![USAID - From the American People]

Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives

Dear Newsletter Recipients,

The Center for International Disaster Information provides information and guidance in support of appropriate international disaster relief.

Individuals, groups, corporations, NGOs, embassies, media and others from around the world have come to rely upon CIDI's resources and services in order to provide more effective international emergency assistance. Cidi.org.

ReliefWeb is the world's leading on-line gateway to information (documents and maps) on humanitarian emergencies and disasters. An independent vehicle of information, designed specifically to assist the international humanitarian community in effective delivery of emergency assistance, it provides timely, reliable and relevant information as events unfold, while emphasizing the coverage of "forgotten emergencies" at the same time.

Warmest regards,

Terri

Terri Hasdorff
Director, Center for Faith Based & Community Initiatives
U.S. Agency for International Development
U.S. Department of State
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW , Washington, DC 20523
FBCI@usaid.gov

PROMOTING PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND PARTNERSHIPS – ATLANTA'S CONTRIBUTION TO GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

You are cordially invited to attend the next Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid's (ACVFA) meeting. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Wednesday, June 4, 2008, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM (end time is approximate)
The Lane Room, The Commerce Club
34 Broad Street, NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Parking is available at garages in the area.

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS *(topics are subject to change and do not necessarily reflect the order of the agenda)*

Keynote: Henrietta H. Fore, USAID Administrator and Director of United States Foreign Assistance, has been invited to speak on the important role of partnerships as part of USAID's work in international development and humanitarian assistance.

Atlanta's Cross-Cutting Partnerships: An examination of successful partnerships will take place with representatives from private voluntary organizations, universities, for-profit firms and the U.S. Government. Particular attention will be paid to those programs that have been or could be successfully replicated in other
countries. Invited panelists include Dr. Julie Gerberding, Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Helene Gayle, President and CEO of CARE (ACVFA Member), Ron Jarvis, Senior Vice President for Pro, Tool Rental and Environment for Home Depot, Michael Nyenhuis, President and CEO of MAP International (ACVFA Member) and a university representative.

American Awareness of U.S. Foreign Assistance: ACVFA members and Atlanta community leaders will moderate small group discussions with participants on ways to raise awareness of U.S. foreign assistance, including the important collaborative role of partner organizations.

ONLINE REGISTRATION AND INFORMATION: Pre-register for the meeting and join the ACVFA list serve at **http://www.usaid.gov/about_usaid/acvfa**. Participants will be able to register on site; **pre-registration is strongly encouraged**. Questions, please contact Jocelyn Rowe, ACVFA Executive Director, at jrowe@usaid.gov or 202-712-4002.

The ACVFA is an expert body that advises USAID and other U.S. government agencies on international development and humanitarian assistance issues. ACVFA members are private citizens appointed by the USAID Administrator and serve without compensation. The committee's public meetings, held three times per year, serve as forums for consultation between the public and private sectors on a broad range of foreign assistance matters.

GDA Website Update

The Global Development Alliance has launched updated both our internal and external sites to better meet your alliance-building needs. You will find that we've carried over all of the best parts of the old site and added some new and exciting features, including:

--Guidance around valuing public-private partnerships for development;

--Strategic alliance opportunity identification guides;

--Information about Global Frameworks;

--Access to all Global Development Alliance training materials, including Power Points, interactive
   versions of Tools for Alliance Builders and User's Guide to Global Frameworks, due diligence
   templates, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) template, and learning stories;

--Newsletters, Showcase Alliance Database, Talking Points, Fact
   Sheets, Press Releases, and Events Calendar;

--Innovation in alliance building;

--and much more!

The external site launched on Wednesday, May 21 and can be found at http://www.usaid.gov/gda/.

Community Weaving™

Creative solution for a new century

Unless local communal life can be restored, the public cannot adequately resolve its most urgent problem, to find and identify itself.
---John Dewey

Good Neighbors

Community Weaving emerged from the experiences of a small group of neighbors who created their own social support system. It was sparked by a mother's desire to meet the needs of her children and thrive. Frustrated by the way local agencies treated her as if she was broken and needed fixing, she gathered her neighbors together and started a social support network. After cutting through a lot of red tape to hold gatherings at a local school, the neighbors invited school parents and staff to participate. Everyone pooled their resources, shared stories and invited speakers from local agencies to address topics impacting their lives. They learned about local resources, developed new skills, and supported one another. This created a synergy that attracted more parents and neighbors from the surrounding area. The families agreed to be Good Neighbors, pool their resources, support one another and abide by the Steps to Excellence. They shared knowledge and resources, taught each other new skills, and did special projects to improve conditions in their community. Over time, they felt like a family. Everyone made their own unique contribution by, organizing or attending educational and recreational opportunities, and spearheading change initiatives in the community. Good Neighbors wanting to provide one-on-one support to those referred into the network by local agencies were trained as Family Advocates. The group published and distributed a monthly newsletter to keep each other informed of their accomplishments and included a calendar of upcoming activities. The newsletter was posted throughout the community so others could get involved and participate in activities. In February 1993, the group developed partnerships with organizations in the community, formed a board of directors, and founded a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization called the Family Support Network (FSN). The organization was established to overcome the barriers they encountered as an informal group. The non-profit status transformed the group into a legitimate sustainable entity enabling it to collaborate with other organizations, and receive grants and tax deductible contributions.

Over the next three years, the Family Support Network (FSN) grew to over 400 Good Neighbors and Family Advocates across five states and was featured in articles on the front page of *The Seattle Times* on March 2, 1996 and February 8, 1997. This brought national attention to this grassroots effort and Good Neighbors from across the country registered their resources and engaged with neighbors who shared common interests or lived nearby using web-based technology developed by volunteers. Those who did not have access to computers contacted FSN Community Weavers who helped them access resources, activities, trainings and their neighbors.

The individual capacity of the Good Neighbors grew in direct proportion to the human and tangible resources made available by all other Good Neighbors and FSN Partners on the FSN website. Good Neighbors tapped the FSN Resource Treasury for the resources they needed to help themselves and others, and used the network to find jobs, housing, cars and tap into great ideas. Assistance was freely given and the knowledge and insight gained from the experiences transformed FSN volunteers into leaders, pioneers, role models, mentors and change agents in their communities. Many received awards and recognition for their accomplishments and continue to give back to their communities.

Frequently Asked Questions

How does Community Weaving Work?

The Family Support Networks and experiential learning communities emerge from Community Weaving practices. Partnerships with organizations representing the diversity of the community are established. Partners recruit staff, employees, clients, students, parents and members as participants who pool resources and make their own unique contributions to a collective effort striving for the common good. Everyone has free and easy access to one another, resources and opportunities to engage and serve.

Community Weavers learn Community Weaving practices and principles from Master Weavers who share their stories and teach them how to use the tools, techniques and technology to grow their own social support networks in their schools, churches, neighborhoods, organizations and businesses. Good Neighbors who share similar passions or common interests combine resources and create furniture warehouses, childcare coops, clothing exchanges, and community gardens. Those who enjoy the outdoors and recreational activities organize rafting trips, campouts, ropes courses, barbeques, softball games, paintball competitions, and vision quests. Community improvement projects are organized using FSN technology to spearhead change initiatives, such as shutting down crack houses, responding to disasters, organizing block watches, raising funds for neighborhood beautification and revitalization projects, and starting up new businesses.

Local organizations such as the American Red Cross, Public Health Department, schools, churches, businesses and a variety of civic, social service and youth organizations are recruited as FSN Partners and provide free space for activities, access to speakers and educational materials, as well as free trainings to FSN volunteers. FSN partners train staff as Community Weavers who utilized the resources of the FSN to better meet the needs of their clients.

What are Community Weaving Webs of Support?

Cultivating diverse and meaningful relationships is at the core of Community Weaving. It occurs among individuals, within communities and across states, as the following examples illustrate. The Emergency Service staff of the Seattle King County American Red Cross placed victims of disasters into the homes of Good Neighbors who were trained as Family Advocates. Child Protective Services (CPS) used FSN volunteers to mentor parents and supervise visitations of children in foster care when there was a shortage of staff to supervise the visits.

A local hospital called a Community Weaver instead of Child Protective Services when a single mother abandoned her colicky baby in an Emergency Room because she was overwhelmed and at her wits end. An example of how a web of support is interwoven in this scenario is illustrated by this story. The hospital connects the young mother to a Community Weaver who assesses the situation over the phone. The Community Weaver matches the young mother to an FSN Family Advocate volunteer living nearby who is a retired nurse who loves to garden and is feeling lonely and depressed. The Community Weaver asks her to provide respite care to the single mother by babysitting. This gives the retiree a sense of joy and great satisfaction. While babysitting, she notices the empty lot next to the mother's home and discovers it is for sale. She taps the FSN Resource Treasury to connect with someone who knows the ins and outs of community gardening, and they approached an agency that writes a grant to purchase the vacant lot and start a community garden. The nurse now is doing what she loves, and the young mother brings her children over to help in the garden and visit with her friend, whom they called Auntie M.

"Operation Safe Havens" is another large-scale Community Weaving illustration that includes four FSN volunteers and local agencies. An FSN volunteer initiates Operation Safe Haven in an effort to provide transitional housing to evacuees displaced by hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The Community Weaver living in Seattle screens the families offering transitional housing and conducts background checks. The Community Weaver living in Austin, Texas works with local shelters and matches evacuees looking for transitional housing with host families in Seattle. Organizations in Austin,

such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army, give families the resources needed to cover transportation costs to get to their new homes. Companies, organizations and associations use Community Weaving to link employees and members together to foster creativity and innovation in a fail-safe environment. This results in increasing individual and community capacity and productivity. The model can be utilized as a system of support that extends beyond the walls of the organization and can serve as an employee/member run assistance program. Engagement and participation increase when people feel valued and have access to resources to take care of their own needs.

These various applications of Community Weaving demonstrate the power of connectivity, level of ingenuity and commitment people are willing to make to serve one another. These are examples of how Community Weaving taps into grassroots initiative and functions interdependently with organizations to foster innovation and manifest good works. All the materials developed for these special projects are made available free of charge on at www.communityweaving.org website. This makes it easy to access the materials and technical support to replicate efforts in other communities to address similar situations. The data collected about the activities of FSN volunteers provides indicators of accomplishments, self-sufficiency and gaps in services. This information is published in FSN Updates and distributed to leaders at all levels of the community. The updates provide valuable information to base decisions on how to best serve the community. FSN Updates is a tool used to identify administrators, public officials and policymakers who are responsive to the needs of the community.

Weaving the Fabric of Community (outcomes and how it works)
Community Weaving fosters a vibrant grassroots web, which builds and bridges social capital between individuals, among group members and across community systems (Figure 1). The result is an intricate patchwork of conscientious citizens functioning interdependently with one another and formal systems, in order to mend the tears in the social fabric caused by fragmentation and shifts in the cultural, economic and political climate. Given time, the beneficent presence and dynamic activity of Community Weaving changes the culture of community and transform lives.

USAID Provides Equipment and Training for Earthquake Relief Efforts in China

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 19, 2008
Press Office: 202-712-4320
Public Information: 202-712-4810
www.usaid.gov

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), are providing more than $815,000 in additional assistance, including specialized search, rescue, and recovery equipment, to the people of China in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that struck on May 12. As part of this effort, a nine-person USAID team of specialists will travel to China to train local rescue workers on the use of this equipment. This brings total USAID assistance to China to more than $1.3 million.

The equipment is expected to arrive in Chengdu, China on Wednesday and will include saws, hand tools, hydraulic gear, concrete cutters, generators, and personal safety equipment.

USAID will continue to monitor the situation and coordinate with the Government of China in order to provide needed assistance to those affected by the earthquake.

For more information about USAID's emergency humanitarian assistance programs, please visit:

ReliefWeb

ReliefWeb is:

ReliefWeb is the world's leading on-line gateway to information (documents and maps) on humanitarian emergencies and disasters. An independent vehicle of information, designed specifically to assist the international humanitarian community in effective delivery of emergency assistance, it provides timely, reliable and relevant information as events unfold, while emphasizing the coverage of "forgotten emergencies" at the same time.

ReliefWeb was launched in October 1996 and is administered by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

Recognizing how critical the availability of reliable and timely information in time of humanitarian emergencies is, the UN General Assembly endorsed the creation of ReliefWeb and encouraged humanitarian information exchange through ReliefWeb by all governments, relief agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Resolution 51/194 on 10 February 1997. The General Assembly reiterated the importance of information sharing in emergencies and of taking advantage of OCHA's emergency information services such as ReliefWeb in Resolution 57/153 on 3 March 2003.

ReliefWeb has seen steady growth in usage. In 2002, ReliefWeb received 1.5 million hits per week, and in 2004, the site received approximately 1 million hits a day. Shortly after the South Asia Tsunami disaster of December 2004, it received 3 million hits a day on average.

ReliefWeb maintains three offices in three different time zones (New York, Geneva, and Kobe) to update the web site around the clock. The total budget for the project is USD 2 million (2005), the bulk of which is supported by voluntary contributions by donors.

In recognition of its successful virtual teamwork among three offices, ReliefWeb received two UN21 awards in March 2004 in the areas of "knowledge management" and "improvements to the working environment."

- For information about OCHA, see OCHA on-line
- To contact ReliefWeb, see Contact Us
- For more donor information, see Donor Support

What ReliefWeb does:

ReliefWeb disseminates timely, reliable and relevant humanitarian information by updating its web site around the clock. In addition, ReliefWeb reaches over 70,000 subscribers through its e-mail subscription services, allowing those who have low bandwidth Internet connections to receive information reliably.

ReliefWeb posts some 150 maps and documents daily from over 2,000 source from the UN system, governments, NGOs, academia and the media. Map Centre also creates original ReliefWeb maps.

All documents posted on the site are classified and archived in the ReliefWeb document database,

allowing advanced searching of documents from past emergency responses. The database contains nearly 300,000 maps and documents dating back to 1981.

In addition to Map Centre and emergency updates by latest or by country, region, and emergency, ReliefWeb offers various resource sections specifically targeted to relief professionals:

- Appeals and Funding - Funding appeals for complex emergencies and natural disasters and financial tracking of responses to funding requirements
- Policies and Issues - On-line library of reference materials covering humanitarian policies and issues of global nature
- Professional Resources - Information of practical use for relief professionals, including a sectoral or thematic listing of "communities of practice," listings of job opportunities and training opportunities, and an information providers' directory.

Federal Funding Opportunities

USAID

USAID is seeking initial concept papers and then full applications to implement activities in support of the program to develop Abiotic Stress Tolerant Rice and Wheat using biotechnology as a tool. The geographic focus under consideration is USAID's geographic definition of South Asia. Through this APS, USAID will facilitate the evaluation of selected technologies under field conditions in India, the most promising of which may be selected for further development and delivery to farmers in India and, eventually South Asia. As of May 23, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is May 20, 2009 For more information, click here.

Public Private Alliances. USAID is currently requesting applications for PPAs in Kosovo, Nigeria, India, Indonesia, and other Mission locations. For more information, click here.

Hungary USAID-Budapest has posted an unrestricted cooperative agreement for a three-year program to support the USG Trafficking in Persons Strategy (TIP) for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), specifically helping BiH to remain a Tier 2 country and, if possible, to progress to a Tier 1 country. The program will help to strengthen the capacity of BiH's Government to combat TIP and to implement the country's National Action Plan. This objective will be accomplished through the following prevention and protection interventions: 1) Insertion of trafficking prevention education in schools 2) Support for victim assistance 3) Support to the implementation of the National Anti-Trafficking Plan of Action This program will support, wherever possible, interventions that are by their nature self-sustaining As of May 23, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is May 27, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here.

Ecuador USAID – Quito has posted a cooperative agreement for qualifying NGOs for improving Ecuador's Coastal parks through Short-Term Employment of Flooding Victims. As of May 23, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is May 28, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here.

The US Agency for International Development Food for Peace grant announcement has been posted on Grants.gov. Eligible applicants include U.S. non-profit organizations and Public International Organization (PIO).   Applications may request a maximum of 75 metric tons (MT) of commodities (currently valued at approximately $173,000) and up to $100,000 of funding. It is not mandatory, however, that these exact levels be requested or in this proportion. (Note: Funding is available for costs directly associated with the movement, management and monitoring of IFRP commodities. Funding will not be considered for the following costs: vehicle purchase, project materials, tools and office equipment.)   To read more about USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) and to obtain a link to fiscal year 2008 IFRP Guidelines and Procedures, click here. To access the announcement on Grants.gov

and for contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here. As of May 23, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is June 2, 2008.

US Agency for International Development has posted an unrestricted cooperative agreement to solicit partners to implement activities in support of creative and timely responses to encourage the abandonment of traditional practices that promote and condone gender-based violence. USAID is specifically interested in those traditional harmful practices that have received limited attention from the development community. The geographic focus under consideration is USAID's geographic definitions of Africa and Asia & the Near East (ANE). To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here. As of May 23, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is June 12, 2008.

US Agency for International Development has posted an unrestricted grant announcement seeking partners to meet the critical basic needs of internally displaced people and returnee populations (both old and new caseload) in Kabul Province. To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here. As of May 23, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is June 21, 2008.

US Agency for International Development has posted a cooperative agreement for registered U.S. and non-U.S. NGOs, non-profit, and for profit organizations willing to forego profit. The purpose of the Annual Program Statement is to solicit applications for funding. The United States Government, through USAID/Washington and in close collaboration with USAID/Cotonou, USAID/Nairobi, USAID/Pretoria, and USAID/Lusaka, is seeking full applications from prospective partners to implement activities in support of creative and timely responses to the USAID-related components of the Presidential Women's Justice and Empowerment Initiative (WJEI). To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here. As of May 23, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is July 23, 2008.

Ethiopia USAID-Addis Ababa has posted an unrestricted cooperative agreement to solicit applications for funding from prospective new partners to support implementation of the United States Government's President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (hereafter referred to as Emergency Plan or also referred to as PEPFAR) in Ethiopia. The United States Government, through USAID/Ethiopia, is seeking, from prospective partners, concept papers to be followed by full applications (if concept papers are selected) to implement activities in support of the Prevention for at Risk Populations in High Prevalence Urban Areas in Ethiopia. The U.S. Government Mission in Ethiopia anticipates awarding a limited number of grants or cooperative agreements (hereafter called Agreements) for a period of no less than one year and no more than three years. Meanwhile, depending on successful implementation, needs and availability of funds, the period of performance could be extended by one or two additional years. To access the announcement as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here. As of May 23, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is July 31, 2008.

USAID has posted a grant notice for conflict mitigation and reconciliation programs (with possible multiple awards). The Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (DCHA/CMM) within USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) invites applications from U.S. and non-U.S. non-profit or for-profit non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international organizations (IOs) and other qualified non-U.S. Government (USG) organizations (including faith-based organizations and community based organizations) to carry out activities, under grants or cooperative agreements, that support conflict mitigation and reconciliation programs and activities that bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious or political backgrounds from areas of civil conflict and violence. A program performance period of up to twenty-four (24) months is anticipated for each award -- between $100,000 to $600,000 each. As of May 23, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is August 12, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here.

USAID has posted a grant notice for Public Private Partnerships in Ethiopia. The USAID/Nigeria Economic Growth, Partnership and Private Sector (PPS) Team is strongly committed to building public-private partnerships that mobilize resources, expertise, creative approaches, and technologies that

address development issues in Nigeria under the Global Development Alliance (GDA) Annual Program Statement (APS). Click here to view the entire announcement. As of May 23, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is September 30, 2008. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here.

Nigeria USAID-Abuja has posted a cooperative agreement for registered Nigerian indigenous organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. non-governmental organizations (NGO), faith-based organizations (FBO), community-based organizations (CBO), foundations, private organizations affiliated with public academic institutions, parastatals, professional organizations, non-profit organizations, and for-profit organizations willing to forego profit. They are looking for proposals to strengthen civil society to combat HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. As of May 23, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is January 31, 2009. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, click here.

Department of State

The Office of Environmental Policy of the Bureau of Oceans, Environment, and Science (OES) at the Department of State (DOS) announces the Requests for Applications for Management of the Small Grants program in the Dominican Republic-Central American—United States Free Trade Agreement countries (CAFTA-DR). The purpose of the Small Grants Program is to promote public participation in environmental issues by engaging local organizations in the CAFTA-DR countries (Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua), such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs), academic institutions, professional organizations, and other civil society organizations, in the public participation opportunities and mechanisms that the CAFTA-DR Environment Chapter and Environmental Cooperation Agreement provide. NGOs and International Organizations (IO) with strong regional presence in the region may submit applications to manage the Small Grants Program. The applicants must demonstrate the ability to manage and coordinate all aspects of the program, including open competition process, review and selection of the sub-grantees, monitoring, reporting, and dissemination of the results in coordination with CAFTA-DR government points of contact and the DOS. For the purpose of this document, the CAFTA-DR countries or region include Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. One grant will be awarded in the amount of $396,000 in Economic Support and Development Assistance FY 2007 funds. As of May 23, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is June 20, 2008. For more information, click here.

For all federal grant notices, visit grants.gov.

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updates from the USAID Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, or if you would like to discontinue receiving the newsletter, please click here.**