



# FRONTLINES

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**Pearl-making empowers women, improves biodiversity, pg. 16.**



This woman raises pearls in Zanzibar, which President Bush visited in February (see article lower right).

Elin Torelli, Coastal Resources Center

### MAJOR THEMES:

#### Critical Administration Issue

Bush increases aid to Africa. . . . . SEE PAGE 1

#### War on Terror

Two arrested in Sudan for Agency staff killings. . . . . SEE PAGE 4

#### Sustainable Development

Zanzibar entrepreneurs take to the sea . . . . . SEE PAGE 16

#### Humanitarian Crises

Medical equipment donated for injured miners in Ukraine. . . . . SEE PAGE 14

#### Aid Effectiveness

Afghanistan progress after six years of aid . . . . . SEE PAGE 8

### FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES:

#### Peace and Security

USAID delivers fuel oil to N. Korea. . . . . SEE PAGE 4

#### Governing Justly and Democratically

Malawi qualifies for MCC grant . . . . . SEE PAGE 6

#### Investing in People

Public works projects help Haitians with jobs and flood relief. . . . . SEE PAGE 6

#### Economic Growth

World Trade Organization gets new member. . . . . SEE PAGE 7

#### Humanitarian Assistance

Where USAID's money goes. . . . . SEE PAGE 2

## Asia Near East Bureau Split into Middle East and Asia

The large USAID bureau for Asia and the Near East, which covered the world from Morocco to the Philippines, is being divided into two new bureaus—one for the Middle East and the other to handle Asia, the Agency announced Feb. 27.

In addition, the Europe and Eurasia Bureau will give the

five Central-Asian “Stans” over to the new Asia Bureau “to strengthen the north/south ties for Afghanistan north through the Central Asian Republics,” said Administrator Henrietta Fore.

At a ceremony in the Reagan Building, Fore cut a symbolic cake with a map of the ANE region into the two new regions.

“The two bureaus will more closely correspond to the Department of State’s regional bureau alignment,” she said.

The Middle East Bureau will have a \$2.3 billion budget and be led by George Laudato with Jim Bever as deputy. The Asia Bureau will have a \$2.5 billion budget and be led by Mark Ward with Lisa Chiles as deputy.

Senior State Department officials from the Middle East and Asia attended the cake-cutting in the ANE office. “I have deep admiration for this Agency . . . and the people who supported me in my mission,” said former ambassador to Lebanon Jeffrey Feltman, now principal deputy secretary of State for the Near East.

Richard Boucher, assistant secretary of State for South and Central Asia, noted that the new Asia Bureau at USAID now covers both China and India—“half of humanity”—an enormous challenge.



A shop keeper in Baharak, Afghanistan, listens to an independent radio station that USAID supports. His shop is located on a market street paved by USAID to improve sanitation. Afghanistan is part of the Agency’s new Asia Bureau (see above article). (For more on Afghanistan, see pgs. 8-9.)

## Russian Officials Study U.S. Development Assistance

Ten officials from Russia’s government, which is considering creating a Russian foreign aid agency, visited USAID in February to study the U.S. experience in providing development assistance.

With Russia’s improving economy, it could become an active player in the world’s donor community—a role the Soviet Union once played building giant dams, power plants, and factories across the Third World.

The Russian officials were from the ministries of foreign affairs, finance, economic development and trade, and the emergency response agency, EMERCOM.

They received briefings during their Feb. 27–29 visit from senior Agency officials in management, disaster assistance, budgets, work force, and other topics. They also met officials from the departments of State, Justice, Treasury, and the Office

of Management and Budget.

“Russia is in the process of building a national development assistance system,” said Mikhail Savostiyarov, deputy director of the foreign ministry’s department of international organizations, and the leader of the delegation.

During market reforms of the 1990s, Russia experienced difficult economic times. It was only after 2000 that the economy began improving, in part due to rising oil income, and “now we are in a position to be more active and increase our contribution to the common efforts in the field of international development assistance,” said Savostiyarov. “As far as institutional capacity is concerned, we are at the very beginning. In 1990s, Russian development assistance was quite limited. Now we have to start

see **BUREAU** on page 15 ▶

## Bush Visits Africa, Boosts Aid

President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush visited five African countries in February where he announced plans to continue to boost U.S. aid to that continent by billions of dollars to fight AIDS, malaria, illiteracy, and poverty.

Bush said he was moved by the gratitude of many Africans he met who benefited from U.S. aid programs which have quadrupled since he took office.

For example, he met Moses Kwalula Jr., 15, one of 11,000 Liberian youths who—after years of civil war—returned to school thanks to USAID’s accelerated learning programs. These activities help people

see **RUSSIA** on page 5 ▶

see **BUSH** on page 15 ▶

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## WHERE DOES USAID'S MONEY GO?

USAID delivered nearly \$13 billion in aid during 2007 on programs in more than 100 countries, mainly through the 80 missions placed in countries around the world.

The following three charts list the:

- ▶ top 20 recipients of USAID assistance, starting with Afghanistan and ending with Israel
- ▶ top 20 vendors—NGOs and contractors—that carried out the programs managed by USAID
- ▶ program areas from health to counterterrorism that received aid ★

### FY 2007 OBLIGATIONS BY PROGRAM AREAS

Health	\$4,327,988,718
Protection, Assistance and Solutions*	1,637,521,098
Good Governance	1,011,895,268
Infrastructure	705,244,696
Education	627,225,539
Financial Sector Capacity	496,694,057
Agriculture	434,996,618
Stabilization Operations and Security Sector Reform	397,236,293
Civil Society	364,790,353
Counternarcotics	357,682,852
Conflict Mitigation and Reconciliation	350,757,009
Macroeconomic Foundation for Growth	290,232,614
Trade and Investment	276,137,567
Private Sector Competitiveness	274,417,161
Environment	255,161,181
Rule of Law and Human Rights	162,172,494
Political Competition and Consensus-Building	154,755,803
Economic Opportunity	114,710,215
Program Support	107,036,698
Soc. & Econ. Svs. & Protection for Vulnerable Populations	87,397,631
Disaster Readiness	42,659,489
Transnational Crime	18,410,424
Counterterrorism	13,653,264

\*Emergency response, including emergency food

Source: M/CFO/FS, data current as of December 25, 2007

### TOP 20 FY 2007 BENEFITING COUNTRIES (Obligated Program Funds)

Afghanistan	\$1,445,651,383
Iraq	1,243,080,343
Egypt	605,704,157
Pakistan	457,985,585
Sudan	382,486,655
Kenya	289,410,439
Jordan	280,371,000
South Africa	250,096,145
Ethiopia	213,845,722
Uganda	204,219,281
Indonesia	191,936,684
Nigeria	189,219,518
Lebanon	167,416,776
Botswana	159,990,581
Liberia	134,580,726
Haiti	130,911,398
Tanzania	130,252,425
Zambia	127,021,388
Mozambique	125,918,155
Israel	122,950,000

### TOP 20 2007 VENDORS

World Food Program	\$687,217,890
Global Fund	642,252,952
International Relief and Development	396,182,002
Development Alternatives Inc.	378,219,716
Research Triangle Institute	368,641,028
Louis Berger International Inc.	288,588,913
Chemonics International Inc.	258,354,260
Partnership for Supply Chain Management	208,115,383
Management Systems Intl Inc.	192,747,292
Academy for Educational Development, Inc.	186,196,455
Family Health International	179,656,691
CHF International	145,491,508
National Planning Commission [Nigeria]	131,328,730
PACT Inc.	129,693,156
Bearing Point Inc.	123,600,758
Associates in Rural Development	122,583,006
World Health Organization	117,261,563
John Snow Inc.	109,670,604
CARE Inc.	108,449,858
Ssangyong-Hutama Joint Association	108,247,253

## Fore Plans Improvements

Administrator Henrietta Fore told international development leaders Feb. 1 that during its remaining 10 months, the Bush administration will push improvements to foreign assistance and cooperation among government agencies, NGOs, academia, private companies, and think tanks.

"I look to you to help us find pragmatic, workable solutions" to the difficulties in providing humanitarian and economic assistance to developing countries, Fore said in her speech to the Center for Global Development in Washington.

"We must treat developing nations with dignity as equal partners in our shared endeavor," she said. "We must support leaders and brave citizens in

developing nations who are transforming the character of their countries—through good governance and economic reform, investment in health and education, the rule of law and a relentless fight against corruption."

Fore said the efforts would build on decades of progress in foreign aid but also suggested a new course where technology and public-private partnerships play key roles.

Among the highlights of her plan:

- ▶ Increase the Agency's budget so that it adequately funds all of USAID's foreign assistance objectives, including work in turbulent countries such as Iraq and Sudan. The Agency is asking

for a \$2.1 billion increase, or 2.7 percent, for the 2009 international affairs budget, which also includes money for the State Department.

- ▶ Add as many as 300 USAID Foreign Service Officers and beef up staff in other Agency offices. Fore has launched the Development Leadership Initiative to increase the number of staffers with technical expertise at USAID. (See "Insights" on page 3.)
- ▶ Build up the Global Development Commons, an initiative aimed at uniting the development community in the virtual world to exchange information and workable solutions to the developing world's problems.

- ▶ Increase the number of public-private partnerships which combine government expertise and funds with those of private companies.
  - ▶ Apply "lessons learned" to future endeavors.
- Despite a long list of ideas and a short 10 months left in the current administration, Fore declared her agenda achievable if everyone works together.

U.S. Foreign Assistance Deputy Director Rich Greene, who took questions after Fore's

talk, said even election-year politics should not be an insurmountable barrier to some of the changes Fore is recommending.

"I wasn't born yesterday. I know what the calendar says," Greene said. But he added: "There's an incredible recognition of the importance of developing foreign assistance—by everyone involved in it. There's a recognition that the stakes have never been higher." ★

## REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE MONTH

For this edition of FrontLines, the Costa Rican regional office in USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance is being spotlighted in place of a Mission of the Month.



Firefighters practice containing hazardous materials during field exercises as part of a two-week course in November 2007, developed with assistance from USAID/OFDA disaster experts. The course was held at the National Firefighters Corps training facilities outside San José, Costa Rica. Sixteen firefighters from Costa Rica, Colombia, Guatemala, and Panama participated.

Andrés Baca, Costa Rica National Firefighters Corps

## COSTA RICA



decade has helped USAID periodically update its Level I course.

Begun in 2007, the Level II course is divided into three modules: one covering chemistry, a second covering personal protection and instrument usage, and a third on planning and operations, which includes input from USAID experts in disaster response.

### Results

Costa Rica's success in involving its National Firefighters Corps, the University of Costa Rica, USAID and other outside experts to train its firefighters on an operational level, represents the long-term vision of USAID involvement in this important area of disaster response, according to Tim Callaghan, USAID senior disaster assistance regional advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean.

The program is now open to firefighters from throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Sixteen firefighters from Costa Rica, Colombia, Guatemala and Panama participated in November 2007 in the two-week advanced course in San José.

"The results have been excellent. This course is very much needed to maintain security and control hot zones during incidents," said Costa Rican firefighter Alex Araya, chief of the Firefighters Unit in the central Pacific port city of Puntarenas.

Chemist Gotelli said he has no doubt the new advanced course will be replicated in other Latin American countries. "Everyone wants this course. Everyone has been waiting for it," he said.

Costa Rica's National Firefighters Corps aims to provide the training to more than 60 firefighters by the end of 2008. ★

## INSIGHTS

FROM  
**HENRIETTA H. FORE**



Two clear trends in development assistance over the last several decades have made themselves felt at USAID—one that is deleterious, the other encouraging. I will speak of the deleterious trend first.

Our Foreign Service Officer (FSO) workforce has experienced a steady shrinking since 1980 when it stood at almost twice the level it stands today. That same period coincides with a significant increase in USAID program management responsibilities. From 1995 until 2007, funding for USAID-managed programs increased by 40 percent, while permanent FSO staffing decreased by 24 percent. This state of affairs has seriously impaired the U.S. government's ability to meet the development and humanitarian challenges of the post-9/11 environment.

The 2008 budget reversed this trend, allowing the Agency to hire at attrition levels for the first time in decades. The President's 2009 request of \$92.1 million in additional funds for operating expenses represents a breakthrough of enormous importance, and will allow USAID to recruit, hire, and train 300 new FSOs.

Under the Development Leadership Initiative (DLI) that I have called for, USAID will, by 2011, effectively double the number of technical assistance experts working directly with the people of strategic partner nations to expand economic and democratic opportunity around the globe.

By augmenting the corps of expertise at the Agency, we will keep USAID at the cutting edge of foreign assistance practices and enable it to meet the challenges and seize the opportunities that the world of today offers.

The other trend over this same time period—the encouraging one which holds enormous promise for the future—involves resource flows to the developing world. In the 1970s, 70 percent of resource flows from the United States to the developing world were from official development assistance, while only 30 percent were private. Today, that is reversed with 85 percent of resource flows from the United States to the developing world now private and 15 percent public. These changes in flows reflect, in part, the emergence of the private, for-profit sector and the non-governmental sector as significant participants in the development process.

To make our development efforts truly transformational and self-sustaining, we must enlist the comparative talents and strengths of all of the development and assistance donors and players—public and private.

It will fall to them to ensure the integrity of taxpayer dollars spent on foreign assistance. And it will fall to them to engage with the myriad partners in the Global Commons by exploiting their respective strengths and leveraging additional resources for shared foreign assistance goals. ★

### Challenge

In recent decades, Costa Rica has experienced disastrous fires at chemical plants that raged out of control for hours as firefighters in this small Central American nation struggled to respond.

Emergency workers at the scene invariably faced obstacles including lack of information about the substances on fire, lack of specialized equipment, and little training on how to best respond to incidents involving hazardous materials.

The risk of such incidents has grown exponentially in recent years. More than 34 million substances have been registered worldwide, according to the American Chemical Society, and thousands more are registered every day. In rapidly developing Costa Rica, every year brings a long list of newly introduced chemicals, new and expanding industries, and new hazards. The few existing restrictions on the use, storage and transport of industrial and agricultural chemicals are inadequately enforced, government officials admit.

"Ten years ago, we had 300 gas leaks a year. Today, we respond to 800 gas leaks a year. We face all sorts of risks, and we need to be prepared," said Carlos Quesada, a 35-year veteran of Costa Rica's National Firefighters Corps, the agency charged with responding to incidents involving hazardous chemicals.

### Innovative Response

In 1995, USAID's Costa Rica-based regional disaster assistance office began a hazardous materials program that included the course "First Response to Hazardous Materials Incidents," known by its Spanish acronym, PRIMAP.

The course, developed specifically for Latin America, teaches how to recognize the presence of dangerous materials amid disaster; identify specific hazards; carry out initial actions to prevent loss of life and property; and safeguard the environment. It is based on a Level I response as defined by the U.S. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and is now a requirement for all Costa Rican firefighters.

In 2004, the National Firefighters Corps recognized that advanced training was needed and began sending its personnel to a chemistry course at the University of Costa Rica. Not long after, recognizing the value of USAID's earlier training, the Firefighters Corps requested the office's assistance to develop a more comprehensive course.

The new course—"Operations to Respond to Incidents Involving Dangerous Materials"—was developed with USAID's technical expertise over the next two years. It exceeds the requirements of an NFPA Level II course, according to Argentine chemist Diego Nahuel Gotelli, who for the past

# GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

## BRIEFS

### Sudan Arrests 2 in Killings of Agency Staffers

Sudan officials on Feb. 9 said they arrested two men who they believe shot and killed John Granville and Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama, two USAID/Sudan staffers who died on New Year's Day after their car came under fire.

The Associated Press quoted Sudan's official news agency SUNA in reporting the arrests of two men after police in the country received a tip. Police exchanged gunfire with the two before arresting them in a suburb of Khartoum.

Granville, 33, a democracy and governance officer, and Rahama, 40, a mission driver, were shot after leaving a New Year's Eve party. Rahama was killed instantly and Granville died a short time later at a hospital.

U.S. officials have provided no comment on the arrests. The FBI dispatched a team of agents to Khartoum shortly after the killings to work on the case with Sudanese officials. Officials from the

State Department's Bureau of Diplomatic Security were also investigating the crime.

### Pneumonia Treatment Safe for Home Use

Treating children with severe pneumonia at home with a course of oral antibiotics is as safe and effective as treating them in a hospital, according to research findings published in the medical journal *The Lancet*.

USAID and the World Health Organization (WHO) funded the study which measured the results of treating 2,037 children at seven study sites in Pakistan. The children were divided into two groups: half received the home-based care and the other half were treated in hospitals.

Researchers concluded there were 87 "treatment failures" in the group of children who were hospitalized and 77 in the home-based groups. Current WHO recommendations say that children with severe pneumonia should be treated in a hospital, a recommendation that the researchers say should be revised in light of the study results.

More than 2 million children under age 5 die every year from pneumonia. Most of them live in developing countries and do not reach hospitals for treatment.

### Southern Sudan Breaks Ground for New Roads

WASHINGTON—In early March, construction began on two roads critical to reconstruction efforts in Southern Sudan. Planned by USAID in cooperation with government leaders in Southern Sudan, the rehabilitation of the Juba-Nimule and Yambio-Tambura roads should help rebuild markets and restore basic services for the people of that region.

The Juba-Nimule road, which stretches 192 kilometers from the capital of Southern Sudan to the Ugandan border, is the most direct route connecting the south to trade partners in Kampala, Nairobi, and Mombasa. The Louis Berger Group, with support from USAID, will pave the roadway, repair eight bridges, and provide traffic signs. When completed, the road will solidify trade routes, improve economic conditions, and increase the government's ability to provide services to its citizens.

### Food Shortages Predicted for N. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea—A shortage of food is more likely for North Korea this spring than at any time since the mid-1990s, when millions starved.

The food shortage is caused in part by rising global food prices, crop failures, floods, and reduced food aid by China and South Korea, reported *The Washington Post*.

"For [North Korean leader] Kim Jong Il, this will be his most difficult year," Park Syung-je, a scholar at the Asia Strategy Institute in Seoul, told the *Post*. "North Korea does not have much choice for food."

A recent UN study showed that a third of children and mothers are malnourished and many children are stunted compared with those in South Korea.

### U.N. Calls for \$500M in Extra Food Aid

The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) launched an "extraordinary emergency appeal" to donor countries for at least \$500 million by the end of April to meet global shortfalls.

"We urge your government to be as generous as possible in helping us to close this gap—

which stood at \$500 million on February 25, and has been growing daily," said WFP Executive Director Josette Sheeran in a letter sent to donor countries last month, reported the *Financial Times*.

Sheeran warned that, without the food aid, the WFP would have to reduce its global food aid operations because of rising food and oil prices.

Forty countries are being closely monitored for food shortages.

### Health Worker Migration Causes Shortages

KAMPALA, Uganda—Experts gathered in Uganda in early March discussed the migration of health care workers from poor to rich countries amid calls to compensate poorer nations for the lost staff.

The long-term goal, the *Associated Press* reported, was to increase education and training of health workers around the world to make up for a shortage of 4 million health workers. Africa, for example, has 25 percent of the global disease burden but only 3 percent of the world's health workers.

## USAID Assists North Korea in Denuclearization

Since October 2007, USAID has contracted for the purchase and transportation of 100,000 metric tons of heavy fuel oil to North Korea in support of the Administration's efforts in the ongoing Six-Party Talks aimed at the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

The fuel is part of a multinational action-for-action agreement in which 1 million tons of heavy fuel oil, or equivalent equipment and materials, is to be provided to North Korea in exchange for various steps toward complete denuclearization.

The Six Party participants include China, South Korea, North Korea, Japan, Russia, and the United States. The South Korean Government provided an initial delivery of 50,000 metric tons of heavy fuel oil in July 2007. Since then, China, the United States, and Russia have each

followed with fuel oil shipments. China and South Korea have also provided equipment and materials to refurbish North Korea's hydro and thermal power plants.

Denise Scherl and Anthony Fisher of USAID's Office of Acquisition and Assistance worked with the State Department and other U.S. government offices in purchasing and transporting the U.S. deliveries. Scherl is the Transportation Division chief and was the contracting officer for all commodity purchase and tanker charter contracts. Her office arranged for initial deliveries totaling 46,000 tons of heavy fuel oil to North Korea in October and November of 2007. This cargo was loaded onto two vessels in the ports of Yosu, South Korea, and Pasir Gudang, Malaysia, and delivered to the North Korean ports of Songrim and Sonbong. Fisher, a former mariner himself,

sailed to North Korea onboard the first vessel as a representative of the U.S. government and in order to ensure the success of the initial delivery.

On Feb. 14, the USAID Transportation Division contracted for a second fuel shipment of 54,000 metric tons for delivery in early March to

North Korea. Two oil tankers were chartered to carry this cargo from Pasir Gudang to Songrim and Sonbong. ★



## BOSNIAN JOURNALISTS RAMP UP INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING

The nearly four-year-old Bosnian Center for Investigative Reporting (CIN) is living up to their journalistic credo: “afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted.”

An international judge was fired when CIN uncovered his background of abuse of authority. A story on illegal workers led to a crackdown on their employers. CIN wrote about a high-ranking law enforcement official who caused a fatal accident. With the statute of limitations about to expire, reporters followed the story until officials were prompted to act. That official was eventually sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison.

The *Centar za Iztzivacko Novinarstvo*, or CIN, is an investigative journalism center established by a USAID grant to New York University and the Journalism Development Group. Most media development programs focus on training as the route to better journalism and ethical behavior. CIN was intended to be different. Its backers set out to create not only a training program, but an investigative wire service where other news media could find CIN journalists’ work and reprint or broadcast it. The goal was to attract reader attention by offering stories geared to the reader and not the political elite, as was previously the practice.

CIN’s international editors and mentors built a computerized editorial system and trained journalists in reporting and writing. Early stories attracted little attention and local editors complained they were clunky, too “American,” and too long.



CIN reporters and staffers are breaking new ground in Bosnia with their approach to investigative reporting.

“When we started, the standards were very different for us,” explained Deputy Editor Sveltana Celic. “Some of the editing seemed like it was too much. We spent so much time tracking down very small details and then making sure they were right.”

“But it is now what makes us different. Just the other day, a police chief in Banja Luka said in a public forum that CIN does the best reporting in Bosnia. We’re hearing that a lot.”

Admirers—and competitors—began to acknowledge that CIN’s investigations were carefully done and brought in-depth reporting that had never been seen before in Bosnia. And government officials started to act on CIN stories.

Drew Sullivan, an advisor to CIN, said “the response to our work by some in the Bosnian media exactly followed the well-known Gandhi quote: ‘First they ignored us. Then they laughed at us. Then they attacked us and then we won.’ Many of the editors now recognize the value that CIN’s approach brings to

Bosnian media. It’s news for readers, not the political elite.”

Since it began in 2004, CIN’s stories moved from small-circulation newspapers to the largest in the country. Newspapers now fight over greater exclusivity for CIN stories, which are also published at [www.cin.ba](http://www.cin.ba) in English and Bosnian. CIN’s staff includes one international advisor, one local editor, and nine full-time local journalists.

The news service is enjoying its highest web traffic since it began, and now has partial commercial funding. Three European donors also are supporting the program.

“Editors at three major newspapers here have said to their reporters that they want stories like CIN does them,” said CIN’s Leila Bicakcic. “This proves that you can change standards in local media. It is just a matter of editors agreeing what makes a good story. You can leverage standards into local media. And the local media will do that and Bosnia will be a better place for it.” ★

## Maputo Declaration Aims to Improve Medical Labs

By Roslyn Matthews

Roughly 120 experts from every region of the world convened in Maputo, Mozambique, Jan. 22-24 to hash through guidelines on strengthening laboratory networks for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria services – a much-needed element of building sustainable health systems in developing countries.

The USAID-funded meeting—organized by the Agency, the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and the World Health Organization Regional Office for Africa—centered on three themes: compiling a list of supplies and tests needed at each level of a laboratory network; developing a guide to standardize laboratory equipment; and identifying key considerations to guide maintenance and service contracts for equipment.

“Building lab systems is truly a cross-cutting issue,” said Chana Rabiner, USAID’s HIV/AIDS laboratory technical advisor and co-chair of the PEPFAR Laboratory Technical Working Group. “Within a country’s health program, if they are attempting to scale-up programs, a functioning laboratory network is at the base of that effort.”

The talks—which drew a mix of technical staff, policy makers, donors, and Ministry of Health officials—resulted in the Maputo Declaration on Strengthening of Laboratory Systems.

The first-of-its-kind agreement calls on host governments, donors, and partners to develop national strategic laboratory plans, address urgent laboratory human resource needs, accelerate efforts to develop new lab

diagnostic tools for resource-limited settings, and underscore host country ownership.

“To have all participating countries sign off on this declaration is really, really historic,” Rabiner said. “A country must have the capacity to diagnose and treat populations, a health system must be strong enough to conduct research. A country must have well-trained staff to perform medical and diagnostic tests. If your goal is to have a functioning health system that’s going to stand the test of time, you need resources for the whole system, or it will collapse.”

In the long-term, standardizing lab systems and procedures will eliminate many uncoordinated practices currently in place. For example, it’s possible for a developing country to use up to 17 different machines to do the same type of medical or scientific test across several health facilities. The variation in equipment can lead to practical challenges, such as bulk purchasing arrangements, and more serious problems, such as inconsistencies in medical diagnoses.

In other instances, many resource-limited countries do not have enough trained staff to conduct testing on sophisticated lab equipment, often provided by a well-meaning donor. The Maputo Declaration calls on countries and partners to fund the training, recruitment, and retention of laboratory workers.

Representatives from the Clinton Foundation; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; and the World Bank also participated in the three-day event. ★

### RUSSIA from page 1

from a blank slate partly due to the lack of experienced aid staff which we had in 1970s to 1980s.”

In addition to USAID, the Russians are looking at other approaches, such as the British and German government aid systems, as potential models.

Since 2000, Russia has cancelled or committed to cancel \$30 billion in debts owed by developing countries. Besides debt relief, Russia is currently contributing to multilateral aid programs, in

particular at the U.N. and the World Bank. Russian aid has steadily increased from \$50 million in 2004, to \$215 million in 2007, and should reach \$500 million in the next few years, said Savostiyonov.

Over the next three to five years, Russia intends to “develop bilateral mechanisms for aid delivery,” said Savostiyonov in an interview with *FrontLines*.

“As Russian bilateral assistance increases, we plan to

establish a government entity, maybe even named RUSAID. The experience of USAID and other similar aid agencies will be duly taken into account.”

“Development assistance is not charity—it is in our common interest,” said a member of the delegation. At the first stage, the Russian aid program will focus on “our three main priorities—health, education, and energy.” The Russians may require recipients to meet certain “MCC-like” criteria,

such as fighting corruption and promoting sound economic policies, to qualify for aid, he added. “We can’t afford assistance to be wasted.”

Denis Korepanov, a senior Foreign Service National with USAID/Russia who accompanied the delegation to Washington, said the Agency has been working with the Russian government counterparts for three years to help “think about” how to become an aid donor.

“USAID in Russia organized an open house—15 people from

different ministries came in 2007 to hear about the principles of delivering technical assistance and how field missions operate,” he said.

Russia has the funds to carry out foreign aid but needs implementers. USAID/Russia introduced the Russians to selected USAID partners—Russian NGOs that have already worked in developing countries on aid projects and can help jump start the Russian aid delivery system, Korepanov said. ★

# THE REGIONS

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

### Canal Provides Haiti Flood Relief and Jobs

**CAP-HAÏTIEN, Haiti**—For Valeria Marie Dieudon, the rainy season brought problems every year—until now.

“For the first time since I can remember, I have been able to work through the rainy season, and the rain has not destroyed everything,” said the seamstress who works out of her own shop along a street of small businesses next to a canal.

“Now when I am not here,” she said, “it has been because I want to rest, not because my shop is under water.”

USAID is helping Dieudon keep her head—and her sewing machine—above water and providing opportunities for Haitians in other parts of the country as well.

Konbit Ak Tèt Ansanm (KATA), which means working together in Creole, helps Haitians improve their lives. KATA, which is carried out by USAID grantee CHF International, works with the Haitian government, local officials, and non-governmental partners to create public works



Valeria Marie Dieudon is at work in her shop in Cap-Haïtien even during the annual rainy season after USAID-supported projects have kept a nearby canal from overflowing.

projects and provide jobs for people in a number of communities. It provides job training and income, but also promotes entrepreneurship, conflict resolution,

and economic activity.

In Cap-Haïtien, KATA initiated a canal and flood control project. The city's local shops are routinely inundated when

flooding strikes the region. The streets in Cap-Haïtien, which is located between the Bay of Cap-Haïtien to the east and nearby mountains to the west, are generally narrow and arranged in grids, making it difficult for heavy rains to drain away.

Dieudon's shop and many of the others on her street were spared after the KATA program removed large amounts of trash and mud that normally would have impeded the flow of flash flooding from six areas in Cap-Haïtien.

A similar project is taking place in Solino, a Port-au-Prince neighborhood that was known as a troubled zone for decades. Although work began two years ago and continues, the area still bears some leftover marks, including high unemployment and few economic opportunities.

Supervisor Jean Marie Yvelande, 23, oversees team leaders on this project, who themselves supervise 15 workers.

“Life is hard here in Solino,” she said. “Some days are good, others are bad. This project,

though, it's one of the few things we have that we can say are good, that make the days good.”

When the Solino project is completed, 5,000 cubic meters of solid waste will have been removed from 1.5 kilometers of the canal. For Yvelande, the project has meant leaving her job as a cook and having “a chance to gain some respect from the young men here. We want training, health education, and skills—things that we can keep with us always,” she said.

Jean Jacques Wilner, who works with seven men and two women repairing canals in L'Acul, put it simply: “Without work, we have trouble.”

L'Acul is a neighborhood in Petit Goâve, notorious as the home of the chimeres, gangs once loyal to former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Today, Canal Figaro is getting a facelift and the community is slowly being transformed as well.

“We need KATA, it is our chance at life,” said Wilner. “L'Acul will not be the grave for us.” ★

## AFRICA

### MCC Board Upgrades Malawi's Status to Compact-Eligible

By Julianna White

**LILONGWE, Malawi**—During the final stages of a \$21 million “threshold” program to improve Malawi's governance and economic indicators, the southeast African nation was declared eligible in late 2007 for a large scale Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) grant, or “compact,” intended to fund programs to reduce poverty and stimulate economic growth.

The MCC Board's decision on Malawi was based on improvements in good governance and economic indicators following the two-year MCC threshold program managed by USAID/Malawi. Now Malawi can apply for multi-year MCC funding.

“I'm very proud of the work that the U.S. government has done in supporting Malawi to reduce corruption, improve governance, and stimulate economic

growth under the MCC threshold program,” said USAID/Malawi Mission Director Curt Reintsma. “The U.S. Embassy, USAID, MCC, the Departments of Treasury and Justice, private contractors, and the Malawi government all worked together to make the program a success.”

USAID/Malawi is completing implementation of the threshold program, which combats corruption and enhances fiscal responsibility, two key reform areas identified by the Malawi government. USAID/Malawi arranged for two U.S. government agencies—Justice and Treasury—and two contractors—Casals and Associates and the State University of New York—to carry out the training and economic reform program, in partnership with Malawi's government, civil society, private sector, and media.

As a part of the threshold program, the U.S. Department of Justice's International Criminal Investigations Training Assistance Program worked with the Malawi Police Service (MPS) to strengthen its ability to investigate and prosecute financial crimes.

These efforts have begun to pay off. The MPS recently arrested a forgery suspect, seizing \$25,000 in fraudulent fertilizer discount coupons.

According to Assistant Police Commissioner David Nyongo, an investigation was initiated by the Fiscal Fraud Unit upon receipt of possible forged coupons. The case was then referred to the Question Documents Section, which determined that these coupons were fraudulent. The investigation was finalized by the Computer Forensics Section, which seized and matched a computer and color printer, and verified the coupons were manufactured on the equipment. When confronted with the evidence, the suspect confessed to the crime and is currently awaiting sentencing.



Malawi President Bingu Wa Mutharika, right, shakes hands with U.S. Ambassador Alan Eastham as Jerry Dutkewych, MCC director for compact development, looks on.

All of the MPS sections involved in the investigation received MCC funds to conduct their work in the case.

Nyongo said the fraudulent use of discount fertilizer coupons undermines government attempts to assist farmers in this predominantly agricultural country. The successful prosecution of this case sends a strong message to those who wish to abuse the system, he added.

For a country to progress from threshold to compact status,

it has to demonstrate a strong commitment to economic and political reform in three key areas: ruling justly, investing in people, and economic freedom. This commitment is measured by a set of independently developed indicators used by MCC from organizations such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund, and Freedom House. Malawi demonstrated progress in all three categories, and significantly improved its relative score on the “control of corruption” indicator. ★

## ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

### Youth Network Sheds Light on Troubles in Middle East

**CAIRO, Egypt**—With policy makers and academics calling this region’s bulging youth population a problem, the Siraj program sees in youth a great opportunity.

Siraj is a USAID-funded regional leadership network in the Middle East and North Africa, carried out by Save the Children, and is comprised of 500 youth and youth development workers. True to its name—Siraj means

“light” or “torch” in Arabic—the project emphasizes young people’s potential as role models for each other.

The program’s goal is to give youth and youth workers opportunities to expand the work they are doing to improve their communities and to encourage others to do the same. Siraj relies heavily on a regional network to encourage peer mentoring and to share ideas among countries.

The program aims to inspire youth to believe in themselves and believe that they can make a difference in their own lives and in the lives of others. It also gives young people the tools, training, and networks to achieve their dreams.

Some of the ways the youth help their communities include working with disabled children and their families to encourage development of skills and talents

and combat the stigma of being disabled; collecting and distributing used household items to needy families; serving as youth counselors; planning field trips for orphans; conducting rooftop farming in Gaza where land is scarce; creating youth handicraft businesses out of recycled garbage; and teaching music to children in Palestinian refugee camps.

“Siraj gave me the opportunity to really think about volunteering and doing things for others. I now understand better why I and others volunteer and how to channel our energies into the right places so that youth can benefit,” says Shayef Aljaberi, a student at Sana’a University in Yemen and a member of the network.

Building an active network was not easy at first. But youth from one country have learned to facilitate workshops in another. A Web site and e-mail lists make use of growing Internet penetration. Monthly inserts in youth-focused magazines that reach about 500,000 people highlight the work of individual network members. Siraj youth recognize their peers by nominating them to be featured in upcoming publications.

Siraj, which started in late 2006, now operates in Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, West Bank and Gaza, and Yemen. Getting the program started in Lebanon posed particular challenges due to intermittent security concerns. The first workshop did not take place there until fall 2007.

When the first Lebanese Siraj youth met, a young man from

Saida commented: “In Lebanon we need more and more of these workshops. Look at us! We are all from different religions and sects, but during these four days we not only learned, but applied, how to work together and build on what we have in common.”

His enthusiasm backs up a poll by Catholic Relief Services carried out in spring 2007 that showed the majority of young people in Lebanon believed that lack of opportunities was the greatest obstacle to youth leadership.

Siraj is getting positive reactions in other places as well. Youth in Yemen actively seek and share information via e-mail, and Egypt’s youth development workers are eagerly suggesting activities for future workshops.

David Barth, director of the Office of Middle East Programs, which manages Siraj, says, “The regional network is one of Siraj’s greatest contributions. It brings new perspectives and helps young people explore the values they share, something I believe is critical for encouraging tolerance in the region’s next generation of leaders.”

Yassein, a young Egyptian who went to Lebanon as a volunteer facilitator, said he wondered why he had been asked to help. “It was only towards the end of the three-day workshop that I began to realize the answer . . . to meet youth, to inspire them through presenting them with positive role models is what the whole idea behind Siraj is all about.” ★

## EUROPE & EURASIA

### WTO Boosts Ukraine’s Business and Agriculture

By Olha Myrtsalo

**KYIV, Ukraine**—Ukraine’s long and troubled road to membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) came to an end on Feb. 5 when the WTO General Council approved Ukraine’s accession package.

Ukraine originally began the membership process in 1993, and for 10 long years plodded through bilateral negotiations, legislative changes, commitments, and reports. But in 2003, USAID stepped in and prepared a comprehensive WTO Accession Roadmap that was adopted by the Ministry of Economy. USAID took an active role helping the Ukrainian government to follow the roadmap by pursuing intense legal, institutional, and regulatory reforms to conform to numerous complicated WTO agreements and requirements.

At the same time, USAID began to enhance its assistance to small- and medium-sized enterprises to prepare them to integrate with and compete in the global economy. Many of the benefits of this assistance will be felt long after Ukraine becomes a formal WTO member, which will occur 30 days after its parliament, the Verkhovna Rada, ratifies the agreement.

USAID supported the process by bringing together public and private stakeholders to carry out the most challenging reforms, particularly in the areas of food safety and standardization. Ukraine’s foreign trade regime was brought into full conformity with the WTO agreements, as



By training specialists of the Dairy Association of Ukraine, USAID assists with the adoption of international standards and food safety procedures.

over 100 laws and other legal acts were amended or adopted by the Verkhovna Rada, many by an overwhelming majority.

Other areas of reform included: intellectual property; customs; trade; agriculture; animal and plant health; and services such as banking, insurance, audiovisuals, telecommunications, and accounting.

Policies were also adjusted in a number of sectors, including automobile production, alcohol and tobacco, metallurgy, and sugar. Ukraine concluded over 50 bilateral protocols with trading partners, leading to commercially significant market access.

Government procurement is one of the most challenging areas for Ukraine as it completes its global integration. Recently, USAID provided advice and recommendations to improve the government procurement regime so that it complies with the WTO Government Procurement Agreement (GPA).

Membership in the WTO GPA will permit Ukrainian

businesses to bid on government procurements in GPA member states and further expand the export of goods and services.

Implementation of WTO commitments will decrease the cost of doing business and help establish an efficient and competitive economy that attracts foreign investment and creates jobs. According to Ukraine President Viktor Yushchenko, WTO accession will increase foreign investment by 40 percent per year. GDP is also predicted to increase by 1.7 percent, driven in part by a 10 percent increase in exports.

However, Ukraine’s public and private sectors must rally to seize new opportunities and overcome roadblocks, USAID/Ukraine officials say. While certain industries—such as large employers in the metallurgy and chemical sector—will benefit immediately from accession, others, like agriculture, will have to react rapidly to remain competitive at home and abroad. ★

USAID/TIBA Project



Jordanian youth receive training to serve their communities under the Siraj program.

Save the Children

# FOCUS ON AFGHANISTAN



Four Afghan girls hold bowls as they await food in a camp for internally displaced persons.



Dyed wool ready for distribution.

## 6 YEARS OF U.S. AID BOOSTS AFGHAN HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND COMMERCE

After the ouster of the Taliban in 2001, USAID returned to Afghanistan where it had a long history of assistance dating back to the 1960s.

Senior officials visiting the country found metal plaques identifying the airport at Kandahar, the Kajaki dam, the Helmand irrigation system, the road from Herat to Kabul, and many other projects built by USAID long before the Soviet invasion of 1979. That invasion was followed by a decade of war by Mujahideen fighters, the chaos of post-Soviet militia fighting, and Taliban repression.

To support the rebuilding of Afghanistan, including the return of 5 million refugees from Pakistan and Iran, USAID has provided over \$4 billion in development programs—the largest bilateral civilian assistance program in Afghanistan.

The Agency introduced a new currency, set up a banking system, and organized presidential and parliamentary elections. USAID rehabilitated the rural economy through roads, markets, agricultural outreach, irrigation, and increased trade and exports.

In the education sector, USAID built or repaired 680 schools,

trained 65,000 teachers through radio broadcasts and 10,500 teachers in accelerated learning methodologies, and printed 60 million textbooks. Currently, 5.7 million students are enrolled in school—35 percent of them are girls—versus 900,000 (boys only) under the Taliban.

In the health sector, USAID built or repaired 670 health facilities; trained doctors, nurses, and midwives; and supported the vaccination of over 7 million children against polio. As a result of USAID and other donor activities, infant mortality has dropped by 22 percent, saving 85,000 lives a year. Over 80 percent of Afghans now have access to basic health care, as opposed to 8 percent under the Taliban.

Decades of war, harsh climate conditions, and neglect due to poverty left Afghanistan's roads in rubble and decay. Since 2002, USAID built or repaired 1,650 miles of roads, including nearly 450 miles of the Ring Road as well as national highways, and provincial and rural roads. Over 60 percent of Afghans live within about 30 miles of the Ring Road, which links Afghanistan's major cities and is extremely important for trade, economic development,

and access to education and health care.

Under the Taliban, only 6 percent of Afghans had electricity. U.S. projects are working to increase the power supply in big cities like Kabul and Kandahar by procuring generators and helping the Afghans to operate and maintain them. USAID is also contributing to the construction and expansion of the North East Power System, which, when completed in mid-2009, will expand access to approximately 50 percent of Afghanistan's population. ★



A merchant sits on a wooden ledge in front of his small shop in the main market street of Faisabad, the capital of northern Badakhshan Province.

### USAID Programs in Afghanistan Contributed to the Following Accomplishments in 2007:

- ▶ More than 1,500 metric tons of fruits and vegetables were exported.
- ▶ Seven national and regional agricultural fairs drew nearly 300,000 people.
- ▶ Customs revenue collections increased by \$130 million, surpassing the International Monetary Fund domestic revenue generation goal.
- ▶ More than \$27 million in loans created 62,000 jobs under the ARIES (Agriculture Rural Investment and Enterprise Strengthening) project.
- ▶ Over 1,500 teacher trainers were trained and deployed to districts in 11 provinces.
- ▶ E-learning centers were created at Kabul University, Kabul Medical University, and Kabul Polytechnic University.
- ▶ Over 1,000 health workers received training between October 2006 and December 2007.
- ▶ More than 1 million labor-days of local employment were generated through road construction (about \$6 million in local wages).
- ▶ Operations and maintenance services were provided for diesel power plants in the South East Power System, keeping the lights on in Kandahar, Lashkar Gah, Tirin Kot, and Qalat. As a result, about 1.2 million residents have access to electricity, and the project contributed over \$100 million to Afghanistan's GDP in 2007.



# FOCUS ON AFGHANISTAN

## 6 MILLION AFGHANS PRODUCE \$140 MILLION IN CARPETS



Carpets are boiled in vegetable or chemical dyes.



The finishing process – any stray threads are cut.

Those deep red, golden brown, and blue Afghan carpets one sees in the shops of Kabul and the boutiques of Georgetown and London are flying off the looms in dozens of Afghan villages and cities now that the wars are over.

Supported by USAID projects, 6 million Afghans are back at work on their country's most exquisite, durable, and beloved products—wool carpets whose designs tell the story of their tribe, their history, and their view of the world.

For decades, many of the weavers, dyers, and finishers who learned their skills from their parents and grandparents were forced to escape the turmoil at home in Pakistani refugee camps. There they often worked for others, churning out lower quality versions of their traditional carpets.

Since the end of the Taliban and the return of 4 million refugees many of these talented weavers are back at work in their home villages and their carpets are again being sold at home and around the world.

The country produces 2 million square meters of carpet each year with an average value of \$100 per meter, according to the Afghan Carpet Exporters Guild.

In 2005, carpet sales brought in \$140 million and this is growing by 11 percent a year, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reported.

The 6 million people working in the carpet industry include: farmers, sheep herders, wool collectors, wool processors, dyers, wool dealers, designers, wool distributors, weavers, carpet processors (cutting, washing, finishing), traders, transporters, and exporters. Roughly, one weaver can weave one square meter of carpet in one month, working eight hours per day, six days per week.

A U.S.-funded project helped Afghan weavers show their carpets at recent trade shows in Dubai, Germany, Las Vegas, India, and Kabul. At the Domotex trade show in Hanover, Germany, Afghan-owned Zinnat Carpets won "Best Modern Design" for their "Bamiyan"-style carpet. In Las Vegas, Afghan carpet producers sold all of their rugs on display and received more than \$1 million worth of orders. To further support the carpet industry, USAID gave a grant to the Afghan Carpet Exporters Guild to help establish several carpet associations and open a business information center.★

## U.S.-TRAINED MIDWIVES SAVE AFGHAN WOMEN, BABIES

Mahsoma is an Afghan midwife who works in a basic health center in the remote district of Jurm, Badakhshan province. She graduated from the USAID-sponsored provincial Community Midwifery Education program in 2006.

One day a woman in labor arrived at the health center in very poor condition. She was bleeding heavily and had gone into shock. Mahsoma assessed her situation and immediately started giving her intravenous fluids. She asked the woman's relatives to take her to the provincial hospital in Faizabad, but they could not pay for the transport and, even if they

could, floods had collapsed the bridge to the main road.

Mahsoma discussed the options with the woman's relatives and together they decided that she should try to help the woman to deliver her child in the health center.

The baby was in the breech position which, if not delivered skillfully, could cause brain damage and even death to the baby. Using the skills that she gained in her midwifery training program, Mahsoma successfully delivered a healthy baby boy. She then managed the delivery of the woman's placenta by giving an injection of oxytocin and she prevented post-partum hemorrhage.

Mahsoma gave the woman more intravenous fluids, and slowly the woman regained consciousness.

As a result of Mahsoma's skills, competence, and decision-making, she saved two lives in a province that had the highest ever recorded maternal mortality rate in the world in 2001.

USAID funds JHPIEGO, Constella Futures, and Save the Children, which have trained more than 1,000 midwives. Recent data from 13 provinces indicate that 21 percent of births are attended by a skilled provider—up from an estimated 8 percent before the start of the program in 2003.★



A midwife graduate in Takhar checks blood pressure of a patient.



Student midwives learn how to use a tube to listen to the fetal heartbeat of a woman soon to give birth.

# WHERE IN THE WORLD...

**JANUARY 6, 2008 – FEBRUARY 2, 2008**

## PROMOTED

**Anne H. Aarnes**  
Mission Director

**Jennifer M. Adams**  
Mission Director

**Hilda M. Arellano**  
Mission Director

**Michael A. Austin**  
IT Specialist

**John A. Beed**  
Mission Director

**Tracy L. Blackburn**  
Supervisory Contract Specialist

**John E. Borrazzo**  
Supervisory Public Health Program Specialist

**Jayne Carbone**  
Supervisory Program Officer

**Beth E. Cypser**  
Deputy Mission Director

**Andrea M. David**  
Accountant

**Thomas R. Delaney**  
Deputy Mission Director

**Dona Mari Dinkler**  
Supervisory Criminal Investigator

**Gary F. Fuller**  
Director

**James Harmon**  
Deputy Mission Director

**Michael T. Harvey**  
Mission Director

**Brooke Andrea Isham**  
Deputy Mission Director

**Joshua M. Kaufman**  
Supervisory Democracy Specialist

**Deborah Kennedy Iraheta**  
Mission Director

**Erna W. Kerst**  
Mission Director

**Lisa M. Lawler**  
EQ Employment Specialist

**David Leong**  
Foreign Affairs Officer

**Ashley B. Marcus**  
Presidential Management Fellow

**Marie F. McLeod**  
Health & Population Development Officer

**Bobbie E. Myers**  
Legislative Officer

**Charles E. North**  
Deputy Director

**William O. Owens**  
Program Analyst

**Melissa A. Prater**  
Human Resources Specialist (ELR)

**Christopher Pratt**  
Program Specialist

**Anne Kathryn Sell**  
Agricultural Development Officer

**Martha Erin Soto**  
Mission Director

**Howard J. Sumka**  
Mission Director

**Karen L. Towers**  
Presidential Management Fellow

**Karen Turner**  
Director

**Leon S. Waskin**  
Foreign Affairs Officer

**Paul E. Weisenfeld**  
Mission Director

**Carol A. Wimbish Datcher**  
Financial Management Specialist

**Susumo K. Yamashita**  
Director HIV/AIDS

## REASSIGNED

**James B. Ahn**  
Afghanistan/OFM to O/S LANG TRNG

**Michelle A. Aldridge**  
OIG/M/HC to M/MPBP/AMD

**Dennis Craig Anderson**  
Honduras/ANRO to Afghanistan/OIEE

**Ravinder Aulakh**  
EGAT/EG/EPG to Iraq/GPRT

**Paulette Neal Broadus**  
OIG/AIG/M to OIG/M/SP

**Jeff R. Bryan**  
Afghanistan/OPPD to DROC

**Sean Callahan**  
Indonesia/OD to Caucasus

**Jayne Carbone**  
Egypt/PROC to Sudan/CO

**Charline A. Eastin**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Egypt/FM

**Stephanie A. Funk**  
Sudan/OSSP/DG to O/S LANG TRNG

**Bruce Gelband**  
RSC/OD to O/S LANG TRNG

**Ananta K. Hans**  
Sudan/OSSP/DG to Ukraine/PCS

**Marie E. Harte**  
OIG/AIG/M to OIG/M/SP

**Andrew M. Herscowitz**  
Dominican Republic/DIR to COMP/FS

**Nicholas A. Jenks**  
DROC to COMP/FS

**Michael D. Johnson**  
Haiti/PCPS to COMP/FS

**Erin A. Krasik**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Russia/DHRD

**Raymond L. Lewman**  
Iraq/OFM to RSC/RFMO

**Sarah Ann Lynch**  
LAC/SA to LAC/SPO

**Leanna L. Marr**  
Guinea/HRD to Sudan/PROG

**Michael J. Martin**  
COMP/FS to West Bank/Gaza

**Edward Michalski**  
Ukraine/REXO to Ukraine/REXO

**Vanessa P. Mullins**  
OIG/A/FA to OIG/A/PA

**Kifle Negash**  
Sudan/OSSP/EI to Ethiopia/ANR

**Bradford C. Palmer**  
Armenia/EXO to COMP/FS/OS/DS

**Naadia L. Porter**  
OIG/A/FA to OIG/A/PA

**Maureen A. Shauket**  
RSC/OD to M/OAA/OD

**Victoria Stein**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Egypt/HRH

**David J. Thompson**  
O/S LANG TRNG to Honduras/MDI

**Brigitte A. Tolbert**  
OIG/AIG/M to OIG/M/SP

**Gene M. Villagran**  
Sudan/FMO to Ukraine/OFM

**Leon S. Waskin**  
Afghanistan/OD to O/S LANG TRNG

## RETIRED

**Jane Jarosick Bise**

**Thomas A. Dailey**

**James B. Gaughran**

**Jean A. Jackson**

**George R. Jiron Jr.**

**Patricia J. Lerner**

## MOVED ON

**Gordon Bertolin**

**Jeffrey R. Drummond**

**Andrew Katsaros**

**Ruth Chao Ying Ku**

**Laura W. Libanati**

**Francis X. McDonough**

**Monica Medrek**

**Denny F. Robertson**

**Lee D. Roussel**

**Catherine G. Schenck**

**Kathy L. Stermer**

**William H. Yaeger**

*The Feb. FrontLines erroneously listed Shannon Darcy under the Moved On section.*

## IN MEMORIAM

**James Ahn**, 58, died Feb. 22 in Washington, D.C. Ahn joined USAID in 1980 as a controller. During a 28-year career, he served in Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Philippines, Kosovo, Central Asia, Kazakhstan, Tunisia, Haiti, Syria, Washington and, most recently, Afghanistan. Ahn had been assigned to join the Guatemala mission as a controller at the time of his death.

**Louis H. Kuhn**, 66, died Feb. 15 in Naples, Fla. Kuhn was a career Foreign Service Officer and served at USAID for 30 years. He specialized in Asia and the Pacific Islands and spent 23 years on assignment as a program officer in Thailand, Indonesia, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, and Sri Lanka. He was also assigned to the Department of State for seven years. After retiring from the Agency, Kuhn worked as an adjunct instructor at two Florida colleges and lectured about foreign affairs before several groups in the area. He was a board member of the Foreign Service Retirees Association of Florida and a member of the Naples Council on World Affairs.

**Michael G. McCann**, 82, died March 3 in Farmington, Ind. McCann joined USAID in 1957 and served as an advisor to foreign police agencies. From 1957 to 1963, he worked with the Iranian national police in Tehran and with Brazilian police in Rio de Janeiro. He consulted with the national police forces of Chile, United Arab Republic (Egypt), Greece, Honduras, Panama, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and Sweden. In 1969, McCann was assigned to the military command in Vietnam to direct a continuing assistance program for the development and deployment of a 120,000-man national police system in the country. During his service with the Agency, McCann was a guest lecturer at the School of Law at the University of Tehran in Iran and the National War College. He retired from USAID in 1981.

## Julia Taft, Former OFDA Chief, Dies

**Julia Vadala Taft**, the former head of USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance during the Reagan Administration, died March 15 in Washington.

Taft, who was 65, had colon cancer.

She served with USAID from 1986 to 1989, part of a long record of work in international relief and development organizations in Republican and Democratic administrations and outside the federal government.

After starting her government career in the early 1970s as a White House Fellow, President Ford named Taft the director of the Interagency Task Force for Indochina Refugees in 1975. The task force helped resettle more than 130,000 Vietnamese and others in the United States.

After working at USAID, Taft served as a consultant with the U.S. State Department. Between 1994 and 1997, Taft was the president and CEO of InterAction, a coalition of more than 160 NGOs. In 1997, President Clinton appointed Taft assistant



Julia Taft

UN Photo/Evan Schneider

secretary of state for population, refugees, and migration. In 2001, she joined the UN in its Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. Taft rejoined InterAction as its interim president in 2006.

Former colleague Gregory C. Gottlieb said, "Julia gave me my start in USAID, and I have remained loyal to her vision of humanitarian assistance for nearly 20 years."

"She was dedicated to the cause of those in need," said Gottlieb, currently deputy assistant administrator in the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance.

"No matter the twists and turns of our careers, I was always pleased that I kept working with Julia. She always seemed to have more energy and good ideas than anyone else, but I guess that's just part of being a leader and one who inspires others."

In a public statement, Administrator Henrietta Fore said: "As a personal friend and mentor to many women in development, Julia will be sorely missed for her intellectual honesty, candor, good counsel, and tireless devotion to international development, which she described as 'a field sometimes frustrating and unsafe, but always rewarding.'"

Among the many awards Taft received were the USAID Distinguished Service Award, the Presidential End Hunger Award, and the USSR Supreme Soviet Award for Personal Courage—presented for relief efforts following the 1988 Armenian earthquake. ★

## Agency, Cisco Sign 5-year Pact

USAID and Cisco Systems Inc. signed a five-year agreement to work together on social and economic growth in some of the world's poorest communities.

The agreement, signed in February, expands Cisco's networking and communications technology efforts already in place in developing countries. Since 2000, USAID has worked with Cisco to bring its technical school program, the Networking Academy, to more than 45 developing countries in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. The program has reached more than 50,000 students.

Cisco Chairman and CEO John Chambers called the agreement an example of how businesses, international organizations, and governments can work together. ★

## Volunteer Office Launches New Program

WASHINGTON—USAID's Office of Volunteers for Prosperity (VFP) has launched its Service Incentive Program to help Americans find the funds to participate in short-term international volunteer assignments.

USAID, working with USA Freedom Corps and the Global Giving Foundation, plans to provide matching grants to volunteers ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 to offset the cost of travel, insurance, and local living costs.

Prospective volunteers who apply for the grants must have relevant professional experience and a need for financial assistance. The final decision on awarding a grant will depend on an applicant's ability to raise an equal amount in his or her community.

More information is available at [www.volunteersforprosperity.gov](http://www.volunteersforprosperity.gov). During the past year, VFP worked with 250 U.S.-based partner organizations to mobilize 34,000 volunteers for international development projects. ★

## USAID Preps for Softball Season

In Washington, D.C., a summer ritual rivals the anticipation of blooming springtime cherry blossoms. Every evening, many workers trade their office attire for a t-shirt emblazoned with a team name and head outside for a friendly game of softball. Passing the countless games that blanket the grass on and around the National Mall, one might miss the one team that matters most to this agency: the USAID Masters of Disaster (MODs).

Playing in the U.S. Government Interagency Softball League for the past three years, the MODs were crowned league champions in 2006. After losing the title

last year to a hybrid team from the departments of Justice and Education, USAID plans to regain the championship crown in 2008.

The intention of the league is to have fun playing and to get to know colleagues from other federal government agencies. The MOD games are a family-friendly event that should not be missed.

Games are set to begin around mid- to late April and are played on the Mall or at Haines Point, typically from 6:00 to 7:45 p.m.

Contacts: Coach Andrew Rajec (E&E), Coach James Brackin (E&E) and Chief Recruiter Rebecca Gustafson (DCHA).★

## GRIECO CONFIRMED AS HEAD OF LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Jeffrey J. Grieco was confirmed March 13 by the Senate as assistant administrator for the Bureau of Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) at USAID, after serving as the acting leader of the bureau for nearly a year.

Grieco had previously served as LPA's deputy assistant administrator with oversight for all Agency communications, media, and public affairs programming. In his new role, Grieco will oversee those functions as well as congressional relations and public and constituent outreach.

Grieco has served as the Agency's senior representative on several committees and working groups that deal with communications, public diplomacy, and public affairs, including the Administration's Iraq Stabilization Group and the U.S. State Department's Joint Policy Council.

Before joining USAID, Grieco worked at the White House Office of Public Liaison. He has also done international consulting



Jeffrey J. Grieco

work with a number of U.S. and foreign multinational corporations. He holds degrees from George Washington University and Georgetown University.

Grieco takes over the assistant administrator role from J. Edward Fox, who was named assistant secretary for public affairs at the Department of Homeland Security in April 2007. President Bush announced his intent to nominate Grieco to the LPA post on Jan. 17. ★



# ANNUAL USAID AWARDS: 2007

## Ceremony Acknowledges 'Stars of USAID'

USAID honored several hundred employees at the 2007 annual awards ceremony Jan. 30 at Agency headquarters in Washington.

Officials called the ceremony an opportunity to herald the work that USAID employees do every day around the world to provide humanitarian assistance.

Administrator Henrietta Fore passed out award plaques to several dozen people who received special honors. She noted a number of high-profile efforts where Agency staffers performed with distinction, including: natural disasters in Bangladesh and the Latin America and Caribbean region; humanitarian responses in the Horn of Africa and the Palestinian territories; democracy promotion in Lebanon and in other countries; and the "graduation" of several former Soviet bloc countries from foreign assistance.

"All of this hard work in a time of change gives all of us at USAID something to be proud of," she said.

Fore also officially announced the John L. Withers Memorial Award. The new award is named for Withers, who was one of the first African-Americans to join the Foreign Service and who died in late 2007. Withers served in several posts while at USAID, including Laos, Burma, South Korea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and India.

The award—which is open to Foreign Service Officers, Foreign Service Nationals, and civil servants alike, and is slated to be presented at next year's awards ceremony—will recognize an individual who "demonstrates an extraordinary act of commitment to universal human rights."

Listed below are selected award winners from 2007. A complete list of award winners can be accessed at [http://inside.usaid.gov/M/HR/docs/2007\\_Awards\\_Booklet.pdf](http://inside.usaid.gov/M/HR/docs/2007_Awards_Booklet.pdf). ★



Agency employees filled the Ronald Reagan Building's amphitheater during the 2007 awards ceremony.



Administrator Henrietta Fore is flanked by Foreign Service Nationals who were recognized for outstanding performance during USAID's annual awards ceremony on Jan. 30. Left to right: Momar Sow, Senegal; Leticia Teleguano, Guatemala; Fore; Mubarek Yagoub, Sudan; Alla Stepanova, Russia; and Edgar Muñoz, Bolivia. The ceremony honored several hundred employees for their efforts during 2007.

### 2007 PRESIDENTIAL MERITORIOUS RANK AWARD

Lisa Chiles  
Mosina H. Jordan  
Desaix B. Myers III  
Gloria D. Steele

### ADMINISTRATOR'S DISTINGUISHED CAREER SERVICE AWARD

The highest Agency award recognizing exceptionally distinguished careers, presented only upon departure from the Agency.

Craig G. Buck  
Constance A. Carrino  
Heather Goldman  
William A. Jeffers  
Cecilia D. Pitas  
James D. Shelton  
Mark I. Silverman  
Keith Simmons  
Diana Swain

### OUTSTANDING CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognizes outstanding service in the federal government and is the second highest award presented upon departure from the Agency.

Stephen C. Allen  
Thomas A. Dailey  
Paul Ehmer  
Lynn D. Gorton  
Homi Jamshed  
Lee F. Jewell, III  
Edward L. Kadunc  
Nancy J. Lawton  
Richard W. Layton  
Anthony J. Vodraska  
Michael F. Walsh  
Linda T. White

### ADMINISTRATOR'S IMPLEMENTATION AWARD

Recognizes an individual employee or group for creativity in the implementation

of development assistance. Stephanie A. Funk, Supervisory Democracy Officer, USAID/Sudan

### ADMINISTRATOR'S MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT AWARD

Recognizes employees who have made significant contributions to improving the way in which Agency development assistance and/or internal operations and management is designed and delivered.

Dennis T. Carroll, Supervisory Health Science Specialist, Office of Health, Infectious Disease and Nutrition, Bureau for Global Health  
Gloria D. Steele, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Global Health

### ADMINISTRATOR'S MANAGEMENT IMPROVEMENT GROUP AWARD

Recognizes a team that has made significant contributions to improving the way in which Agency development assistance and/or internal operations and management is designed and delivered.

Institutional Support Contract/ Agreement Review Team, USAID/ Washington  
Colleen Roberson Allen  
Robert C. Baker  
Angelique Crumbly  
Tamra L. Halmrast-Sanchez  
Carrie Johnson  
Cheryl Kim  
Linda A. Leonard  
Deborah G. Lewis  
Sandra Malone Gilmer  
Allyn Moushey  
Theresa M. Stoll  
Michael F. Walsh

Regional Contracting and Financial Management Offices, USAID/Peru  
Marlene Cox

Lilia Olaechea  
Laura Rivasplata  
Cecilia Yanez

### THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Recognizes an outstanding example of the Global Development Alliance model, which brings together the complementary strengths of the public, private, and non-profit sectors in developing countries. USAID/Coca-Cola Water and Development Alliance

### THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE LEADER'S AWARD

Recognizes an individual USAID employee or group for leadership in the development and/or management of a public-private alliance(s). Denis Korepanov, Program Development Specialist, USAID/ Russia

### OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL UNIT ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Recognizes employees who have made significant contributions to USAID that relate to the Office of the Inspector General's mission and to management reforms. Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Bureau for Management

### SPECIAL INTERAGENCY ACT AWARD

The Office of the Director of Foreign Assistance was established by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in April 2006 to lead the consolidation and coordination of government-wide foreign assistance policy, planning, and budget. This award recognizes the team assembled to establish the office and fulfill its mandate. Foreign Assistance Office Team, Joint State-USAID

### C. HERBERT REES MEMORIAL AWARD

Recognizes one individual whose performance at mid-career demonstrates potential for continued growth and ability to assume greater responsibility. Jayne Carbone, Supervisory Program Officer, Procurement Office, USAID/Egypt

### GEORGE C. MARSHALL AWARD

Recognizes a General Service employee who has made significant contributions over a sustained period of time to the development mission or functional

# ANNUAL USAID AWARDS: 2007

operations of the Agency.  
**Sheryl J. Grossman**, Supervisory Program Analyst, Program Office, Bureau for Europe and Eurasia

## **MICHAEL K. WHITE MEMORIAL AWARD**

Recognizes an individual whose creativity, courage, and persistence have improved the lives of women and children.

**Ruth Pojman**, Senior Trafficking in Persons Advisor, Office of Democracy, Governance and Social Transition, Bureau for Europe and Eurasia

## **MOLLY KUX AWARD**

Recognizes an Agency employee who has made outstanding contributions in promoting the environment within the Agency's development assistance programs.  
**Caroljo Rushin Elron**, Supervisory Natural Resources Officer, Office of Natural Resources Management, Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade

## **SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWARD**

Recognizes an employee who has advanced science and technology in development.

**David L. Stanton**, Supervisory Development Assistant, Office of HIV/AIDS, Bureau for Global Health

## **ETHICS AWARD**

Recognizes an employee who has promoted ethical standards and conduct in the Agency.

**Jane Kairo**, Administrative Assistant, Regional Legal Office, USAID/East Africa

## **EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY AWARD**

Recognizes an individual or group that furthers USAID's equal opportunity goals related to diversity, promotion of the Federally Assisted/Conducted Program, and/or the use of women, small, and minority businesses.  
**Janet Faye Allem**, Supervisory Management and Program Analyst, Office of Management Policy, Budget and Performance, Bureau for Management

## **OUTSTANDING SUPPORT STAFF AWARD**

Recognizes outstanding performance in support positions.  
**Tujuana Howard**, Administrative Officer, Office of Professional Development & Management Support, Bureau for Global Health

## **SUPERIOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AWARD FOR SPECIAL ACTS AND SUGGESTIONS**

Recognizes superior

accomplishments for a one-time special act or service and for beneficial suggestions.

**Kimberly J. Ball**, Lead Contract Specialist, Office of Acquisition and Assistance, Bureau for Management

**Alonzo L. Fulgham**, Chief Operating Officer

**Michael Metzler**, Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Operating Officer

**Bernadette M.G. Mitchell**, Management and Program Analyst, Office of the Chief Operating Officer

**David D. Ostermeyer**, Deputy Director, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, Bureau for Management

**Sally E. Verser**, Supervisory Human Resources Specialist, Civil Service Personnel Division, Office of Human Resources

## **Accelerated Economic Growth Team, USAID/Mali**

**Amadou Camara**

**Augustin Debele**

**Bigue Diaw**

**Ellen J. Harman**

**Yacouba Santara**

**Raghuram Shetty**

**Gaoussou Traore**

## **FOREIGN SERVICE NATIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Recognizes outstanding performance by Foreign Service Nationals.

**Farah Deba Ansari**, Chief Accountant, USAID/India

**Iman Ahmed Abdel Halim**, Senior Program Operation Specialist, USAID/Egypt

**Edgar Muñoz**, Development Assistance Specialist, USAID/Bolivia

**Afrodita Salja**, Project Management Specialist, USAID/Macedonia

**Momar Sow**, Education Specialist, USAID/Senegal

**Alla Stepanova**, Secretary, USAID/Russia

**Leticia Teleguano**, Project Management Assistant, USAID/Guatemala

**Mubarek K. Yagoub**, Maintenance Supervisor, USAID/Sudan

## **DISTINGUISHED HONOR AWARD**

Recognizes exceptionally outstanding service by individuals over a prolonged period of time as demonstrated by significant national or international achievements.

**Hilda M. Arellano**, Mission Director, USAID/Iraq

**William C. Buckhold**, Acting Assistant General Counsel for Acquisition & Assistance and Litigation & Enforcement, Office of the General Counsel

**Marvin Burgos**, Inspector, Regional Office of Inspector General, USAID/Philippines

**Steven K. Gale**, Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs

**Gene V. George**, Mission Director, USAID/Bangladesh

**Michael T. Harvey**, Deputy Mission Director, USAID/Serbia and Montenegro

**Robert W. Jenkins**, Supervisory Program Analyst, Office of Transition Initiatives, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance

**Carla Montemayor Royalty**, Program Analyst, Office of the Assistant Administrator for Management, Bureau for Management

## **DISTINGUISHED HONOR GROUP AWARDS**

Recognizes exceptionally outstanding service by teams over a prolonged period of time as demonstrated by significant national or international achievements.

**DCHA/DG/Governance Division**, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance

**Edwin Francis Connerley**

**Christina A. Del Castillo**

**Elizabeth Irene Hart**

**Keith Thomas Schulz**

**Julie L. Werbel**

**E&E Office of Economic Growth**, Bureau for Europe and Eurasia

**Stephen C. Eastham**

**John W. Godden**

**Richard Johnson**

**Michael Joseph Kaiser**

**Neal W. Nathanson**

## **63 SUPERIOR HONOR AWARDS**

were given to employees to recognize significant acts, services, or achievements that further the Agency's mission.

## **SUPERIOR HONOR GROUP AWARDS**

Recognizes significant acts, services, or achievements of teams that further the Agency's mission.

**Advisor Group (TAG) Training for Education Sector Teams (TEST) Alternative Livelihoods Audit**, USAID/Afghanistan

**Deliver IQC Design and Management Team**

**Emergency Task Force**, USAID/Ethiopia

**Office of Health, Aids, Population and Nutrition**, USAID/Ethiopia

**Interagency PRT TRAINING GROUP**, Bureau for Asia and the Near East

**HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM**, USAID/Lebanon

**Management Bureau Budget Team**

**Office of Middle East Affairs**, Bureau for Asia and the Near East

**OTI Bolivia Team**

**OTI BRDG Liberia**

**OTI Nepal Program**

**OTI Sudan Program**

**OTI West Bank & Gaza Field Team Strategy and Program Office**, Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

**Turkmenistan Country Office**, Bureau for Europe & Eurasia

**USAID/Bulgaria**

**USAID/Croatia Team**

**USAID/Romania**

## **137 MERITORIOUS HONOR AWARDS**

were given to recognize outstanding service in the conduct of programs; for accomplishment of assigned responsibilities in an exemplary manner; for efficiency, improved management, or outstanding executive or technical ability; or for unusual devotion to duty under adverse conditions.

## **MERITORIOUS HONOR GROUP AWARDS**

Recognizes team accomplishments or contributions of high importance to the Agency.

**Administrative Management Staff**, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs

**Afghanistan Desk**, Bureau for Asia and Near East

**BizClir Team**

**Bolivia Staff**, USAID/Bolivia

**Cost Recovery Team**

**Data Management (DM) Division**, Bureau for Management

**Elections and Political Processes Division**, Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance

**Facts Working Group**

**Internally Displaced Persons Team**, USAID/Colombia

**Office of Acquisition & Assistance's Evaluation Division Staff**, Bureau for Management

**Office of Democracy, Governance, and Social Transition**, Bureau for Europe and Eurasia

**Performance Audits Division**, Office of Inspector General

**Reformers' Club Implementers Strategic Objective 13 Team**, USAID/Nigeria

**Technical Evaluation Team for GBTI II**

**Tiahrt Audit Team**, Office of Inspector General

**USAID/Pakistan**

## **CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

This award recognizes an employee's special contributions on an important project or task.  
**Kip Beardsley**, Public Health Advisor, Office of Democracy, Governance and Social Transition,

Bureau for Europe and Eurasia  
**Amy Blasen**, Training Specialist, Bureau for Asia and the Near East

**Mary Jane Cotter**, Administrative Operations Specialist, Strategic Communications and Publications Division, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs

**Juan Del Castillo**, Consultant

**Anthony Fisher**, Traffic Management Specialist, Office of Acquisition and Assistance, Bureau for Management

**Kay J. Freeman**, Director, Office of South Asian Affairs, Bureau for Asia and the Near East

**Steven K. Gale**, Senior Advisor, Office of the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs

**Renata D. Hanna**, Lead International Trade Specialist, Office of Acquisition and Assistance, Bureau for Management

**Cheryl Hurd**, Administrative Assistant, Office of Democracy, Governance and Social Transition, Bureau for Europe and Eurasia

**Christine Karpinski**, Traffic Management Specialist, Office of Acquisition and Assistance, Bureau for Management

**Wilford B. Lane**, International Cooperative Specialist, Office of West African Affairs, Bureau for Africa

**Walid Maalouf**, Public Affairs Specialist, Public Liaison Division, Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs

**Kevin McCown**, Trade Program Management Specialist, USAID/West Africa

**Denise Scherl**, Director, Transportation Division, Bureau for Management

**Anna Stormzand**, Program Assistant, Office of Democracy, Governance and Social Transition, Bureau for Europe and Eurasia

**George Robert Thompson**, Senior Human Resources Policy Advisor, Office of Human Resources

**GROUP CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION**

Recognizes the contributions of a group for performing a special assignment in an outstanding manner.

**HIV/AIDS & TB Team**, USAID/Nigeria

**Responsiveness in Health Team**, USAID/West Bank and Gaza

**Triumph Technologies Administrative Support Team**, Bureau for Europe and Eurasia

# IN HOUSE BRIEFS

## USAID RESPONDS TO MINE DISASTER IN DONETSK, UKRAINE

An explosion that rocked the Zasyadko Coal Mine in the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk on Nov. 18, 2007, left 101 miners dead and 31 injured. Two weeks later, USAID Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia Doug Menarchik handed over critical

medical equipment to the Donetsk Occupational Diseases Hospital to help dozens of miners in the aftermath of Ukraine's worst-ever mine disaster.

Menarchik, himself a coal miner's son, was visiting Ukraine to review USAID projects. On Dec. 1, when he presented the equipment to the Donetsk Hospital, a second explosion ripped through the mine, leaving 35 more injured miners in its wake. The injured arrived at the hospital just as Menarchik and the USAID delegation were formally presenting the medical equipment to officials.

At a press conference, Menarchik said he understood what the miners and their families were going through. While growing up in Pennsylvania mining country, he knew families whose fathers and brothers perished in similar explosions.

The initial blast was the result of a build-up of methane gas deep in the mine. Of the 457 miners working in the mine at the time of the blast, 169 were in close proximity to the explosion.

Dr. Yevgeniy Hladchuk, the chief physician at the Donetsk hospital, noted that, "It is in times like these that you know who your true friends are." ★



Doug Menarchik, USAID assistant administrator for Europe and Eurasia, left, presents medical equipment to Dr. Yevgeniy Hladchuk of the Donetsk Occupational Diseases Hospital in Ukraine, following an explosion in the Zasyadko Coal Mine.

### General Counsel Named

Alan R. Swendiman has been named general counsel of USAID.

He comes to the Agency from the Executive Office of the President, Office of Administration, where he served as special assistant to the president/director of the Office of Administration, as well as acting general counsel. He previously served as general counsel and acting chief of staff at the General Services Agency. Prior to his federal service, Swendiman spent 30 years in private practice with the law firm of Jackson & Campbell, P.C. in Washington. ★

## EGAT HOLDS KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FAIR

Visitors to USAID's Feb. 25 Knowledge Management Fair were encouraged by Administrator Henrietta H. Fore to "learn a new skill today" at a dozen hands-on displays showcasing some of the Agency's initiatives.

The event—put on by the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT) at the Agency's Information Center in Washington—hosted a capacity

crowd of USAID staffers and representatives from other U.S. agencies and private sector groups. They viewed the displays and attended panel discussions on EGAT's knowledge management practices as well as the Global Development Commons (GDC), an initiative spearheaded by Fore.

The event publicized EGAT-supported portals and Web sites designed to build "communities

of practice" in technical areas such as micro-enterprise and basic education.

The event included a discussion of USAID-supported communication technology programs that serve developing countries, such as a broadband partnership with Intel in northern Vietnam.

Using maps and Google Earth, one exhibit showed a video clip of shrinking forest

coverage data from the 1970s and 1990s in the Miombo Woodlands in Malawi—an example of merging data from a variety of sources into one application to achieve greater efficiency and educational value.

Other presentations noted that human collaboration is a key component to effectively deploying knowledge management technologies and techniques. ★



African entrepreneurs and others working with USAID's three trade hubs in Africa – each managed under the President's African Global Competitiveness Initiative (AGCI) – combined forces to promote African textiles at an apparel trade show Feb. 12-15 in Las Vegas, Nev., with 1,350 exhibitors. The AGCI-sponsored African Pavilion showcased 15 African countries and won the "Best of Show" award. The participating companies—one from each of the 15 countries—expect significant new business from the show. For more information about the initiative, go to [www.tradehubs.org](http://www.tradehubs.org).



On a recent visit to Iraq, USAID's Acting Deputy Administrator, James Kunder, second from left, took a tour of USAID projects in North Babil where he presented Lewis Tatem, deputy team leader for the North Babil Embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team (ePRT), right, an award of appreciation. In Jurf As Sahkr, the ePRT is working to reconstruct damaged shops and homes and revitalize the economy. USAID assistance in the city has included training the local council, supporting health clinics, and providing grants to business owners. In the village of Khidr, a former Al Qaeda stronghold leveled by violence, the ePRT is working to revitalize area fish farming and agriculture. Tatem is now headed to northern Iraq to serve on the PRT in Arbil.

## BUSH from page 1

from 10 to 35 years old complete the six-year elementary school curriculum in three years, and provide life skills training to those entering the workforce.

“In my first term, we more than doubled development assistance to Africa, and at the beginning of my second term, I asked the United States Congress to double our assistance again,” Bush said Feb. 26 in Washington in a speech to the Leon H. Sullivan Foundation reviewing his African trip.

“America is on a mission of mercy,” he added. “We’re treating African leaders as equal partners. We expect them to produce measurable results. We expect them to fight corruption, and invest in the health and education of their people, and pursue market-based economic policies.”

In Benin, his first stop, President Boni Yayi told Bush that the USAID-managed Malaria Initiative and \$307 million Millennium Challenge Compact are helping alleviate poverty and save lives.

“Laura and Mrs. [Chantal de Souza] Yayi met with girls who have received scholarships through our Africa Education Initiative . . . uniforms and books and oil lanterns that allow students to read at night. Many of these girls are the first in their family to complete primary school,” Bush said.

In Tanzania, the second African country of the visit, Bush said President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete told him “America’s support is helping Tanzania improve education, and fight HIV/AIDS, and dramatically reduce malaria.”

Bush then signed the largest Millennium Challenge Compact in the history of the program providing \$698 million for transportation, energy and water.

The U.S. president also called, at a press conference, for the U.S. Congress to reauthorize the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and double the initial commitment to \$30 billion over the next five years.

Bush noted that the number of people receiving anti-AIDS medicines rose from 50,000 in 2003 to more than 1.3 million.

He also hailed the drastic reduction of malaria cases in

Zanzibar from 20 percent of infants to one percent after U.S. inputs of medicines and mosquito nets.

Calling the suffering caused by malaria “needless,” and “every death caused by malaria . . . unacceptable,” Bush announced in a hospital in Arusha an initiative, in partnership with the World Bank and the Global Fund, to distribute 5.2 million free bed nets in Tanzania—enough to protect every child in the country between the ages of 1 and 5. He also visited the factory where 1,200 workers assemble the nets.

In Rwanda, the third stop, Bush and Rwandan President Paul Kagame signed a bilateral treaty to open investment and trade. Bush also announced the return of the Peace Corps for the first time since 1993 and announced that the United States has committed \$100 million to assist African nations willing to serve in Darfur.

Next, in Ghana, Bush announced a new “\$350 million initiative to target neglected tropical diseases like river blindness and hookworm across the globe.”

At the Maamobi Polyclinic in Ghana, Mrs. Bush visited a USAID program to save lives from malaria and malnutrition—two preventable causes of death in children. Implemented by NetMark, the program also works to improve lives through economic empowerment by enlisting Ghana’s “Umbrella Ladies” or women entrepreneurs who sit under umbrellas selling goods. Located strategically in health facilities or in their communities, the Ladies will sell insecticide-treated bed nets.

The final stop was Liberia where the President and First Lady met students in accelerated learning programs.

“Congress needs to make America’s commitment clear by fully and promptly funding our development programs,” Bush told the Sullivan Foundation. “And presidential candidates of both parties should make clear that engagement with Africa will be an enduring priority of the United States.”

*Chris Thomas contributed to this article. ★*

## BUREAU from page 1

Glyn Davies, principal deputy assistant secretary for East Asia and the Pacific, said his bureau and Boucher’s “will have to compete for the affection of the new Asia Bureau” at USAID which includes both South and East Asian countries.

The realignment enables coordination of aid and contacts on a South-North axis, bringing the more developed former Soviet republics of Central Asia into economic relationships with Afghanistan and Pakistan where poverty and insecurity prevail.

Alonzo Fulgham, USAID chief operating officer, said that the new arrangement might speed exports of excess electric power from hydro and gas fields in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan into Afghanistan, Pakistan, and possibly India.

He said that a kilowatt-hour of electricity now costing 32 cents in Afghanistan and Pakistan could plunge to seven cents if power can be imported from the north.

“Strategically it makes sense,” said Fulgham.

Doug Menarchik, assistant administrator for Europe and Eurasia, said the realignment would build upon USAID successes to date in strengthening sustainable economic growth in Central Asia and extend the

impact of this progress to neighboring countries at risk. His bureau is unique within the Agency in that it has helped countries transform from aid recipients into emerging donors. In 2008, USAID is scheduled to transition its missions out of foreign aid in Bulgaria, Romania, and Croatia, bringing the Europe and Eurasia Bureau’s total number of “graduate” countries to 11 in less than two decades.

However, Menarchik said his bureau still faces significant challenges: in the Balkans with Kosovo, Bosnia, and Serbia; in the Caucasus with secessionist movements in Abkhazia and South Ossetia in Georgia; with Ngorno Karabagh in Armenia/Azerbaijan; and backsliding on democracy in Russia.

“This is a bittersweet day because I have to say goodbye to the Middle East,” said Ward, citing work the bureau had done in Iraq and the Middle East to advance U.S. interests and help Iraqis.

However, Ward said he looked forward to continued service in Pakistan and Afghanistan where he hoped the Agency would “produce even more results to the people who richly deserve it.”

Laudato said the new Middle East Bureau he leads “will allow us to focus the complete

attention of our Middle East and Iraq groups on the broader Middle East region.”

“This was more difficult to do when the former bureau was spread across literally half the world.”

The Middle East bureau will include: Morocco, Egypt, West Bank/Gaza, Jordan, Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, and the Middle East Regional office.

The Asia Bureau will cover: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor Leste, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and the East Asia Regional office.

Although the ANE bureau will be divided, the staff will continue to hold meetings together to coordinate activities. The separation was to be effective March 2.

The Central Asian Republics will be managed within a new Office of South and Central Asian Affairs, in the Asia Bureau, headed by Flynn Fuller.

The Asia Bureau and the Middle East Bureau will share services from the former ANE offices and the E&E Bureau will continue to provide interim support to the Central Asian Republics. ★

## FRONTLINES

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**Jeffrey Grieco**

*Assistant Administrator  
for Legislative and Public Affairs*

**Steve Tupper**

*Chief of Strategic Communications and Publications*

### FRONTLINES STAFF

**Ben Barber**, *Editorial Director*

**Claire McIntyre**, *Production Editor*

**Angela Rucker**, *Writer*

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

### CORRESPONDENTS:

**AFGE** – Willy Hardin; **AFR** – Ranta Russell; **AFSA** – Francisco Zamora;

**ASIA** – Jan Cartwright; **CFBCI** – Nathan Weber; **DCHA** – Rebecca Gustafson;

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Safia Hashim of Bweleo Village, Zanzibar, pearl farming entrepreneur.

## Zanzibar Villagers Implant Oysters to Harvest Pearls

By Leslie Squillante and Richard Volk

**BWELEO, Zanzibar**—The room was silent and tense as fisherman Ali Mataka opened the first oyster, revealing two, well-developed half-pearls. The room filled with triumphant smiles.

After a year of experimenting with half-pearl or *mabe* production, Mataka and other villagers implanted a plastic nucleus in each live oyster shell and waited for the animal to cover it with nacre, a pearly substance. Of the 28 implanted oysters, 50 *mabes* were harvested, of which 28 were jewelry-quality and valued together at \$800.

Women on the Fumba Peninsula of Zanzibar have always depended on oysters and other bivalves for sustenance. However, uncontrolled harvesting had led to a decline in stocks.

A USAID-funded program—Sustainable Coastal Communities and Ecosystems (SUCCESS)—helped women manage wild bivalve stocks to improve income and biodiversity.

SUCCESS started with a group of people from Bweleo village who had previously discarded shells after removing the flesh for food. The villagers were trained to keep the shells and polish pieces to make into necklaces, earrings, and bracelets.

Over the past year, individuals earned up to \$50 per month from selling jewelry. Rahma



Shell jewelry made by women of Bweleo Village, Zanzibar, including three *mabe* pieces in a box.

Mussa, for example, sold about 60 pieces and said, “I am saving my money to buy my own polishing machine and to build a house for my mother.”

The next step was to train the women and men to cultivate *mabe*—an activity with potential to increase their income even further. Oysters that are about 10 centimeters long—or a bit smaller than a CD—are removed from the water and opened slightly. Super Glue is used to secure the plastic nuclei inside the shell. The oysters are then immediately placed back in the water.

After about 9 months, the oysters are checked to see if the nacre has been secreted completely over the nuclei. The oysters are then harvested—the shell is fully opened and the half-pearl carefully removed.

The best quality pearls sell for between \$40 and \$50 each. “It is not a full-time job, but a high-profit undertaking that we can do along with other income generating activities,” said Safia Hashim, a community leader and entrepreneur.

Hashim sees the jewelry-making from shells and from *mabe* as helping to empower women. “It is different from former days when only husbands

worked to support the family,” she explained. “Today men and women share the responsibility of earning money.”

The jewelry is being marketed directly to tourists in Zanzibar and to Tanzanians as well.

Hashim, who is now building a house for her husband and six children, adds: “Coastal community lives have greatly improved. Now we can afford better housing, education, food, clothing, and other necessities.” She said she has decided to start her own farm and has already collected the next 16 oysters to implant.

Fishermen in Menai Bay, which includes Bweleo and 16 other villages, now have four “no-take zones” to protect the stocks of oysters.

“In addition to empowering women and providing income, these activities have increased villagers’ support for the management of wild bivalve stocks,” says Richard Volk, a coastal and aquatic resources advisor with the Bureau of Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade (EGAT).

With the success of this small pilot, enthusiasm is now high to replicate pearl farming with other groups and communities in Tanzania. ★

“At the tradeshow we displayed the sample half-pearls to the vice president of Tanzania and the Minister of Women and Youth. They have already placed their orders for pearls from the next harvest!”  
— Safia Hashim of Bweleo village, pearl farming entrepreneur



Members of the jewelry making and *mabe* farming group, Bweleo Village, Zanzibar.