



Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives Newsletter

OCTOBER 10, 2008

Letter from the Director

Dear Newsletter Recipients,

This week I'm pleased to announce that registration for our November 7th "Partnership: A Call to Action Conference" is now open. The conference will bring together NGOs, businesses, and government representatives to discuss innovative partnerships in development. In addition, NGOs new to partnership with USAID are encouraged to come and learn about working with the U.S. Government.

Participant space is limited and registration will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. To register, [click here.](#)

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

AT A GLANCE

USAID Press..... Remarks by Henrietta Fore, USAID Awards \$2.8 Million to Combat Child Marriage and Gender-Based Violence in South Asia, BIPAI Opens New Children's AIDS Center In Uganda, Lifesaving Vitamin A Reaches 40 Million Children, U.S., U.N. Food Aid Bringing Hope to Colombia's Indigenous People, Namibia: Beauty Pageant With A Purpose, Health-Africa: Renewed Fight Against Old Killer

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Success Stories.....Joint Aid Management

Upcoming Events..... Introductory Security Management Workshop for Humanitarian & Faith-Based Organizations Conference on Protection of Unaccompanied and Separated Children, The 2008 Corporate Citizenship Awards Dinner, Forum on Relief and Development

Grant Opportunities..... USAID and U.S. Department of State

If you would like to sign up to receive regular updates from the USAID Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, or if you would like to discontinue receiving the newsletter, please [click here.](#)

USAID PRESS

I am pleased to be here, and I want to thank you for all your hard work on the advisory committee. You indeed represent America's collective brain trust on best practices for promoting democracy.

Remarks by Henrietta Fore

**Director of U.S. Foreign
Assistance and
Administrator, USAID**

**Advisory Committee on
Democracy Promotion
The President's Freedom
Agenda
Main State, Room 1105**

October 8, 2008

On July 24, I had the honor of welcoming President George W. Bush to USAID's headquarters. In his address to a gathering of leading democracy and governance stakeholders at the Ronald Reagan Building, the President discussed progress on The Freedom Agenda to end tyranny, and honored dissidents in "captive nations" for their work fighting for freedom and democracy around the world. Many of you were in attendance and I appreciated your thoughtful discussion in the luncheon afterward.

The United States has always stood for the promotion of liberty and freedom abroad. It always has been a bipartisan effort, deeply embedded in our foreign policy. With this in mind, the Secretary and I appreciate your thoughtful recommendations on how to make our democracy promotion efforts even more effective, both for this Administration and the next. Earlier you heard the specifics of the progress the State Department and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have made in carrying out the ADVANCE Democracy Act.

As we continue to pursue the objectives outlined in the new National Security Presidential Directive 58 (NSPD-58), "Institutionalizing the Freedom Agenda," we have sought to align resources in keeping with the priorities identified by the interagency, especially as we develop, oversee and implement targeted strategies to support the goals of that agenda.

A key objective of both the ADVANCE Act and the NSPD-58 is to ensure that the U.S. Government is devoting sufficient resources to promote liberty and freedom around the world. USAID has already demonstrated what is possible when its democracy and governance budget is sustained and strategically invested. A recent academic research project found that USAID's assistance had a positive and significant impact on democratic development. The study concluded that, in any given year, \$10 million dollars of USAID democracy and governance funding produces about a five-fold increase in the amount of democratic change over what the average country could otherwise be expected to achieve.

It also found that a given amount of USAID DG investment shows more impact on democracy levels when the overall investment pattern is consistent over time, rather than changing considerably from one year to the next.

While sponsored by our Office of Democracy and Governance (DG), the project was conducted by leading scholars at Vanderbilt University and the University of Pittsburgh. To ensure its independence from USAID, it was guided by an outside panel of experts and its results were published in prestigious peer-reviewed scholarly journals. The research findings have been hailed as "the most comprehensive and rigorous study to date on the effects of aid on democratic governance." We are already starting to use their findings to guide our future democracy programs. (I highly recommend this study to gain a better understanding of what works and what doesn't work in democracy programs. We have provided summaries to you as well as the website link to the entire study.)

As we continue to advance the priorities of this Administration, and seek to make recommendations for the next Administration at USAID, we are pursuing four steps forward:

First, we are seeking sustained investment in high priority countries. The objective of our renewed focus - to be directly informed by the presidential directive on

institutionalizing the Freedom Agenda - is threefold:

- One, to support democracy activists in closed societies;
- Two, to accelerate the expansion of individual liberty and political competition in countries now living under authoritarian systems; and
- Three, to empower key democratic institutions, and encourage accountable government capacity in new or fragile democracies; including those in crisis and those rebuilding societies.

Second, we are committed to the development and strengthening of democracy around the globe. Moreover, we are backing up our words with resources. In FY 2008, USAID and the State Department provided nearly \$1.4 billion dollars for democracy programs (not including supplemental appropriations).

To provide context, as the number one bilateral donor working in this area, USAID is now dedicating twice the level of resources to democracy and governance as was the case prior to September 11, 2001. These funds support a broad spectrum of programs, including: electoral processes, rule of law, human rights, civil society, media freedoms, labor unions and economic reform. The President requested over \$1.7 billion dollars for these programs for FY 2009 (not including supplemental appropriations).

In addition to seeking more resources, we also recognize the fluidity of the needs in this area. It is in this context that we seek to ensure that we have the most useful mix of flexible resources - through USAID and the Department of State - that allow us to react to unforeseen needs and opportunities.

Third, beyond our requests for increased funding for our democracy programs, we are addressing our personnel requirements to support these programs through the Development Leadership Initiative (DLI) at USAID. While the Agency's democracy budget has been rising over the past decade, the number of democracy officers in our missions has not been increasing at the same pace, leaving missions with an inordinate workload.

In recent months, the Development Leadership Initiative was launched to double the number of USAID foreign service officers over the next three years. In FY 2008, we hired 29 new officers specializing in crisis, stabilization, and democracy. Our workforce planning has projected the need for an additional 54 such officers in FY 2009 to meet DLI targets.

Placing more democracy officers in our field missions will enable us to "get out of our bunker embassies" as you recommended this past spring. We will have more trained staff who can go out and "be constantly on the street: in universities, with women's movements, environmentalists, democracy dissidents, workers and their unions, businessmen, and outside the capital city."

Finally, we are pursuing a Democracy Readiness Initiative. This effort will expand and deepen the capabilities of all USAID personnel working on democracy and governance: not only USAID foreign service officers, but also USAID foreign service nationals, civil service personnel and personal services contractors. USAID is investing in the development of competency models across each bureau to improve the recruitment, hiring, and career development of USAID employees, as well as strategic organizational planning. The competency models will further develop the current

cadre of over 400 American and international staff managing programs in over 80 countries, as well as those who are expected to join USAID's ranks in the coming years.

Overall, the use of competencies for our democracy and governance specialists will ensure that they deepen their skills for their current and future work, which USAID has pioneered. We will continue to work closely with the State Department and the Foreign Service Institute to assure excellence in training.

Taken together, these four initiatives will enhance the capacity of USAID. Likewise, by working together with the Department of State, we will undertake and manage a more robust and targeted global democratic development program. After the Secretary's remarks in a few minutes, I look forward to hearing the recommendations you may have for the Secretary and me. I welcome any questions you may have now.

Thank you.

USAID Awards \$2.8 Million to Combat Child Marriage and Gender-Based Violence in South Asia

WASHINGTON D.C. - The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has awarded CARE more than \$2.8 million to help fight the harmful practice of child marriage and to prevent violence against women in two countries in South Asia. CARE will work with several local partners, as well as community leaders and peer educators, in order to help change the mindset and traditional practices of communities in this region.

CARE Nepal will receive nearly \$1.5 million for a three-year project that aims to transform community traditions of child marriage through educational and behavioral change campaigns. The initiative will also advocate for the establishment and enforcement of laws and policies that address child marriage and other forms of gender-based violence.

CARE Bangladesh is receiving more than \$1.3 million for a similar three-year program designed to help prevent violence against women. The initiative focuses on increasing understanding about the negative effects that violence, early marriage, dowry, and polygamy have on the development process in Bangladesh. Educational and behavioral change campaigns, as well as efforts to influence national policy, will be part of the program.

For more information about USAID and its programs to combat gender-based violence, please visit: www.usaid.gov.

BIPAI Opens New Children's AIDS Center In Uganda

By Lori Williams
Baylor College of Medicine
October 2, 2008

The Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative today opened a state-of-the-art HIV/AIDS Children's Center of Excellence on the campus of Mulago Hospital in Kampala, Uganda.

Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Children's Hospital, the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation, Mulago Hospital and the Republic of Uganda all joined forces to support BIPAI in making the center a reality.

President Yoweri Museveni of the Republic of Uganda officially opened the center, joined by officials from the Ugandan government, U.S. government, BIPAI and the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation.

The new center immediately will provide care to more than 4,000 children. The center will be staffed by Ugandan health professionals.

"In partnership with Mulago Hospital and the Government of Uganda, and with support from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, our program for HIV-infected children and families in Uganda has flourished," said Dr. Mark Kline, president of BIPAI, professor of pediatrics at BCM and chief of retrovirology at Texas Children's. "The new facility we are dedicating this week will further expand our ability to provide Ugandan children and families with lifesaving HIV/AIDS care and treatment."

Funding for the building was provided by the Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation. Operational support will come from PEPFAR and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

"Collaboration and community engagement are central to Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation's efforts to fight HIV/AIDS in Africa. This new Children's Center of Excellence in Uganda – the fourth in which we have partnered with the Baylor International Pediatric AIDS Initiative and country governments – is a testament to the power of public-private collaboration," said John Damonti, president, Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation. "This center will not only make a difference in the lives of individual children in Uganda but will also strengthen the network of state-of-the-art care and treatment for children and their families across Africa."

BIPAI began caring for children and their families in Uganda in 2002 with funding from the CDC Global AIDS Program. The care has been provided at the Mulago Hospital/Makerere University in Kampala. In addition, extensive professional training programs have been conducted.

"The new Children's Center of Excellence on the Mulago Hospital campus is the largest in our entire Network," said Nancy Calles, vice president of international program development for BIPAI. "The program in Uganda has become a model for Africa, and this beautiful new facility will help to enhance already excellent clinical and health professional educational programs."

BIPAI's pediatric HIV/AIDS network in Africa includes programs in Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Malawi, Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho.

Vitamin A deficiency affects more than 254 million children, impairing their immune systems, causing blindness and increasing the risk of death associated with diarrhea and measles. It accounts for approximately 600,000 child deaths each year.

Lifesaving Vitamin A Reaches 40 Million

Children



Giving a high dose of vitamin A twice a year to children 6 to 59 months old in vitamin A deficient areas will reduce under-5 mortality by 23 percent. Vitamin A supplements are also given to women up to eight weeks following childbirth and recommended for treating children who have measles, severe malnutrition, or prolonged diarrhea. In 2007, USAID helped bring vitamin A to 40 million children in 20 countries. These efforts have resulted in increased coverage, sustainability, and positive policy change in key USAID focus countries.

✕ [Get more information on USAID's vitamin A programs](#)

U.S., U.N. Food Aid Bringing Hope to Colombia's Indigenous People

Colombia's government, nonprofit groups assist in distribution

By Kathryn McConnell
Staff Writer

Washington — In Soacha, a poor neighborhood built in a once-forested mountain area outside Bogota, Colombia, a 64-year-old woman mixes locally grown food with lentils and vegetable oil donated by the United States to make nutritious lunches for her community's schoolchildren.

In the same neighborhood, a local man teaches the students about the importance of agriculture in a shared garden supported by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

The projects are two examples that show how food aid donated and distributed cooperatively by the United States and the United Nations and in coordination with Colombia's government and nonprofit groups is helping poor, vulnerable groups of people in Colombia improve their lives and gain hope for the future.

"Food should always be a part" of efforts to end the "vicious cycle" of poverty, Gaddi Vasquez, U.S. ambassador to the U.N. agencies in Rome, said in the State Department's DipNote blog.

Vasquez recently visited several communities in Colombia populated by poor, indigenous people displaced from their homes in other parts of the country by years of domestic conflict. He was accompanied by seven Latin American journalists interested in seeing firsthand the effects that public-private food aid partnerships are having on people who are chronically malnourished.


Indigenous people comprise 3 percent of Colombia's population but more than 6 percent of the country's displaced residents, Vasquez said.

He said food aid from the United Nations and United States is helping these people re-establish their lives while maintaining their traditional culture.

Speaking to America.gov, Vasquez described visiting a young, displaced man now living outside Cartagena. With support from the U.S. Agency for International Development, the man was able to build a small sausage factory that now employs 12 people and is providing food to the community. It has transformed the man's life, Vasquez said.

"It's a small thing but very significant, because it is sustainable entrepreneurship and is providing jobs," he said.

Another man who received training supported by the U.N. World Food Programme was able to open a small market in a neighborhood of displaced people. He proudly named his store after Colombia's football team.



Vasquez also visited a community in San Basilio de Palenque, recognized by the United Nations as a cultural heritage site. With assistance from the U.N.'s International Fund for Agricultural Development, residents have created a small business that makes and sells traditional sweets.

Vasquez described a program for mothers using food donated by the United States and delivered through the World Food Programme. The food attracts mothers to a clinic where they learn about nutrition so they can keep their infants healthy.

At a World Food Programme-supported vocational center, the mothers learn skills that can lead to jobs in such areas as baking and hairdressing. The center helps them establish their own small businesses.

"People are taking ownership and taking responsibility" for turning their lives around, Vasquez said.

The United States demonstrates its commitment to global humanitarian aid through donations to the U.N. food agencies and through direct efforts of the State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development and other U.S. agencies.

THE Ministry of Health and Social Services yesterday launched the Miss Cultural Heritage World 2008 pageant.

The pageant is for young women across the world to sensitize the public on various social issues, including HIV-AIDS, cancer, drug abuse, child labour, poverty eradication, gender equality, health and environmental awareness. The initiative is the brainchild of Venancius Rukero, a former street kid who benefited from the After-School Programme launched by former President Sam Nujoma shortly after Independence. Rukero stressed that he is eager to give back to the country by bringing international attention to these social problems, while simultaneously promoting the country on the tourism front. In addition to being the founder of the pageant, he also runs a foundation that supports 38 orphans and vulnerable children.

Speaking on behalf of the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, Petrina Haingura, Dr Ndapewa Hamunime praised the initiative as "bringing the world to Namibia...

using the aspect of beauty to reflect the face of HIV-AIDS." More than 50 countries have been invited to partake in the pageant, and 15 - including Trinidad & Tobago, Nigeria, Swaziland, South Africa, the United States, England, Finland, Zambia, Angola and Botswana - have already confirmed their participation. A fundraising drive is currently underway, with the committee aspiring to raise N\$1 million to cover the costs of hosting the contestants for two weeks around the country, prizes, and other associated costs.

The United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) has already pledged its support in carrying the entire cost of the pageant evening, which will take place in conjunction with the second annual Namibian HIV-AIDS Hero Awards on November 29.

A street festival ending with a formal lunch and fashion show in the Zoo Park is planned for November 28, and prior to this, the contestants will visit a number of social projects.

Maggy Mbako, public relations officer at the Namibia Tourism Board and committee

Namibia: Beauty Pageant With A Purpose

Africa News
October 8, 2008

member, added that press representatives from Swaziland, Nigeria and the United States are expected to provide international media coverage on the event, "thereby advertising Namibia as a prime tourist destination to potential holidaymakers across the world".

DAR ES SALAAM - The key to a new multi-billion dollar strategy to eliminate malaria deaths worldwide by 2015 is to widen availability of existing diagnostic and preventative treatments.

However, that goal, announced by the Roll Back Malaria Partnership at the end of September, may be difficult to achieve because malaria is a major threat in some of the world's poorest nations, where fragile health systems struggle to find money and resources to cope with a slew of other severe and deadly diseases. There were more than 247 million cases of malaria recorded in 2006; about 880,000 of them fatal, according to the World Health Organization's World Malaria Report released Sep. 18. Nine out of every ten of those deaths were in Africa, the report said. Malaria, a disease passed to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito, has no vaccine and some strains can be fatal if left untreated. The Roll Back Malaria Partnership, a collaboration of governments, multilateral institutions, civil society, academics and businesses, aims to save 4.2 million lives by 2015 through its Global Malaria Action Plan. The plan calls for a massive boost in coverage of simple and effective prevention measures. They include distributing 730 million insect-repelling bed nets, spraying insecticide in 127 million households, and boosting access to testing and malaria-blocking medicine especially for high-risk pregnant women. The plan also demands delivery of more treatment -- 228 million doses of a new class known as artemisinin-class combination therapy (ACTs), and 19 million doses of the less-effective drugs, chloroquine and primaquine.

Health experts often recommend ACTs, a newer class drug, over older treatments which have built up a resistance to the malaria infection. One health expert warned against one-size-fits all approach in the fight against malaria. For instance, over-stretched national health care ministries in some nations may be unable to coordinate a massive anti-malaria campaign in such a short time frame. "These methods being proposed would reduce transmission and the number of cases. I believe achieving better control is possible," Robert Black, chair of the Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, said in an interview. "But it has to be individualised to every country to be money well-spent. In addition, primary health and basic services must be strengthened for good outcomes." Even with these tools provided free-of-charge, ensuring their proper use will be a challenge. Tiny health care budgets in African nations have left hospitals under-funded and prompted an exodus of medical workers abroad in search of higher-paying jobs.

Extra community-based and voluntary health workers will have to be trained to help with implementation. "We can only do so much with funding, interventions, and technical assistance," Ray Chambers, the UN special envoy for malaria said in a media teleconference from New York City last week. After that, "it will matter with what happens on the ground with distribution, education, and how to use the nets."

Funding

The plan calls for the international community to invest 5.3 billion dollars next year, rising to \$6.2 billion in 2010 and then \$5.1 billion every year to 2020. That's more than five times the current annual spending on anti-malarial efforts \$1.1 billion. Financing

Health-Africa: Renewed Fight Against Old Killer

By Sarah McGregor
Inter Press Service International Association (Rome, Italy)
October 8, 2008

to develop new, more effective drugs and research vaccines is pegged at another \$8.9 billion over 10 years, the plan said. However, Africa alone suffered a \$1.6 billion funding gap for programs to curb malaria between 2007-2009, it added. Going forward, donors may be motivated to give generously because case studies show that efforts to curb malaria have brought "return on investment," Chambers, the UN malaria envoy, said. This approach has seen the African nations of Eritrea and Rwanda succeed in more than halving the number of malaria cases between 2000 and 2006, he said. The Indian Ocean archipelago of Zanzibar, off the coast of Tanzania, has eliminated malaria as a major public health threat for its 1-million strong population. Tanzania received 334 million dollars for anti-malaria measures this year from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for HIV/AIDS Relief and the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI). The number of malaria cases on the islands has dropped to a "low level," according to the website of the PMI, a U.S. government funded program. That means Zanzibar is just short of meeting the WHO's criteria for pre-elimination status -- less than 1 case of confirmed malaria among 1,000 persons with fever, it said.

The approach in Zanzibar was three-pronged -- a combination of ACTs, long-lasting treated bed nets for pregnant women and children under five, and indoor insecticide spraying in 90 percent of homes, Jeffery Salaiz, Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Tanzania, said in an interview. Two previous efforts to eradicate the disease on the islands in the 1960s and 1980s failed to stick due to inadequate funding, said Salaiz. Zanzibar's current success to combat malaria should stay on track if residents continue to act cautiously such as sleeping under bed nets, he said. Still, most of the 109 nations' endemic for malaria is falling behind a development target for controlling the disease, according to the WHO 2008 World Malaria Report. One of the eight Millennium Development Goals aims to stop and reverse the incidence of malaria by 2015. Governments and charities in September announced \$3 billion in new money to underpin the Global Malaria Action Plan. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria pledged \$1.62 billion for 100 million bed nets; the World Bank \$1.1 billion to expand a malaria booster program and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation \$168.7 million for the "new generation" PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative. The UK government, Global Business Coalition, United Nations and Mattell promised the rest. "If the perfect storm happens... the 2015 timeline for achieving the Millennium Development Goal (on malaria) will be attained. But, even much more important, we are expecting to get near zero deaths from malaria by 2015. I believe it's within our grasp," said Chambers.

2008 USAID Development 2.0 Challenge

Global Development



Connect. Collaborate. Prosper.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COMMONS
Your best ideas can help the US Agency for International Development (USAID) develop innovative technological solutions to issues related to poverty in developing countries.

USAID is proud to announce the upcoming launch of the 2008 USAID Development 2.0 Challenge. The Challenge will reward the best ideas with an invitation to present them before senior officials at USAID and a grant of as much as \$10,000 for the winning solution.

Mobile technology, including everything from inventive applications for smart phones to simple text messaging, is increasingly ubiquitous in the developing world. USAID challenges you to explore its potential through an innovation for maximum development impact in areas such as health, banking, education, agricultural trade, or other pressing development issues.



Photo: James W. H. / USAID/Global Development Commons; Photo: Global Development Commons; Photo: Global Development Commons; Photo: Global Development Commons

An Open Source Competition

For the next two months, innovators can submit project ideas or comment on submissions. Once the submission process closes, an online community vote will select the top 15 projects. A panel of USAID-selected judges will pick the winner and two runners-up.

How to Participate

Beginning October 13, submit your idea by visiting www.netsquared.org/usaidd for all guidelines, rules and restrictions. Or join as an online community adviser to review candidate ideas, offer feedback and vote for the best project.

For more information, email usaiddchallenge@techsoup.org.

HELPFUL LINKS

Greetings from USAID's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid,

I wanted to take this opportunity to draw your attention to the following updates on the ACVFA web page:

http://www.usaid.gov/about_usaid/acvfa/

1. Administrator Fore's remarks as prepared;
2. The draft report of the Subcommittee on Public Outreach -- we would still welcome your feedback until October 20 (we expect to post the final recommendations on the ACVFA web page in mid-November); and
3. Subcommittee Co-Chair Paul Clark's power point presentation.

The Advisory Committee On Voluntary Foreign Aid (ACVFA) was established by Presidential directive after World War II to serve as a link between the U.S. Government and private voluntary organizations (PVOs) active in humanitarian assistance and development work overseas.

Comprised of 30 private citizens with extensive knowledge of international development, ACVFA helps provide the underpinning for cooperation between the public and private sectors in U.S. foreign assistance programs.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST

Faith-Based Groups Man The Front Lines; They Know The Drill And The Territory; They "Get It"

By Rick Jervis
USA TODAY
October 7, 2008

JEAN LAFITTE, La. -- Julius Moll stood and watched as workers tossed chunks of his mother's life into a heap in the front yard of her ruined home: shards of soggy drywall, muddied mattresses, carpets, bed frames, a vacuum cleaner. "It's hard watching this," Moll, 61, said. "But these are good people." The workers gutting Moll's mother's home were volunteers from Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans, an offshoot of the faith-based national group that has been at the forefront of recovery and rebuilding of the Gulf Coast after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 and, again, following Gustav and Ike. Five days after a storm surge from Ike inundated this small bayou community 30 miles south of New Orleans, Catholic Charities officials identified 65 flooded homes their volunteers would start gutting for free. They estimate they'll gut 250 homes total in and around Jean Lafitte. Since Katrina and Rita, the group has gutted more than 2,000 homes in the New Orleans area. Faith-based groups have been at the vanguard of rebuilding this hurricane-battered region. Baptist, Catholic, Lutheran, Mennonite, Methodist and other national faith agencies have mobilized more than 200,000 volunteers and raised more than \$200million in aid since Katrina, according to a recent study by the Institute for Southern Studies, a non-profit research center.

The groups are adept at cutting through bureaucratic red tape and fill important gaps left by federal, state and local agencies, says Chris Kromm, the institute's director. "Faith groups are one of the few sectors that seem to 'get it' as far as the long-term need in the Gulf Coast," he says.

Out of work -- but not luck

Moll had heard of Catholic Charities' work in New Orleans but didn't think he'd be able to get any help from them, he said. A life-long shrimper, he had been out of work since Gustav made landfall Sept. 1 near Cocodrie, La. He evacuated his family and his 88-year-old, widowed mother, Henrietta Boudreaux, to Mississippi during Gustav. The entire family returned and rode out Ike in Moll's double-wide, raised mobile home in lower Jean Lafitte. Boudreaux had been living alone in her home about a half-mile up the road.

After Ike's winds subsided, Moll motored a pirogue around the flooded town, surveying the damage. He and his family had survived Hurricanes Betsy, Camille, Andrew, Katrina and Rita. The damage from Ike -- a hurricane that made landfall more than 300 miles away -- was the worst he had ever seen, he says.

Schools and churches were swallowed by more than 4 feet of floodwaters. Entire residential streets were submerged. Moll helped some residents out of their homes and took them by boat to dry land, he says. "It was a mess," he says. Boudreaux's house was on higher ground and took in less than a foot of water, Moll says. But it was enough to destroy the floors, walls and half the home's furniture, he says. Out of work

and with modest savings to draw from, Moll says he wasn't sure what to do about his mother's home.

Shortly after the storm, Moll was filling gas in his truck in a nearby town when a neighbor told him about Catholic Charities. The next day, Moll met with Catholic Charities officials who had set up a command post at Jean Lafitte's Town Hall. They told him they would gut his mother's house for free. Moll lowered his head and cried. "I was overwhelmed," he says. "It's unbelievable how people can come in and help you." Indefatigable the crew workers showed up the next day. The mostly college-age crew came from all over -- California, Georgia, Iowa, Rhode Island, Washington state. Most were volunteers. Others, such as Adrian Manriquez, 24, of Denver, moved to New Orleans in 2006 to work as a painting supervisor for Catholic Charities. Manriquez says he has witnessed Catholic Charities save homes and brightens distressed lives in the New Orleans area.

When residents ran out of federal money or lacked insurance, his work crew finished the job, he says. Grateful residents have repaid him from their kitchen: red beans and rice crawfish etouffee, catfish, cornbread, and pecan pies. "It's been amazing," he says. "A lot of folks have been through so much. They have serious fatigue." Workers recently used crowbars and hammers to pull out floors, cabinets and drywall. Salvageable items -- including framed photos of grandchildren and ceramic dishes inscribed with Bible verses -- were carefully piled in the carport. Moll's mother, Boudreaux, has Alzheimer's disease and has been flitting in and out of touch with reality since the storms, he says. "I lost everything during Katrina and Rita, and I was on my own," Moll says, staring down at the growing pile of his mother's things. "I never once dreamed this (help would come) to me."

Haiti Could Get Gift Of Portable Classrooms From Broward (Charles, MH)

Miami Herald
By Jacqueline Charles

From television interviews in Miami-Dade to a school visit in Broward, Haitian President René Préval raced through South Florida over the weekend seeking additional relief for his storm-ravaged nation.

Préval held private talks in Key Biscayne with Dominican President Leonel Fernández to discuss participation of that neighboring country's private sector in reconstruction projects. And he met Monday with the director of the Port of Miami to discuss how to transport several hundred unusually large items to Gonaives, the city hardest hit by four back-to-back storms last month.

The most promising gift so far from South Florida for Haiti: 600 portable classrooms from Broward to help alleviate a crunch created by damaged schools still serving as shelters for more than 165,000 homeless storm victims.

Storms Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike are blamed for more than 700 deaths. They destroyed tens of thousands of homes, wiped out more than 50,000 acres of agricultural fields and delayed the opening of schools by a month.

"This is a project that would have long-term impact in Haiti, especially for our youth and education sector," Préval said Monday in between a press conference at the Consulate General of Haiti in downtown Miami and a visit with a group of Broward County Haitian community leaders who have been working with the school district on the portable classrooms donation.

School officials said the portables would likely be dismantled and destroyed if they don't go to Haiti even though the temporary buildings are good for another 20 years.

"There is no need for us to utilize these portables," said Benjamin Williams, a member of the Broward School Board. "It's going to take money to dismantle these portables."

Préval is scheduled to return to Haiti on Tuesday. He was originally scheduled to go home on Sunday, but he canceled the flight and headed north to Everglades High in Miramar. Arriving at the campus, he sat inside a portable classroom and was immediately impressed.

Williams then explained plans to ask his fellow board members to donate the mobile classrooms.

On the drive back to Miami, Préval said he realized the structures could also help transform education in a country where many students learn in rundown, deteriorating classrooms.

"He's truly energized by this," said David Lawrence Jr., a child advocate and former publisher of The Miami Herald to whom Préval has reached out for assistance. "He's deeply interested in seeing if there are other portables in the other school districts and asked me to see if I can make something larger come to pass."

Lawrence said the portables are a great idea.

"I am delighted to help," he said. "Haiti needs every bit of help it can get, and it should be the obligation of every fortunate person in Miami to help."

Préval also met with former Gov. Jeb Bush, various community leaders and officials and U.S. Rep. Kendrick Meek, D-Miami, who organized a meeting at Miami International Airport where Préval, the Port of Miami director and the owner of a private shipping company discussed transportation.

"I believe there is no greater humanitarian effort that South Florida can engage itself in," Meek said. "In many of the hardest-hit areas, children are sleeping under the stars because their homes have been destroyed. These portables would allow the government to start putting the education system back in place so the children can learn in decent conditions."

Williams first mentioned the portable idea to board members three weeks ago. He also has been in contact with Wal-Mart, he said.

"They want to give school supplies for this project," he said. "They say they are ready to do this if the Broward school system is going to give them the portables."

Along with discussing the possibility of acquiring additional portables from the state of Florida, Préval has been trying to create partnerships to raise the funds to transport and assemble the 20-foot by 30-foot structures.

The objective of the project, he said, is to use the portables as the cornerstone of a community center in each of Haiti's 142 counties, which would include classrooms, health clinics and sports facilities for youths.

Préval said that even as Haiti faces many rebuilding needs, his goal is to "little by little return a sense of normalcy to people's everyday lives."

HIV-Aids And STDs; Fighting Together Against HIV/Aids

In the fight against a killer disease such as HIV/AIDS, you have to join forces. That is the idea behind the forum of partners in the fight against AIDS. However, in its three years of existence the forum has achieved little. The partners now plan to change that.

"If they do not take their drugs regularly, the self-assessment will enable AIDS patients

to change."

Addressing the forum, Health Minister Dr. Damascene Ntawukuriryayo pointed out that the associations of people living with HIV/AIDS are not advising people on the prevention HIV/AIDS.

"Association members are often shy to speak out about AIDS due to the Rwandan tradition," Minister Ntawukuriryayo said.

He further remarked that parents need to advise their children about AIDS prevention, insisting that keeping quiet about issues of sexuality might lead to their children contracting HIV/AIDS.

The Minister also pointed out that, whereas the ministry had taken tough action to prevent transmission through injections and blood transfusion, the main way of transmission of HIV/AIDS is still through sexual intercourse, which the ministry obviously cannot control insisting except by sensitization.

Yet Minister Ntawukuriryayo said that the ministry is considering making male circumcision obligatory by law, as it has been shown that it significantly reduces the risk of transmitting HIV. Yet the issue is still under debate.

According to Antoine Semukanya, the deputy executive director of CNLS, the intention of the forum was to evaluate the activities of the various entities involved fighting HIV/AIDS. This, he said, does not only concern evaluating organizations, but also individuals.

"It has to go down to the people infected with HIV/AIDS in the villages. With the individual evaluation, people have to ask themselves whether their contribution in the fight against AIDS is adequate. After that, there is the evaluation at an institutional level to see what can be done to improve the fight against HIV/AIDS," Semukanya said.

Asked how the evaluation would finally help a poor AIDS patient in a village, he said that since the procedure is to be decentralized, such people will also evaluate themselves.

"For instance, if they do not take their drugs regularly, the self-assessment will enable them change. It actually helps them to understand their weaknesses and work on them," he explained.

Work harder

As for the effectiveness of the forum, the deputy director conceded that there has been little progress since its inception three years ago. He partly blamed leaders of associations of persons living with HIV/AIDS for not implementing some of the strategies conceived during such forums.

"We have to work together, and work harder, to reduce new incidences of HIV/AIDS," Semukanya said.

The priority now, according to him, is to significantly reduce the number of people being infected with HIV. He also expressed the desire for improved collaboration between all partners in the fight against HIV/AIDS, which include the One-UN program, USAID, PEPFAR as well as the civil society and all the umbrella organizations and associations of people living with HIV/AIDS.

He further said that the forum was aiming to work more with the beneficiaries so as to be able to understand the help they need.

"We have to look at the needs of the beneficiaries and assess what can be done so that they are better able to sustain themselves," Semukanya said, adding that all the associations of people leaving with AIDS have become cooperatives so as to be profitable, and thus sustain themselves.

According to the UNAIDS country program coordinator, Dr. Kekoura Kourouma, such forums are important as an opportunity to listen to people who are involved in the field and to exchange ideas on how best to implement strategies.

On the other side, he found it imperative that the forum also makes sure that the strategies that have been designed are implemented, and that it also helps to transfer responsibility from the center to the local people, so that all can be involved in the process.

Feeding the Hungry (Cerreta, WT)

Washington Times
By Denise Cerreta

It was no surprise when noted psychologist Abraham Maslow told us in 1956 that food was No. 3, behind water and air, on his hierarchy of needs for survival. What has been a surprise since then is how hard it has been for some of our fellow humans to get any. That's why the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization was established in 1945. A World War had just ended and millions were starving in its wake.

Still, even thirty-four years later, the problems of the underfed were still looming. And so, in 1979, the Food and Agricultural Organization created World Food Day. By then, the organization had been working for several decades to increase food sufficiency in the worst affected nations. But in its own resolution establishing World Food Day, U.N. founders acknowledged: "There was still no evidence of a reduction in the incidence of hunger and malnutrition. Food aid and external assistance for agriculture were well below estimated requirements, and a fully effective system of world food security had still to be established." World Food Day was created to draw attention to the needs of the starving and undefined around the world.

Fast-forward two more decades and surprisingly, things are not much better. Warring factions within failed states often use food as political weapons, as evidenced in Zimbabwe and Darfur. Elsewhere, the problem isn't the ability to produce food, but transporting it. Meanwhile, biofuels have put our food supply in competition with our fuel supply, pushing up prices for corn. In still other places, food quality is in question as fears over food safety standards spark food hoarding and cause commodity prices to soar.

The result is that great masses of people around the world are defined by the United Nations as "food insecure," which means they eat, but not nearly enough to maintain physical and mental health. Five years ago, the Food and Agricultural Organization reported that 798 million people worldwide didn't have enough to eat. But if you think such terms apply only to people a world away, think again.

Our own U.S. Department of Agriculture, in 2006 said that 11 percent of Americans are food insecure. That's more than 30 million people who don't consistently have access to sufficient quantities of food. The Federal School Lunch Program and the Federal Food Stamp Program were created with the idea that all Americans should have enough to eat.

But for Americans unfamiliar with what food insecurity looks like, think of the woman who always shows up for “Happy Hour” and manages to take home a napkin full of hot winds every night. Or the family that makes secret trips to the food bank early Saturday morning. Or the child who is on the playground when the rest of the kids are eating their lunches. Or the guy scrounging in the dumpster.

We all have a right to food. Which is why it is thrilling that Salt Lake City is joining One World Everybody Eats and a coalition of restaurants for World Food Day 2008. On October 16, many of the city of Salt Lake’s eating establishments will contribute proceeds from specially created and sized menu items to the charities of their choice. The purpose of our participation is to raise awareness of the issue of food insecurity locally, nationally, and globally. And those food service related entities that are not restaurants but part of the industry’s supply chain have also offered to donate money.

One World Everybody Eats is dedicated to doing its part to end world hunger by reducing food waster as well as helping others around the country start their own community kitchens – which in turn will reduce food waste.

It is happening. And we encourage restaurants around the nation to follow Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker’s lead to help more people eat, more families thrive and more communities overcome the scourge of food insecurity.

Denise Cerreta is founder of One World Everybody Eats.

SUCCESS STORIES

Joint Aid Management (JAM)



Joint Aid Management
Helping Africa help itself

Joint Aid Management (JAM) is a South African founded non-profit, Christian humanitarian relief and development organization with 24 years experience in sustainable development. JAM's programs focus on nutritional feeding, school feeding, assistance to orphans and vulnerable children, the provision of water and sanitation as well as skills development and community training. JAM believes that without education there can be no development and effective education is only attained through adequate nutrition. JAM currently assists more than 480 000 children through our nutritional feeding programs.

JAM started in 1984 after its founder, Peter Pretorius, was stranded in an area called Pambarra in Mozambique. Peter was at a food distribution center for 10 days without food or a change of clothes. There was no food at the center, only 34 000 starving people. Every day more than 30 people died and he helped bury them in shallow trench graves. Broken by the reality of this suffering, Peter was filled with a resolve to feed and help as many people as possible. Now, more than two decades later, Joint Aid Management is making a difference to hundreds of thousands of lives in 5 African countries: Angola, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, southern Sudan, and Rwanda.



Vision

To help Africa help itself by contributing toward the alleviation of poverty through sustainable aid programs that express the compassionate heart of God.

Mission Statement

To achieve our mission in Africa through:

- Offering a professional, dignified solution to the poor
- Helping to develop people through education and development programs
- Meeting the nutritional and educational needs of children
- Providing sustainable water and sanitation solutions
- Meeting people's needs in a time of crisis
- Operating in accordance with our Christian values and morals
- Operating all aid activities on a fully inclusive basis, not discriminating on the basis of race, religion, gender or political persuasion

Goals

- To provide more than 200 water and sanitation points each year
- To provide agricultural assistance to as many families as possible
- To respond to emergencies in a rapid and efficient manner

Countries where JAM works:

- Southern Sudan
- Zimbabwe
- Ethiopia
- Rwanda
- Angola
- South Africa
- Mozambique

For more information on JAM and its programs, [click here.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

**October 22-24, 2008
George Mason
University
Fairfax, VA**



CONFERENCE ON PROTECTION OF
UNACCOMPANIED AND SEPARATED CHILDREN

October 22-24, 2008 • George Mason University • Fairfax, Virginia

The purpose of the conference is to help improve the timelines and effectiveness of protection for unaccompanied and separated children. Worldwide, more than 1.6 million children are unaccompanied or separated from their parents among populations of refugees, the internally displaced, stateless people, migrants, and asylum seekers. In addition, some 1.2 million children each year are victims of human trafficking. Without protection by parents or adult family members, these children are vulnerable to exploitation for sex, forced labor, neglect of their needs, and denial of their rights.

Timely, systematic, and effective interventions are hindered by long delays (sometimes years) in identifying individuals, inadequate training of field workers, ad hoc approaches to temporary care, and insufficient collaboration among service providers. The application of Best Interest Determinations is limited in scope, principally to refugee resettlement cases.

Last year, the Executive Committee of UNHCR, in its Conclusion on Children at Risk, identified being unaccompanied or separated as a risk factor for child exploitation, and called on States, UNHCR, other partners to collaborate and adopt measures to identify children at risk, prevent their separation when possible, facilitate family tracing and re-unification, and put into place mechanisms to give them care and priority attention.


The conference program is designed for child welfare practitioners, researchers, mental health service providers, managers and policy makers from governments, non-governmental humanitarian and social service organizations, international organizations, and academic institutions. Specifically, the conference will:

- Identify successful policies, practices, and forms of collaboration among states, international organizations, and NGOs:
- Raise awareness of the issue and build relationships among practitioners and researchers;
- Support the UNHCR Executive Committee Conclusion on Children at Risk;
- Strengthen capacities to undertake Best Interest Determinations.

Conference sessions will address:

- Identification and documentation
- International law framework: Respective Jurisdictions and roles: governments, international organizations and NGOs
- Family tracing and reunification
- Protection in mixed migration flows
- Safe repatriation
- Best Interest Determinations
- Temporary and long term care
- The role of interested adults as guardians and representatives

For more information on the conference visit
<http://childalone.gmu.edu>

- 
- **Legal remedies in immigration and asylum cases**
 - **Psychosocial issues**
Protection from labor and sexual exploitation

The 2008 Corporate Citizenship Awards Dinner

**Tuesday, November 18,
2008**

**National Building
Museum
Washington, D.C.**

*Join BCLC for this exceptional
celebration in our nation's
capital.*

Register online today: [Click
Here](#)

The celebration will bring more
than 550 business leaders
together to celebrate the best of
American business. Notable
guest will include Thomas J.
Donohue, President and CEO,
U.S. Chamber of Commerce and
the 150 members of the U.S.
Chamber of Commerce Board of
Directors.

For more information or to
register, [visit our website](#).

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center invites you to join us for the 9th Annual Corporate Citizenship Awards Dinner, as we honor the highest ideals of corporate citizenship.

The U.S. Chamber BCLC's Corporate Citizenship Awards showcase businesses, trade associations, and chambers of commerce and their partners for demonstrating ethical leadership and corporate stewardship, making a positive difference in their communities, and have contributed to the advancement of important economic and social goals.

Join us honoring these finalists!

Large Corporate Stewardship Award:

Bank of America, KPMG LLP, Pilot Travel Centers LLC, Siemens USA, Verizon Communications

Small/Mid-Size Corporate Stewardship Award:

Computer Systems Center Incorporated (CSCI), Harris Corporation, INTEGRITYOne Partners, NutraCea, Quality Float Works, Inc.

U.S. Community Service Award:

Air Conditioning Contractors of America, Allstate, Deloitte & Touche USA LLP, Southwest Airlines, Xcel Energy

International Community Service Award:

AmCham Nicaragua, Coca-Cola China Ltd., FedEx, Pfizer, Procter & Gamble

Partnership Award:

Abbott Laboratories and Direct Relief International, American International Group Inc. (AIG) and CHF International, CVS/Caremark and Simon Youth Foundation, Eli Lilly and Company and International Council of Nurses, MtvU and The Jed Foundation

Forum on Relief & Development

The Forum on Relief and Development will be held November 18-20, 2008 at the beautiful Glen Eyrie campus in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Hear the latest on vital topics such as: the Global Food Crisis and engage in targeted conversation groups that encourage peer-to-peer learning, amongst other activities.

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For more information, [click here.](#)



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

USAID FUNDING

(check out grants.gov for the most up-to-date information on grant and funding opportunities as information does change)

Thailand USAID-Bangkok is issuing this Request for Applications to implement an Alternative Development Program to increase licit and commercially viable agricultural-based alternatives for rural Afghans with the goal of significantly reducing and ultimately eradicating poppy production throughout Afghanistan. Subject to the availability of funds, this competitively awarded five year Cooperative Agreement shall focus across those provinces within the north, east and west of Afghanistan where poppy eradication has been showing success, security issues are comparatively reduced and opportunities are most abundant. Examples of current priority provinces are Nangarhar, Nuristan, Kunar and Laghman, Badakhshan, and Takhar. The Agreement shall be outcomes based focused on results. Applicants shall compete with proposed solutions that meet the requirements of the RFA and are tailored to an optimal technical / business approach. The goal is to contribute to the creation of full and part-time and year-round and seasonal jobs, increased sales, strengthened associations, increased exports and improved access to services to promote licit economic growth and positive alternatives to the illicit economy for farmers and non-farmers alike. As of August 14, 2008, the closing date for applications is October 27, 2008. For more information, [click here.](#)

Jordan USAID – Amman is currently seeking to implement education activities that

support USAID/Jordan's Assistance Agreement for Investing in People No. 13 (Strategic Objective No. 13) which is an integrated program to improve the health, education and life skills for all Jordanians. USAID's education support shall "Improve and Expand Basic Education" and provide "Greater Opportunities for Youth through Expanded Work and Life Skills." As of September 8, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is October 31, 2008. For more information about this grant opportunity, [click here](#).

Hungary USAID-Budapest- The purpose of this three-year Parliamentary Strengthening (PS) Project is to make the parliaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) more effective and representative. The project builds on achievements realized to date through USAID-funded parliamentary assistance, and will focus on assisting the State and Federation of BiH (FBiH) Parliaments. Further, it addresses selected capacity constraints in parliamentary representation, policy development, legislation formulation and oversight functions. Better policy-making and legislation by parliaments is important for BiH to make further progress towards integration with the European Union (EU). As of October 1, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is November 10, 2008. For more information about this grant opportunity, [click here](#).

Thailand USAID-Bangkok is currently seeking concept papers from qualified non-governmental organizations capable of designing and implementing model projects that will provide support to people with disabilities in Danang and surrounding areas. Programs and activities could include, but are not limited to enhancing earlier intervention for those who are disabled, providing support to existing rehabilitation clinics and services, expanding access of people with disabilities to essential health and education services, initiating or strengthening community based rehabilitation services and support, improving income generation and employment opportunities, strengthening the capacity of local organizations to provide services, improved community-based information around reducing risk exposure, and surveillance and prevention of disability. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is Dec 04, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

Bangladesh USAID-Dhaka is requesting applications to restore livelihoods and provide increased and sustained livelihood opportunities for the cyclone-affected population in southern Bangladesh. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is January 15, 2009. For more information, [click here](#).

USAID is seeking applications for the Develop Grants Program (DGP) Annual Program Statement (APS). The United States Government, through USAID, seeks applications from prospective U.S. Private Voluntary Organizations (US PVOs) to implement development activities in support of USAID programmatic goals in specified countries with USAID Missions. The authority for the DGP is found in Section 674 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008. In support of selected USAID Missions' priority sectors of Environment, Dairy, Micro enterprise, Women's Empowerment, Water and Democracy and Governance, the Office of Development Partners in USAID/W is initiating a new program, entitled the Development Grants Program, to provide opportunities for development organizations that have had limited prior funding from USAID. This program provides for a two-step procurement process. The first step is a request for concept papers (RFCP). The second step is the process in which USAID requests organizations with the best concept papers to submit a full application. USAID seeks applications that are based on the comparative advantage U.S. PVOs have in certain technical or geographic areas that would allow them to make

effective contributions to the priority development sectors outlined in this APS. **As of August 29, 2008, Concept papers received no later than 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 will be considered for review.** Concept Papers submitted late or after the November 5, 2008 deadline will be reviewed prior to the expiration date of the APS (January 29, 2009). All applications received by the deadline for the APS will be reviewed for responsiveness to the specifications outlined in these guidelines and the application format. Applications that are incomplete run the risk of not being considered in the review process. For more information, [click here](#).

USAID invites applications from indigenous Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) interested in the newly established Development Grants Program. The United States Government, through USAID, will seek applications from prospective local NGO partners to implement development activities in support of USAID programmatic goals in specified countries. Selected USAID Missions in Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe and Eurasia regions will participate. In support of selected USAID Missions' priority sectors of Environment, Dairy, Micro enterprise, Women's Empowerment, Water and Democracy and Governance, the Office of Development Partners in USAID/W is initiating a new program, entitled the Development Grants Program, to provide opportunities to development organizations that have had limited prior funding from USAID. This program provides for a two-step process. The first step is a request for concept papers. The second step is the process in which USAID requests organizations with the best concept papers to submit a full application. USAID seeks applications that are based on the comparative advantage NGOs have in certain technical or geographic areas that would allow them to make effective contributions to the priority development sectors outlined in this APS. **As of August 29, 2008, Concept papers received no later than 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time on Wednesday, November 5, 2008 will be considered for review.** Concept Papers submitted late or after the November 5, 2008 deadline will be reviewed prior to the expiration date of the APS (January 29, 2009). For more information, [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 August 15, 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](#).

Sudan USAID seeks observation applications covering the entirety of the electoral process, from establishment of the National Election Commission through resolution of post-polling disputes. **As of August 15, 2008, the closing date on this announcement is February 16, 2009.** For more information, [click here](#).

US Agency for International Development- The global food crisis has affected households around the world, but has had a particularly harsh impact on the most vulnerable families in developing nations. Vulnerable populations in the Horn of Africa region can be described in three types: pastoral, agro-pastoral, and marginal farming households. Historically in the Horn region, all of these groups suffer the same repetitive scenario of humanitarian decline due to asset depletion resulting from the continuous man-made and climatic shocks. In general, this decline scenario includes a

shock followed by households adopting negative coping mechanisms, such as selling productive assets to meet basic food needs and loss of assets to the effects of drought/flood/disease. USAID/OFDA's mandate is to save lives, alleviate human suffering, and reduce the social and economic impact of humanitarian emergencies worldwide. In order to achieve this goal, USAID/DCHA/OFDA's strategy for the HFPCR is to improve local livelihoods as a means to increase household's resilience to shocks reducing the need for future relief based activities. A. The broad goals of this APS are to: • Stabilize humanitarian indicators in food insecure households through both the provision of humanitarian assistance and activities designed to protect existing household assets; • Strengthen existing developmental programming designed to rebuild livelihoods and household resiliency to shocks through the diversification and creation of household assets; and, • Improve economic opportunities and livelihoods through improved market linkages in support of the agricultural and livestock sectors. USAID/OFDA anticipates awarding two cooperative agreements as a result of this APS, one targeting interventions in Kenya and one targeting interventions in Uganda. As of October 10, 2008, the closing date on this announcement is April 8, 2009. For more information, [click here](#).

Kazakhstan USAID-Almaty This USAID/Central Asian Republics (CAR) Annual Program Statement (APS) solicits applications from prospective partners to implement maternal and child health activities in Tajikistan. USAID expects that the total level of funding available under this APS for activities in Tajikistan would be up to \$3.5 million. Based on these figures, funding requests are expected to range from a minimum of \$200,000 up to a maximum of \$3.5 million (if activities are proposed to cover all program objectives), for expenditure over a period of up to five years. Funding will not exceed \$700,000 per year; awards for projects of more than one year will be funded incrementally. All awards are subject to the availability of funding. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is June 24, 2009. For more information, [click here](#).

USAID is seeking applications from eligible institution as described in Section A.1.e., that promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Iran. Applications should advance one or more of the following objectives: strengthening civil society organization and advocacy; increasing awareness of and strengthening the rule of law; and expanding freedom of information. USAID intends to make several awards under this APS for a total of up to \$20 million. Applicants can request \$100,000 to \$3,000,000 for expenditure for a maximum of two years. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and all applications must be submitted by June 30, 2009. USAID reserves the right to fund any or none of the applications submitted. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is June 30, 2009. For more information, [click here](#).

U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT FUNDING

(check out grants.gov for the

Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration- The Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (hereinafter referred to as the "Bureau") welcomes the submission of proposals for the fiscal year 2009 Cultural Orientation (CO) Technical Assistance Program overseen by the Bureau. The deadline for submission of proposals is November 5, 2008. This program serves to complement the Reception and Placement Program, the purpose of which is to promote the effective resettlement of all persons who are admitted to the United States under the U.S.

most up-to-date information on grant and funding opportunities as information does change)

Refugee Admissions Program, including assisting refugees to achieve economic self-sufficiency through employment as quickly as possible. The goals of the CO Technical Assistance Program administered by the Bureau are: (1) to strengthen linkages between overseas cultural orientation programs and reception and placement activities; (2) to provide information and materials to overseas cultural orientation programs and to domestic refugee service providers; (3) to provide support and technical assistance to overseas cultural orientation programs on request; (4) with input from the Cultural Orientation Working Group and guidance from the Bureau, to provide feedback to overseas cultural orientation programs as needed; and (5) to provide other technical assistance requested by the Bureau, subject to availability of funds and adequate staffing levels to perform assigned tasks. The Bureau intends to award one Cooperative Agreement to a well-qualified non-profit organization with the required technical expertise in cultural orientation for an initial period beginning January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009 subject to the availability of funds. Through the Cooperative Agreement, the Bureau will provide full financial support to the selected organization, based on the proposal submitted in response to this request. This financial support may be renewable for up to two additional calendar years based upon annual budget submissions, as long as there remains a need for the program, and the organization operating the program provides satisfactory service, and subject to the availability of funds. At the end of three years, the Bureau will re-compete the program, and the recipient of this award may participate in that process. As of September 3, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is November 5, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).