

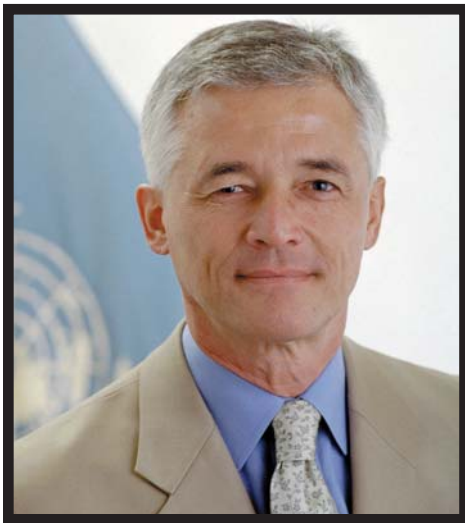
FRONT LINES



www.usaid.gov

U.S. Agency for International Development Employee News

JULY/AUGUST 2003



UN/DPI photo by Mark Garten

“Everything we do must be for the benefit and empowerment of the people and country of Iraq.”

SERGIO VIEIRA DE MELLO

1948–2003

Speech to U.N. Security Council, July 22, 2003

Bomb Attack Kills U.N. Diplomat

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Sergio Vieira de Mello, 55, a leader of U.N. emergency relief and humanitarian operations for two decades, died in a bomb blast at the U.N. compound in Baghdad August 19. At least 20 people were killed and more than 100 were injured.

▼ SEE DE MELLO PAGE 13

DART Lands in Liberia

MONROVIA, Liberia—As international peacekeepers moved to end the civil war in Liberia, eight members of a USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) arrived in the capital Monrovia to arrange for food and medical help for a million residents.

Warring Liberian factions agreed August 21 that businessman Gyude Bryant will oversee a two-year power-sharing accord.

One week earlier, DART leader Tom Dolan said “Today is a day of optimism because the port, after so many weeks of violence, is now open.”

Although Dolan and other DART relief experts have ventured out into the streets, much of the city and virtually all of the rest of Liberia remained unsafe for aid workers; it was unclear what the humanitarian situation was in those areas.

Food stocks belonging to the United Nations were looted from the port earlier, as President Charles Taylor’s forces battled rebels surrounding the city and he arranged to go into exile in Nigeria.

“[USAID’s] Food for Peace is working with the [U.N.] World Food Program to focus on having a general food distribution in the next few days for the most vulnerable—which is the entire population,” said Dolan, a veteran of previous USAID disaster missions in Liberia, Rwanda, and Somalia.

“We are still struggling to see what aid can be provided. Food that remains in the port will be used for the most vulnerable.”

USAID’s Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) chartered a DC8 to fly from Dubai to Monrovia with shelter for 15,000 people, blankets, water containers, and health kits for the International Committee of the Red Cross, which remained at work in the John F. Kennedy Hospital in the capital.

The DART team includes experts in water, food, epidemiology, logistics, and communications, according to OFDA Director Bernd McConnell.

Dolan said that fuel has been found in the port and 1,000 gallons were given to each NGO operating in the capital so they can transport aid workers and supplies.

Among the NGOs that receive USAID funding and have remained functioning in Liberia during the crisis are Oxfam UK, International Rescue Committee, Merlin, and Action Contre la Faim.

The NGOs have been working to provide nutrition, therapeutic feedings, water, and sanitation. “They did an exquisite job under the most difficult circumstances,” Dolan said.

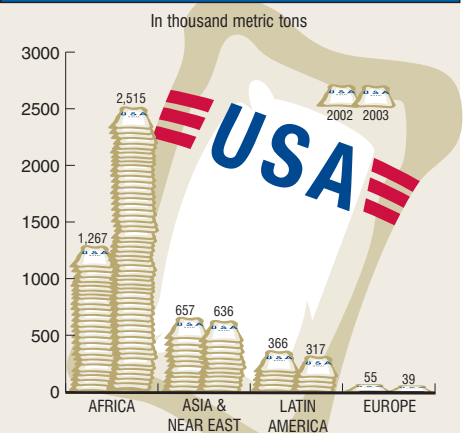
The Nigerian peacekeepers were authorized by the Economic Cooperation Organization of West African States (ECOWAS).

About 200 U.S. Marines also landed in Liberia to get the port functioning and the humanitarian aid flowing.

Despite the withdrawal of rebel forces and the end of military clashes, insecurity remained a problem at press time. ★

www.usaid.gov Keyword: *Liberia*

U.S. FOOD AID SHIPMENTS 2002 VS. 2003



Source: Preliminary Approved Budget Summary Reports for Title II and Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust Commodities

Bush Visits Africa

ABUJA, Nigeria—George W. Bush made his first visit as president to Africa in July, visiting five countries that have received major U.S. assistance through USAID—Senegal, South Africa, Botswana, Uganda, and Nigeria.

“Providing effective aid, promoting free markets and the rule of law, and encouraging greater trade, we will help millions of Africans find more opportunity and a chance for a better life,” Bush said July 12 in Abuja, Nigeria, on the last day of his trip.

In Senegal, Bush visited the Gorée Island slave trading station where Africans were shipped to the Americas. “The stolen sons

▼ SEE BUSH ON PAGE 2

HAITIAN MARKET FLOURISHES



Haitian markets get USAID loans (see “Notes from Natsios” on page 3).

Staffing Plan Set

Administrator Andrew S. Natsios approved a workforce plan June 12 to change staffing levels overseas.

The workforce decision was sent to all staff. It was instituted to “rationalize the placement of our very limited number of U.S. direct-hire overseas staff,” said Dave Eckerson of the Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination, one of the authors of the workforce study that looked at staff requirements overseas and developed a plan to meet those needs.

“This is the first step in a process to have the right people in the right place.”

▼ SEE STAFFING ON PAGE 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

FOCUS ON FOREIGN STUDENTS

PAGES 4–5

1 MILLION TONS OF FOOD FOR ETHIOPIA

PAGE 7

EMPLOYEES ON THE MOVE

PAGES 8–9

- Message from the Secretary 2
- Loan Guarantees Spark Investment 6
- Bosnians Return Home 11
- Disabled Children in Vietnam 11
- Marshall Plan Veteran Honored 13



HOLLY WISE SERVICE MEDAL FINALIST

PAGE 12

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

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



From the Secretary

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell

State and USAID Forge Joint Strategy

The State Department and the U.S. Agency for International Development have one and the same mission: to help shape a more secure, democratic, and prosperous world for the benefit of the American people and the international community. American diplomacy and development assistance are powerful forces for political and economic freedom across the globe. If we are to effectively carry out our shared mission, State and USAID must identify common goals and coordinate efforts to achieve them.

That's exactly what our new FY 2004 to 2009 Strategy Plan will help us do. For the first time, State and USAID have produced a joint plan. It will ensure that diplomatic efforts and development programs are fully aligned to advance President Bush's National Security Strategy. The plan will also ensure that State's and USAID's activities reinforce one another and that resources match policy priorities.

Our combined strengths will center on

four strategic objectives: achieving peace and security, advancing sustainable development and global interests, promoting international understanding, and strengthening diplomatic and program capabilities.

I asked Deputy Secretary Armitage and USAID Administrator Natsios to lead our congressionally mandated strategic planning effort. State's Bureau of Resource Management and Policy Planning Staff and USAID's Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination brainstormed the best approach to take in drafting the planning document. They solicited contributions from other bureaus, consulted with ambassadors and mission directors in the field, and reached out to former diplomats and development experts, leaders of other agencies, and the private sector. By the end of June, State and USAID had blessed the strategic plan. Soon, we will send it to the White House and Congress.

How, exactly, will our plan help State and

USAID work together? The very process of developing a joint strategy has forged new working habits that will make us more nimble and accountable. In accordance with the plan, we will, for example, collaborate on human resources programs and install state-of-the-art technology. We will combine financial systems, blend technology support services, and better integrate annual performance planning.

The plan also will help us do what Deputy Secretary Armitage calls "looking around the corner" to anticipate what's about to hit our windshield and identify the resources we need to move forward.

For State and USAID employees at headquarters and worldwide, the strategic plan will be an invaluable, accessible, one-stop shop of information about our priorities, policies, and programs. Everything each of you does should be influenced by our plan. Tether your initiatives and budgets to it. Refer to it often. I know that I will, and so

will Deputy Secretary Armitage and Administrator Natsios. Remember, it is meant to be a downloaded, dog-eared document, not a doorstop.

"The plan will also ensure that State's and USAID's activities reinforce one another and that resources match policy priorities."

With a copy of the strategic plan at your fingertips, you will have the best guide in decades for how State and USAID are working together to build a safer, freer and better world. ★

www.usaid.gov Keyword: *Joint Strategy*

Reprint from State Magazine, July–August 2003.

Staffing Plan Set

FROM PAGE 1

Staffing for each mission will be determined by the cost of its program according to the workforce plan. An additional factor will be the host country's performance against proposed Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) criteria—investing in people, improving economic freedom, and good governance.

- Missions in countries that perform
- "reasonably well" will get a 10 percent staff boost.
 - "very well" will get a 10 percent cut, since such missions will require less staffing.
 - "poorly" will also be cut 10 percent, since "we need to focus staff allocations where the best results are possible," said the workforce decision memo.

However, Natsios approved a decision to allow regional assistant administrators "limited flexibility" to adjust staffing levels based on security, program complexity, and other factors.

"The [staffing] template marks the first step in our efforts to reform how we recruit, train, and deploy the USAID workforce," Natsios wrote in the Agency notice.

"I want to underscore that this is only the first step in a series of actions we will

"We need to take a fresh look at the way we do business overseas, given our mandate to co-locate in embassies and security issues"

—DAVE ECKERSON

be undertaking to align our human resources with our mission. We are preparing a human capital plan that will address serious constraints the Agency faces in recruitment, training, and deployment of staff."

Eckerson noted that the study found that the Agency "lacks surge capacity to respond to crises such as Iraq and Afghanistan."

"We are preparing a human capital plan that will address serious constraints the Agency faces in recruitment, training, and deployment of staff."

—ADMINISTRATOR NATSIOS

The study also highlighted the fact that Agency costs have escalated as USAID missions have moved inside the grounds and buildings of U.S. embassies. This needs to be addressed through an audit and a possible change in the International Cooperative Administrative Support Services System (ICASS). The State Department uses the ICASS as a means of providing administrative services to—and dividing costs among—U.S. government agencies operating overseas.

"We need to take a fresh look at the way we do business overseas, given our mandate to co-locate in embassies and security issues that are pressing us to have a smaller footprint in many countries," Eckerson said. ★

Bush Visits Africa

FROM PAGE 1

and daughters of Africa helped to awaken the conscience of America," he said.

In Dakar, Senegal's capital, Bush met with West African heads of state and proposed a \$100 million fund to combat terrorism in Africa. Also discussed were African concerns over U.S. agricultural subsidies, biotech food, and education.

In South Africa, Bush visited the Ford Motor plant to discuss corporate efforts against HIV/AIDS.

In Botswana, Bush visited the USAID Regional Center for Southern Africa, one of three centers helping African firms enter world markets, where he talked with small business owners exhibiting their products.

In Entebbe, Uganda, Bush visited USAID-supported projects at The Aids Support Organization (TASO). Escorted by Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni, Bush walked through the TASO clinic and met with people with AIDS, including a children's choral group that sang for him.

"I saw the heroic efforts of African doctors and nurses and volunteers who are

devoted to saving and extending lives," he said later.

In Nigeria's capital Bush visited the National Hospital, where USAID Mission Director Dawn Liberi and the head of the hospital explained how the presidential initiative to halt mother-to-child transmission of AIDS will be carried out.

"The president asked questions and was very engaged," said Assistant Administrator Constance Berry Newman, Bureau for Africa.

The president also visited the microbiology lab and saw equipment provided by USAID. "He saw the close relationship the CDC [U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] and USAID have to the government of Nigeria," Newman said.

Agency mission directors at each country visited did much of the planning for the presidential trip.

Bush is only the third American president to visit Africa. ★

www.usaid.gov Keyword: *President in Africa*



President Bush tours the Southern Africa Global Competitiveness Hub with President Festus Mogae of Botswana.

FIRST PERSON



“Those of us who had to run are coming back, and we see this new market you have helped us start and we feel hopeful. As long as America is with us, we will start our new lives.”

AFGHAN SHOPKEEPER
SHAHIDAN MARKET, BAMIYAN PROVINCE

This man is a shopkeeper in the Shahidan market, which was razed by the Taliban as they fled the region in late 2001. What remained were rows of burned-out business stalls. USAID helped breathe new life into the bazaar by providing materials and labor for rebuilding the market. Just a few months later, these newly opened shops were full of brightly colored scarves, plastic boots, sweaters from Pakistan, and batteries from Iran. The president of the business association reports that 50 stalls have been opened recently; he believes that more merchants will return once spring arrives.

www.usaid.gov Keyword: *Afghanistan*

Notes from Natsios

★★★★★★★★



In July, I visited Haiti and Dominican Republic, two countries that share the island of Hispaniola just 600 miles off the coast of Southern Florida. A long history of poor political leadership in Haiti has left its mark, and most people remain unable to escape extreme poverty—the worst in the Western Hemisphere. Across the border, however, the Dominicans have embraced democracy and free markets and prospered.

The difference between the two countries became crystal clear during a helicopter trip I took along the border with our ambassadors to Haiti, Dean Curran, and the Dominican Republic, Hans Hertell; Assistant Administrator for Global Health Anne Peterson; and Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean Adolfo Franco. We saw lush green forests on the Dominican side and brown erosion and deforestation on the Haitian side.

I'm pleased to report that USAID is involved in a number of innovative programs along the border to cope with the impact of emigration into the Dominican Republic, where many Haitians seek work.

Unfortunately, Haitians will continue to leave their homeland until some hope of a better life can be assured and political obstacles to aid, investment, and economic growth can be resolved. The country's current leadership needs to accept democratic reforms and carry out the economic policy recommendations of the international financial institutions. Until then, Haiti has few prospects for growth and will continue to have great humanitarian and development needs.

One need is for assistance in the fight against HIV/AIDS. Haiti has the highest HIV prevalence rate in the Western Hemisphere. Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services Claude Allen and I helped open the President's Mother-to-Child Transmission Initiative at the Gheskio Clinic in Port-au-Prince, the capital. Haiti is one of 14 countries to receive aid under both the MTCT Initiative and the President's Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS Relief.

On the other side of Hispaniola, many years of commitment to economic reform have paid off. The Dominican people have one of the highest per capita incomes in the area and are moving to join the Central American Free Trade Area (CAFTA).

The United States affects the lives of people in Haiti and the Dominican Republic in many ways. In Cap Haitien, Haiti, I helped open a community radio station that is partially funded with remittances from Haitians living in the United States. Along the border in the Dominican Republic, we met several American high school student volunteers working with the private Amigos de las Americas program, running summer camps for Dominican children and designing new sanitation solutions for villages.

USAID funds excellent programs in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic, but it is clear that a good policy environment, which can only be provided by national governments, is critical to achieving real macroeconomic success. ★

Mission of the Month

SENEGAL

The Challenge

The continuing 20-year armed separatist conflict in the Casamance region of southwestern Senegal was originally fueled by the desire for more local autonomy and a perception of underinvestment by the government. The Casamance area has both the greatest need and the greatest potential in all of Senegal. The resource-rich region's physical isolation and lack of economic opportunity fanned the flames of the conflict and challenged the otherwise stable government.

As the conflict dragged on between the government and the Movement of Democratic Forces of the Casamance, thousands of people were violently uprooted and saw their livelihoods destroyed. Fields were mined and armed attacks—highway robbery and raids on village shops—became frequent. Although a ceasefire is in place between the government and the rebels, occasional incidents such as robberies frighten tourists away from the region.

Innovative USAID Response

In 1999, USAID/Senegal began to support Casamance peace talks by improving infrastructure and providing jobs. Establishing confidence in the peace process was the priority.

People were afraid to talk openly about the conflict. Traditional cultural and sporting events—such as wrestling, dancing, and soccer matches between villages—had not taken place for years because the conflict had created fear and mistrust.

Reviving these dances and traditional sporting events allowed people who gathered to discuss the conflict and recall the village life of previous



Communities in the war-torn Casamance region of Senegal are being rebuilt with USAID support, which also provided motorized canoes that offer public transportation to remote islands.

years. People gained the courage to speak out; for the first time, some approached leaders of both sides of the conflict, appealing to them to end the fighting.

Religion—animist, Christian, or Muslim—is a strong force in Casamance communities. When the armed rebellion started, fighters had been consecrated in traditional ceremonies to fight for independence. USAID's partners approached the priestesses at the sacred sites where the original ceremonies had taken place and helped organize new ceremonies to “undo” the vows and enable the fighters to return to civilian life.

The mission also expanded village “peace zones” by rebuilding more than 750 houses and enabling more than 9,000 internally displaced persons to return home. Schools, wells, and health posts were repaired in 64 villages. Fourteen villages received motorized canoes, the first public transport to remote islands in years.

Small loan programs are boosting agricultural jobs in growing and processing cashew nuts and mangos.

Results

The efforts in the Casamance area to rebuild social infrastructure and reestablish economic activity generated hope that the end of the conflict was in sight. One of the key elements included using local NGOs to work within local traditions and cultural practices to rebuild village infrastructure and enable the internally displaced to return home.

“People in the Casamance have suffered the effects of this conflict for too long,” said Olivier Carduner, Mission Director in Senegal. “Our goal is to give them confidence that they can restart their lives.” ★

www.usaid.gov Keyword: *Senegal*

Leila Abugheida, USAID/Senegal, contributed to this article.

USAID Education and Training: 400,000 Steps Along the Bridge

Since USAID was founded four decades ago, it has educated and trained 400,000 citizens of developing countries, some of them ending up as presidents, prime ministers, judges, mayors, doctors, entrepreneurs, academics, NGO leaders, and agricultural researchers.

Education and training are vital steps along a bridge that leads toward economic growth and peace, giving poor countries expertise and sharing Western ideals while making good friends for the United States.

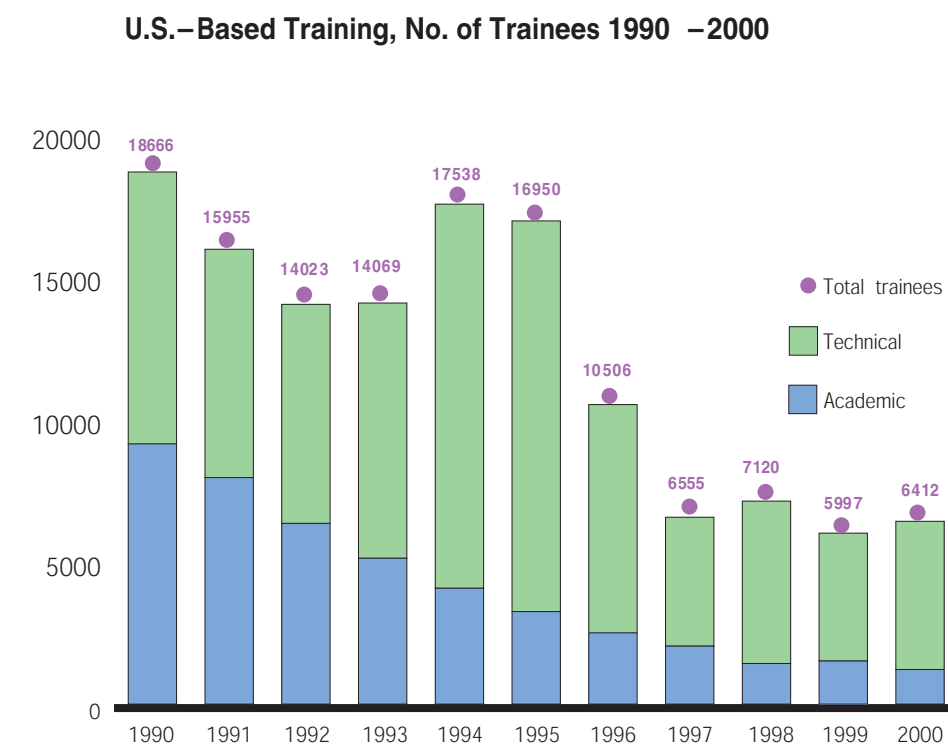
The vast majority of the 400,000, who took short courses or degree programs, have returned home to their jobs and contributed to their countries' development.

Education remains a U.S. foreign aid priority in the fight to reduce poverty, to counter anti-Western movements, to combat the spread of HIV/AIDS, and to replace professionals dying in the AIDS pandemic.

For example, a dozen Palestinians recently gathered in Washington at the offices of the Academy for Educational Development, a USAID contractor, to celebrate their impending graduation from master's degree programs in management and other fields at several universities around the United States.

Armed with their new degrees, the students are poised to play vital roles in developing the new Palestinian state expected to be established once the region is at peace.

In the mid 1980s, the heyday of USAID's education programs in the United States, about 10,000 visiting students attended academic programs in colleges and universi-



ties, and another 10,000 attended short-term technical training courses on topics ranging from management to agriculture to manufacturing to health.

The Agency's recent emphasis on short-term results has pushed missions to cut long-term academic training. From a high of nearly 20,000 participants, roughly 50 percent academic, trained yearly in the United States in the 1980s, the number has now fallen to

less than 7,000, about 8 percent academic.

This decline was greatly exacerbated by cuts in the foreign aid budget and the closing of USAID missions. Also, tough new visa policies since the September 11 attacks make it harder for students from many developing countries to enter the United States.

While fewer now come to the United States, USAID has also helped half a million people each year receive education or

training in their own countries—often from American teachers and trainers sent abroad—or in third countries at universities or centers such as the International Rice Research Institute in the Philippines.

Agency policymakers reasoned that many of the people already trained were capable of teaching others in their home countries at far lower expense than in the United States, where educational costs have skyrocketed and universities are increasingly unwilling to grant foreign students in-state tuition rates.

Many in USAID and its partner organizations are growing alarmed at the trend to reduce study opportunities in the United States, and there is strong interest in increasing the number of academic programs.

"This Agency has eviscerated its training programs that are one of the most valuable tools for development," said USAID education expert Diane Leach.

Education in the United States was once seen as part of the Cold War support for democracy and the collapse of the Soviet block reduced its importance. However, it is again seen as vital in fighting terrorism.

"Now as much as ever, education and training in the United States further our interests," said Ethel Brooks, an education specialist at USAID. "It builds alliances and partnerships for greater sustainability. There is concern that as the cohort of USAID-sponsored participants trained in the United States in the peak years retires, the U.S. will lose development allies." ★

www.usaid.gov Keyword: Education

U.S. EDUCATION PROPELS FOREIGN STUDENTS INTO LEADING ROLES

Below are just a few of thousands of students and professionals who received USAID-sponsored education and have played vital roles in their countries' development. They received either short-term technical training or longer-term, degree-earning academic training for professionals from the public and private sectors. Their most recent or highest position is listed.

Short-Term Training

Bosnia-Herzegovina Highest Position Achieved

Mirsa Muharemagic Ambassador

Bulgaria

Kostdin Paskalev Deputy Prime Minister
Solomon Passi Minister of Foreign Affairs

Colombia

Luis Carlos Restrepo High Commissioner for Peace
Sandra Ceballos Member of Congress

Croatia

Stjepan Mesic President
Ivica Racan Prime Minister
Eljka Antunovi Deputy Prime Minister

Ecuador

Jose Cordero Acosta President of the Congress

El Salvador

Walter Araujo Congressman

Balisario Amadeo Artiga Attorney General
Carlos Quintanilla Vice President

Jordan

Michael Marto Minister of Finance
Marwan Mu'asher Minister of Foreign Affairs

Kenya

George Anyona Member of Parliament
Phoebe Asiyo Member of Parliament
Joseph Mugalia Member of Parliament

Kyrgyzstan

Jakyp Abdyrahmanov Minister of Justice

Madagascar

Narisoa Rajaonarivony Vice Prime Minister and
Minister of Finance and Budget
Andrianalh AndriaRazafy Ambassador to the
United States

Mexico

Julio Frenk Secretary of Health and
Director of National Institute of
Public Health

Morocco

Agzoul Ahmed Advisor and Chief of Cabinet
Office of the House of
Representatives

Peru

Jose Barba Congressman

Romania

Victor Aposolache Senator
Emil Calota Mayor and President of
Municipalities

Zambia

Emmanuel Kasonde Minister of Finance

Long-Term Training

El Salvador

Imelda Jaco de Magana Vice Minister of
Commerce Blanc

Malawi

Yusuf Mwawa Minister of Health and Population

South Africa

William Mothibedi Director of the National Treasury

Zambia

Patrick N. Sinyinza Ambassador and
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

225,000 Fulbrighters Since 1946 Include 28 Nobel Prize Winners

The flagship of U.S. government support for international education is the State Department's 57-year-old Fulbright Program. Twenty-eight Nobel laureates were once Fulbright scholars or fellows, including Paul Samuelson (1970) and Milton Friedman (1976).

In 2002, the program named after the late Sen. J. William Fulbright sent about 2,000 Americans abroad and brought some 2,200 foreign scholars to the United States. Close to 1,000 others renewed their grants.

Several hundred Fulbright teachers participate in one-for-one exchange programs with foreign teachers—exchanging jobs and even housing.

The September 11 terrorist attacks raised interest in the United States in increasing funding for studies in Muslim culture and

language, but the Fulbright program was already deeply involved in such work, according to Barry Ballou, director of the Office of Academic Exchange Programs at the State Department.

The Fulbright program sends new English-language teachers from Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia, and Turkey to the United States, where they are assigned to universities and colleges to set up language programs, Ballou said.

"They are teaching assistants in their language—Arabic or Turkish—and go home as better English teachers and credible explainers of U.S. culture and society," he said.

Some Fulbright grants send Americans to study Islamic civilization abroad as well.

Another branch of the Fulbright pro-

gram—the New Century Scholars—sends grantees abroad for a year to focus on vital topics such as global health, ethnic conflict, or women's empowerment.

The Fulbright program receives about \$120 million per year in federal funding plus about \$60 million from foreign governments and U.S. institutions. Another \$6 million is received in the form of 50–100 percent tuition cuts from state and private universities.

Despite its significant record over the past half century of sending abroad 255,000 "Fulbrighters"—99,400 from the United States and 158,600 from other countries—the budget for the program was cut in 1994 by about 20 percent, and it has never recovered.

On June 19, 1,125 U.S. graduate students

were awarded Fulbright grants to study and conduct research in 140 countries throughout the world.

Patricia S. Harrison, Assistant Secretary of State for Educational and Cultural Affairs, noted that Fulbrighters "contribute greatly to mutual understanding among people of different political and cultural backgrounds. Many have gone on to play influential leadership roles in virtually all fields."

This year's U.S. Fulbright students were selected from among more than 5,000 recommended applicants. Most are graduating seniors, but the group also includes graduate students and developing professionals and artists. Most will spend a full academic year in a host country overseas. ★

<http://exchanges.state.gov/education/fulbright/>

More than a Half-Million Foreign Students Enrolled in U.S. Colleges and Universities in 2002

In 2003, about 580,000 foreign students were enrolled in U.S. colleges and universities. However, less than 1 percent—about 35,000 students—received U.S. government funding, according to the Institute for International Education (IIE). The overwhelming majority are paying their own way.

Some 68 percent of foreign students in the United States either paid themselves or had their studies paid for by their families, the IIE reported in its latest annual *Open Doors* report. Their fees and living expenses bring about \$12 billion a year into the U.S. economy.

About 21 percent of the students received funding from a U.S. college or university. The remaining 10 percent were funded by their home governments, private sponsors,

or international organizations.

In the late 1970s, USAID brought close to 20,000 foreign students per year to U.S. colleges and universities. Though this number is small compared to the number of private foreign students, IIE Vice President Peggy Blumenthal said: "The USAID program was an important drop in the bucket because it targeted future leaders—people who otherwise would not have a chance to come to study in the United States."

"Those who come using family funds are from the elite in societies. USAID picks leaders coming from other sectors, so when leadership changes in a country and the elites are turned out of power, someone in the new government will have been trained in the United States."

While fewer developing-country students and academics come to the United States for higher education, USAID has continued to fund training in country or in region. The IIE, for example, administers large training programs in Egypt for USAID, using U.S. techniques, faculty, and staff.

The most recent annual inventory by the Inter-Agency Working Group on U.S. Government-Sponsored International Exchanges and Training (IAWG) reports 195 programs are sponsored by 52 federal organizations, involving more than 400,000 participants and nearly \$1.3 billion in federal funding.

Another issue in the evolving U.S. role in education for developing countries is that students from the poorest region of the

world—Africa—are not able to come here privately or through their own government aid. No African country is among the top 15 countries sending students to the United States.

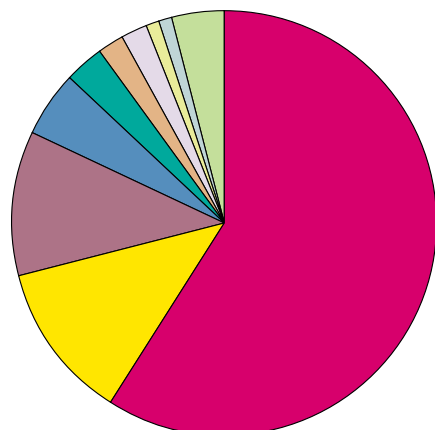
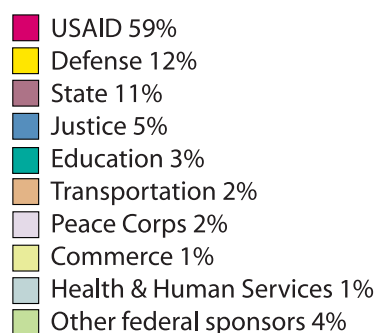
The new security concerns since September 11, 2001, have created another potential obstacle to foreign students heading for an American education. The IIE says, however, that only a few countries have been seriously affected by visa delays or rejections; these include Saudi Arabia, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Egypt.

Many students from those countries have instead been wooed aggressively by educational institutions in England, Australia, and Canada, the IIE reports. ★

www.iie.org

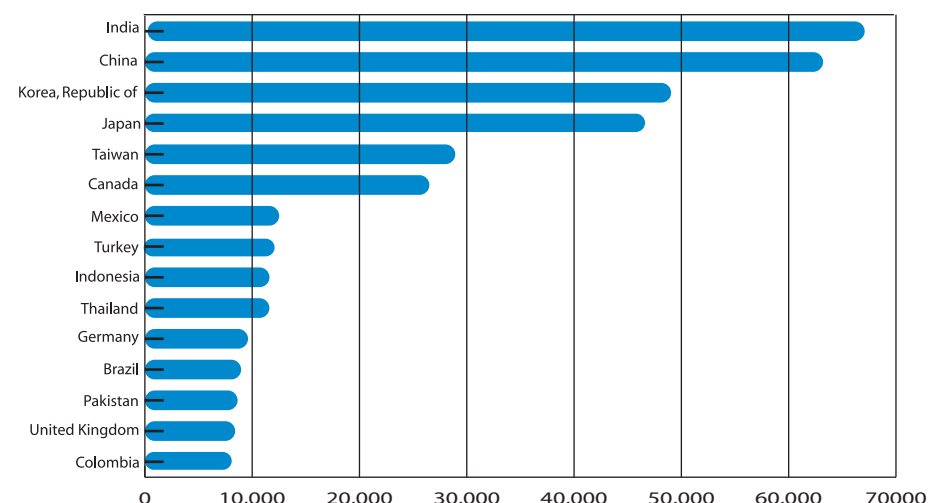
USAID Leads U.S. Government-Funded International Education and Training

In 2001, more than 400,000 U.S. and foreign students were involved in U.S.-funded training and education programs, in the United States and abroad, costing nearly \$1.3 billion. Some 52 federal agencies were involved.



Source: Inter-Agency Working Group on U.S. Government-Sponsored International Exchanges and Training

Foreign Students in the United States by Country of Origin, 2002



Source: Institute of International Education (IIE)

ECONOMIC GROWTH, AGRICULTURE AND TRADE

Credit Guarantees Spark Local Loans For New Projects



Shari Kessler, PADCO, Inc.

An Indian couple, ultimate beneficiaries of a USAID development credit guarantee project, hold up their water bill.

Within two years, some women in rural Upper Egypt will turn on a water tap in their homes, instead of walking long distances carrying heavy water pots or waiting for hours at public taps.

USAID is supporting projects that will provide municipal water that is clean, dependable, and cheap to Egyptian homes.

Throughout rural and impoverished urban areas of the country, water projects are being built through an imaginative loan guarantee tool provided to USAID's Egypt mission by the Development Credit Authority (DCA).

These guarantees mean that the U.S. government backs local private lending to encourage Egyptian capital to be invested in development projects.

Where access to credit is limited or unavailable, DCA is a way for USAID missions to encourage private sector financial institutions to provide local financing for development projects.

In Egypt's water sector, this will mean lower water bills, improved wastewater systems, better customer delivery services, increased water quality, more efficient water meters, and greater encouragement for private firms to compete with public utilities.

Through DCA, the Agency is able to go beyond traditional aid to the poor and stimulate Egypt's private finance sector. DCA guarantees give missions an innovative way to stimulate lending in the private sector without resorting to conventional grant-funded programs.

Using DCA's loan guarantee, USAID/Egypt committed about \$1 million, which sparked about \$56 million in loans by local banks to local businesses for contracts to provide water and wastewater services.

In July, USAID's Credit Review Board

approved nine new guarantees, each representing public-private partnerships between USAID and local financial institutions. Four of these guarantees are for projects in the water and sanitation sectors, and will result in \$73 million in local currency loans, including the \$56 million for Egypt.

The U.S. government backs local private lending to encourage Egyptian capital to be invested in development projects.

The guarantees supported President Bush's Water for the Poor Initiative, announced last year at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg. The summit set a goal of cutting in half the proportion of people without access to basic sanitation by 2015.

The United States proposed investing almost \$1 billion in water projects over the next three years.

Responding to the president's pledge, USAID missions in Morocco and Bosnia have created projects similar to Egypt's. In both countries, small communities that were formerly excluded from private lending sources can now finance improvements in their water systems.

The overwhelming majority of Morocco's urban population is not connected to a sewage treatment facility.

Since its inception in April 1999, DCA has provided more than 50 guarantees that enable the local private sector to channel needed resources to microenterprises, small businesses, farmers, mortgage markets, and now water utilities. ★

www.usaid.gov Keyword: *Development Credit*

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

Earthquake Alliance Helps Armenian Families Build New Homes

YEREVAN, Armenia—Thousands of Armenians left homeless by the earthquake of 1988 are moving out of emergency shelters into new homes and apartments under a housing program created by a USAID alliance with NGOs and U.N. agencies.

The massive earthquake of December 1988 took over 25,000 lives, leaving about 500,000 Armenian families homeless and the country's infrastructure badly damaged. The collapse of the former USSR left the newly independent Armenia with no funds to recover completely from the catastrophe.

Thousands of families were housed in "temporary" metal shelters called *domiks*, which were baking hot in summer and freezing cold in winter.

By issuing housing vouchers and home improvement grants to eligible families still living in *domiks*, the Armenia Earthquake Zone Alliance aimed to stimulate the development of a housing market in Armenia.

USAID Armenia is contributing almost \$31 million to subsidize the housing vouchers and grants and remove the temporary shelters. For every dollar provided through USAID, alliance partners contribute cash or resources worth \$2.75.

The Agency's alliance partners include the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, the U.N. Development Program, the All Armenia Fund, the Norwegian Refugee Council, the Jinishian Memorial Foundation, the Huntsman Foundation, and the Lincy Foundation.

The housing voucher program allows families to buy pre-existing homes on the open market. Housing vouchers have a value based on market prices, which allows recipients to buy an apartment or

house and eventually gain title to the property. Once the beneficiary acquires a house or apartment, he then hands over the temporary shelter. The local government is responsible for removing the temporary shelter and thus vacating the area for public or private use.

The alliance also issues housing improvement grants to complete unfinished houses in rural areas. After the building or house is finished, it is transferred to the beneficiary, who hands over his temporary shelter and acquires title to the new house.

For every dollar provided through USAID, alliance partners contribute cash or resources worth \$2.75.

From 1999 through July 2003, nearly 4,000 housing vouchers were issued. About 2,500 voucher owners have gained title to their new homes. As a result of the grants component, 650 rural families have been successfully housed as of July 2003. In addition, alliance partners have removed 2,204 *domiks* and are coordinating community plans for future land use.

"This program has given thousands of families a new and safe cradle as well as a new life," said Mr. Kamo Khachaturian, Head of the Housing Department at the Ministry of Urban Development.

The Armenia Earthquake Zone Alliance will house more than 10,000 families by summer 2004. ★

www.usaid.gov Keyword: *Armenia*



Construction workers finish the last details as an Armenian family prepares to move into its newly constructed home in its own village with the help of USAID-sponsored housing program.

DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

1 Million Tons of U.S. Food for Ethiopia

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia—More than 15 million people in Ethiopia are suffering from a massive food and health crisis caused by a widespread and severe drought.

An immense response, begun by the Ethiopian government in 2002 and funded primarily by the United States, is keeping a famine at bay that could have rivaled the disastrous famine of 1984, when more than 1 million Ethiopians perished.

Even in a normal year, about 5 million of Ethiopia's 67 million people require food aid. Since 2002, the number needing emergency food aid has grown to 12.5 million, many of whom had not yet recovered from a similar crisis in 1999–2000.

The recent drought and climatic shocks have magnified the underlying causes of chronic food insecurity in Ethiopia: a collapse in world coffee prices, unclear titles to land, and bad roads for getting products to market. Ethiopia also lacks a system of banks, merchants, and truckers to buy and store food surpluses and ship them to regions where harvests have failed.

On July 12, 2002, the government of Ethiopia issued a call for help. It pledged 45,000 metric tons of emergency food aid and dispatched three teams to provide emergency watertankers, nutritional supplements, and veterinary care.

Though this was the earliest ever response by an Ethiopian government to a drought, livestock were already dying; crops were failing; and people were visibly suffering from lack of food, water, and healthcare. Those in direst need had already sold their livestock, seed, and tools to buy food.

By August, 2002, surface water had

dried up, crops and livestock were gone, and deaths of children under 5 had increased.

USAID initially planned to provide Ethiopia with \$27 million of food aid in 2002. The Office of Food for Peace began to send additional food in July 2002. At the same time, another huge effort was underway to rush food to southern Africa, where a drought had put 14 million more people at risk.

Between July 2002 and June 2003, the United States provided Ethiopia with more than \$525 million in humanitarian, food, and other emergency assistance, channeled through 25 relief organizations. Since the onset of the crisis, U.S. emergency food assistance has totaled more than 1 million metric tons.

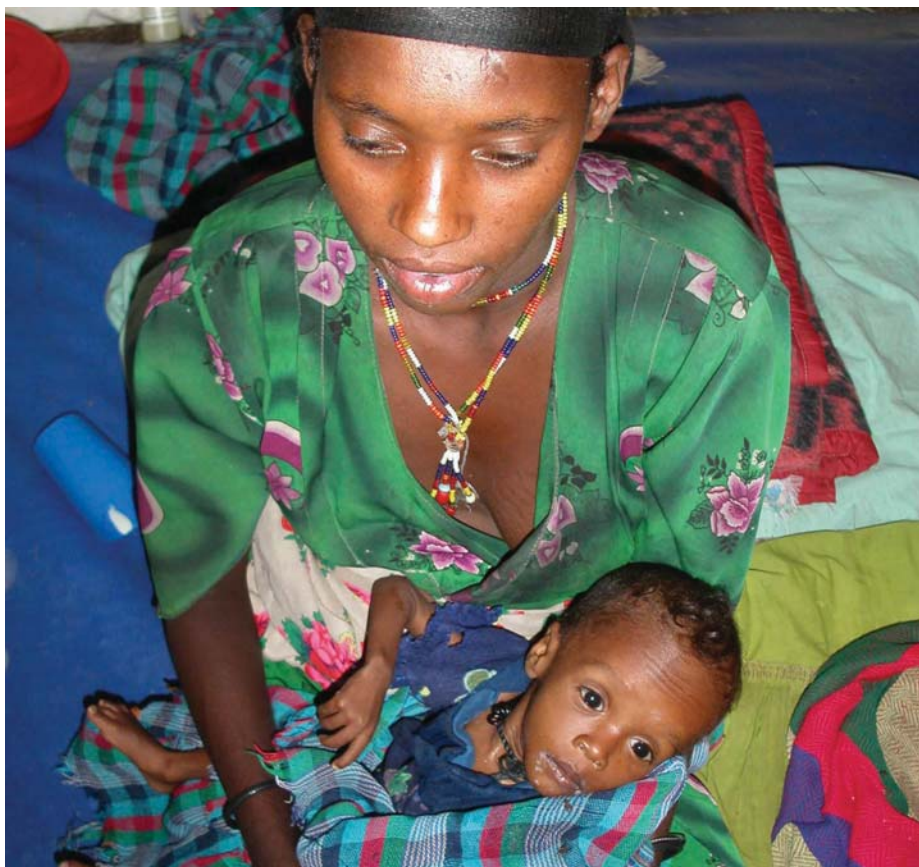
Development and disaster assistance totaling \$44 million has helped with other critical needs, such as water, nutritional supplements, and healthcare.

In July 2003, a team from Tufts University's Feinstein International Famine Center reported that humanitarian assistance had saved many lives, kept families together, and maintained the population's trust in its government.

The assistance enabled families to stay in their homes rather than in famine camps, where the risks of disease and death are greatest. The team also said, however, that the full crisis had yet to unfold and that suffering was greatest in remote areas that government and international assistance was not reaching. ★

www.usaid.gov Keyword: AHC

Tim Shortley, USAID/Ethiopia, contributed to this article.



A widespread and severe drought is causing a massive food and health crisis in Ethiopia. The United States has responded with more than 1 million metric tons of emergency food assistance.

GLOBAL HEALTH

Chlorine Solution Purifies Water and Saves Children's Lives



Safe water treatment protects people's health and reduces the incidence of waterborne illnesses. USAID has financed the production and marketing of low-cost chlorine solution that is sold under brand names such as Clorin, Safewat, and Sûr'Eau.

The addition of a few drops of chlorine solution to drinking water can make the difference between life and death in areas of the world where the water comes from shallow wells, polluted streams, or contaminated pipes.

To enable people in the developing world to purify water at home at low cost, USAID has financed the production and marketing of a low-cost chlorine solution that is reducing deaths from cholera and other diarrheal diseases.

Produced locally and sold commercially for as little as 30 cents, a single bottle can purify a month's supply of water for a family of six.

With USAID support, chlorine solution is sold in Afghanistan, India, Madagascar, and Zambia. The solution is also available to other NGOs for resale in Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, and Tanzania.

More than 1.1 billion people worldwide—about 1 out of 6—have no access to safe water, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). As a result, diarrhea, often caused by unclean water, bad hygiene, or poor sanitation, is the world's second leading killer of children.

"As shocking and terrifying as the HIV/AIDS pandemic is, the lack of access to clean water and sanitation is just as bad," said Dr. E. Anne Peterson, Assistant Administrator of USAID's Bureau for Global Health.

The chlorine solution is part of a safe water system—along with safe water storage and good hygiene—developed by the Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, WHO, and the Pan American Health Organization to disinfect water just before it is used. When added to untreated water, the solution kills most of the pathogens that cause diarrhea and reduces diarrhea episodes 30–50 percent.

Although water can be purified by boiling, firewood and other fuels are often too expensive for many poor people. The chlorine solution, sold under brand names such as Clorin and Safewat, is the low-cost alternative. When produced locally, its manufacture supports the local economy.

Clorin was introduced in June 2003 in Afghanistan, where diarrhea is the leading cause of death among children—25 percent die before their fifth birthday.

Trained volunteers show people how to treat the water correctly. As part of the Safewat project in India, education volunteers went door-to-door in poor Delhi neighborhoods, discussing general hygiene as well as handwashing, which can cut diarrhea episodes nearly in half.

In a refugee camp study, availability of soap in the household, even with no changes in handwashing behavior, has been shown to reduce diarrheal disease in children by 27 percent.

In Zambia, 700 health workers, neighborhood volunteers, and pharmacists have been trained in diarrhea prevention.

In 2003, 3.2 million bottles of the chlorine solution are expected to be sold, preventing 2 million diarrhea episodes. ★

www.usaid.gov Keyword: Water

Employees on the Move

Though the movement of USAID staff around the world never stops, such official migrations tend to peak in the summer for reasons ranging from home leave to school calendars. In missions, reassigned employees are closing one chapter—packing up household goods, saying goodbye to colleagues and friends—and opening the next in concert with spouses and children. It is a process that prompts reflection: on wrapping up one assignment; the accomplishments, satisfactions, frustrations and lessons of the past several years; the friendships and professional relationships established with USAID colleagues and local contacts; and longer-term aspirations as a development professional. *FrontLines* asked a few USAID staffers going through this process to share their thoughts as they move from mission to mission, mission to headquarters, or set out from headquarters into the world of development.

Interviews by Kathryn Stratos

Thomas Johnson *from Washington to Colombia*

FrontLines: How do you feel about going out again?

Johnson: I'm really eager to get back to the field and apply some of the new thinking I picked up here. Working in PPC gave me a big picture, interagency perspective. Interestingly, two years ago I was recruited for the PPC job because of my field perspective! We don't do a good job processing all of the knowledge in this Agency. We need to exchange information on a more systematic basis. For example, the program in Colombia is very interesting—the human rights program, the early warning system. We need to make it better known.

FrontLines: What was it like working and living in Washington after all the years in the field?

Johnson: I definitely experienced culture shock going from a moderately sized mission in Mozambique, where you knew everyone by first name and socialized with each other, to coming back [to USAID/Washington]. And outside of work, my children went from attending a school with 140 kids to one with 1,400 kids.

FrontLines: What are some of the ideas you'd like to apply to the program in Colombia?

Johnson: Well, focusing on governance. The quality of political leadership is such a deter-



Thomas Johnson just finished a tour in Washington, D.C., working as the Democracy Advisor in the Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination Bureau (PPC), after tours in Mozambique, Honduras, and Thailand. He began work as the head of the democracy and governance team in Colombia on July 21.

mining factor. That's what attracted me to Colombia. President Uribe is a promising leader. He seems to be committed to peace and development, but institutions are weak and there is a lot to do. Uribe has a new "domestic security" strategy. Security for Colombians isn't only about the threats from paramilitary and drug lords, but the lack of the rule of law, economic deprivation, human rights abuses. I hope we can help provide this wider concept of security to build a foundation for peace and development.

Elisabeth Kvitashvili *from Afghanistan to Washington*

FrontLines: What did you accomplish in Afghanistan?

Kvitashvili: Working on this program brought me immense satisfaction. There was almost immediate impact. We implemented cash-for-work programs, food-for-work programs, water and sanitation projects, seed distributions. For instance, USAID paid \$1-\$2 a day, employing tens of thousands of Afghans for short periods of time, to fix roads and irrigation systems, rebuild clinics and schools, and get cash back into the economy.

FrontLines: What was disappointing?

Kvitashvili: The donors raised the Afghans' expectations too high. The resources did not match their words.

FrontLines: Were you able to get around and see the projects? Go shopping in Kabul?

Kvitashvili: I traveled all around the country. The regional security officer or his staff would accompany me. I speak Dari. When I was in Pashtun areas, I used a translator. I shopped in the markets and went to people's homes. I have a lot of friends and contacts in Afghanistan because I've worked there on and off for years. Many people in the ministries are former NGO workers whom I know from before.

FrontLines: Did people object to you, as a woman, working and going out in public?



For the past year and a half, Elisabeth Kvitashvili worked for USAID in Afghanistan, serving as General Development Officer. She first worked on USAID programs in Afghanistan in the 1980s and returned periodically in the 1990s. She is now Acting Director of DCHA's, Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation.

Kvitashvili: I went local, wearing *salwar khamis*. I engaged with Afghans all around the country and never had a problem as a woman. No one threatened me or scolded me.

FrontLines: Do you have advice for others going to Afghanistan?

Kvitashvili: We don't listen well enough to the Afghans. USAID officers need to get outside of Kabul and see what we're doing and what needs to be done. Be prepared for incredibly long hours. We worked seven days a week.

Rebecca Black *from South Africa to India*

FrontLines: Have you enjoyed South Africa?

Black: Very much. It's been exciting to work with a government committed to change. They want to deal with poverty; they don't accept it as a permanent condition. It's a great country.

FrontLines: Of what are you most proud?

Black: We put a deal together for a home loan guaranty program for people with HIV/AIDS using USAID's development credit authority. It will help people with HIV/AIDS hold on to their homes by guaranteeing their mortgages and home loans and, at the same time, it will help get people treatment. Basically, in return for mortgage insurance, people agree to get tested for HIV and get medical treatment if they develop AIDS. And the banks agree not to take their property or pension funds away. USAID is sharing the risk with the South

African insurance company for this HIV/AIDS coverage. It's not operational yet, but should get going next year.

FrontLines: Who pays for the testing and the treatment?

Black: OPIC [the U.S. Overseas Private Investment Corporation] is lending money to the South African insurance company to pay for medical testing and treatment.

FrontLines: How did it come about? Are there programs like this elsewhere?

Black: As far as we know, this is a first. Most other African countries suffering from the HIV/AIDS epidemic don't have well-developed mortgage systems, if they have mortgage systems at all.

FrontLines: What did you do for fun?

Black: Well, it wasn't as easy making friends as in Poland, for instance. South Africans are not as interested in foreigners. But through work, we did develop social and professional friendships. The South African professionals are really high caliber, English is a common language, and we worked well together. The natural world in South Africa is amazing. I got into birding and hiking. My husband Greg and I explored the country a lot. It's a spectacularly beautiful country. The resorts are affordable and the camping infrastructure good because there is a middle class here.

FrontLines: How about crime?

Black: At first, I was terrified. It was a good year before I felt comfortable. Now I don't worry, but I am very aware of my surroundings. For instance, if it's dark, I won't stop at a red light for long.



Rebecca Black has served for four years in the South Africa mission, living and working in Pretoria. She is moving to India to head the economic growth office there. She is pictured here with her husband Greg.

Elzadia Washington *from Haiti to Washington*

FrontLines: How did Haiti compare to your other posts?

Washington: Going from Egypt—where I had been for six years—to Haiti was a study in contrasts. Major extremes! In Egypt, USAID's operational year budget was \$750 million; in Haiti, the budget was less than \$50 million. In Egypt, I worked to promote the use of natural gas as an alternative energy source. In Haiti, my environmental project promoted the use of improved wood stoves as a means to conserve energy [charcoal] and the use of kerosene as an alternative to charcoal.

In Egypt, I had excellent professional relationships with the host government counterparts. In Haiti, there were no counterparts, due to a U.S. congressional restriction

that prevented us from working directly with the Haitian central government.

Humanitarian-related assistance wasn't the only place there were significant differences. Understanding the U.S. government's policy toward Egypt was clear and constant, whereas in Haiti, our government's position changed often as current events changed.

Egypt's infrastructure provided basic utilities, whereas in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, one needed a generator to ensure electricity 24 hours a day. Needless to say, living and working in Haiti was far more challenging.

In addition, in Haiti, I experienced my first—actually, attempted—coup d'état.

It started at four in the morning and there was smoke all over the city. It just happened that I was the highest-ranking USAID offi-

cial in the country that day.

FrontLines: Were you scared?

Washington: No, I wasn't. We lived way up in the mountains, away from the downtown area where the presidential palace was located. Our security system was excellent. I was in contact with all of our employees (direct hires, FSNs, and contract staff). Everyone stayed home and stayed in contact with each other. Our senior FSNs and the embassy staff kept me informed of developments. The next day, it was like nothing had happened—except for the burned tires and cars at the major intersection. Vendors and pedestrians were back on the streets. It turned out most of the black smoke came from tires that had been set on fire.



Elzadia Washington returned to Washington, D.C., in 2002, after serving 18 years in the field—in Mali, Belize, Cameroon, Egypt, and Haiti. She will attend the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in August 2003 and hopes to return to the field after that.

Ellen Kelly *from West Bank and Gaza to Serbia*

FrontLines: So what did you enjoy about your tour with the West Bank/Gaza mission?

Kelly: The best part was the people. I had not had much contact with Palestinians before this job and it was a real pleasure, both personally and professionally. It was great to be in a position where, if other things went well, I could make a difference in a long-standing conflict. Jerusalem and the many Bronze Age, Roman, Byzantine in Israel and Jordan were as good as it gets for a person interested in history and archeology. And walking my dog along the Mediterranean every now and then didn't hurt, either.

FrontLines: What were the highlights for you, workwise?

Kelly: The most promising change that we made was opening Palestinian judges up to the possibilities of modern court administration and, indirectly, judicial independence. Our contractor designed dynamite software for processing civil cases. It should make a big difference in tracking cases and monitoring how they are handled.

FrontLines: How did you deal with the second Intifada that started in 2000?

Kelly: I got a dog. Having a dog I could take care of gave me something I might be able to control, when I had so little control over everything else that was going on around



Ellen Kelly served as Rule of Law Advisor at USAID's West Bank and Gaza mission for four years. She lived in Tel Aviv, yet oversaw USAID projects in West Bank and Gaza. She is moving to Serbia to work on USAID's rule of law program. She is pictured here with Mission Director Larry Garber in the courthouse in Ramallah.

me. I followed the advice of the embassy on where to go and not to go. I never felt threatened. I was frustrated that I wasn't able to get into West Bank and Gaza and have more personal contact with counterparts.

FrontLines: How did you compensate for the lack of face-to-face contact?

Kelly: I spent a lot of time on the phone and relied more heavily than usual on the local staff. They were our eyes and ears. And we got creative. Many of our contractors installed videoconferencing in their offices in the West Bank and the mission installed it, as well.

Tracy Atwood *from Kyrgyzstan to Zimbabwe*

FrontLines: So what are your thoughts about leaving?

Atwood: I tend not to think about these things. I continue here with enthusiasm until it's time to go. In the plane, my mind will start the switch to the next adventure, to the challenges in Zimbabwe. I imagine it's a protection mechanism so I don't think about leaving.

FrontLines: What will you look back on?

Atwood: It's a delightful country, the scenery, the people, the opportunities. Kyrgyzstan has a fairly open society. A lot of things are happening. Local government is moving forward. The Kyrgyz held elections in 416 villages and they were

reasonably fair. To the extent there were problems, they were local. There wasn't much time to prepare, yet 6–7 candidates ran in most villages and one-third of the incumbents were thrown out.

FrontLines: What did you do for fun?

Atwood: We did a lot of hiking and climbing in national parks. It's been a great time for the children—all three got to the top of Korona, which at 15,700 feet is the highest mountain in the range, right outside of Bishkek. In a day's time, you can hike up to the glacier and back. My wife met a family at a local Russian church on Christmas Eve and we've been friends ever since. We've shared Thanksgiving—we've

Peter Kresge *from Morocco to Nepal*

FrontLines: How did you like living in Morocco?

Kresge: My wife and I absolutely love it. We speak French and some Arabic, so it's easy to get around and feel a part of things.

FrontLines: What are you proudest of, workwise?

Kresge: I feel best about the collaboration between USAID and the ministries of Health and Education. We were very much on the same page. In education, we developed and piloted material to train primary school teachers and school directors in eight provinces. Quite a few of the modules were brought into the mainstream and adopted as part of the official curriculum.

FrontLines: What did you do outside of work?

Kresge: My wife and I are very involved in amateur theater. When the Iraq war was about to break out, everyone was on pins and needles. In spite of the uncertainty, five of us decided to forge ahead with a British pantomime play. By the time we put it on, 100 people were involved from 10 different countries, including Morocco, Canada, France, and Germany. We put on a two-hour show, complete with singing, dancing, and a live band. In the end, all of us felt very close after having worked so hard together on some-



Peter Kresge served as a General Development Officer for three years at USAID's Morocco mission, working on health, education, and democracy projects. He and his wife Chrish will move to Nepal in August 2003.

thing positive for the community.

FrontLines: How do you feel about leaving?

Kresge: It's devastating! After three years of putting down roots, it's quite painful to leave. We've made a lot of good friends here.

FrontLines: So how do you deal with the disruption?

Kresge: We try to focus on the future and get on with the logistical nightmare of moving. Once the packers are out of our lives and we've got our two Labradors to Nepal, I'm sure we'll love our new home.



Tracy Atwood is the USAID country representative in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. He will be leaving August 24 for his next post as general development officer in Harare, Zimbabwe.

AFRICA

Sierra Leone Diamonds Fuel Peace, Not War

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone—Legal diamond exports from Sierra Leone climbed to \$42 million in 2002—up from only \$1.5 million in 1999. This is helping the West African nation of 5 million recover from a bloody civil war that was fueled in part by illegal gem sales.

But industry experts estimate that the real commercial value of Sierra Leone's annual diamond exports is closer to \$300 million. An estimated five-sixths of all diamonds produced are still being exported illegally, draining a natural resource that could fuel development instead of war.

To monitor diamond royalties and fees, inform miners of the value of stones, halt environmental degradation, and reduce exploitation of miners—especially children—USAID brought together producers, buyers, advocates, government officials, and others in the Kono Peace Diamond Alliance in 2002.

The alliance is working to bring even more of the diamonds to the legal market and secure a bigger share of profits for mining communities. The coalition includes the Sierra Leonean government, industry heavyweight De Beers, diamond mining communities, local organizations, and international donors.

In 2000, 1,200 British military peacekeepers ended the 10-year Sierra Leone civil war, which, according to various estimates, killed 75,000–200,000 people. Many suffered amputations of hands and legs, mostly by adherents of the rebel Revolutionary United Front led by Foday Sankoh, who recently died of natural causes while in the custody of a U.N.-based war crimes tribunal.

Although rebels retained control of many diamond-producing areas, they agreed to end the fighting, allow the

government to control the diamond trade, and abide by a U.N. Security Council ban on illegal diamond sales.

Even before the war, diamond mining in Sierra Leone was rife with exploitation. Groups of “diggers” typically stand knee-deep in watery pits, using shovels and sieves to sift through soil, sand, and water. Miners are in perpetual debt because they have to borrow money to pay rent to local chiefs for mining sites and to cover their living costs.

Smuggling tiny diamonds across a border is easy to do and nearly impossible to detect. The Kimberly Process, a recent global pact, requires that certificates of legal origin be shown prior to diamond sales, but fake documents are widely used.

The Kono Alliance is addressing smuggling and exploitation by connecting miners with internationally recognized buyers. For example, the alliance established an information hub in Kono, the major diamond district in Sierra Leone, which offers training to help miners assess the true value of rough diamonds.

USAID will soon unveil a pilot program that will give miners access to credit at reasonable terms and help them sell their stones to the highest bidder.

Meanwhile, for the first time, mining communities received a cut of the tax revenues from diamond sales to build public structures, markets, and schools. In 2002, proceeds to communities reached \$280,000; in 2003, they are expected to reach a half million. ★

www.usaid.gov Keyword: **Sierra Leone**

Laura Lartigue, USAID/Guinea and Julie Koenen-Grant, USAID/Sierra Leone, contributed to this article.



Laura Lartigue, USAID

USAID has been working with the Kono Peace Diamond Alliance to reduce the exploitation of diamond miners in Sierra Leone and help them sell stones at fair prices.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

“Cup of Excellence” Awards Boost Sales and Prices of Specialty Coffees on the Internet

MANAGUA, Nicaragua—After coffee prices collapsed to the lowest level in 30 years and put more than 600,000 people out of work in Central America, USAID was there, helping to increase sales of high-quality and specialty coffees.

Coffee prices have plunged due to the recent oversupply on the world market when

producers in Southeast Asia began exporting significant quantities of coffee.

Central American growers are also coping with the aftermath of civil wars, hurricanes, low production levels, and aging plant stock.

USAID has cosponsored coffee competitions, endorsed by the Specialty Coffee Association of America, to spotlight high-

quality coffee grown in rich volcanic soils at high altitudes in Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Honduras.

The “Cup of Excellence” competitions, started by the U.S.-based Alliance for Coffee Excellence, Inc., pit the best coffees in a country against each other. National coffee judges—“cuppers”—select 50 coffee varieties from the samples entered by producers, cooperatives, and millers. Then a panel of distinguished international cuppers tests for bitterness, mouth quality, and aftertaste.

Coffees that receive the Cup of Excellence seal are auctioned via the internet to international buyers, sometimes for record-breaking prices. Proceeds go directly to producers and cooperatives, providing much needed revenues for farm equipment and supplies.

The participation of international cuppers attracts attention on the global market. A judge from Japan who cupped at the Nicaraguan competition remarked, “It was a pleasure and amazing to cup your wonderful coffee.... You should achieve great success at the internet auction.”

The international exposure helps small cooperatives and growers with excellent-quality coffee the most because they often are unable to market internationally.

One such cooperative at the Salvadoran Cup of Excellence was the coop ATIASI, which has 430 members, 40 of them women.

ATIASI has a health clinic that provides free services to members' families, a school system including a high school, a housing project (currently on hold due to low coffee prices), and a natural area for ecotourism.

“We always knew we had a good cup of coffee, but we just did not have the means to verify its quality,” said coop president Osmín Aguilar. “The Cup of Excellence has confirmed what we always believed.”

During competitions in Nicaragua in 2002–03, many winners—including the first-place winner—were coffees of small, USAID-assisted producers. Of 37 coffees awarded the Cup of Excellence seal, 22 of their producers had benefited from USAID assistance.

The first-place winner in Nicaragua sold his raw coffee beans for \$7.05 per pound, well above the rates for average or even specialty coffees. Last year's winner, a small farmer assisted by USAID, received a record-breaking price of \$11.75 per pound. ★

www.cupofexcellence.org

By Andrew Murray, USAID/LAC.



A panel of international judges determine the coffees that will win “Cup of Excellence” awards. In the 2002–03 competition in Nicaragua, many winners—including the first-place winner—were the specialty coffees of small, USAID-assisted producers.

ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

Vietnam's Disabled Children Entering Regular Classrooms, Ending Isolation

HO CHI MINH CITY—Vietnam has one of the world's highest proportions of amputees—roughly 1 per 250 people—including many children disabled by disease and unexploded mines.

Gaps in the health and social services systems of this poor country make it hard to prevent further disabilities or care properly for those already disabled.

About 3 million Vietnamese—7 percent of the population—suffer from a disability, according to the Ministry of Health's 2001 estimates.

One in every three children is born with or acquires mental, sensory, or ambulatory disability due to preventable and congenital diseases, malnutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, or accidental injuries.

Though the country's public health service system has extensive rural coverage, it is insufficiently staffed and lacks a good health information system, especially in the high-land regions.

Few people receive rehabilitation services locally. Only 33 percent of Vietnam's disabled children have received some form of treatment, and only 2.5 percent of their families know whether rehabilitation services are

available in their areas.

USAID is the largest donor to disability programs in Vietnam. Over the past 12 years, the Agency has helped provide prosthetics and orthotics, promote rehabilitation, and improve advocacy and policies for the disabled through the Leahy War Victims Fund and the Displaced Children and Orphans Fund.

In the past, children with hearing impairments were often kept at home due to stigma and embarrassment. Now USAID is helping such children attend ordinary schools by funding training programs that help teachers modify their teaching styles, enabling children with disabilities to join regular classes.

Within seven years, the government plans to bring 70 percent of disabled children into regular schools in the next seven years. The process requires participation by education leaders, community leaders, teachers, and the children's families. Local training of teachers and educators has yielded considerable results at preschool and primary school levels, but far more training is needed to reach the 70 percent inclusion goal.

So far, 12 of Vietnam's 58 provinces and three independent cities have received finan-



In Vietnam, USAID is funding training for teachers that enables the integration of disabled children into regular classes.

cial assistance from international organizations for bringing the disabled into regular schools.

In the southern Mekong district, an ebullient woman teacher in a traditional azure "ao dai" dress—a long flowing top over white trousers—commits two to three extra hours each week to ensure that her hearing-impaired student is up to par with

the other students.

The student, a gregarious 10-year-old girl, has excelled in math and art and loves to go to school. Without this program, she would have had to remain at home. Her dream now is to go to secondary school. ★

www.usaid.gov Keyword: *The Funds*

By Daniel Levitt, USAID/Vietnam.

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Bosnians Driven from Home by Ethnic Cleansing Return to Prijedor and Neighboring Villages

PRIJEDOR, Bosnia-Herzegovina—Once synonymous with killing, torture, and ethnic cleansing, the Bosnian city of Prijedor is now notable for the large number of people who are returning home.

USAID is easing their return by helping to fix roads, restore agriculture, and improve city government.

The villages surrounding Prijedor were the first targets in the hard-line Serbian nationalist "ethnic cleansing" campaign against Croats and Bosnian Muslims (Bosniaks). Prijedor had been a place where all three ethnic groups mingled freely, but by the end of the war Serb nationalists had expelled almost all Bosniaks and Croats.

There were four concentration camps in the Prijedor region during the war. Images of gaunt, starving inmates at the Omarska camp, captured on film by a British TV crew, shocked viewers who believed the horror of Nazi-style concentration camps could never return to modern Europe.

Another camp, Trnopolje, was a staging area for massive deportations—mostly of women, children, and elderly men. Families were pressured to purchase an "exit visa" and some were forced to transfer their property to the municipality.

Although the Dayton Accords stopped the war in November 1995, Serb hardliners held onto power in Prijedor, making it nearly

impossible for Bosniaks and Croats to return.

The experiences were so bitter that many thought refugees would not return for decades.

Initially, USAID only helped refugees and displaced persons rebuild their lives in other parts of the country, as Prijedor remained too dangerous.

In 1998, former residents organized themselves into groups such as the "Foundation for Return and Reconstruction of Prijedor 98."

Bosniak residents of Kozarac who had experienced the first atrocities were the first to return, despite the destruction of their homes and the area's infrastructure.

USAID responded by reconstructing roads and rebuilding the electric power distribution system. The Agency has invested over \$900,000 in six infrastructure projects, including rehabilitating the electrical power network for 230 returnee families in the villages of Kamicani and Kevljani.

Recently, USAID started reconstruction of a road used by 10,000 people that connects the villages of Kozarac and Trnopolje with nearby cities, Banja Luka and Prijedor.

Small loans and grants for agricultural production are being given to returnees, and support has been given to a nonprofit internet center in Kozarac.

In May 2002, USAID held an inauguration ceremony in the yard of Prijedor's first and



Returnees in the village of Kozarac, where USAID projects focus on reconstructing roads and restoring electric power. Agency support has helped about 22,000 Bosniaks and Croats to return to their homes in the Prijedor region.

oldest Bosniak returnee, Ismet Hadzic.

He said, "There is no place like home. After several years of exile, I cannot describe how pleased I am to be at home."

Approximately 22,000 Bosniaks and Croats have returned to Prijedor and surrounding villages.

Their presence, along with absentee ballots

cast by refugees and displaced people still outside the area, helped marginalize nationalist politicians in recent elections.

With new city leadership, Prijedor will receive material and technical aid as part of a countrywide \$6.5 million local government program. ★

www.usaid.gov; Keyword: *Bosnia*

*June 6–July 12, 2003***PROMOTED**

Toraanna Francis
Thomas A. Kennedy
Carmelita Maness-Blakney
Mosi K. McCrary
Mary E. Mertens
Michelle B. Sadler
Naima A. Taylor
Christian W. VandenAssem
Marian Odessa Venable

MOVED ON

Martina Wills
Frederick M. Burkle
Cliff P. Deckard
Roger G. Heller
Jennifer M. Hoffman
John K. Scales

RETIRED

Richard J. Byess
Toni Christiansen-Wagner
Harold B. Lippman
Donald R. Mackenzie
Dev P. Sen

REASSIGNMENTS

Ravinder Aulakh
 Nigeria to AFR/SD/EGEA

Julie Chen
 COMP/NE/OJT to Egypt/HDD

Donald B. Clark
 Senegal/D to Nepal/D

Indee Lolieta Derrington
 AFR/SA to E&E/PO

Robert E. Drapcho
 COMP/NE/OJT to Indonesia/REM

Gardenia H. Franklin
 OIG/A/FA to RIG/Budapest

William M. Frej
 PPC/AA to Indonesia/D

Alonzo L. Fulgham
 FRY to ANE/AA

Rodger Garner
 D Nicaragua/D to Romania

José M. Garzon
 E&E/DGST to DCHA/DG/ROL

Michelle A. Godette
 RCSA/OD to COMP/FSLT

Terry L. Hardt
 EGAT/AG/ATGO to Afghanistan/PDO

Shirley Hendley
 E M/AS/TT to M/AS/OD

Karen R. Hilliard
 E&E/OM to Ukraine/D

Andrew Holland
 RSC/OD Afghanistan/OD

Cheryl Jennings
 LAC/RSD to Nepal/PPD

Ana R. Klenicki
 Bulgaria to Afghanistan/PDO

Elisabeth A. Kvitashvili
 Afghanistan/PDO to DCHA/PVC/PDM

Marie C. Laurent
 Haiti/PHN to DCHA/FFP/DP

Peter A. Malnak
 WB/Gaza to Jordan/D

Pamela A. Mandel
 COMP/LWOP to GH/PRH/SDI

Manuel Marroquin
 COMP/FS/REASSIGN to RCSA/OD

Kathleen S. McDonald
 Nicaragua/HI to Armenia/DSR

Joseph T. McGee
 COMP/NE/OJT to Bangladesh/RAA

Emily Baldwin McPhie
 AFR/EA to DCHA/PVC/PPD

Kitts Michele Moloney
 GH/PRH/SDI to RS Africa/SO3 HEA

Penelope A. Myers
 COMP/NE/OJT to Egypt/MGT

David J. Noble
 M/FM/FS to M/FM/CONT

David D. Ostermeyer
 M/FM/CAR to M/FM/FS

Mary Catherine Ott
 Bangladesh/DIR to Egypt/D

Kendra Phillips
 COMP/NE/OJT to RS Africa/SO3 HEA

Kurt A. Pope
 Zambia/D to Bolivia/EXO

Angela M. Reading
 M/OP/PS/OCC to AFR/WA

Mary Ann Riegelman
 E&E/DG/CSM to DCHA/DG/CS

Randall Robinson
 COMP/NE/OJT to Ukraine/PCS

Rebecca J. Rohrer
 Nepal/HFP to Jamaica/CAR/CRP

Kevin Allyn Rushing
 Cambodia to Jamaica/CAR/DIR

Robert A. Siegel
 PPC/P to AFR/SD/EGEA

Robert Samuel Taylor
 M/OP/G/DGHCA to DCHA/OFDA/PS

Todd S. Thompson
 COMP/NE/OJT to Mozambique/AFR

James L. Vandenbos
 Armenia/DSR to M/HR/POD

Leon S. Waskin
 ANE/SPO to USAID RDM/Asia

Clinton D. White
 COMP/NE/OJ T to Ghana/FM

IN MEMORIAM

J. Stanley Holladay, 81, died on July 18 in Washington, D.C. He served in the U.S. Army from 1942 to 1945. He was recalled to active duty in 1950 and served until 1951. That year, Holladay began his government career at the Pentagon, where he remained until he transferred to USAID in 1963. At USAID, he rose through the ranks, receiving promotions, numerous commendations, and awards. Holladay traveled extensively for USAID, visiting France, Senegal, Liberia, Ghana, Zaire, Kenya, Italy, India, Thailand, Laos, and Hong Kong. Holladay retired from USAID in 1980.

Walter H. Nicholson, 82, died on June 3 in Silver Spring, Md. Nicholson joined USAID's predecessor, the International Cooperation Agency, as a foreign service officer in 1958, and served as Food for Peace officer in Tunisia, Morocco, Laos, the Philippines, Senegal, and Haiti. He also served with the Regional Economic Development Services Office (REDSO) in the Côte d'Ivoire. He retired from USAID in 1980.

Veronica G. "Ronnie" Smith, 57, died July 11 in Rockville, Md. Smith joined USAID in 1990 as a contract specialist in the Office of Procurement, Bureau for Management, after working at the Department of Health and Human Services, the IRS, and the National Labor Relations Board. Smith retired from USAID in 2001 with over 30 years of government service.

GDA's Holly Wise Among 28 Service Medal Finalists

Holly Wise is a candidate for a national medal that honors the groundbreaking achievements of federal employees.

Holly Wise, USAID Director of the Global Development Alliance, is one of 28 national finalists for the 2003 Service to America Medals, a national awards program to honor the groundbreaking achievements of federal employees.

Wise is under consideration for the National Security and International Affairs Medal, which recognizes a federal employee who has demonstrated significant accomplishment within the fields of intelligence, defense, and diplomacy.

"It is all too easy to overlook the important and daily contributions of the men and women in our federal workforce, but they are the heroes behind the headlines who make our nation work," said Partnership for Public Service President and CEO Max Stier. "Now, more than ever, our country needs dedicated, effective federal employees and I commend Ms. Wise for answering that call to serve."

Partnership for Public Service is a non-partisan, nonprofit organization committed to recruiting and retaining excellence in the federal civil service. The Service to America Medal was created in 2002 by the partnership and the Atlantic Media Company, publisher of *The Atlantic Monthly*, *National Journal*, and *Government Executive* magazines.

Nine winners of Service to America Medals will receive monetary awards from \$3,000–\$10,000. Their names will be announced at a dinner and ceremony at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C., on October 15, 2003. ★

www.govexec.com/pps

Humanitarian Leader Vieira de Mello Dies in Bomb Attack in Baghdad

FROM PAGE 1

De Mello worked closely with USAID in many world hot spots, including a recent meeting in Baghdad with Administrator Natsios, who said "the humanitarian community has lost a great leader."

"I've had the honor of working with him in many complex emergencies over the past 14 years, most recently in Iraq, and I am deeply grieved by his tragic death," Natsios said.

"Special Representative Vieira de Mello was a tireless advocate of human rights and humanitarian ideals, and one of the most

able administrators in the U.N. system.

"The U.S. Agency for International Development joins the international community in mourning the loss."

Prior to his posting in Iraq, de Mello was chief of U.N. missions in East Timor, Kosovo, and the Great Lakes region of Africa. In 2002 he was appointed U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights—taking leave from that post to tackle Iraq.

President Bush, Secretary Powell, and Natsios were among world leaders who mourned de Mello.

Among others killed by the explosion of a cement truck at the Canal Hotel, which served as U.N. headquarters, were the chief of UNICEF's Iraq team; de Mello's chief of staff, Nadia Younes; Rick Hooper of the United States, chief U.N. expert on Arab affairs; and U.N. officials Ranillo Buenaventura and Marilyn Manuel of the Philippines, Jean-Selim Kanaan of Egypt, and Fiona Watson of the United Kingdom.

Also killed in the explosion was UNICEF-Iraq's Officer-in-Charge, Christopher Klein-Beekman, 32, of

Canada, who just that morning had shared "the excitement we were feeling with our progress in education, water, and sanitation," said Jessica Jordan Davila of USAID/Baghdad, "Chris Klein-Beekman was an example of what a U.N. Officer should be."

Long-time refugee and humanitarian advocate Arthur C. Helton of the Council on Foreign Relations, who had spoken at USAID on international law issues, also died in the blast, which occurred as he was scheduled to meet with de Mello. ★

\$30 Million Package for Palestinians

At a July 3 ceremony in Ramallah, the U.S. government announced plans to disburse a \$30 million Palestinian aid package through USAID to support the resumption of public services and private sector activities in the West Bank and North Gaza.

Mission Director Larry Garber outlined USAID's plans to provide the first \$15 million for immediate assistance to the Palestinian population.

Since 1994, the USAID West Bank and Gaza program has provided more than \$1 billion in assistance to Palestinians in that area.

www.usaid.gov/wbg

Program to Block AIDS Infections

President George W. Bush's Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission (PMTCT) initiative was launched in July 21 to block the spread of HIV/AIDS from mothers to their children. Each year nearly 1 million children around the world are infected in this way.

The \$500 million presidential initiative supports national programs in 14 targeted countries to provide PMTCT services to 1 million HIV-infected pregnant women and reduce transmission of HIV from mothers to children by 40 percent.

The 14 targeted countries are Haiti, Guyana, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

USAID is supporting a national network of voluntary testing and counseling and PMTCT centers in all hospitals and designated NGO sites in each health district.

www.usaid.gov/GlobalHealth

\$60 Million For Vaccines

With 2 million children worldwide still dying each year from vaccine-preventable diseases, Congress has directed USAID to provide \$58 million to improve and expand children's immunization programs in developing countries.

The funding will be provided directly to The Vaccine Fund, a public-private partnership created in 1999 as the financing arm of the Global Alliance of Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI). In addition, USAID will spend nearly \$2 million in direct support of the GAVI objectives in countries lagging in immunization coverage.

As a result of GAVI and the Vaccine Fund, 71 countries are now receiving funding for health infrastructure, vaccines, and supplies; it is estimated that 300,000 deaths will be prevented.

GAVI estimates that countries have been able to provide basic vaccination to 8.3 million children who would otherwise have not been reached with any vaccines.

The total U.S. contribution to GAVI over the past three years is nearly \$160 million.

www.usaid.gov/GlobalHealth

Work Begins on Earth Observation System

Representatives of 35 countries and 22 multilateral organizations met at the State Department July 31 to start work on integrating systems to monitor the weather, oceans, land use, and climate change and to set up a working group to prepare a 10-year implementation plan.

The Earth Observation System would make better use of data that scientists now collect piecemeal. The organizers said the system could save billions of dollars a year.

"Such a system would bring together national and multinational surface, airborne, and space-based measurements of the earth into a cooperative network of systems," said Secretary of State Powell. "An integrated Earth Observation System would vastly increase our store of knowledge and leverage billions of dollars of worldwide investment."

Better forecasting of the Pacific Ocean weather phenomenon known as El Niño is already saving farmers at least \$450-\$550 million a year.

If weather forecasts were more accurate by just 1 degree Fahrenheit, at least \$1 billion a year would be saved in electricity costs.

www.earthobservationsummit.gov

Joint Planning Mechanism for Sudan

The U.S. government facilitated a meeting between the government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) in Washington, D.C., July 8-9, to start the work of the Joint Planning Mechanism (JPM).

The JPM is intended to assist both parties in assessing needs, developing priorities, and drawing up action plans during the pre-interim period.

The mechanism was developed at a meeting of both parties in Nairobi that was hosted by the World Bank and included USAID, the United Nations, and the International Monetary Fund.

The parties agreed to create a small joint secretariat to help coordinate and harmonize priority areas, develop detailed work plans, disseminate information, and involve local authorities and civil society throughout Sudan.

They call upon the international community to assist in the urgent implementation of agreed programs.

Immediate focus of the JPM will be on capacity building at all levels related to the issue of internally displaced persons and refugees. This will include data collection and analysis, provision of basic services, culture of peace, and civil administration.

www.usaid.gov Keyword: Sudan



USAID Honors Veteran of Marshall Plan

USAID honored James Silberman (far right), one of the veterans of the Marshall Plan, with an award and establishment of an award bearing his name. Deputy Administrator Fred Schieck (left) and Charlie Flickner, Clerk of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs presented the award recognizing Silberman's outstanding contributions in participatory development and training that underpinned the Marshall Plan and successor foreign assistance programs.

FRONTLINES EDITORIAL BOARD

Joanne B. Giordano
Editor and Publisher

Steve Tupper
Chief of Publications

Ben Barber
Editorial Director

Kathryn Stratos
Writer

Veronica (Ronnie) Young
(Acting) Production Manager and Bureau Coordinator

Joseph Fredericks
Online Editor

Mary Felder
Human Resources Coordinator and Employee Liaison

Pat Adams
Photo Librarian

Contributing Writers, Editors and Staff
Rick Marshall; Lester Munson

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

J. Edward Fox, Assistant Administrator
through the Strategic Communications and Publications Division
Jeffrey Grieco, Chief

Correspondents and Reporters

AFGE—Jeremiah Perry; AFR—Ranta Russell, Christine Chumbler;
ANE—Jeremiah Carew, Jennifer Lindsey; DCHA—Jenny Marion,
Tom Staal; EGAT—Marx Sterne; EGAT-DC—Stavely Lord
E&E—Brock Bierman; EOP—David Grim; GC—Tim Riedler;
GDA—Dan Runde; GH-Health—Chris Thomas;
IG—Donna Rosa; LAC—Rebekah Stutzman; LPA—Bette Cook;
M—Nancy Barnett; PPC—Joe Duggan;
OSDBU—LaVerne Drummond, Tracy Scrivner; 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 e-mail 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.*



Redesigned Website Broadens Appeal

USAID unveiled its redesigned website in July after a 14-month process involving more than 60 USAID staff, contractors, and content providers.

The project was managed by Joe Fredericks and Wesley Wilson for the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA). According to Wilson, USAID's website had relied since its last major update in 1996 on a document organization and retrieval system that is now outmoded.

LPA's customer surveys showed that people who logged onto the Agency website were able to find information. "However, the website's structure catered primarily to people who already knew and understood the Agency," Wilson said.

Wilson said that the redesign team set to work to maintain the depth and quality of the content while "reaching out to people who didn't understand USAID."

Focusing on the first few "levels" of

pages that people first see when visiting the website, the redesign team rewrote much of the content in plain English. They cut out jargon and acronyms and made the writing more appealing to a general audience.

Then they rearranged menus and added new search options and other graphical features to complete the makeover.

One feature of the new look is profiles of individuals and communities who have benefited from USAID assistance. "We wanted to bring out these stories and connect them to more information about USAID's programs and activities," Wilson said.

The next step in the redesign process, he continued, is to move toward a "content management system." This will simplify how content is added to the site so that more people at USAID can post information about what they do. This will make the website more accurate and more timely. ★

www.usaid.gov

NEW ENTRY PROFESSIONALS SWORN IN



The ninth class of New Entry Professionals was sworn in on August 11 by Deputy Administrator Fred Schieck (first row standing, sixth from right). The 25 new foreign service officers will learn about the agency and its programs in a four-week orientation program. New Entry Professionals already have overseas or domestic development experience.

The Agency is also reinstating the International Development Internship program to recruit new, entry-level foreign service officers.

[Listed alphabetically]

Cheryl Anderson	Terence Jones
Todd Anderson	Michael McCord
Sabinus Anaele	Aud-Frances McKernan
Jeff Bryan	Diane Moore
Sam Carter	Deborah Niewijk
Alia El Mohandes	Robert Powers
Peter Duffy	Shally Prasad
Loretta Garden	Sheila Roquette
David Hallengren	Michael Stewart
Stephen Herbaly	Leigh Shamblin
Michelle Jennings	Jeff Sharp
Vicki Johnson	Jason Singer
	Aye Aye Thwin

World Attention Focuses on West Africa

In recent years, four West African nations—Liberia, Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Côte d'Ivoire—have been rocked by political turmoil, rebel attacks, and ethnic problems that have displaced hundreds of thousands and left many dead.

The four countries share remote border regions where rebel groups move, hide, assemble, and regroup beyond the reach of central government authorities.

The troubles spread from one country to the next until the entire region was swept by violence.

With international peacekeepers and the United States providing logistical support, Liberian President Charles Taylor stepped down in mid-August. He ceded power to the vice president until a transitional government can be set up in October.

Taylor came to power in 1991, leading his guerrilla forces in a bloody civil war that included the filmed torture and slaying of former President Samuel Doe.

Taylor then dispatched his guerrillas to seize the diamond-mining regions of neighboring Sierra Leone. Headed by the infamous Foday Sankoh—who died in late July in U.N. custody in Freetown, Sierra Leone—the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) guerrillas sowed terror among civilian populations.

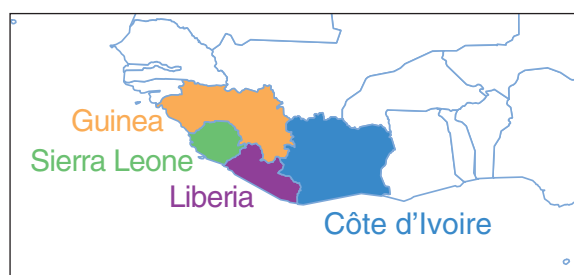
An estimated 200,000 Sierra Leonians died before calm was restored by British troops and U.N. peacekeepers in 2000.

By then, Taylor had sent RUF guerrillas, Liberian troops, and Guinean militants to invade Guinea. With U.S. military aid, Guinea fought off the invasion, but then retaliated by backing rebels who, in July 2003, seemed close to overthrowing Taylor's hold on Liberia.

Meanwhile, Côte d'Ivoire was infected by the spreading violence. Ethnic tension led to a rebellion in the mainly Muslim north, which opened the door for other rebel groups supported by Liberian fighters. French troops finally restored calm.

USAID has become involved in addressing the conflict in all four countries, ranging from small-scale support for reconciliation efforts in Ivory Coast, to community-based NGO efforts in Liberia, to rebuilding democratic governance and upgrading communities in Sierra Leone, to an extensive development program in Guinea. ★

www.usaid.gov Keyword: *West Africa*



An artillery piece transformed into a symbol of peace in the center of the Kono diamond mining area of Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone and Pakistan flags are painted on the blast shields. Peacekeepers in this region were part of a Pakistani Battalion.

Peacekeepers, Relief Aid Sent to Liberia

The civil war in Liberia approached a climax in early August, with two rebel groups holding most of the country and besieging the capital Monrovia. The city's population of 1 million was exposed to shelling and left without access to water, food, or medical care.

More than 200,000 people had already died in the civil wars during the 1990s, and hundreds more died in July as rebel forces of the Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD) took over most of the country. A second opposition group, the Movement for Democracy in Liberia (MODEL), began incursions from Ivory Coast in April.

To support humanitarian needs in Liberia in FY 2003, the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) has either already provided or approved funding of more than \$2.7 million to NGOs (see story

Page 1).

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs estimated that approximately 600,000 Liberians were displaced. Current estimates are that the number of displaced people in camps, irregular settlements, and unidentified locations in Monrovia range from 250,000 to 450,000.

By August 12, USAID had sent an eight-member Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Liberia to direct relief efforts. USAID Mission Director Edward W. Birgells remained at the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia through most of the crisis.

The Africa Bureau has budgeted \$6 million to support community health and agriculture as well as media and civil-society strengthening, as soon as conditions permit. ★

Guinea Aid Targets Border Area

Guinea borders on three troubled West African nations—Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Côte d'Ivoire—and has faced armed incursions from rebels believed to have been backed by Charles Taylor. Government forces of Guinea's President Lansana Conté were able to beat the rebels back, but the incursions unsettled an otherwise peaceful country where a USAID mission has been providing substantial assistance.

When Taylor's forces moved to destabilize Guinea, the United States provided military assistance to patrol the country's borders.

USAID's programs are aimed at supporting Guinea's development efforts

through strategic objectives encompassing natural resource management, health, education, and democracy. In 2002, USAID provided \$22 million in development assistance and child survival, along with another \$7 million in PL 480 food relief.

The FY 2004 request to Congress is \$18 million for health, education, environment, child survival, and other development aid, and \$4 million in food.

Amid concern over the lack of a clear successor to Conté, USAID has been working with political parties to support democracy. The Agency is also helping rehabilitate areas of Guinea affected by armed incursions. ★

Sierra Leone Receives Aid to Rebuild

Three years after 1,200 British troops halted the mass killings of the Sierra Leone civil war, some 13,000 U.N. peacekeepers and many foreign aid workers are helping the former British colony recover.

In late July, Foday Sankoh, the leader of the rebel Revolutionary United Front (RUF) died while awaiting trial for war crimes before an international tribunal.

The tribunal also indicted Liberia's Charles Taylor for supporting the Sierra Leone conflict, which was fueled by the desire to control the country's diamond mines.

Tens of thousands of the victims of the conflict remain in desperate need of medical assistance.

USAID is working in the region of Sierra Leone once controlled by the RUF. The area is now patrolled by thousands of Pakistani troops who are part of the largest U.N.

peacekeeping operation in the world. It reached a peak of 17,000 three years ago but is now scaling back.

The \$7 million U.S. aid program, overseen by USAID/Guinea, is using a community-based approach to address food security and agriculture, health services, and income-generating opportunities for ex-combatants, community residents, resettled refugees, and those displaced by the war.

USAID is also helping establish community councils to build a democratic base and making improvements to some schools and clinics, according to Carol A. Grigsby, Deputy Director of the Office of West African Affairs.

USAID is also helping to broaden access to the diamond industry and increase legal diamond exports (see article on page 10). ★

New Côte d'Ivoire Aid Awaits Calm

Côte d'Ivoire—with its skyscrapers and highways—was the West African success story, until a coup in 1999 and a military rebellion in 2002 unsettled the country and opened the door to fighters from Liberia who backed another rebel group.

France, the former colonial power, negotiated a ceasefire and sent troops to separate government and rebel forces.

According to the government's estimates, about 3,000 people have been killed in the civil war, and many hundreds of thousands have been displaced.

The rebellion was generated in part by complaints that the government of President Laurent Gbagbo had continued policies of questioning the "ivoirité"—citizenship—of large segments of the population.

The United States backed a national recon-

ciliation forum in 2001, and will help carry out its recommendations once calm and security have been restored.

Although USAID has not had a direct aid program in the country for many years, the Agency supplied \$612,000 in aid in 2002, and was expecting to spend at least \$433,000 through regional or worldwide programs in 2003.

Côte d'Ivoire is the world's largest producer of cocoa. The Sustainable Tree Crops Program is one of USAID's most successful projects affecting the country. The program encourages public and private sector entities to form partnerships that aim to improve the cultivation and marketing of cocoa, coffee, gum arabic, and cashews. The program also focuses on resolution of child labor and trafficking concerns. ★

Bush Highlights Progress in Iraq After 100 Days

On August 8, President Bush released a report "100 Days Toward Security and Freedom—Highlights of the Renewal of Iraq and the End of Saddam's Regime."

Among signs of better infrastructure and basic services—many have received USAID support—the report noted that electricity is more equitably distributed and more stable; \$294 million is budgeted to improve electrical systems for the rest of 2003.

More than 2,000 repairs have been made to 143 water networks and water quality sampling has restarted. There are plans to add 450 million liters of capacity to Baghdad's water system.

Iraqi hospitals are open, and healthcare, previously available only for Baathist elite, is now available to all. Drugs are being supplied, medical workers are paid regularly, vaccinations are available across the country, and antimalarial spraying will take place this autumn.

Emergency road repairs underway employ thousands of Iraqis. Airports are ready to open in Basra and Baghdad, and the port at Umm Qasr is open to commercial traffic as well as humanitarian aid. About \$12 million has been provided to repair major bridges.

The report cited signs of democracy such as installation of the 25-member National Governing Council, which includes three women and Kurdish, Sunni, Christian, Turkmen, and Shiite representatives. The council is creating a



Thomas Hartwell, USAID

Mariam Aboud (left), a widow with a family of four, receives rations from a food agent in Basrah.

preparatory commission to write a constitution that will lead to elections.

In all major cities and 85 percent of towns, there are municipal councils dealing with healthcare, water, and electricity. More than 150 newspapers are being published. The report also listed the delivery in May of "back-to-school" kits for 120,000 students in Baghdad, 1.2 million kits for secondary school students, and 4,000 school kits that included desks, chairs, blackboards, and bookshelves.

To stop malnutrition, the World Food Program reported July 15 that nearly 1.5 million metric tons of food—more than a three-month supply for Iraq—have been dispatched. An additional 2.2 million metric tons of food will arrive by the end of October.

Among the signs of economic recovery cited by the report is the regular payment of salaries to teachers, healthcare workers, soldiers, and police, as well as payment of pensions.

The dinar has maintained its value against the dollar, preserving the savings of Iraqi citizens. Oil production has increased to 1 million barrels a day, releasing more than \$400 million to ministries in July and August.

To improve the lives and status of Iraqi women, the report noted several changes. Quotas restricting the entry of women into certain university courses have been raised or lifted altogether. Iraqi women's organizations are being created to expand opportunities for women to improve their lives and those of their families. ★

www.usaid.gov Keyword: Iraq

Bremer Details Iraq Plan in Washington Visit

The senior U.S. administrator in Iraq, L. Paul Bremer, detailed plans for the reconstruction and restoration of banking and other sectors in Iraq in a speech he delivered at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C., on July 23.

During Bremer's trip, USAID awarded a \$70 million contract to BearingPoint Inc. for economic governance. The aim of the work will be getting Iraqis back to work, creating a viable public and private banking system, opening trade and investment, and setting up a sound currency.

Reconstruction projects—largely funded through USAID—will provide thousands of Iraqis with jobs and help prevent either large-scale instability or a humanitarian crisis, Bremer said in his address.

"We are injecting almost \$200 million a month into the economy through the payment of salaries, pensions, and emergency payments, but with our development projects, we will also provide thousands, tens of thousands, of jobs," Bremer said.

"We will restore health care to 95 to 100 percent of prewar levels, and ... we are going to distribute revised textbooks throughout [Iraq] which remove the Baathist ideology that has been woven throughout the textbooks and curricula over the last 30 years."

But Bremer, who is Administrator of the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA), said Iraq needs to undergo fundamental economic changes. He expects to sign contracts with foreign banks in the

next two months to help Iraq's two large state banks shift to market-oriented business practices.

The CPA is working already with the Iraq Governing Council to make the Central Bank independent of the Ministry of Finance, which would end the inflationary printing of currency to cover expenses.

While Bremer acknowledged that Iraq will run a deficit in 2003 due to reconstruction costs, he expects to make it up with "seized and vested Iraqi assets." In 2004, the deficit will be \$4 billion, but increasing oil exports should end the deficit in the following year.

However, he expected outside help will be needed and noted that the United States and 18 other countries have pledged to assist Iraq.

World Bank teams have begun a series of visits to tally up the needs for aid and will present them at a U.N.-sponsored donor's conference in October.

Initial activities under the BearingPoint contract may include the regulation of trade, commerce, and investment, and support for the Central Bank and the ministries of Finance, Trade, Commerce, and Industry. Credit, microfinance, and business loans may be other areas of activity.

BearingPoint will subcontract with over 30 firms, including Chemonics, JE Austin, and The Services Group.

The contract may also include a privatization program, but Bremer noted that that would require a strong safety net to provide jobs or income for thousands likely to be affected by the closure of inefficient government-run firms. ★



Thomas Hartwell, USAID

A lively market in Basrah teems with goods for local purchasers.

IRAQ BRIEFS

First Iraq Infrastructure Project Completed

Bechtel, USAID's infrastructure reconstruction contractor, has finished its first key Iraqi project, a four-lane bypass of the damaged bridge at Al Mat. The completion of the three-kilometer bypass—the first step in the eventual repair of the bridge—was accomplished with the assistance of the Al-Bunna Trading Company, an Iraqi subcontractor firm.

The bridge is a critical link on Highway 10, a major thoroughfare between the Jordanian border and Baghdad. More than 3,000 trucks a day carry humanitarian shipments and other goods along this route. Reconstruction of the bridge can now begin. Bechtel estimates the work will take six months.

Iraqi Nursing Association Receives U.S. Grant

A \$137,000 grant was awarded by USAID to the Iraqi Nursing Association (INA) for the purchase of new uniforms, bed linens, stethoscopes, pen lights, and other equipment for the Yarmouk Hospital.

The grant was identified by the INA and made by USAID's partner Abt Associates. It is the first to be made under the \$43 million Iraq Health Systems Strengthening Project (IHSSP) as part of a larger effort to help upgrade Iraqi nursing services and improve the public health system.

Iraqi Nurses Conference Convened

More than 200 of Iraq's senior leadership of nursing and healthcare professionals addressed the future of nursing in Iraq during a two-day conference at Baghdad Convention Center in July. The conference was sponsored by USAID and the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA).

Participants took part in an Iraqi-led dialogue on standards and curriculum, continuing education, education and training of current nurses in a new system, bylaws and regulations, a nursing code of ethics, nursing specializations, a national library of nursing, and nursing research.

USAID Sponsors Iraq's National Vaccination Day

A national children's vaccination program aims to vaccinate all Iraqi children before the end of the year. It was launched by the Iraqi Ministry of Health, together with the U.S. government, UNICEF, and local healthcare providers.

The first National Vaccination Day was held on July 22. Future vaccination days are scheduled for August 21, September 22, October 22, November 22, and December 22. USAID is cosponsoring the program through a \$7 million grant to UNICEF.

There are approximately 4 million children under age 5 in Iraq; another 75,000 are born every month. USAID and UNICEF are worldwide partners in immunizing the world's children.

Corps of Engineers Evaluates Work

USAID has selected the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to evaluate and monitor the infrastructure reconstruction program in Iraq.

The Army Corps of Engineers will provide a team of Iraqi and U.S. professionals to monitor Bechtel's capital construction contract. It includes electric power, water and sanitation facilities; public facilities such as hospitals and schools; roads, bridges, and railroads; and airport and seaport rehabilitation.

"This architect and engineering services contract demonstrates USAID's continued commitment to ensure the most technically appropriate and efficient management of federal funds," said USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios.

This agreement will be supported initially at \$3 million for one year, with the possibility of two one-year extensions.

www.usaid.gov/iraq