

FRONT LINES



www.usaid.gov

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

APRIL 2005

“We all have an obligation to speak for women who are denied their rights to learn, to vote, or to live in freedom. We may come from different backgrounds, but advancing human rights is the responsibility of all humanity....”



AP/World Wide Photos

FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH

Speaking at the White House event on International Women's Day, March 8

▼ SEE RELATED STORY PAGE 2

Madagascar First in MCC

WASHINGTON—Madagascar will be the first country invited to sign a development compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Board, the organization's CEO announced March 14.

The island nation off the east coast of Africa will be eligible to receive nearly \$110 million over four years to reduce poverty and promote economic growth. The money will be used in three areas: property rights, finance, and agriculture.

▼ SEE MADAGASCAR ON PAGE 2

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

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

U.S. Focus Shifts to Fragile States Strategy

BY KATHRYN MCCONNELL
Washington File staff writer

The United States is threatened more by “failed, failing, and recovering states” than by “conquering states,” says Administrator Andrew Natsios.

“There is perhaps no more urgent matter” facing U.S. development efforts, according to a new USAID report outlining the Agency's fragile states strategy. The strategy is part of the overall U.S. National Security Strategy, Natsios said.

Natsios presented the report Feb. 16 to the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid meeting in Washington. The committee, which links the U.S. government and private voluntary organizations active in international humanitarian assistance and development, meets three times a year.

“The world has changed and we need to change with it,” Natsios said.

Ignoring failed and failing states “can pose great risks, including the likelihood of terrorism taking root,” the report says.

Of particular concern are economic instability, food insecurity, and violent conflict—usual symptoms of government failure in failed states, it says.

“The most significant shortfall in meeting the widely supported Millennium Development Goals of the [United Nations] Millennium Declaration will likely be in fragile states,” according to the report.

Weak, inefficient, and illegitimate governments are “at the heart” of

▼ SEE U.S. FOCUS ON PAGE 2

Wolfowitz to World Bank

President Bush nominated Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz March 16 to be the next head of the World Bank, the world's biggest development agency, which made \$20 billion in loans last year.

▼ SEE WOLFOWITZ ON PAGE 2

Gorillas Help Uganda Grow

BWINDI IMPENETRABLE NATIONAL PARK, Uganda—Kisoro has a scar on his nose. “He must have fought with another male overnight,” the guard whispers, standing some 10 feet away from a group of 13 gorillas.

Two of the older male silverbacks, a few younger males like Kisoro, several females, and a 3-month-old baby can be seen up close by a handful of tourists each day.

Trips are led by guards from the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), who monitor the animals and protect the park from poaching and encroachment for agriculture.

▼ SEE GORILLAS ON PAGE 9



Kim Burns, USAID/Uganda

A mother and her baby, which was born the day after Christmas, are among the gorillas that can be seen by tourists in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park.

New Quake Off Sumatra

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia—A massive 8.7 magnitude earthquake killed at least 200 people when it hit off Sumatra's southwest coast March 28—just miles from the epicenter of the much larger 9 magnitude quake Dec. 26 that left 273,000 people dead and missing around the Indian Ocean through tsunamis.

USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) gave \$100,000 to CARE and Save the Children for immediate aid.

Food and other relief supplies in Indonesia

▼ SEE NEW QUAKE ON PAGE 16



Ben Barber/USAID

CALANG, Sumatra—A child orphaned by the tsunami lives with a relative in this shelter. The shelter is built with plastic, supplied by USAID and other aid groups, which is supplemented by branches and materials salvaged from the tsunami debris. All of Calang's houses were destroyed and most of its 16,000 citizens killed in the tsunami.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

**HAITIAN CITY
CLEANS UP AFTER
STORM**
PAGE 10



Global Developments 2, 16
Partner Profile: Foundations 4-5
Drugs Reach Tuberculosis Patients 7
Simmons Retires 12
U.S. Boosts Aid in Sudan 14



**JORDAN'S
STOCK MARKET
PICKS UP**
PAGE 11

Madagascar First in MCC ▲ FROM PAGE 1

The funding is “designed to increase incomes and create opportunities for rural Malagasy by unleashing domestic investment,” said CEO Paul Applegarth.

The formal signing is expected in April.

Madagascar, with a population of about 17 million, is lush in natural beauty, but more than 70 percent of its people live below the poverty line. And four out of five of those who live in rural areas survive on 41 cents a day.

The country is renowned for its biodiversity—thousands of its animals and plants cannot be found anywhere else in the world—but that bounty is threatened by logging and destructive farming practices.

The country is also emerging from political turmoil in 2002, and its president, Marc Ravalomanana, is pushing reforms to end rural poverty, reform the economy, and attract foreign investment.

“The compact will create ways for the rural poor to generate wealth by giving them the opportunity to own land and improve their access to credit, and by giving them technical assistance in agricultural practices and in identifying market opportunities,” Applegarth said.

Madagascar, which submitted a proposal to the MCC in October 2004, has a per capita income of about \$300 a year.

To qualify for MCC money, countries must have a per capita income below \$1,450 a year.

Madagascar is among 17 countries eligible for MCC aid. Another 13 countries are eligible for assistance under MCC’s Threshold Program, which will be implemented by USAID.

The program, launched by President Bush three years ago, provides money to poor countries that rule justly, invest in their

people, and encourage economic freedom. It was created as an alternative to traditional foreign aid programs.

The MCC received \$1 billion in 2004, its first year, and is getting another \$1.5 billion

this year. President Bush has asked Congress for \$3 billion for 2006.

Honduras, Nicaragua, and Georgia are expected to sign compacts with the MCC in the coming months. ★

Wolfowitz to World Bank ▲ FROM PAGE 1

“Paul Wolfowitz is a proven leader and experienced diplomat, who will guide the World Bank effectively and honorably during a critical time in history—both for the Bank and the developing nations it supports,” Bush said March 16 at the White House.

“He has devoted his career to advancing the cause of freedom. He is a person of compassion who believes deeply that lifting people out of poverty is critical to achieving that goal.”

Wolfowitz has spoken publicly about the importance of USAID programs in Indonesia, where he was ambassador, and recently said the U.S. tsunami relief effort showed “incredible cooperation between State and Defense and USAID.”

“It is a noble mission to lift people out of

poverty and in doing so to strengthen the whole political movement towards democracy” he told the *New York Times*.

Wolfowitz will replace James Wolfensohn at the Bank if the board of directors approves the U.S. president’s choice, as they have in the past.

Before serving at Defense, Wolfowitz was dean of the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University and assistant secretary of state.

In 2002 in Manila, Wolfowitz said he was told by a governor that “the only international aid agency that is able to deliver assistance to his part of the country is USAID...because so far the others are unwilling to take the risks.” ★

U.S. Focus Shifts ▲ FROM PAGE 1

fragile countries, Natsios said. USAID has responded to the reality of failed states by creating a new Office of Conflict Mitigation, he added.

Using a new “fragility framework,” the office will provide USAID with more analyses of democracy and governance development efforts and countries’ ability to deal with conflict in order to identify fragile states, the report says. Areas to be analyzed for effectiveness and legitimacy will include military and police services, political and financial institutions, and the provision of basic services, it says.

The office will work closely with the State Department’s new Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization, Natsios said. An effective response to the challenge of failed states will also require close cooperation between U.S. agencies and the nonprofit sector, he said.

Natsios added that the Bush administration is asking Congress for more flexibility than it now has to program USAID funds to best target assistance to crisis and crisis-prone countries.

On a related topic, Natsios said the Bush administration in its fiscal year 2006 budget proposal to Congress is seeking approval to buy more food aid from producers located near food crises areas.

Such flexibility would drastically reduce the amount of aid funds now required to transport food that is mostly grown by U.S. farmers to where it is needed, he said.

The administrator said that because USAID was not allowed to purchase more food from local producers in response to food shortages in Afghanistan, many of that country’s farmers have given up trying to grow wheat and have returned to growing higher-income-generating poppies for opium.

Natsios also spoke about the need to boost USAID’s outreach to the U.S. military to best coordinate humanitarian aid and reconstruction efforts. ★

www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/conflict

Washington File is a product of the U.S. Department of State.

<http://usinfo.state.gov>

International Women’s Day, March 8



Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Afghan Minister of Women’s Affairs Mosooda Jalal during observance of International Women’s Day, March 8, at the Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, D.C.



From the “Rebuilding Hope” exhibit: Community kitchens provide food for those made homeless by the tsunami in India. In this kitchen in Nagappattinam, local women help feed 43 families.

An exhibit of photographs of women in Iraq, Afghanistan, and tsunami-affected Asian countries was unveiled at the USAID Information Center in the Ronald Reagan Building, Washington, D.C. as part of the celebration of International Women’s Day, March 8.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice attended the event and said: “I spent some time today with women from the Middle East and North Africa, I’ll just say founding mothers of their countries, women who have gone through struggle, women who have gone through difficult times, women who have faced down terrorism and ter-

rorists to vote, and to show the way to a better and more democratic future.”

The “Rebuilding Hope” exhibit highlights women and girls rebuilding their lives in the aftermath of the tsunami in Indonesia and Sri Lanka; reentering education and leadership in Iraq; and voting, working, and going back to school in Afghanistan.

The photo exhibit, compiled by the Bureau for Asia and the Near East, will run through the summer. The event was coordinated by the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs and the Office of Women in Development. ★

FIRST PERSON



“Coffee is a very good crop for us. We are members of the coffee cooperative, and they give us a good price. Because they buy our coffee fruit, we don’t have to process it. We expanded our coffee farm two years ago, and we will plant more seedlings this year.”

MARIA SOARES, COFFEE FARMER, CCT MEMBER
Raimerhei, East Timor

Cooperative Cafe Timor (CCT) is the largest producer of organically certified coffee in the world. The cooperative includes 20,000 families and employs 3,000 East Timorese in postharvest work each year. It began in 1994, when 800 farm families began buying, processing, and marketing certified organic coffee as a cooperative, with USAID assistance.

By helping farmers focus on quality and consistency, CCT coffee commands a high price on the world specialty coffee market. When farmers like Soares sell their ripe coffee fruit to the cooperative, they receive 40–75 percent more than they would if they sold their coffee to other producers in East Timor. They also save up to two weeks’ work needed to process coffee fruit into dried coffee beans, giving them time to harvest more of their crop.

The cooperative’s USAID-supported activities include primary healthcare, agricultural extension services, growing vanilla, and fattening cattle. They also include a nursery to provide shade tree seedlings to coffee farmers and a training center for cooperatives and small businesses. ★

Notes from Natsios

★★★★★★★★



LOCAL PURCHASES HELP FARMERS FEED THE POOR

Lending credence to the declaration that there will be “no famines” on his watch, President’s Bush’s administration is redoubling its search for creative ways to stretch dollars to meet the needs of the most vulnerable populations with emergency and development food assistance. Despite all that is being done to win the war on hunger, the number of chronically malnourished people in the world continues to rise. Today, it stands at more than 850 million.

Despite the efforts of the humanitarian community to save lives and strengthen livelihoods, conflict-related emergencies and natural disasters create global food needs beyond the capacity of the United States and other donors to respond. Because of this, about 25,000 people die each day from hunger-related causes.

The current U.S. food aid budget, managed by USAID, is spent primarily in the United States to purchase U.S. commodities and ship them to people in food-related crises around the world.

This has been and continues to be an extremely effective tool for fighting hunger in a multitude of situations. However, in a time of shrinking resources and increasing food needs, every effort must be made to increase efficiency and maximize our budgets. In order to reach more people without increased spending, the Bush administration has asked Congress to approve a plan to use up to \$300 million of the \$1.2 billion food aid budget to purchase commodities in developing nations when a crisis occurs. This is expected to enable cheaper and faster delivery of food to those in need and is projected to save up to an additional 33,000 lives.

The flexibility of having both cash and U.S. commodities available to respond to food crises and potential famine is critical. When natural or manmade disasters occur and food aid is needed quickly in order to save lives, food is often available close to the area of need and could fill a critical gap before commodities arrive from the United States—an average of three to four months later. With lower purchase and transportation costs, which account for 30 percent of the total cost of food aid, the United States could afford to purchase more food and feed more people. In many cases, carefully targeted local purchases would stabilize local food prices, strengthen markets, and prevent famines.

For example, while USAID paid to ship food to needy Afghans, the surplus inside Afghanistan remained unsold and

▼ SEE NOTES FROM NATSIOS PAGE 15



Mission of the Month



BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Challenge

In Bosnia’s 1992–95 civil war, 150,000 people died. One of the worst massacres took place in Srebrenica in the summer of 1995, when 7,000–8,000 Bosniak men and boys were rounded up and killed. Survivors fled to safer parts of the country.

Six months later, the Dayton Peace Accords ended the war by dividing the country into two ethnically based entities. Srebrenica was left in the hands of Serb hardliners within the Republika Srpska entity.

Innovative Approach

USAID has worked to transform Srebrenica from a symbol of atrocities to a symbol of the possibilities of return and reconciliation.

The Agency has invested \$8.3 million to rebuild schools, clinics, roads, and bridges. Power and water facilities are being repaired. And a USAID project is trying to reconcile residents of Srebrenica and their neighbors from Bajina Basta in Serbia and Montenegro.

Residents of Srebrenica and Bajina Basta used to cross the bridge connecting their towns, but were cut off from each other when hostilities began in 1992. Now USAID is helping the two communities repair the road and install lighting on the bridge. Another USAID project helped set up a cross-border committee between the two municipalities.

Results

More than 1 million refugees and displaced persons have returned to their homes in Bosnia-Herzegovina, including many to Srebrenica. The healing process took a leap forward in November 2004, when the Republika Srpska government issued a report accepting responsibility and apologizing for the Srebrenica massacre.

USAID has completed 32 projects restoring health clinics, schools, roads and bridges, and power and water infrastructure. One project restored power to 1,000 in Srebrenica’s Zeleni Jadar village. The Agency is also assisting with housing reconstruction in the area.

The poorest returnees have been given small grants or loans through a USAID project. Loans are repayable in part with a low interest rate or repayable in kind.

Habiba Halilovic, a 41-year-old widow and mother of nine, is a typical beneficiary. She was barely feeding her family until she joined the program and was given a cow. She repaid the



Habiba Halilovic, a 41-year-old widow, with four of her nine children. She was given a cow through a USAID small grants and loans program.

loan by giving her cow’s calf to a neighboring family.

“Having a cow is golden,” Halilovic said. “Now when I wake up in the morning, I no longer have to worry what I will feed my children. We always have milk, cheese, and sour cream.”

With expertise from the U.S. dairy cooperative Land O’Lakes, USAID has trained 190 farmers to produce Bosnia’s traditional soft white cheese. In the first four months of the effort, Srebrenica farmers produced over a ton of the highly prized cheese, which costs about \$2.50 per kilogram to produce and sells for about \$5.80.

Other area farmers have also benefited, as cheese producers have begun buying milk from neighbors to meet production goals.

“The American government’s support to Srebrenica is especially important to Bosniak returnees,” said Srebrenica’s mayor, Abdulrahman Malkic, a Muslim who was held captive by the Serbs during the war.

“Projects have brought significant changes into the average Srebrenica citizen’s life: They now have power and water supplies in their homes and the overall quality of life has been improved. That is something that will keep returnees in Srebrenica in the future, but will also bring other refugees from the city back to their prewar homes.” ★

Kasey Vannett contributed to this story.

Foundations Work with USAID to Fight Illiteracy and Disease, Deliver Technology

Their wealth is just one aspect that makes foundations good partners for agencies such as USAID. Another is their willingness to spend their money abroad: American foundations spent \$3 billion in developing countries last year, fighting diseases, helping people get an education or a job, building homes for the poor, and bringing technology to remote areas.

USAID has worked with foundations for more than 40 years. But under the auspices

of the Global Development Alliance (GDA), such partnerships have become more frequent.

“The importance of foundation growth lies in its promise for the future. The larger the foundation world, the greater the resources that will be available to the nonprofit sector,” according to the Foundation Center, a group that provides information about philanthropy in the United States.

Between 1980 and 2002, the number of

grants made by foundations rose from 22,000 to 65,000. Assets of such organizations ballooned during that time, from \$48.2 billion to \$435.2 billion.

Philanthropists Bill and Melinda Gates are leading one of the world’s largest immunization campaigns aimed at children in poor countries. Typically, this work was done by international aid organizations. But the Gates Foundation’s budget is larger than that of many development groups.

Among the largest foundations are the Gateses’ and the Rockefeller Foundation. Others include the Lincy Foundation and the German Marshall Fund.

Some foundations fund mostly democracy and civil society projects; others fund health campaigns and the construction of hospitals and clinics. Some work in just one region of the world; others have offices in numerous time zones. Some are private, others public. ★

Bill and Melinda Gates Give Billions for Vaccines, Libraries, Food

Microsoft founder Bill Gates and his wife Melinda are conspicuous in their philanthropic giving.

The Seattle-based Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has a \$27 billion endowment, and handed out nearly \$1.2 billion in grants in 2003 for global health, education, libraries, and organizations that support children and families in the Pacific Northwest.

It is among an elite group of “mega-donors.” In *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* list of biggest grants announced in 2003, the Gates Foundation took 10 of the 16 spots, including the top six.

Started in 2000, the Gates Foundation was formed by merging the Gates Learning Foundation, an effort to expand technology in public libraries, and the William H. Gates Foundation, which focused on global health. William H. Gates is Bill Gates’ father, and

health the focus of their philanthropy after learning that 11 million children die every year from preventable diseases.

“Personally, I hadn’t planned on getting involved in philanthropy until later in life—when I was in my sixties, when I could devote full time to it,” said Gates, who is 49. “But the more I learned, the more I realized there is no time. Disease won’t wait.”

“Where health takes hold,” he said, “women choose to have fewer children; and literacy, equality, the environment, and economic opportunity all improve. When health improves, life improves—by all measures.”

Close to 60 percent of the foundation’s funding goes to global efforts.

The Gates Foundation is a founding partner of the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI)—a unique partnership with pharmaceutical companies, research institutes, NGOs, and established institutions such as USAID and the World Bank—with \$754 million to immunize children in developing countries. USAID has given \$219 million to the Vaccine Fund, the financing arm of GAVI.

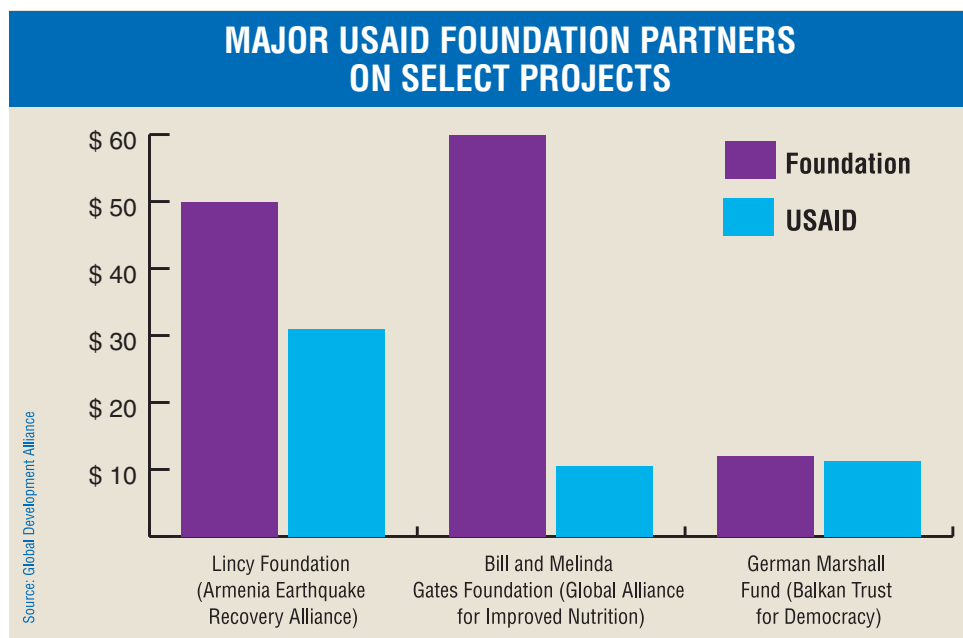
Current market forces discourage development of vaccines against diseases most prevalent in poorer countries, such as malaria and diarrhea, so backing by the likes of the Gates Foundation brings attention and financial muscle.

“The foundation has emerged as a market force through its partnership with NGOs, governments, and companies,” said Jason Wright, a USAID donor coordinator.

In late January, for example, the Gates Foundation announced a \$750 million grant to support GAVI and called on other donors to follow their lead. The Norwegian government committed \$290 million to the effort, and Britain promised to more than match the \$750 million. News reports said Sweden

and France were also considering sizeable contributions in response to the foundation’s appeal.

In March, the Gates Foundation, USAID, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, and Save the Children participated in the launch by the British medical journal, *The Lancet*, of a health series on newborns. ★



A toddler is vaccinated in Africa in 2001.

now heads the Gates Foundation with Patty Stonesifer.

Working from the belief that every life has equal value, the Gateses’ largesse—\$4.7 billion in five years—focuses most often on creating a healthy and educated world.

In a 2002 speech at the United Nations, Bill Gates said he and his wife chose to make



Women watch as a child receives an oral polio vaccine in India in 2002.

Alternative Justice System Comes to Colombia

CALI, Colombia—Young people in poor, violent neighborhoods are learning to apologize for their crimes and become healthier members of their communities. At the same time, farmers in the nearby Cauca Valley are taught about organic vegetables they could harvest instead of coca plants, and how to solve conflicts using restorative justice.

Such projects are helping Colombia overcome the legacy of 50 years of conflict that escalated during the 1990s drug-trafficking boom.

The country is disarming thousands of former guerrilla and paramilitary fighters, but there is little public awareness about restorative justice, a process used in conflict-torn countries such as Ireland and post-apartheid South Africa. So the AlvarAlice Foundation, through a three-year USAID public-private alliance with Fundación Corona, Fundación Vallenpaz, Fundación Paz y Bien, and Javeriana University Cali, is introducing the concept to Colombians.

A symposium in mid-February brought several speakers, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, to discuss ways of bringing former combatants to justice while peacefully integrating them into communities.

“The central concern is not retribution or punishment...[but rather] the healing of breaches; the redressing of imbalances; the restoration of broken relationships; a seeking to rehabilitate both the victim and the perpetrator, who should be given the opportunity to be reintegrated into the community he has injured by his offense,”

Archbishop Tutu said.

AlvarAlice is carrying out a three-pronged approach to restorative justice.

In Cali, it runs three homes for young criminal offenders. Another two centers will open next year.

If a 17-year-old boy steals a car, instead of being sent to jail through the official justice system, he goes through a restorative justice center, where he apologizes to the victim and makes amends for the crime.

The program aims to compel juvenile delinquents “to take responsibility for their criminal actions by apologizing to the victims, offering reparations to the victims and community, and asking for forgiveness,” said Thomas Johnson of USAID/Colombia, which, together with the GDA Secretariat and the Office of Conflict Mitigation and Management, has invested some \$1.7 million in AlvarAlice.

This sum was matched by AlvarAlice and other local program supporters, including \$800,000 from the local sugarcane processing industry.

Colombian President Alvaro Uribe recently introduced legislation based on restorative justice principles. The proposed law is intended to serve as a framework for demobilizing paramilitary and guerrilla combatants and reincorporating them into society.

The rural component of the project is working with some 3,500 farming families from 10 towns in the southern Cauca Valley and the neighboring state of Cauca.



Farmers in the restorative justice program sort blackberry seedlings. After harvest, the berries are processed into jam by a women's cooperative and sold to supermarkets.

Agronomists specializing in ecoagriculture are teaching local farmers new planting and irrigation techniques to grow organic lettuce, tomatoes, maize, cassava, and coffee beans, which fetch higher prices. The farmers are also helped to organize and sell their products to exporters.

The final stage of the project, which is still in the works, is to create course curricula focused on humanitarian law and restorative justice at several Colombian universities.

“You won't find international humanitarian law or restorative justice in any of

the universities now,” said Maria Eugenia Garcés, one of AlvarAlice's founders. “But we intend to incorporate these contents for lawyers and political science personnel.”

The AlvarAlice Foundation was founded in 2003 by a family of philanthropists based in Cali with the assistance of the Synergos Institute, a frequent USAID partner.

The foundation runs programs and alliances with other institutions focused on education, healthcare, housing, microfinance, job creation, and entrepreneurial ventures for disadvantaged youth in Colombia. ★

Young Dominicans Learn Computer, Life Skills for Modern Jobs

For Ruth Dary Ortiz of Cartagena, Colombia, life prospects were bleak. She and her family fled their village for Cartagena after her brother was killed by armed fighters. She started working as a maid, but lost her job.

Then she heard about Entra 21, a program where she could sign up for classes in computer maintenance. She says the program is “my opportunity in life.”

The International Youth Foundation (IYF), which operates Entra 21, works with young people in close to 70 countries and territories to help them do well in school and in life.

Created in 1990, IYF and its partners run education, employment, health, and youth leadership programs. The group handed out close to \$11.5 million in grants in 2004, funding projects in more than 40 countries.

Entra 21 is a joint effort between the foundation and the Multilateral Investment Fund of the Inter-American Development Bank. USAID is contributing \$4 million to the \$25 million program, whose aim is to train 12,000 young people ages 16–29 for information technology (IT) jobs.

There is high demand for workers with IT skills, according to a study by the Bolivian Ministry of Transportation and Communication. Yet more than 90 percent of Bolivians ages 20–24 are unemployed.

Businesses were surveyed to determine the kinds of IT jobs they need to fill.

By 2005, some 10,500 youths in 16 Latin American countries had either undergone training or were being trained to work with

computers, the internet, and other technology typically used in the workplace.

About 500 youths in Bolivia are learning IT skills, and another 1,700 in Brazil are enrolled in classes to learn IT applications in a variety of job settings. The students also learn life skills, such as how to conduct themselves during an interview and dress for work.

The program has expanded to reach urban youth in South Africa, Malawi, Mozambique, and Rwanda. In South Africa, 69 percent of students have been placed in jobs.

“By sharing good practices learned in South Africa with Malawi, Mozambique, and Rwanda, this partnership with USAID improves young people's ability to succeed,” said USAID/South Africa Mission Director Dirk Dijkerman.

In February, IYF announced the Education and Employment Alliance, which aims to help thousands of young people in Egypt, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, and the Philippines. The new alliance is backed by an \$11 million USAID grant.

The goal—here and in all IYF programs—is to prepare young people for the workplaces and world of the 21st century. Standing against those efforts are outmoded education systems and high dropout rates in many countries.

“Youth in these countries are the next generation of employees, policymakers, and community leaders,” said Mark Ward, USAID's deputy assistant administrator for



Entra 21 program in the Dominican Republic, shown here, provides training for up to 360 young people ages 18–29. So far, 170 have graduated from the program, 85 have completed internships, and 96 are now employed.

Asia and the Near East. “The way they are educated will drive their countries' future growth and place in the global economy.”

The new alliance will marry public, private, and nonprofit sectors to boost education for young people.

“Education systems need innovative

approaches brought to the table by new partners,” said William S. Reese, IYF's president and CEO, when the grant was announced.

“Companies thrive on innovation and can provide fresh insight. They also depend on having an educated workforce and educated consumers.” ★

ECONOMIC GROWTH, AGRICULTURE, AND TRADE

Group of 8: Reducing Poverty Through Trade



Women in Sikasso, Mali, package and label mangos for export to Europe.

Leaders of the eight largest economies of the world—known as the G-8 or Group of Eight—were expected to discuss trade as a strategy for reducing poverty in developing countries at their meeting this month.

“By putting trade on the agenda, the Group of Eight is recognizing it as essential for growing economies,” said Anne Simmons-Benton, USAID representative to a group of donors building developing countries’ capacity to engage in trade.

This donor group brings business and government together to identify barriers to trade and ways to overcome them using an approach called the “integrated framework.”

USAID’s mission in Mali recently supported such a policy-setting exercise.

The Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade (EGAT) contributed by sending a trade expert to Mali to help pinpoint trade barriers. In December 2004, some 200 leaders from government, business, and donors groups studied the findings and decided which problems they would address.

For instance, Air France, the country’s only carrier to Europe, charges exporters a premium because demand for cargo space fluctuates dramatically, making it difficult for the airline to plan. Now, exporters are working to develop a system to provide Air France with estimates of the cargo space they will need a week ahead of time.

Advisors are also encouraging exporters to use certificates of origin. West African states

do not charge tariffs on exports from other West African countries if exporters confirm the country of origin with a certificate, but few do so.

The European Union also would give preferential treatment to Malian exports in exchange for such a certificate.

Advisors are also helping mango and shea nut production. Mali grows high-quality mangos, but packaging is poor, which hurts exports. The United Nations Development Programme and USAID will fund pilot projects to raise the quality of mango exports and packaging, and Canadian aid will help shea nut producers raise their export quality.

USAID for the past two years has also funded a project trying to increase Malian mango exports by working with farmers on packaging techniques.

The World Bank and other donors have long worked with developing countries to create poverty reduction strategies. Traditionally, these focused on national policies, such as improving a population’s health and educational status. But recently, more emphasis has been placed on trade.

During the 1990s, the exports and imports of developing countries jumped from less than \$1.9 trillion to nearly \$4.6 trillion. Countries that developed growth in trade achieved higher and faster economic growth.

USAID spends about \$650 million a year on trade expansion projects around the world. ★

During the 1990s, the exports and imports of developing countries jumped from less than \$1.9 trillion to nearly \$4.6 trillion. Countries that developed growth in trade achieved higher and faster economic growth.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

Jamaican Dressmaker Uses Credit to Build Firm

MANDEVILLE, Jamaica—The garments Lesa Collins and her staff make in her dressmaking shop here are in high demand—so much so that Collins needed to expand Lesa’s Dressmaking Ltd. to accommodate the increased business.

On the advice of a friend, Collins contacted Jamaica National Small Business Loans Limited (JNSBL), which makes loans to microentrepreneurs who would not normally qualify at commercial banks. Through the program, she has received three loans over the past few years to enlarge her business.

“I was able to purchase more raw materials and expand my business,” said Collins, who is working toward doubling floor space, machinery, and output at the shop.

“I realized that it was very easy to pay back [the loans] on a weekly basis. The loan officer worked it out and came up with an amount that would make it easy for me.”

Since 2000, when USAID/Jamaica provided a \$1.25 million grant to JNSBL’s parent company, the lender has awarded 51,000 loans totaling more than \$22 million to small business owners. The loans helped generate 3,000 additional jobs.

The grant emphasized training for loan officers and new information management technology.

Small business owners and microentrepreneurs make up 60 percent of all businesses in Jamaica and contribute about 40 percent to the nation’s economy.

“We saw this project as an opportunity to assist the development of the SME [small and microenterprise] sectors of the

economy, creating employment and fostering nationwide development,” said Frank Whyllie, general manager of JNSBL.

“Increasing our role in nationbuilding through the provision of financing to this crucial sector is very important to us.”

Loan recipients must be at least 18 and have run a business for at least a year. Applicants can put up refrigerators, sewing machines, and other atypical items as collateral.

First-time borrowers can receive between \$80 and \$800. Over time, repeat customers can qualify for higher loan amounts, up to a maximum of \$5,000. Payment terms range from 10 to 50 weeks, with an interest rate of 1 percent per week.

JNSBL has also formed a number of strategic alliances to help it distribute and collect funds. The Jamaica Post Office, for example, provides disbursement and collection services, and Pan Caribbean Financial Services retails credit funds.

“JNSBL is an industry leader, as many financial institutions are hesitant to offer credit that exclusively serves small and microenterprises,” said James Burrowes, a business development specialist with USAID.

JNSBL plans to increase the maximum loan amount (also called loan cap) for current clients who have maintained good credit ratings and to launch new loan products in response to customer demand.

Another new service will provide loans to people who want to establish new businesses. ★



Business owner Lesa Collins, center, works with two employees in her dressmaking shop in Mandeville, Jamaica. A USAID-backed lender gave Collins three loans to expand her dress shop.

GLOBAL HEALTH

Global Drug Facility Improves TB Drugs



Sputum collection cups being distributed in a TB clinic in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

As it marks its fourth year, the Global Drug Facility (GDF), a part of the global Stop TB Partnership, continues to tackle the challenge of infrequent and poor quality drug supplies for tuberculosis (TB) patients in developing countries.

Since its inception, the GDF has treated 4 million patients. Its experts procure drugs from suppliers around the world, sending shipments to countries that need them and following through to ensure delivery to TB clinics.

Although a cure for tuberculosis has existed for more than half a century, the disease is rarely treated properly. It continues to infect and kill some 2 million people every year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Nearly 9 million people will develop TB during 2005.

The GDF has stockpiled TB drugs and helped reduce the price of the medicines by about 30 percent. A six- to eight-month course of treatment of DOTS (directly observed treatment, short-course) now costs less than \$10.

Most developing countries have been paying at least twice the prices obtained by the GDF—and sometimes even three or four times higher—due to inefficient procurement mechanisms.

“There was a time when the principal obstacle to TB control was drugs,” said Susan Bacheller, TB team leader at USAID. “But with the GDF and the Global Fund, the lack of drugs is no longer an excuse.

“We must continue to strengthen labs to diagnose TB, train more health workers, mobilize communities, and to involve all providers in DOTS. And, in countries affected by HIV/AIDS, we must ensure that all persons

living with HIV/AIDS have access to prompt TB care. “The GDF is a critical resource to addressing TB globally.”

Some 50–70 percent of people with infectious TB die annually if untreated, according to the WHO.

The number of cases increases by 1 percent every year, largely because of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, inadequate investments in public health systems, and emerging TB drug resistance.

TB tends to threaten the poorest and most marginalized groups of people. It disrupts the social fabric of society and slows or undermines gains in economic development.

An overwhelming 98 percent of the 2 million annual TB deaths—and some 95 percent of all new cases—occur in developing countries.

On average, TB causes three to four months of lost work time and lost earnings for a household.

USAID has been a key player in the Stop TB Partnership, an effort of more than 350 partner governments and organizations.

Aside from funding, the Agency invests in the Stop TB Partnership and GDF by providing technical support. This helps poor countries improve their drug management systems, trains local TB experts, and helps health ministries draw up comprehensive TB strategies.

USAID has been particularly involved in administering DOTS, a system of observing people while they take the full course of medicine to prevent drug-resistant strains from developing. ★

Chris Thomas contributed to this article.

DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Free Shipping Program Moves \$400M Worth of Donated PVO Goods

Private voluntary organizations (PVOs) regularly deliver items—clothing, medical supplies, and meals—to poor people in developing countries by tapping into USAID’s Ocean Freight Reimbursement (OFR) Program.

Managed out of the Office of Private Voluntary Cooperation-American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (PVC-ASHA), OFR provides small, competitive grants to PVOs to help defray some of the costs of shipping goods overseas for use in privately funded development and humanitarian assistance programs.

The Agency awards about 50 grants to U.S. PVOs each year. The PVOs are responsible for costs related to commodity acquisition, warehousing, insurance, local transportation, and distribution.

In 2003, the OFR budget was a modest \$2.7 million, but that sum helped move more than \$400 million in goods and services from PVOs to people who needed them.

By leveraging donated and purchased goods and volunteer time, the overall private-public match for these activities was 148 to 1.

This past December, for example, the PVO Counterpart International used part of its 2004 OFR grant—the total was \$36,510—to transport a 40-foot container filled with winter clothing, shoes, medical supplies, office supplies, and educational material to the Afghanistan Relief Organization in Kabul. Counterpart paid the initial cost of shipping the container and was reimbursed by USAID. The PVO paid its own costs to collect, store, and distribute the donations.

Counterpart also shipped specialized wheelchairs, crutches, canes, walkers, and spare parts for the walking aids to Ecuador in

2004. While Counterpart handled the transportation logistics and expenses—and was later reimbursed by USAID for the cost of the ocean freight—Quito-based Fundacion Vista Para Todas distributed the items and Iowa-based Hope Haven Ministries International sent in a team of technicians to custom fit the wheelchairs and provide occupational therapy to recipients.

Overall, there were over 250 beneficiaries—many of them children with multiple sclerosis or cerebral palsy—spread throughout Quito, Santo Domingo de los Colorados, and surrounding areas.

During each two-year cycle, new PVOs are introduced to the program, said Tom Kennedy, chief of PVC-ASHA’s Program Development and Management Division.

Though it is highly competitive, the process to qualify is not complex. PVOs must be registered with USAID and receive at least 20 percent of their total annual financial support for international programs from non-U.S. government sources.

“Due to the nature of the Ocean Freight Reimbursement Program and the fact that the criteria can be met by PVOs of all shapes and sizes, it has always been a great opportunity for small and newly registered PVOs to get their feet wet in the USAID grant process,” Kennedy said. “With this program, everyone is starting out on the same level, regardless of their size or longevity.”

More than 10 percent of grantees during 2004 and 2005 were first-time applicants, and almost 10 percent were newly registered PVOs.

The OFR program is on a two-year cycle, and the next request for applications will be this fall, covering funding for 2006 and 2007. ★



A woman in Ecuador gets fitted for a wheelchair provided by Counterpart International. The PVO received funding from USAID’s Ocean Freight Reimbursement Program to transport wheelchairs and other walking aids to Ecuador in 2004.

Uganda Has Cut AIDS But Struggles with Its Economy and Conflict in the North

KAMPALA, Uganda—Uganda has made significant social, political, and economic progress since dictators such as Idi Amin ruled the east African nation several decades ago. But it still faces a long list of problems, ranging from HIV/AIDS to economic reform, many of which are the focus of U.S. aid programs.

The USAID mission here is one of the largest in Africa and one of the world's largest recipients of funds to combat HIV-infection, prevent mother-to-child transmission of the

disease, and provide drugs and care to the ill through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

The Agency also spends about \$36 million a year on economic growth, agriculture, environment, democracy, and governance.

"Uganda has at least a tiny part of almost every U.S. interest in the region: the fight against AIDS, conflict resolution, wars in Sudan and Congo, biodiversity, economic growth, and democratization and human rights," U.S. Ambassador Jimmy Kolker said in an interview with *FrontLines*.

"The USAID mission here has the resources and staff to really see results by working with Ugandans to solve their problems."

Aggressive strategies—such as ABC, which stands for Abstain, Be Faithful, and Use Condoms, and has been championed by Uganda President Yoweri Museveni—have cut Uganda's HIV rate from more than 30 percent in the early 1990s to about 6 percent today, one of the lowest rates in Africa.

When the president's plan began in 2003, the USAID mission "had a good base to build on...and was able to very quickly scale up prevention, treatment, and care," Kolker said.

Other development activities are unfolding throughout the country, with the northern sector getting mostly food aid and health and education projects through the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and the Office of Food for Peace.

A 19-year-long conflict in five northern dis-

tricts has displaced about 1.8 million people, making it a humanitarian crisis comparable to that in neighboring southern Sudan.

"The biggest clouds hanging over Uganda's head are the conflict in the north and democratization and succession issues," Kolker said, adding that corruption is also an issue.

Museveni has ruled Uganda, which lacks a multiparty system, since 1986. There will be a referendum in June 2005 to decide if he can change the constitution in order to run again in 2006. ★

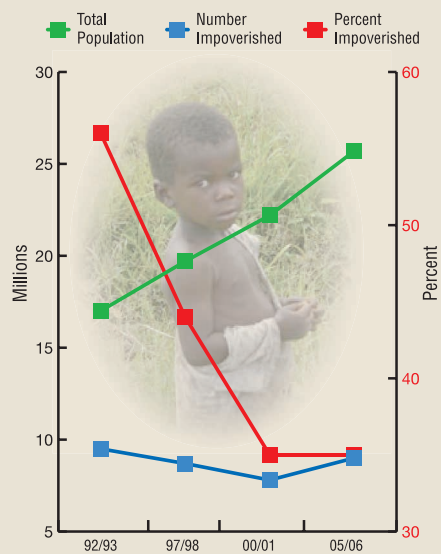
Uganda

Capital: Kampala
Population: 24.7 million
Size: slightly smaller than Oregon
Per capita income: \$1,390
Population below national poverty line: 38%
Literacy rate: 69.9 percent
Life expectancy: 48

Sources: CIA World Fact Book and USAID/Uganda

All Uganda stories were written by FrontLines Acting Deputy Managing Editor Kristina Stefanova, who recently visited the country.

POVERTY TRENDS IN UGANDA



Source: USAID/Uganda

Children Abducted by Rebels Recover in N. Uganda Centers

KITGUM, Uganda—Okwera, a quiet boy with large, dark eyes who could be 3 years old, was born to an abducted girl. She was made "wife" to a commander of the Lord's Liberation Army (LRA), which has fought the Ugandan government in the north for 19 years.

Okwera now lives in a USAID-funded center, where rescued children typically spend a month and a half receiving medical care and counseling before returning to their families. But Okwera has been here since January because initially he would not speak, making it difficult to find members of his family.

The center is near Labuje camp, where 17,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) live in mud huts built two feet apart. Food is provided through the World Food Program and USAID's Office of Food for Peace. Clean water is available only at seven pumps.

There are 200 such camps housing 1.8 million people in the north.

The LRA is headed by Joseph Kony, a mystic who wants to rule Uganda according to a bizarre interpretation of the Bible. The LRA, which the United States classifies as a terrorist organization, frequently operates on both sides of the border with Sudan.

A December ceasefire fell apart, and the LRA has resumed attacks, cutting women's

lips off in some cases.

The LRA has abducted more than 20,000 children since 1986. Boys are trained as fighters, and girls are made commanders' "wives." Both sexes are used as porters.

Christine was stolen by the LRA when she was 12, as she walked home from school. At first she was made to carry luggage. But a year into her captivity, a commander she describes as "big and aged" began raping her, beating her if she resisted. A year later, when she escaped, she was wounded on her left leg, which still bears a wrinkled scar.

Christine, now 15, has been at the center with Okwera for some time. Her father has died, and her mother, who has visited her, has had another baby.

"I have no fear to go home," Christine says, rarely looking up and busily plucking threads from a blanket. "But I worry about books and school uniforms. I have no shoes."

"I have not told my mother what has happened to me."

Each month, about 100 children and 50 adults come to the centers for abductees in this camp. Like the children, adults are fed, washed, given medical care, counseled, and eventually reunited with their families. When they leave, they are given food, soap, and blankets.



The few people in Kitgum district who still live in their villages are the most frequent abduction targets. But most camps are also attacked, and people are abducted when they wander away from them in search of firewood or water.

To protect themselves, some 12,000 people—mostly children—walk from nearby villages and camps in late afternoons to spend the night in Kitgum town, a dusty, neglected place with a single paved road. These "night commuters" sleep huddled close together wherever they find space—on veranda floors, in church yards, and in the halls of St. Joseph Hospital.

When the sun rises, they head back home.

The HIV-infection rate in IDP camps is significantly higher than the national average.

Since 2002, USAID has been funding HIV/AIDS testing, treatment, and prevention at St. Joseph, including use of nevirapine to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS.

To further lower the chance of transmission, mothers are urged not to breastfeed. U.S. aid provides replacement feeding for babies and young children, as well as items such as soap and blankets for mothers.

Mothers are trained in skills such as tailoring and, using sewing machines donated through the program, they make dresses and shirts for sale.

Most USAID activities in Kitgum are funded through the Community Resilience and Dialogue Program, carried out by the International Rescue Committee. ★

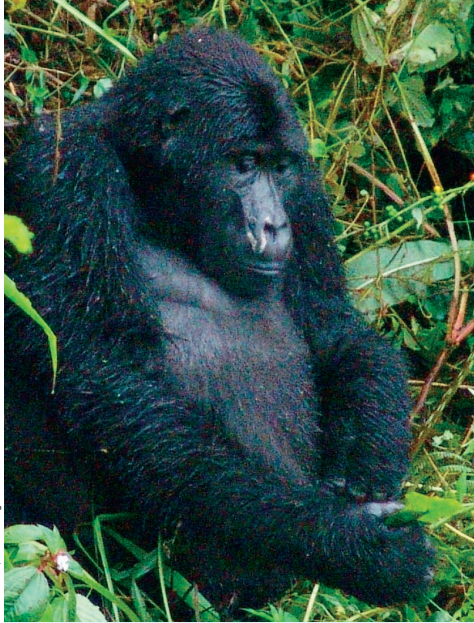
Gorillas Key to Uganda Development

▲ FROM PAGE 1

U.S. assistance supports all steps of this process, including training the guards, studying the gorillas, and helping with law enforcement.

Only 700 mountain gorillas exist worldwide. Nearly half are in Uganda, and the rest are in neighboring Congo and Rwanda.

Mountain gorilla tourism in Uganda generates some \$16 million annually through tourist viewing of five gorilla groups: four in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park and one in Mgahinga National Park.



Kisoro, a young male, is one of the habituated gorillas living in Uganda's Bwindi Impenetrable National Park, which USAID supports through various projects.

A large part of U.S. aid goes to villagers surrounding the parks, who are taught about conservation and helped to profit from and improve their villages through revenues earned while managing the park.

In the small village of Nkuringo, a USAID-funded project has helped residents organize into a legal association that received a concession from the Ugandan Wildlife Authority to sell the six daily gorilla permits for the newly habituated group, which includes the young Kisoro.

The association bought land, and is looking for a private partner to design and build a lodge.

Nearby Buhoma built a campground in the mid-1990s, but because gorilla permits are sold through tour operators that have their own accommodations, the site is not as profitable as Nkuringo will be, said Helga Rainer of the African Wildlife Foundation/International Gorilla Conservation Programme, which carries out the project.

USAID has invested \$2 million on gorilla conservation over the past three years. The project is now continuing as part of the five-year, \$17 million Productive Resources Investment for Managing the Environment (PRIME) Program.

PRIME focuses on the Albertine Rift Valley's center, an area that harbors half of Africa's bird species and 40 percent of its mammal species. It is the only place in the world where mountain gorillas, golden monkeys, chimps, and savanna wildlife coexist, which is critical to Uganda's future as a wildlife destination for tourists.

In the 1960s, Uganda was the prime safari tourism destination, topping Kenya and Tanzania. It was home to 30,000 elephants, 700 rhinos, 10,000 zebras, 26,000 hippos, 60,000 Cape buffalo, and 25,000 hartebeest. But high human density, conflict, and poaching have taken their toll, leaving only about 20 percent of the animals. And rhinos are extinct.

The landscape here is equally diverse, ranging from glaciers at the top of the fabled Rwenzori Mountains down through alpine moorland, forest lands, and savanna grasslands. Some 800 square kilometers of forest here have been lost in the past 15 years.

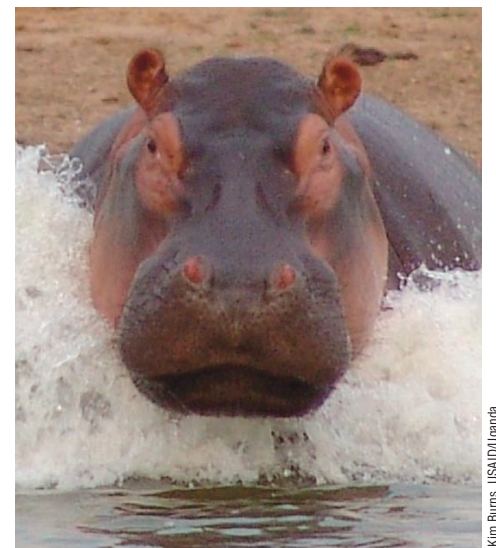
The high level of unique species and growing habitat loss have put the region on a list of biodiversity hotspots.

Managing the central Albertine Rift parks is difficult because it requires cooperation among three countries. Elephants from Congo often cross the border into Uganda's Queen Elizabeth National Park. And the gorilla group that tourists can see from Mgahinga has been "vacationing" in Rwanda for the past four months.

USAID funds projects that monitor the animals across borders. Training of guards and wardens in all three countries is also ongoing.

As residents of communities bordering the parks are taught about conservation, PRIME is also introducing crops such as tea and organic coffee to these farmers, and working with them to stop wetlands drainage.

In the town of Kasese, the project is starting to work with a group of wood processors, who estimate that some 30 percent of the



A hippo takes the plunge. Uganda's national parks, which receive funds under a USAID environmental program, are home to thousands of endangered animals.

wood they buy is illegally logged from national parks. The association—made up of brickmakers, lime producers, and carpenters—asked PRIME for funds to plant wood lots and better enforce wood certification, which will eventually lower the number of illegal logs they buy.

"We are linking development to conservation objectives, and ecotourism is the best example of this," said Jody Stallings, environmental officer with USAID. "We show communities that it is in their interest to preserve nature, while also giving them a chance to improve their livelihoods." ★

AFRICA

Kenyan Girls Sponsored to Study Abroad

NAROK, Kenya—Their Maasai community in Kenya calls them the “big three”—a trio of young women whose academic excellence won them full scholarships to Chicago State University (CSU).

Eunice Sitatian Kaelo and Agnes Kainet Kisai, both 18, and Evelyn Nashipae Nkadori, 19, joined the freshman class at CSU after arriving in the United States on New Year’s Eve 2004. Each says she hopes to become a doctor, return home, and serve the Maasai, a semi-nomadic people who live in the grasslands of Kenya.

Education among the Maasai is not always accessible. Even when it is, girls are often kept home to care for younger children and assist older women with domestic duties. But now hundreds of Maasai families are educating their daughters through a USAID-funded organization called Maasai Education Discovery (MED).

MED Founder Ledama Olekina, a Maasai tribesman who studied at U.S. colleges, realized few Maasai girls would be able to follow in his educational footsteps because few made it to secondary school.

“Unless we invest in educating Maasai girls, many of them will end up being put under the knife [circumcised] and married off,” Olekina said. “That’s why I am dedicating my time to ensuring that, one by one, Maasai girls are educated.”

In 1999, MED started working with schools and families to recruit 60 girls, retaining them in the upper grades with scholarships and other support. With help from the Ambassador’s Girls’ Scholarship Program (AGSP), which is run by USAID, MED has expanded to 527 girls.

The CSU students were in the AGSP, a part of President Bush’s Africa Education Initiative that is providing 250,000 scholarships to girls.

Expectations for the big three are high: The women are the first in their communities to go to college. During a ceremony before they left, Kenyan elders blessed the young women, presented them for schooling, and gave them land—a gift in Maasai culture usually reserved for men.

“Traditionally, Maasai warriors are given spears to go and bring us cows and make us proud,” said Eunice’s mother during the blessing ceremony. “Because today you are the man—the first born. God has helped us, and, through MED, we are giving you a pen so that you can go and make us proud and bring us more cows, like the warriors did.”

The women were told to come back armed with knowledge to help their communities: “Walk with one foot in the Maasai culture and the other outside.”

CSU President Elnora Daniel said she is committed to the students’ return home and



Maasai Education Discovery Founder Ledama Olekina (third from left) joined Agnes Kainet Kisai, Eunice Sitatian Kaelo, and Evelyn Nashipae Nkadori in December for a blessing ceremony before the three women left Kenya for the United States.

is sensitive to the brain drain that contributes to shortages of trained professionals in Africa.

Nkadori said: “I am the new face of the Maasai girl, and I will do all I can to help educate my community and my people positively, and to ensure that I am a person who will be regarded as a source of hope in my community.”

She and the other coeds say they are

adjusting to their new lives. In a recent email to their hosts at USAID, one reported, “[other students] call us the chicken-eaters because that is all we eat. We don’t recognize anything else. But next week we are going to try something else—something really American.” ★

Aleta Williams and Sharon Mangin Nwankwo contributed to this article.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Haiti’s Storm Cleanup Progresses as Part of \$118M Dedicated to Caribbean Floods

GONAÏVES, Haiti—While much of the world focused on tsunami cleanup efforts in South Asia in early 2005, residents of this Haitian city were trying to recover from their own recent natural disaster.

Tropical Storm Jeanne hit the Caribbean three months before the Dec. 26 tsunami. Low-lying areas were pounded by the initial rains and wind and then deluged when rainwater plunged from the country’s rugged

mountains. Gonaïves and Port-de-Paix, a city at the north end of the island, were leveled.

More than 3,000 Haitians died—including 2,326 in Gonaïves—in the widespread flooding.

Recovery is progressing. USAID has provided about \$118 million to Caribbean countries for hurricane relief and reconstruction efforts, including in Jamaica, Grenada, the Bahamas, and Trinidad and Tobago.

Haiti received \$46 million for two phases of assistance. The first phase used \$8 million for immediate needs, such as food, temporary shelter, medicine, and emergency healthcare.

The second phase provided \$38 million to reconstruct roads, public buildings, drainage canals, homes, and other projects.

Much of the assistance has been channeled through USAID partners CARE, Catholic Relief Services, the World Food Program, and World Vision, said Jerry Barth, senior advisor on Haiti for USAID.

Food distributions continue for approximately 80,000 people each month. Moreover, many of the humanitarian organizations supervise cash-for-work activities, where displaced Haitians are hired for reconstruction projects, often in their own communities.

“In early January, we had as many as 5,000 Haitians working under these programs,” Barth said. “At one time, we had 100 work teams moving and clearing some 15,300 cubic meters of mud from the city centers.”

The storm destroyed or damaged 5,000 homes in Gonaïves and had a lesser impact on 35,000 others. The city’s hospital and almost all of its 397 elementary and 54 secondary schools were damaged as well.

With the entire watershed already denuded because of deforestation, an estimated 70 percent of the region’s agricultural areas were damaged.

“In one neighborhood, as soon as the crew started working, the entire neighborhood joined in with its own tools to assist the cash-for-work crew,” Barth said. “It’s said to be one of the cleanest areas in town.”

Outside of Gonaïves and Port-de-Paix, irrigation pumps are being repaired, seeds are being distributed to farmers, canals are being rehabilitated, and road repairs are being planned.

Other areas are still reeling from the storm, including the villages of Ti Carenage and Etang, where farmers lost 80 percent to 90 percent of their crops. Repairs to a small irrigation canal have improved the situation, but a drought has made other repairs burdensome.

“We have our work cut out in Haiti, but reports are surfacing that many Haitians who did not have access to hospital care are now receiving competent medical attention,” Barth added. “Just as important, some areas of Gonaïves seem to be bustling with even more economic activity than before the floods.” ★



Though flood waters have receded in Gonaïves, Haiti, there are plenty of reminders of the damage from Tropical Storm Jeanne, including this mud-soaked roadway.

ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

Jordan's Stock Exchange Booms with U.S. Support

AMMAN, Jordan—Trading volume over the Amman Stock Exchange (ASE) increased by 400 percent, while the size of the market grew by more than 130 percent during the past five years.

In 2003, the ASE generated more than \$3 billion of wealth for some 500,000 investors, making it the best year in more than two decades. Market capitalization is now more than \$13 billion and represents 136 percent of GDP—a level unusual for developing countries and more often seen in richer nations.

The developments are in part the result of a series of USAID efforts aiming to build up and reform Jordan's capital market sector and its three institutions: the ASE, the Securities Commission, and the Securities Depository Center (SDC).

When established as a private, independently run market in 1997, Jordan's capital market suffered extensive problems of insufficient liquidity, a weak regulatory system, and a poorly functioning trading system and securities depository. Paper-based trading and accounting systems were error-prone and inefficient. This slowed trading volume and led to declining investor confidence.

But with USAID support since 1999,

- introduced a new securities law
- updated legislative bylaws and regulations to meet global standards

- opened Jordan's securities markets to foreign investment
- put in place technological systems to protect investors

The SDC is now responsible for the registration, safekeeping, transfer of ownership, deposit, and clearing and settlement of all securities traded on the ASE.

USAID also introduced a computerized system and central registry as replacement for the existing paper-based stock trading system. The ASE now offers remote real-time trading and market information and instantaneous quotes, enabling Jordan's capital markets to compete in the international securities arena.

The Securities Commission, ASE, and SDC are now connected to hundreds of brokers and list companies through a network created and installed by a USAID project.

"The new system is more fair and efficient, and our customers are much more satisfied and have started to invest even more with us," said Amer Mouasher of the Jordan National Bank brokerage firm.

USAID/Jordan has funded training to help market participants use new technologies. The mission has also coordinated public awareness campaigns about the new regulations and investment opportunities and created websites with information on investor protection laws, market data, and company information.



Investors look at the new plasma screens provided by USAID to automate the Amman Stock Exchange dealings and provide real-time stock data and market news.

Dr. Bassam Saket, executive chairman of the Securities Commission said, "USAID is our link to the benefits of international experience and lessons learned from abroad. Also, it has been our partner in developing our market to international standards."

In recognition of its compliance with international trading standards, the ASE in 2004 was made an affiliate member of the World Federation of Exchanges. It will become a full member after enacting a few additional runs and policies. ★

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Albanian and Serbian Kosovars Working to Build Roads and Future Together

HOQE E MADHE/VELIKA HOCA, Kosovo—Ethnic Albanian and Serbian Kosovars in this village—called by its Albanian and Serbian names because Kosovo has no official language—worked together for a month last fall to pave the village's main road.

It is one of 42 USAID-funded infrastructure projects that help these ethnic groups,

as well as Roma, Bosnians, Turks, and other minorities, work together.

A \$2.5 million grant to Mercy Corps over the past year encourages people of various ethnicities to return home and live together peacefully following the 1999 conflict. It is helping communities learn how to lobby higher officials for services, hold public

meetings, determine local priorities, conduct an open bidding process, and manage projects like paving a road.

The concepts seem to have taken hold, U.S. officials say.

In the town of Kamenice/Kamenica, Serbian, Albanian, and Roma Kosovars took a month in the fall of 2004 to build a simple sewerage system.

"Were I to live here another 10 years, I am sure that without this project I wouldn't have had the chance to make these contacts with people of different ethnicities," said resident Hajdin Krivaqa. "But now we have done it, and we have established very good relationships with each other."

In Budrige e Ulet/Donje Budriga, residents worked to build a school annex.

Nebojsa Savic, a Serbian Kosovar from the community working group, said villagers learned about selecting a company based on qualifications, not along ethnic lines. "We will always give our vote to the best company bidding, even if it is an Albanian (Kosovar) company," he said.

Serbian forces in 1999 tried to push out ethnic Albanians living in the Serbian region of Kosovo, creating an international conflict that ended with a NATO-led bombing campaign. Since then, Kosovo has been governed

by the U.N. Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo. About 90 percent of Kosovo's 1.9 million residents are ethnic Albanian.

Since 1999, many Serbian Kosovars left for other Serbian lands. But as villages in Kosovo try to rebuild themselves, some are coming back.

Esat Haxhijaha, an Albanian Kosovar who is mayor of Rahovec/Orahovac municipality spoke in Serbian to Serbian Kosovars at a recent road dedication: "We welcome everybody to come back and live together. We are at the point we have to think for the future."

Before the conflict, Rahovec/Orahovac was home to some 5,000 Serbs. Today only about 1,200 remain. Many of the Albanians who used to live in the municipality were killed by Serb forces during the conflict.

At the road dedication in Hoqe e Madhe/Velika Hoca in late 2004, the six Kosovars who worked together on the road paving project posed together for a photograph, smiling. Among them were Serbian Kosovars and Albanian Kosovars.

"This project...is not just about infrastructure—it's a project about bringing people, communities, and municipalities together," said USAID/Kosovo Mission Director Ken Yamashita at the dedication ceremony. ★



Left to right: Vahdet Kadiri (municipal engineer), Myrvet Derguti (municipal director of planning and development), Kujtim Thaqi (contractor-owner of the company Euroing), Muharrem Thaqi (employee of company), Zlatko Nakalamic (member of community working group), and Hetem Geci (MISI project engineer).

January 23, 2005—March 5, 2005

REASSIGNED

Christine Adamczyk
Egypt/HRH to DCHA/DG/CS

Gerald Richard Andersen
COMP/FS/Reassign to EGAT/EG/EDFM

Cheryl A. Anderson
COMP/NE/OJT to Eritrea/D

Jeffrey M. Borns
DCHA/OFDA/DRM to AFR/EA

Carolyn B. Bryan
Fry to Iraq/PO

Katherine Crawford
GH/OHA/SPER to COMP/LWOP

Laurel K. Fain
COMP/NE/OJT to CA/HP

Gary F. Fuller
REDSO/ESA/FFP to USAID Rep/East Timor

Willard L. Grizzard
COMP/FS/Reassign to DCHA/PPM

Philip D. Horschler
OIG/A/PA to RIG/Pretoria

Lee Jewell
RIG/Budapest to RIG/Dakar

Melissa A. Jones
COMP/NE/OJT to Ethiopia/SSS

Lynn A. Keays
COMP/LWOP to PPC/SPP/SRC

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

Jaroslav J. Kryschal
India/RCO to PPC/SPP/SRC

Sarah Ann Lynch
LAC/CAM to LAC/SA

Andrew M. Maxey
EGAT/PDAM to LAC/CAM

Steffi E. Meyer
Egypt/SCS/SCR to Egypt/PO

Kermit C. Moh
AA/LAC to Panama/PPEP

Charles S. Morgan
WB/Gaza to COMP/FS/Reassign

Linda E. Morse
AA/GH to COMP/FS/Reassign

Catherine N. Niarchos
Honduras/MDI to DCHA/DG/SAR

Walter E. North
India/DIR to AA/ANE

Sally Jo Patton
Haiti/PCPS to COMP/FS/Reassign

Robert S. Powers
COMP/NE/OJT to RS/Africa/PPD

Tim C. Riedler
GC/ENI to RSC/OD

Lauren K. Russell
COMP/NE/OJT to Russia/PPD

Laszlo F. Sagi
OIG/I/LAC-E&E to RIG/Pretoria

Brant A. Silvers
PPC/SPP/SPA to AFR/DP

Hermione R. Slaughter
M/FM/LM to M/FM/CAR

Donald R. Soules
LAC/SPM to LAC/SPO

Gloria D. Steele
AA/E&E to AA/GH

Scott M. Taylor
Colombia to Pakistan/PDO

Gary L. Vaughan
EGAT/PAICO/CKM to PPC/DEI/ESPA

Roger Yochelson
Malawi/D to COMP/Detail/SUP

Jessica H. Zaman
COMP/NE/OJT to Mozambique/DI

PROMOTED

John J. Abood
Susan Bradley
Bernadette G. Bundy
Marc L. Douglas
Robin Y. Galery Todd
Diane M. Howard
Sharon M. Jones-Taylor
Minhtam Le
Wanda Taylor

RETIRED

Peggy J. Brannon
Craig G. Buck
George M. Dykes III
James R. Ebbitt
Patricia R. Johnson
Joan C. Larcom

MOVED ON

Kenneth Duckworth
Franklin F. Gunn
Barbara W. Hughes
Kimberly Hunter
T. David Johnston
N. Kumar Lakhavani
Eugene Lin
Barry James MacDonald
John Marshall
Raquel C. Powell
Jolyne Sanjak
Sandra Sanna
James P. Taylor
Roger P. Winter

IN MEMORIAM

David Charles Denman, 74, died Feb. 28 in Murrieta, Calif. He spent 25 years with USAID in Vietnam, Colombia, the Philippines, Washington, and, finally, Indonesia, where he retired in 1991 as a population development officer. Denman held a master's degree in journalism from Wayne State University. He was a sergeant in the Air Force and served during the Korean War.

Sumner Gerard, 88, died Feb. 24 in Vero Beach, Fla. He was named USAID's mission director in Tunisia in 1970. Four years later, he was appointed ambassador to Jamaica, where he served until 1977. A graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge University, Gerard served in the Army, Navy, and Marine Corps during World War II. Later, he became a cattle rancher in Montana, where he was also a Republican legislator from 1956 to

1960 and 1962 to 1966. In 1969, Gerard was appointed a delegate to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Afterward, he moved to Florida to pursue his interest in maritime affairs, becoming an adjunct professor of maritime archaeology at the University of Miami.

Betty J. Healy, 84, died Oct. 22, 2004, in Albuquerque, N.M. She was born in Oklahoma and settled in New Mexico before joining the foreign service in the late 1960s. Healy served overseas with USAID missions in Somalia, Turkey, Korea, Indonesia, and Kenya. She also served on detail to the State Department with the Foreign Service Grievance Board in Washington and the U.S. Embassy in Romania. She retired in 1985 as a foreign service secretary.

EGAT Chief Emmy Simmons Retires After 27 Years at Agency

"I gave it my best shot," said Assistant Administrator for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade (EGAT) Emmy Simmons, who retires in April after 27 years at USAID.

She has not yet figured out what kind of work to do next, but is looking forward to a sailing trip in May with her husband Roger, a retired USAID officer.

Simmons said her greatest accomplishments were working in Mali in the mid-1980s and, more recently, her work while heading the EGAT bureau.

In Mali, Simmons, representatives of other donors, and local advisors persuaded the government to liberalize the cereal market. Until that point, food prices were kept artificially low for urban consumers at farmers' expense. Crop prices were so low, farmers had little incentive to produce surplus for sale.

Reforms moved slowly at first because the government had to be assured that its withdrawal from the market would not

lead to disaster, Simmons said. Assuring the government that food aid would be available, if needed, helped move reforms along.

Once plagued by famine, Mali now produces enough grain for its own market and exports rice to neighboring Burkina Faso.

Simmons worked in several other field and Washington positions since Mali, returning in 1997 to head the Global Bureau's Center for Economic Growth and Agricultural Development and, in 2002, taking the helm of the new pillar bureau, EGAT. In that role, she said she "tried to build connections across disciplines."

Simmons' first international assignment in the early 1960s was with the Peace Corps as an English teacher in the Philippines. She then went to Cornell University for a master's degree in agricultural economics. She later joined her husband Roger—at the time a USAID contractor—in Nigeria and then Liberia.

Simmons joined USAID in 1977, working with the Office of Nutrition and then with the Bureau for Policy Planning and Coordination. Her husband joined the Agency in 1980. Being a tandem couple limited the jobs they could take.

Looking at the problems facing developing countries today, Simmons thinks that the challenges they face are greater than when she started her career.

But the growing interest among younger generations of Americans in international development work encourages her and gives her confidence that the United States will stay engaged in the effort of promoting prosperity throughout the world, she said. ★



Chuck Palatine, USAID

EGAT's Emmy Simmons is retiring from USAID in April.

Corporations Join Mexican Group to Fight AIDS in Workplace

MEXICO CITY—Thirteen multinational companies have joined Mexico's National AIDS Business Council to reduce HIV/AIDS stigma in the workplace.

The council—Consejo Nacional Empresarial sobre SIDA, or CONAES—will work with chambers of commerce, local health experts, and the National AIDS Program to reduce stigma and discrimination in the workplace.

“Because of the support from USAID, there is a national business council uniting large employers, chambers of commerce, government agencies, and AIDS activists in a joint mission to reduce HIV/AIDS discrimination in the Mexican workplace,” said Abner Mason, executive director of the USAID-funded AIDS Responsibility Project.

The Agency also supported a corporate survey on workplace policies covering almost half a million Mexican workers.

The project was born after a U.S. congressional delegation visited Latin America in January 2004. The delegates realized that, because of the stigma surrounding the disease, it was difficult for health professionals to work with persons living with HIV and their families and close to impossible to get accurate statistics on the scope of the disease.



Left to right: Abner Mason, executive director of the AIDS Responsibility Project; Belén Espino de Lira, human resources director at Merck Sharpe & Dohme; Antonio O. Garza Jr., U.S. ambassador to Mexico; Dr. Julio Frenk-Mora, secretary of health (Mexico); Adolfo Franco, USAID assistant administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean; and Dr. Jorge Saavedra, director of the Mexican National AIDS Program.

CONAES was founded on World AIDS Day, Dec. 1, 2004.

The business council provides a unique opportunity for many of the key players in the fight against stigma and discrimination to interact with one another in press events, meetings, and conferences, U.S. officials say.

CONAES will host a national conference for its members to present, share, and discuss their HIV/AIDS policies and practices in June 2005 in Mexico City.

The council is currently recruiting additional member companies, all of which will be offered technical assistance through local

NGO partners, at no cost during the first year and for a fee after that. This year's goal is to raise membership to 50 companies.

As CONAES members, each company must commit human and financial resources to reduce stigma in the workplace. ★

Agency Helps Four West African States Share Gas Via Pipeline

TAKORADI, Ghana—A partnership between four African countries and several utility conglomerates to build a regional gas pipeline marks the first time USAID has ventured into the world of private sector oil and gas development under a shared legal and regulatory framework.

Backers of the West African Gas Pipeline (WAGP) recently broke ground here for the \$617 million, 693-kilometer (420-mile) project that is slated to begin operating in 2007.

The pipeline will take gas from Nigeria's Niger Delta, where it is currently being flared into the air (burned off), and transport it to Benin, Togo, and Ghana. The gas will be an alternative fuel source to oil and will lower pollution—especially carbon dioxide emissions. The project is expected to produce a maximum of 470 million standard cubic feet of gas per day.

“In many respects, the WAGP has posed major challenges,” said Frank Young, who headed USAID/Ghana at the inception of the project. “It was a challenge for the four participating countries, particularly the three without previous natural gas experience. They made a commitment to link their energy policies, betting on clean gas rather than oil to produce much needed electricity that is the key to the future economic prosperity of their people.”

When WAGP project backers requested assistance, USAID signed a protocol with the Economic Community of West African States Secretariat, the body that facilitated the pipeline deal.

USAID also brought in the global energy

consulting firm Nexant to deliver training, capacity building, and negotiation support to the project. Their experts in the field trained more than 50 West African government executives, and the primary terms of the project concession agreement have been signed.

Several other events led up to the Dec. 3, 2004, groundbreaking ceremony: A treaty was signed by the four heads of state in Dakar, Senegal; an international project agreement was signed by the ministers of energy and West African Gas Pipeline Co. Ltd. (WAPCo); and an Interim WAGP Authority was created. The company's shareholders gave the final go-ahead in mid-December 2004.

“The West African Gas Pipeline project demonstrates what can be achieved through cooperation and partnership amongst neighboring countries on the one hand, and private sector on the other,” said Funso Kupolokun, chairman of WAPCo's board, after shareholders approved the construction plan. “It is also a practical demonstration of the spirit of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, to which our four countries subscribe.”

Following the final investment decision, the WAPCo executed contracts for line piping, engineering, procurement, and construction. Officials planned to officially launch the WAGP Authority by early April in Abuja, Nigeria.

ChevronTexaco Corp., Nigerian National Petroleum Corp., Royal Dutch/Shell, the Volta River Authority, Bengaz, and Société Togolaise de Gaz are participating in the project. ★



KALMUNAI, Sri Lanka—Men repair a fishing boat damaged by the tsunami as they prepare to resume work about a month after the disaster. USAID has pledged to help repair hundreds of the area's boats.



BANDA ACEH AIRPORT, Indonesia—Relief flights from many countries and organizations unload food, medicine, trucks, excavators, and other relief supplies and equipment needed to clear roads and deliver aid.

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

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

Jeffrey Grieco, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs

Steve Tupper, Chief of Publications

FRONTLINES EDITORIAL BOARD

Ben Barber

Editorial Director

Kristina Stefanova

Acting Deputy Managing Editor

Rebecca Gustafson

Online Editor

Pat Adams

Photo Librarian

Mary Jane Cotter

Human Resources Coordinator and Employee Liaison

Contributing writers, editors, and staff include

Raghu Bommasamudram, Rick Marshall, Claire McIntyre, Angela Rucker, John Waggoner, Ronnie Young

FrontLines correspondents and reporters include

AFGE—Jeremiah Perry; **AFR**—Christine Chumbler, Ranta Russell;

AFSA—William Carter; **ANE**—Lori Severens;

DCHA—Jenny Marion; **EGAT**—Veda Lamar, Kathryn Stratos;

E&E—Sarah Berry, Brock Bierman; **EOP**—Gloria Blackwell;

GC—Tim Riedler; **GDA**—Dan Killian, Kerry Ann Hamilton, Dan Runde;

GH—Chris Thomas; **IG**—Donna Rosa; **LAC**—James Carey;

LPA—Barbara Bennett; **M**—Nancy Barnett;

OSDBU—LaVerne Drummond; **PPC**—Joseph Duggan;

SEC—Randy Streufert.

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

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

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

Excess U.S. Government Property Gets New Life as Overseas Aid

Thousands of Jamaicans left homeless by hurricane Ivan last September were provided tents to use as shelter in the immediate aftermath of the storm. More recently, large cargo trucks were able to traverse treacherous terrain in the vast jungles of Guyana to deliver food and supplies to victims of another storm that caused heavy flooding.

The tents and cargo trucks were provided by Food for the Poor (FFP), a private voluntary organization (PVO) that received the supplies and equipment through a USAID program. Established by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, the program is administered by USAID's procurement office, which serves as the liaison for transferring U.S. government property to PVOs—more commonly known as NGOs—for use in overseas projects.

"Through a transfer agreement with USAID, our organization has received donated excess property for over 15 years," said Cliff Feldman, a program specialist with FFP, which provides humanitarian aid and development assistance to poor people in 14 countries throughout Latin America and the Caribbean.

Excess property—be it computers, tents, respirators, or staplers—is available from various federal government agencies, and is available for use by PVOs who register with USAID. Excess property is regularly listed on websites maintained by the General Services Administration and the Department of Defense.

Welford Walker, who has run the day-to-day operations of the program for nearly 20 years, noticed recently that the Department of Defense's list mentioned a new cardiac machine located at a U.S. Army base in Germany. He made a phone call, and was told that the base had ordered two of these machines and only needed one. Walker then notified the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), which in November

took the machine and donated it to the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital in Ghana.

The machine, the first of its kind in the West Africa region, is valued at \$1.6 million. It is a critical piece of medical equipment that will diagnose heart and blood disorders in Ghana, where cardiovascular disease is becoming a major health problem leading to death and premature illness, Walker said.

The Agency also recently facilitated the donation of incubators through the PVO Healing Hands International for hospitals in the Ukraine.

"This program allows us to find equipment and supplies for overseas programs that otherwise would end up in a landfill," said Dr. Ed Enzor, director of operations at Healing Hands. "This is an exciting form of foreign aid and goodwill at no cost to the U.S. government."

Some \$30 million to \$35 million in excess property was donated to PVOs during each of the last three years said USAID Program Manager Renata Cameron.

Everything from vehicles to medical equipment and clothing is passed along to organizations such as Feed the Children, Salesian Missions, and Catholic Relief Services. Some 87 percent of all excess property—worth more than \$31 million—transferred during 2004 went to faith-based organizations.

Excess property is for use only by USAID missions and PVOs in USAID-financed or authorized recipient-financed programs worldwide. Registered PVOs must have a specific existing need for the requested property in its programs overseas, receive USAID mission or embassy certification of the donations, and pay shipping costs.

For more information, search "PVO Registration" at www.usaid.gov. ★

Nancy Barnett contributed to this article.

U.S. Boosts Aid For Sudan

Following the signing of the peace agreement between the government of Sudan and the southern rebels in January of this year, the United States is increasing efforts to assist the transition process, anticipating the return of displaced people.

Since 1983, the United States has provided more than \$2.9 billion in humanitarian assistance to Sudan. USAID spent \$284.4 million in 2004, and is spending \$294 million in 2005 for programs in Sudan not related to Darfur, where a separate ethnic conflict continues.

Most of those funds are being used to build up the southern part of the country, said Ami Henson, USAID Sudan specialist.

Southern Sudan has been decimated by the 21 years of war between the government, which is based in the mostly Islamic north, and the Sudan Peoples' Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), which is based in the mostly Christian and animist south. Thousands were displaced from their homes during the fighting, but are now returning.

In 2004, more than 400,000 returnees came south. Estimates suggest this year that as many as 1.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) will head back to their homes.

The fear is the returning IDPs will overwhelm the resource-depleted south.

Even the most basic building blocks of society, such as roads and commercial enterprise, are nearly nonexistent.

USAID, which is working out of its mission in Kenya, and other groups providing humanitarian assistance must fly in aid for even short distances because it is nearly impossible to transport goods by truck.

"It's hard to fathom the lack of infrastructure," Henson said, describing markets and government buildings made of mud rather than concrete.

USAID has been helping the country prepare for peace long before the official documents were signed in January. The Office of Transition Initiatives created South-to-South dialogues for former combatants to talk over their grievances. The Agency

is helping integrate former rebels into the government and civilian life. USAID is also providing technical advisors to several Sudan ministries, helping write a constitution, and holding focus groups with the Sudanese that should produce advice for their new leaders. There are also programs tackling healthcare, economic recovery, and education—a key point for the Sudanese. The literacy rate is low and there are few people able to carry out vital civil service jobs.

"It was a huge issue in the peace negotiations," Henson said. "Generations have not had an education."

While the challenges are daunting, Henson has seen some small successes in the south.

Markets are changing for the better, and some isolated areas are beginning to open up, she said.

Still, expected increase in the flow of returning populations this year is likely to strain aid agencies without the financial aid promised.

There is also worry that ethnic tensions could reignite in the transitional zone—an artificial line that divides the country and crosses Abyei, the Nuba Mountains, and Blue Nile. "It acts like a fault line of an earthquake," Henson said.

If conflict erupts there, it is likely to spread instability to the rest of the country, halting reconstruction efforts throughout the south. ★

Even the most basic building blocks of society, such as roads and commercial enterprise, are nearly nonexistent.

Rice Sworn In as 66th Secretary of State

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was sworn in at the State Department by President Bush Jan. 28, 2005. Excerpts from their remarks follow:

President Bush:

"Colin Powell leaves big shoes to fill at the State Department, but Condi Rice is the right person to fill them. As National Security Advisor, she has led during a time when events not of our choosing have forced America to the leading edge of history. Condi has an abiding belief in the power of democracy to secure justice and liberty, and the inclusion of men and women of all races and religions in the courses that free nations chart for themselves...."

"Freedom is on the march, and the world is better for it. Widespread hatred and radicalism cannot survive the advent of freedom and self-government. Our nation will be more secure, the world will be more peaceful, as freedom advances. Condi Rice understands that...."

"No nation can build a safer and better world alone. The men and women of the State Department are doing a fine job of working with other nations to build on the momentum of freedom. I know our nation will be really well served when the good folks at the State Department join with Condi Rice to face the many challenges and opportunities that lie ahead."

"In the coming months and years, we must stop the proliferation of dangerous weapons and materials. We must safeguard and expand the freedom of international marketplace and free trade. We must advance justice and fundamental human rights. We

must fight HIV/AIDS and other diseases and reduce poverty.

"Each task will require good relations with nations around the world, and each will require a secretary who will lead by character and conviction and wisdom. To meet these times and tasks, America has its best in Dr. Condoleezza Rice, now Secretary Condoleezza Rice, our 66th Secretary of State."

Secretary Rice:

"I'm honored by your confidence in me, Mr. President, and I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity you've given me to serve as this country's 66th Secretary of State...."

"In the past four years, America has seen great trials and great opportunities. Under your leadership, Mr. President, our nation has risen to meet the challenges of our time, fighting tyranny and terror and securing the blessings of freedom and prosperity for a new generation."

"Now it's time to build on those achievements to make the world safer and even more free. We must use American diplomacy to help create a balance of power that favors freedom...."

"The enduring principles enshrined in our Constitution made it possible for impatient patriots—like Frederick Douglass, and Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King—to move us ever closer to our founding ideals. And so it is only natural that through the decades America would associate itself with those around the world who also strive to secure freedom for themselves and for their children."

"September 11, 2001, made us see more



President Bush listens to incoming Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, right, Jan. 28, 2005, at the swearing-in ceremony for Rice at the State Department in Washington.

clearly than ever how our values and our interests are linked and joined across the globe. That day of fire made us see that the best way to secure a world of peace and hope is to build a world of freedom...with the efforts of all those around the globe who share our love of liberty...."

"Under your leadership, Mr. President, we at the Department of State will conduct a foreign policy that sees the world clearly as it

is. But, Mr. President, we will not accept that today's reality has to be tomorrow's. We will work in partnership with allies and reformers across the globe, putting the tools of diplomacy to work to unite, strengthen and widen the community of democracies."

"Mr. President, you have given us our mission, and we are ready to serve our great country and the cause of freedom for which it stands." ★

Requesting Your Help to Honor Those Who Served

The Agency is working on a special memorial project to honor USAID colleagues whose lives were lost in the line of duty over the past 50-plus years. Your assistance is requested to identify immediate family members and to share contact information with us for the purpose of inviting them to a dedication ceremony in the near future. To assist this project and share such information, please contact Luigi Crespo, LPA/Special Events & Protocol at 202-712-4024 or via email at lcrespo@usaid.gov.

Walter Eltringham, 1951, Korea

Ralph B. Swain, 1953, Mexico

Everett D. Reese, 1955, Vietnam

Kevin M. Carroll, 1957

Dolph B. Owens, 1960, Vietnam

Clyde F. Summers, 1962, Vietnam

W.L. Jacobson, 1963, Vietnam

John B. Cone, 1965, Vietnam

Joseph W. Grainger, 1965, Vietnam

Peter H. Hunting, 1965, Vietnam

Justin B. Mahoney, 1965, Vietnam

John L. Oyer, 1965, Vietnam

Jerry A. Rose, 1965, Vietnam

Rodrigo Santa Anna, 1965, Vietnam

Jack J. Wells, 1965, Vietnam

Normal L. Clowers, 1966, Vietnam

William D. Smith III, 1966, Vietnam

Marilyn Allan, 1967, Vietnam

Frederick Cheydeur, 1967, Vietnam

Robert K. Franzblau, 1967, Vietnam

Donald V. Freeman, 1967, Vietnam

Gustav C. Hertz, 1967, Vietnam

Robert LaFollette, 1967, Vietnam

Dwight H. Owen Jr., 1967, Vietnam

Carroll H. Pender, 1967, Vietnam

Francis J. Savage, 1967, Vietnam

Don M. Sjoström, 1967, Laos

James A. Wallwork, 1967, Egypt

Frederick J. Abramson, 1968, Vietnam

Robert W. Brown Jr., 1968, Vietnam

Albert Farkas, 1968, Vietnam

David L. Gitelson, 1968, Vietnam

Thomas M. Gompertz, 1968, Vietnam

Robert W. Hubbard, 1968, Vietnam

Kermit J. Krause, 1968, Vietnam

Robert R. Little, 1968, Vietnam

Hugh C. Lobit, 1968, Vietnam

Jeffrey S. Lundstedt, 1968, Vietnam

John T. McCarthy, 1968, Vietnam

Michael Murphy, 1968, Vietnam

Richard A. Schenk, 1968, Vietnam

Chandler Edwards, 1969, Vietnam

George B. Gaines, 1969, Vietnam

Robert D. Handy, 1969, Vietnam

Dennis L. Mummert, 1969, Vietnam

Thomas W. Ragsdale, 1969, Vietnam

Arthur Stillman, 1969, Vietnam

David Bush, 1970, Vietnam

Dan A. Mitrione, 1970, Uruguay

Joseph B. Smith, 1970, Vietnam

Bruce O. Bailey, 1972, Vietnam

Rudolph Kaiser, 1972, Vietnam

Luther A. McLendon, 1972, Vietnam

John Paul Vann, 1972, Vietnam

Thomas Olmsted, 1975, Thailand

Garnett A. Zimmerly, 1976, Philippines

Richard Aitken, 1981, Sudan

Thomas R. Blacka, 1983, Lebanon

William R. McIntyre, 1983, Lebanon

Albert N. Votaw, 1983, Lebanon

Charles F. Hegna, 1984, Iran

William L. Stanford, 1984, Iran

Thomas Worrick, 1989, Ethiopia

Roberta Worrick, 1989, Ethiopia

Gladys Gilbert, 1989, Ethiopia

Debebe Agonafer, 1989, Ethiopia

Robert B. Hebb, 1989, Honduras

Nancy Ferebee Lewis, 1993, Egypt

Lawrence M. Foley, 2002, Jordan

Notes from Natsios

▲ FROM PAGE 3

grain prices fell. By purchasing food locally in Afghanistan, we could have helped local farmers, markets, and political stability, while feeding more people with the same amount of money.

Though this would not be feasible in every case, having flexibility to buy food close to where it is needed would allow USAID to prudently use taxpayer dollars to save more lives, support local development, and prevent future emergencies.

The United States is fighting to meet the food needs of people as emergencies are increasing in number and magnitude. Our only choice if we are to combat the alarming trend of food insecurity is to be as prudent as possible in our use of finite resources to meet needs head-on. ★

USAID Official Shot

DARFUR, Sudan—A member of USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART), Marian Spivey-Estrada, was shot and wounded March 22 while working in the region. This is the first time in the history of the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance Program that an official has been shot.

The injured official was traveling in a clearly marked humanitarian vehicle between Nyala and Kass in west Darfur when she was shot in an apparent ambush. Her vehicle was part of a four-vehicle convoy on a road that was considered open by the Office of the U.N. Security Coordinator.

Spivey-Estrada, who was shot in the face, was initially treated in Sudan. At press time, the State Department's mission in Khartoum was coordinating with the African Union and others to arrange a medical evacuation.

U.S. officials immediately asked the government of Sudan and the African Union to launch an investigation.

"DART staff were ordered to Khartoum while the attack was being investigated."

USAID Helps Pakistanis

WASHINGTON—Since Feb. 3, extreme cold, heavy snowfall, and avalanches in northern Pakistan, combined with two weeks of heavy rains and flash floods in the southwestern area of the country, have resulted in the deaths of more than 420 people.

In response to a disaster declaration issued by U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan Ryan C. Crocker, USAID is giving \$50,000 to the USAID mission in Pakistan. The Ambassador's Authority Funds also gave \$50,000.

On Feb. 10 and 13, heavy rains caused three dams to burst, causing widespread flooding. Pakistani government officials believe that over 5,000 houses have collapsed because of the snowfall, but accurate data is not available because of the difficulty in reaching the hardest hit areas.

U.S. Aids Colombia Flood Victims

WASHINGTON—The United States provided \$50,000 to the Colombian Red Cross through the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá in response to heavy rains, extensive flooding, and landslides in the country. The relief supplies include emergency food, potable water, and blankets. A consultant from the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance is also working with the Bogotá mission and local disaster response officials to assess damage and provide additional updates. Some 1,500 houses have been destroyed and more than 27,000 people affected by the heavy rainfall.

Food Aid Heads to Uganda

WASHINGTON—USAID's Office of Food for Peace is contributing \$27 million in food aid to the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) for a new, expanded relief operation, primarily in northern Uganda. The effort is set to begin April 1.

The U.S. contribution, announced by Ambassador Tony P. Hall, will provide targeted food assistance to approximately 2.6 million displaced persons, refugees, and other vulnerable groups in Uganda. The goal

of the expanded relief operation, which will distribute more than 450,000 metric tons of food mainly in northern Uganda, is to contribute to household food security and maintain minimum nutritional and dietary standards among affected groups.

Since 1986, northern Uganda has experienced conflict and insurgency as a result of rebel activity. According to the WFP, more than 1.3 million Ugandans have been uprooted from their homes and live in displacement camps. The ongoing conflict severely undermines food production and food security, even in normally productive agricultural areas.

Higher Ed Grant for Afghanistan

WASHINGTON—The Association Liaison Office for University Cooperation in Development, in cooperation with USAID/Afghanistan, announced a \$119,933 grant to modernize the curriculum and enhance teaching techniques and technologies at Balkh University Faculty of Agriculture, in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan.

The award was made March 16 to Southern Illinois University Carbondale, which is partnered with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the Northwest Frontier Agricultural University in Pakistan.

The goals of the program include developing modern teaching skills for use in the classroom and field, providing up-to-date technical materials, and assisting agriculture faculty to form networks with their counterparts in international, regional, and national universities.

Cuba Project Receives \$1M Award

MIAMI—The Cuba Transition Project, an academic program that examines the issues surrounding that country's transition to democracy, received an additional \$1 million from USAID.

Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean Adolfo A. Franco presented money to the University of Miami's Institute for Cuban and Cuban American Studies during a March 7 ceremony. With this addition, USAID has authorized more than \$3 million for the cooperative agreement with the university.

The project has developed a comprehensive database on Cuban transition issues and published new research and analysis materials in English and Spanish that circulate in Cuba and to the general public. A prime focus of the materials is to examine the experience of other countries that have successfully transitioned from a dictatorship to a democracy.

USAID Security Provisions Get Thumbs Up

WASHINGTON—USAID received the highest grade, an A+, on the 2004 Federal Information Security Management Act (FISMA) report card issued Feb. 16. This is a significant improvement from the C- score the Agency received in 2003. The overall government-wide grade is a D+.

The grades were based on internal assessments by agencies and evaluations by Office of Management and Budget.

The FISMA report cards help Congress assess the government's security progress.

Agencies were graded on how well they met the computer security requirements set out in FISMA, such as ensuring proper password management by workers, restricting employee access to sensitive networks and documents, and creating procedures for reporting security problems.

Phoenix Goes Live in 8 More Missions

USAID's new financial management system, Phoenix, went live in Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Honduras, El

Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua Feb. 15. These missions are in addition to the five pilot locations—Colombia, Ghana, Egypt, Peru, and Nigeria—using Phoenix.

The system is next being deployed throughout missions in Europe and Eurasia, where it is scheduled to go live in July.

Completion of the worldwide deployment of the system is scheduled for April–June 2006. The overseas deployment of Phoenix is a key USAID management reform priority to improve financial management accountability. ★

'Thank You USS A. Lincoln,' Says Indonesian Paper



This "Thank You USS A. Lincoln" headline from Feb. 4 Indonesian daily WASPADA expresses gratitude for the departing aircraft carrier that carried U.S. assistance to Aceh's west coast tsunami victims. The ship transported dozens of helicopters that delivered USAID commodities, including food, water, and medicine to the region. Photo inset shows U.S. military hospital ship Mercy arriving in Aceh waters.

The headline reflects the results of a recent poll of Indonesians showing that favorable views of the United States have increased among Muslims following the U.S. disaster relief response. The poll, commissioned by the Pew Research Center and conducted by Lembaga Survei Indonesia, found that the percentage of those opposing U.S. efforts against terrorism has declined by half, from 72 percent in 2003 to 36 percent today. Other findings include a drop in support for Osama Bin Laden, from 58 percent to 23 percent.

New Quake Off Sumatra

were being transported via ferry to Nias, the Indonesian island off Sumatra, where as many as 2,000 people were feared dead.

The quake did not spawn any tsunamis. To assess the need for aid, an OFDA worker flew to Nias from Banda Aceh, where a major USAID relief effort was still underway for survivors of the tsunami.

After the new quake, Indonesian, Singaporean, and Australian military forces rushed food, water, and medical supplies by helicopter and ship. The injured were evacuated to the Sumatran port of Sibolga, as power and water were cut in Nias.

Indonesia's Vice President Jusuf Kalla said many people were trapped beneath the rubble on Nias, especially in the wreckage of

its principal city, Gunung Sitoli, population 30,000.

The World Food Program sent helicopters and aircraft, and the International Red Cross said a large landing craft carrying body bags, trucks, and supplies was due to reach Nias March 30. Japan said it would send an emergency medical team.

"We already had emergency supplies and partners in the region, so we are able to quickly reach the worst-hit areas with assistance," said Administrator Andrew S. Natsios.

By March 30, the U.S. government had given more than \$42 million in humanitarian and recovery aid to help Indonesia recover from the Dec. 26 tsunami. ★

Ben Barber/USAID