID published a magazine in 2005, *Democracy Rising*, based on reporting by *FrontLines* editor Ben Barber in Ukraine, Georgia, Lebanon, the West Bank-Gaza, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Following are selections from the magazine, which is available at [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) by typing “Democracy Rising” as the keyword. The publication is being released along with USAID’s democracy strategy. ★

## Orange Revolution

**KIEV, Ukraine**—Observers had reported massive vote fraud in favor of Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich. Two independent polls of voters reported that Yushchenko had won. But the government said he lost. The appearance of fraud unleashed widespread anger and the determination by many ordinary people not to stand by while the country of 50 million slid back towards authoritarian rule. The Supreme Court agreed and a new election Dec. 26, 2004, gave Yushchenko a clear victory.

The world lauded the unexpected peaceful, democratic revolution.

When the Orange Revolution began, 29-year-old television anchorman Andriy Shevchenko was news director of Channel 5, the only regional independent TV network. He had received media training through Internews, a USAID-funded NGO, and visited U.S. TV stations where he learned about investigative reporting, balancing many points of view, and other aspects of the free press.

“At 2:30 a.m. Monday, after the second round of elections, strange results came from the election commission,” said Shevchenko. “Yushchenko left the commission building and said ‘we don’t trust the results.’ He asked people to come to the Maidan Nezalezhnosti [Independence Square] in the morning. At the station, we realized we would not go to sleep that night, and we kept coverage of the square for 15 days nonstop.

“The first days we were the only channel covering it. Then other channels followed.” Soon hundreds of thousands would leave their homes and villages to join mass demonstrations.

“People were fed up with corruption, election fraud, and the slide back to authoritarian rule which the independent press was reporting,” said Shevchenko, one of 2,000 Ukrainian journalists trained over the past decade. Support from the United States, Internews, and the European Union created a feeling that others stood with them “in the trenches,” said Shevchenko. Election observers from Ukraine, the United States,

and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also issued widely publicized reports of fraud.

### Building Credibility

Credible polls helped push the public into action.

“U.S. aid helped us to conduct the poll that showed Yushchenko won while the authorities intended to falsify the elections,” said Anatoliy Rachok, director of the Razumkov Ukrainian Center for Economic and Political Studies which received U.S. and Eurasia Foundation aid.

“For five years, we polled people and

reported that the attitude of people towards the government was very negative. The population believed in those figures,” said Razumkov.

Then, when the Center reported that Yushchenko had really won the election, “our poll was believable and it was used by the Supreme Court” in overturning the official tally.

“U.S. aid help for the poll was absolutely important—the poll results after the second round made people go to the street,” he added.

Rachok rejects critics who say U.S. support caused revolutions in Serbia, Georgia, and Ukraine: “There must be natural condi-

tions—wise people use assistance right.”

Another NGO—Development Associates—did its own democracy preparation work with the Central Election Commission, training 100,000 commissioners for the 2004 elections.

Even so, the second election round was stolen through fraud, and it was only when the Supreme Court threw out the second round that the commissioners carried out an honest election count. People stood up for democracy because they were sick of corrupt police, schools, and tax inspectors as well as sales of big state companies to government cronies below cost. ★



Ukraine election official Andriy Mahera (left), who disavowed government victory, and parliament official Ostap Semerak, both joined democracy training projects.

## Rose Revolution

**TBILISI, Georgia**—In November 2005 it was two years since this ancient Black Sea country produced the Rose Revolution, when tens of thousands of people came from across the land demanding freedom, fair elections, and democracy.

Without violence they came, after an independent parallel vote count showed the government claim to have won the Nov. 2 parliament election was a fraud.

Waving red and white banners bearing the St. George's Cross—now on the national flag—demonstrators grew in number and determination for 20 days until President Eduard Shevardnadze left his office peacefully. After 12 years in power, he was replaced by opposition leader Mikhail Saakashvili, who in January 2004 was elected president by a landslide.

Georgia's was one of four corrupt postcommunist governments to fall since Serbians ousted Slobodan Milosevic in 2000.

The Rose Revolution came next in 2003—Georgians borrowed many Serbian pro-democracy innovations. Ukraine's Orange Revolution followed in 2004; and Kyrgyzstan's Tulip Revolution took place in March 2005.

Georgia, Ukraine, and Kyrgyzstan quit the Soviet Union in 1991. But corruption remained entrenched and old, repressive systems of control were returning.

In 2003, Georgians thronged the main square of this city to say they would not stand for the pale reincarnation of commu-

nist rule with its corrupt bureaucracy, fixed elections, muzzled media, crony capitalism, and authoritarian police.

The Rose Revolution—named after the flower Saakashvili held as he faced down police ringing the parliament—shocked the world. But not Georgia's advocates of democracy. They had been working for a decade to build a base for freedom and the rule of law, with help from U.S. and other foreign aid donors.

"The success in Georgia is a result of the people's commitment to democracy, but without foreign assistance I'm not sure we would have been able to achieve what we did without bloodshed," said Levan Ramishvili of the Liberty Institute, an NGO that received U.S. funds since 1996.

Although he was threatened and even beaten up by ultra-religious thugs opposed to his work on religious tolerance, Ramishvili continued to work with U.S. aid to "promote democratic and liberal values in the broad classical sense—transparency, accountability," he said in his office. "The Rose Revolution was the climax of these efforts."

For example, in 1999, U.S. funding helped Georgians draw up and build support for a Freedom of Information Law, which the government adopted. That law allowed the media and NGOs to investigate government budgets, force the firing of a corrupt minister, and give people a sense that they should regulate the government, Ramishvili said.



Chants organized by Kmara movement call for new elections and an investigation of government fraud. Kmara is a nonviolent prodemocracy group created by students in Georgia.

U.S. democracy grants also paid for experts from the American Bar Association (ABA), International Republican Institute (IRI), National Democratic Institute (NDI), the University of Maryland, and other groups to train lawyers, judges, journalists, members of parliament, NGOs, political party leaders, and others.

"From the start, U.S. aid supported civil society and created a network of civic minded people" who supported democracy and were ready to join the Rose Revolution, said the Liberty Institute leader.

Many have become leaders in the new

government, such as President Saakashvili and Zurab Chiaberashvili, who was mayor of Tbilisi until July, 2005.

"Under U.S. assistance, new leaders were born," said the former mayor. "The U.S.... helped good people get rid of a bad and corrupted government—without it what choice did we have?"

The mayor said that "there is a conspiracy theory—that what happened was planned in D.C. ... It's not true. What this assistance did, it made civil actors alive, and when the critical moment came, we understood each other like a well-prepared soccer team." ★

## Tulip Revolution

The Rose and Orange Revolutions were inspiring democracy advocates around the world. Now the democracy movement was to have its impact on Central Asia.

The Tulip Revolution that rushed across the plains of Central Asia in March was one of the first signs of democracy in the former Soviet republics of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan.

Typical of the grassroots programs that supported democracy in Kyrgyzstan were grants to train 60 representatives of community self-help bodies or local NGOs in human rights and lobbying tactics in 2003 in the Jalalabad region.

The groups then published a guide to the courts explaining how they worked, the names of court members, and meeting dates. In the Naryn Oblast (region), the NGO Chinar Bak used a small grant to run seminars and create information centers in libraries on women's rights.

The group trained 160 women in six villages and this led to advocacy actions and a change in the way the state dealt with some of the women's issues. They won free seeds and a cut of 20 percent in water and land tax—all critical in the dry plateau—and unemployed women got help starting businesses. The group also planned budget hearings.

While many people only see elections and freedom of the press as signs of democracy,

these efforts to help people bring their issues before the government, and lobby officials to provide help, are fundamental to democracy.

They allow people to take the initiative instead of waiting for a remote and cumbersome central government to act—the pattern under Soviet rule for 70 years.

For example, Islamic clerics or mullahs visited a civic education class in Karakol organized by the U.S.-based democracy NGO IFES. Students asked the mullahs why they bless the increasing number of forced marriages involving kidnapped brides. After an uncomfortable moment, one mullah said unless the woman agreed, the marriage was improper and he would not perform it.

In other towns, internet service was provided to open up the flow of information to previously isolated people.

Other grants to Kyrgyz NGOs trained journalists on the practical aspects of balanced reporting; and political party members got training on organizing, spreading their message, and getting out the vote.

Before the February 2005 parliamentary elections, thousands of voters were taught that everyone was required to have a finger marked with indelible ink after voting; it would prevent cheaters from voting twice. NGOs supported local TV coverage of the voting in Bishkek, the capital, and in smaller cities and towns. ★

## Cedar Revolution

**BEIRUT, Lebanon**—Growing throngs of people protested after a bomb killed former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri. A month after the killing, March 14, 2005, almost 1 million protestors took to the streets, bringing down the government and forcing Syria to withdraw its forces after 29 years of occupation.

Syria withdrew April 30, and by late June Lebanese voters completed a four-round election that was widely seen as free and fair.

The new parliament, dominated by a group formed around Hariri's son Saad, set to work trying to unite the communities whose civil war in the 1970s and 1980s led to Syrian intervention: Maronite and Orthodox Christians; Sunni and Shiite Muslims; and Druze.

Standing behind Lebanon's current effort to build democracy are U.S. and other international aid groups. Many had spent the past years building the foundations for democratic change. Now they can help ensure the success of what is known as the Cedar Revolution—named after the national tree depicted on the Lebanese flag.

Because honest local government builds support for democracy, aid groups helped more than 900 municipalities improve tax and financial records. In efficient offices equipped with internet access for the public, people can now directly access their tax bills on a computer without dealing with tax

officials. Reducing those meetings tended to reduce corruption.

Guides were published for citizens who needed licenses or permits. These explained fees, the time to process applications, and the paperwork needed to open a store, put up billboards, or change the outside of a home.

Next, Lebanese NGOs backed by U.S. funding printed guides to advise municipal councils how to make meetings productive and reach decisions, not fall into chaotic, rhetorical sessions.

City and village officials were trained to write up minutes of meetings and submit them to the Interior Ministry for permanent recordkeeping.

Revenue officials received assistance in reforming the tax system and balancing budgets. USAID and the U.S. State Department's Middle East Partnership Initiative also provided election support. ★



Lebanese demanded and won the withdrawal of Syrian troops after 20 years, and new elections.

### More Food Aid to Guatemala

**WASHINGTON**—USAID's Food for Peace program has given the U.N. World Food Program an additional \$2 million to help feed Guatemalans still reeling from the effects of Hurricane Stan. This is on top of \$2 million already provided in response to the emergency, doubling the U.S. contribution in Guatemala.

The money will be used for the urgent food needs of 285,000 people whose crops, homes, and livelihoods were destroyed or damaged by the flooding and subsequent mudslides. USAID has also provided another \$5 million in emergency aid to Guatemala for relief supplies, transportation, healthcare, water, and sanitation activities.

Hurricane Stan struck the region in early October; heavy and sustained rains caused severe flooding.

### Study: Zinc Safe for HIV-Infected Kids

**BALTIMORE**—Researchers at Johns Hopkins University's Bloomberg School of Public Health say zinc-deficient children who are also HIV-positive can safely be given zinc supplements without it speeding up the progression of their disease.

The research, which was funded by the university and USAID, was published in the Nov. 26 issue of *The Lancet*.

Researchers conducted the trial at an urban hospital in South Africa with 96 children who were infected with HIV. The study concluded that no increase in viral loads occurred in the children, and that the zinc

supplements decreased cases of diarrhea. Adequate levels of zinc in healthy children have been shown to decrease the frequency of diarrhea and pneumonia.

"Not only did we learn that zinc is safe for these children, but we also realized that this may be a low-cost intervention to reduce morbidity in HIV-infected children who don't have access to antiretroviral therapy or are not eligible for treatment," said Dr. William J. Moss, an assistant professor at Hopkins and the senior author of the study.

### Malawi Food Assistance Grows

**WASHINGTON**—USAID announced Dec. 5 it would provide nearly \$840,000 to Catholic Relief Services to provide food aid in drought-ridden Malawi. This comes on top of \$400,000 the Agency's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance committed to the United Nations Children's Fund to monitor the nutritional status of children in the country. The latest money will be used to purchase seeds and fertilizer for 30,000 smallholder farming households.

Since June 2005, USAID has provided 51,960 metric tons of emergency food assistance valued at more than \$36.1 million to the U.N. World Food Program. It also provided more than \$44 million in humanitarian aid to Malawi in fiscal 2005 and 2006.

Poor rainfall across Malawi in February and March 2005, combined with inadequate supplies of fertilizer, adversely affected the country's maize crop, the primary staple food. As a result, Malawi produced

approximately 36 percent less maize than the recent five-year production average.

### MCC Names Eligible Countries for 2006

**WASHINGTON**—The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) has selected 23 countries as eligible to apply for Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) assistance for fiscal year 2006.

The countries from the "low income" category are Armenia, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, East Timor, The Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mali, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Vanuatu. The countries from the "lower middle income" category are El Salvador, Namibia, and Cape Verde. In making its selection, the board considered the policy performance of candidate countries in three areas: ruling justly, investing in people, and encouraging economic freedom. The board also considered factors such as the opportunity to reduce poverty and generate economic growth and to have a transformational impact in the country.

"While selection is an essential first step towards achieving compact assistance from the MCC, selection does not guarantee funding," said MCC CEO John Danilovich. "Newly eligible countries will now begin a broad-based consultative process to develop proposals that address the country's barriers to poverty reduction and economic growth. MCC will collaborate with all of the MCA-eligible countries as they chart their own course to help lift their citizens out of poverty."

The MCC already identified six threshold countries this year: Malawi, Honduras, Cape Verde, Madagascar, Nicaragua, and Georgia. USAID will be working with these countries to help them meet further MCA eligibility.

### More Americans Volunteering Overseas

**WASHINGTON**—Some 60 percent more highly skilled Americans—such as doctors, nurses, and engineers—donated their time to work in developing countries through USAID's Office of Volunteers for Prosperity (VfP) this year, according to that office's 2005 annual report. "The VfP initiative is fulfilling the promise envisioned by President Bush when he announced its creation just two years ago, as a vehicle to promote international voluntary service by skilled American professionals in support of the nation's global health and prosperity agenda," said Jack Hawkins, the VfP director.

Nearly 54,000 American professionals worked with international development organizations, up from 34,000 during 2004. Americans deployed to developing countries totaled about 12,000, up from 7,000 the previous year, the report says.

During the past year, the VfP Office also helped governments affected by the Indian Ocean tsunami, and worked with key organizations to create new channels for international volunteerism by American professionals, as well as new ways for VfP partners to generate resources for volunteer programs. The report can be viewed at [www.volunteersforprosperity.gov](http://www.volunteersforprosperity.gov). ★

## Media Campaign to Tell Egyptians, Indonesians of U.S. Aid

USAID missions in Indonesia and Egypt are preparing to launch public awareness campaigns with TV, radio, and print ads telling about U.S. aid to ordinary people in those countries.

The ads are modeled on recent paid media campaigns in Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza, which made millions of people aware that the clean water, health, roads, power, and other benefits they enjoyed were provided by U.S. foreign assistance.

The campaigns target people who benefit from U.S. aid but are largely unaware of American assistance to their countries.

In outreach campaigns in the West Bank and Gaza, a poll conducted last year found that just 5 percent of Palestinians reported that they are aware of USAID projects. A survey conducted in July 2005, after a public awareness campaign, found that the awareness level had gone up to 54 percent.

In Indonesia, the USAID mission's development outreach and communications officer (DOC), Betina Moreira, hired a local film crew to prepare television ads interviewing local people who benefit from U.S. aid programs.

The mission also commissioned public opinion polling by the Jakarta-based Polling Center to determine what percentage of Indonesians currently are aware of U.S. aid programs. Follow-up polls after the media campaign will indicate how many more

people became aware of U.S. aid.

The mission also hired Jakarta-based Yayasan Visi Anak Bangsa to help create the campaign and ensure that the media is placed to reach the intended audience.

For the last year and a half, Ellen Yount of the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs has been working with more than 65 DOCs worldwide to undertake paid media campaigns, target local messages, and ensure that USAID effectively measures the results through public opinion polls.

Yount led several outreach conferences overseas in 2005 to train the communications staff to carry out more innovative outreach efforts.

"In Banda Aceh, it was truly amazing to film alongside men and women working on the road under a hot, Indonesia sun," said Yount. "Later, we were knee-deep with our Indonesian film crew in the crowded market with the mosque right over our shoulders. Not only were the people and images beautiful, but there's such warmth towards us as Americans. However, I think there's so much more we can and should do to tell all the people of Indonesia about the generosity of the American people."

The ads were to be unveiled December 23 and aim to reach non-traditional audiences such as youth.

In addition, tone and language must be culturally appropriate. In Indonesia, for

instance, the media campaign will include aid will buy air time on Kiss Radio, a station that reaches a younger audience. Ads will also air on RCTI's Planet Football, which has a large youth audience. The three ads—which focus on healthcare, education, and job creation—were tested in focus

groups in Jakarta to ensure that the messages were effective.

In Egypt, work is under way to choose a firm to conduct USAID's first public opinion poll and focus groups. This project will examine awareness of and support for foreign assistance. ★

### PROMOTING GIRLS' EDUCATION IN DJIBOUTI



Children being interviewed during TV spots promoting girls education in Djibouti. The educational ads, which USAID helped create, began airing on national television in December 2004. Similar radio commercials have also played. Only 53 percent of Djiboutian children have access to primary school—and only three of 10 school-aged girls are enrolled in primary school. The four-minute video, produced in each of four local languages (Afar, Arabic, French, and Somali), features three strong female role models—a lawyer, an inspector in the Ministry of Education, and the head of a large NGO. The spots show each woman at work and being interviewed about the importance of educating girls. Interlaced with the spots are video presentations of children in school, discussing girls' education among themselves.