



# FRONT LINES

WWW. USAID.GOV

APRIL 2008

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Armenia's most vulnerable children are being assessed to determine their educational and social needs, pg. 6.



An Armenian boy enjoys activities at a center supported by USAID's Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances project.

### MAJOR THEMES:

#### Critical Administration Issue

House Approves Tripling of AIDS funding. . . . . SEE PAGE 4

#### War on Terror

A thriving fishing industry staves off terror in the Philippines. . . . . SEE PAGE 8

#### Sustainable Development

India exceeds in high-tech sector. . . . . SEE PAGE 4

#### Humanitarian Crises

Ecuador flooding affects 300,000. . . . . SEE PAGE 12

#### Aid Effectiveness

Tanzania tackles government corruption. . . . . SEE PAGE 3

### FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES:

#### Peace and Security

Former U.N. official: U.S. vital to peacekeeping . . . . . SEE PAGE 5

#### Governing Justly and Democratically

Iraq provinces work with central government . . . . . SEE PAGE 7

#### Investing in People

New assessment process helps disabled Armenian students. . . . . SEE PAGE 6

#### Economic Growth

Pepper exports benefit Guyana farmers. . . . . SEE PAGE 6

#### Humanitarian Assistance

Ethiopia faces obstacles to food delivery . . . . . SEE PAGE 2

## Civilians, Military Team Up for Aid

In a twist of traditional roles, USAID employees now go to military bases to teach conflict prevention while uniformed military officers stride the halls of USAID in Washington as they work on coordinating U.S. engagement strategies for failed and fragile states.

The need for USAID to foster stabilization by delivering assistance and development in

Iraq and Afghanistan—where conflict is far from over—prompted both USAID and the Department of Defense (DOD) to seek ways to institutionalize the military-civilian relationship that previously had been based on ad hoc arrangements.

Although there are cultural differences between USAID and DOD, there are also many similarities. For example, both

see **MILITARY** on page 14 ►

## USAID Slated for Prime Role in Failed States

A new State Department unit to assist failed states will recruit over 4,000 civilian experts in development, government, and relief—many from USAID—said the head of the office, Ambassador Jon Herbst, at a USAID conference on April 2.

Since 9/11 and the U.S. efforts to battle terror, senior U.S. military and civilian officials have increasingly turned to the “smart power” of foreign assistance, rather than direct military force, to assist in resolving conflicts.

After civilian-military aid teams in Afghanistan and Iraq were able to assist farmers, students, and families despite ongoing conflict, U.S. planners evolved the concept of three “Response Corps”—one “active,” another “standby,” and the third “civilian”—that call for a major role for USAID.

Despite ambitious preparatory plans, Congress has consistently slashed Administration requests for funding. Currently, only 11 people are on active duty to deploy into the field since his office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization (S/CRS) was set up four years ago, Herbst said at an Agency meeting on conflict and failed states.

If, however, Congress were to approve an Administration request for \$249 million this year, plans call for the additional hiring of:

- 250 experts for a trained “Active Response Corps,” ready to move in two days and deploy indefinitely, even in conflict zones. Some 93 would come from USAID, 72 from State, 60 from Justice, and the rest from other government agencies and the private sector;
- 2,000 people in a “Standby Response Corps,” ready to

see **STATES** on page 14 ►

## Polls Help USAID Understand and Respond

A recent public opinion poll in Afghanistan, which identified “swing” groups likely to be moved by foreign assistance, is the latest in a series of polls helping USAID target its programs for maximum impact.

The Afghan poll follows many other polls, surveys, and focus groups funded by USAID in Indonesia, Poland, Pakistan, Ukraine, Georgia, the West Bank and Gaza, Egypt, and other countries.

“The struggle is for Afghan hearts and minds,” said Craig Charney, founder of Charney Research, which carried out the Afghanistan poll in November. “We apply campaign techniques to figure out ‘whose hearts?’ and ‘what is on their minds.’”

Some major goals of polls, said Carrie Gruenloh of the Democracy and Governance Office, are to: verify that elections are fair, help governments

see **POLLS** on page 14 ►



**IRAQ PROVINCES WORK WITH CENTRAL GOVERNMENT.** A provincial development strategy is formally presented to the Ministry of Planning at Iraq's first national provincial development strategy conference, held in Baghdad March 2. See page 7.

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

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

# INSIDE DEVELOPMENT

## Media Trend Report Expands Globally

By Mark Koenig

USAID has helped extend the reach of a tool that measures freedom of the press to 77 countries at diverse stages of development and reform.

The Media Sustainability Index (MSI)—the latest was released this spring—was developed in 2000 by the International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) in consultation with USAID's Bureau for Europe and Eurasia (E&E). It was designed to analyze changes in media across borders and over time.

With USAID support, IREX began in 2001 to report yearly on media trends in 20 post-communist countries in Europe and Eurasia. Each year's MSI measures progress in five main objectives: free speech, level of professional journalism, number of news sources, quality of business management, and strength of supporting institutions for free media.

Based on its success in Europe and Eurasia, the MSI was extended in 2005 to 18 media systems throughout the Middle East and North Africa through USAID's Office of Democracy and Governance, in cooperation with UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and the State Department's Middle East Partnership Initiative. And in 2007, USAID joined the Canadian International Development Agency and the World Bank Institute to extend the index throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

This year, MSI ratings will be available for 77 media systems,

including 39 newly added countries in Africa.

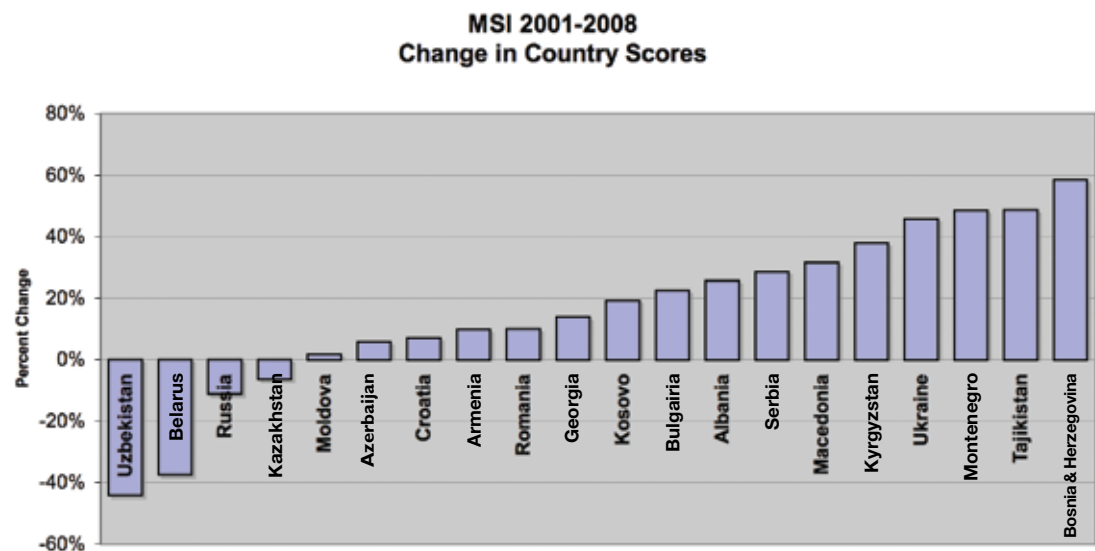
MSI data provide benchmarks and help USAID missions and other donors set priorities for media development programs. The World Bank Institute uses MSI as an important data source for its Worldwide Governance Indicators, which have been produced for more than 200 countries since 1996.

Detailed MSI information also bolsters efforts by domestic and international organizations to lobby for improved legislation or other steps needed to strengthen independent media. Press freedom and human rights groups such as the Committee to Protect Journalists, International Freedom of Expression Exchange, Human Rights Watch, and others have used the MSI in their advocacy efforts.

And for local and international media, the annual reports often help them improve the quality of their communications strategies or attract greater advertising and other business. For example, the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG), which produces Voice of America, uses MSI data to assess the strength and independence of local media industries. That, in turn, helps the BBG decide where to increase or decrease its broadcasting services.

MSI data focusing on the three regions—Europe/Eurasia, the Middle East and North Africa, and Africa—are available at [www.irex.org](http://www.irex.org). ★

### 2008 MEDIA SUSTAINABILITY INDEX FOR EUROPE AND EURASIA



Source: IREX

This year's Media Sustainability Index for Europe and Eurasia (MSI/E&E) is the seventh since it was first compiled in 2001. Several countries during the period 2001-2008 have experienced improved media sustainability (e.g., Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, Montenegro, Tajikistan, and Bosnia and Herzegovina), other countries registered relative stability, while four countries (Uzbekistan, Belarus, Russia, and Kazakhstan) experienced reversals in media conditions. The 2008 MSI/E&E found stagnation during the most recent one-year period among many of the 20 nations surveyed. The report cites a number of reasons, including weak civil society and a greater governmental focus on corruption, economic growth, social welfare, and other issues. "Media reform and development remains on the agenda but the agenda is crowded and the battle for attention more difficult," the executive summary concluded.



Reporter Lesya Alexeyenko from Zhytomyr, Ukraine, holds a copy of her newspaper, *Vilne Slovo*. She received journalism training through a USAID program prior to the 2003 Orange Revolution in which a democratically elected government emerged despite efforts to steal the election.

Ben Barber, USAID

## FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS INCREASE IN ETHIOPIA

A U.S. humanitarian team visited previously inaccessible parts of Ethiopia's Ogaden region in December and reported that food shortages could become critical by April unless obstacles to food delivery are resolved.

The group found that the below-normal rainfall predicted by FEWS NET, the USAID famine early warning system, would likely have a significant negative impact on the health and nutritional condition of the population.

The team included members of USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Office of Food for Peace, and the Ethiopia mission as well as experts from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Humanitarian and development organizations have found it difficult to work in the uncontrolled spaces of the Ogaden, which is also known as the Somali region of Ethiopia.

Beginning in May 2007, reports of increasing food

insecurity and deteriorating humanitarian conditions followed an escalation in conflict between the Ethiopian army and the Ogaden National Liberation Front.

A reduction in military operations coupled with Ethiopian government approval allowed the U.S. team access to the region. USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore proposed the team visit to Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi during a late November visit to the country.

The team concluded that the food security situation would worsen if the annual rains in March and April failed to materialize and food delivery obstacles were not resolved.

In addition to assisting with emergency interventions, team members worked alongside the USAID mission in Addis Ababa to restore commercial and livestock markets and increase the purchasing power in pastoralist households. They worked to enhance early warning systems,

livestock protection, and programs for health and nutrition. The team stressed that protecting access to resources is important not only to promote self-reliance, but also to preventing asset loss that will increase vulnerability and dependency on humanitarian assistance.

For the current situation in the region, USAID/OFDA has provided nearly \$9.5 million in assistance for agriculture and

see **FOOD** on page 15 ▶

## MISSION OF THE MONTH

## TANZANIA



prime minister and two other members of his cabinet.

The upshot? In February, the president of Tanzania, Jakaya Kikwete, accepted the resignation of the prime minister, his long-time friend and supporter.

Tanzanians were jubilant. At long last, the “big men” were being held to account. Kikwete, making good on his campaign promise to stamp out corruption, moved quickly to accept the resignations of the prime minister and the other ministers. Acting in concert, Parliament and Kikwete sent a strong, clear message to the Tanzanian people: No one, no matter how powerful, is above the law.

PPRA chief Ramadhani Mlinga credits the Threshold Program for helping him bring about genuine reform in public procurement, which is 70 percent of the government’s annual expenditure.

“The Threshold Program has helped us achieve important milestones on our government’s public procurement reform agenda,” he said. A year ago, few Tanzanians had even heard of Mlinga’s agency. Today, it is referred to in the Tanzanian press as the country’s “procurement watchdog.”

The work is far from done. Many Tanzanians say the country is at a tipping-point in the struggle against corruption, and the next few months will determine whether or not the reforms are truly institutionalized. USAID’s mission in Tanzania is working to consolidate some of the victories gained by the Threshold Program, which has already helped Tanzania catch a very big fish. ★

**Ramadhani Mlinga, chief of Tanzania’s Public Procurement Regulatory Authority, is helping to root out corruption in his country. An audit by Mlinga’s agency helped uncover a convincing case of public corruption and bring about the resignation of the country’s prime minister in February.**

### Challenge

It was a brazenly corrupt transaction that deeply exacerbated the country’s power crisis. Tanzania’s government awarded a large contract for emergency power to a shell company in which the Prime Minister, Edward Lowassa, had an interest.

### Innovative Response

A year ago, the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) Threshold Program run by USAID began to fund anticorruption audits of the procurement practices of several of Tanzania’s key ministries and agencies, building on existing USAID democracy and governance programs.

Tanzania’s Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) conducted the audits with the help of a local partner, Kilimanjaro International. Among the agencies audited was TANESCO, the energy authority.

In that case, the audit report questioned the emergency power award, saying that it did not conform to the country’s procurement law

and was “influenced by higher authorities.”

Such reports do not often see the light of day in Tanzania, but PPRA—a start-up regulatory agency empowered to monitor compliance with the procurement laws—courageously released the report to the public and an eager press.

Under the MCA Threshold Program, USAID had trained more than 200 journalists in investigative reporting skills and some of them first broke the story about the flawed energy contract. USAID also honed the research skills of the members of Parliament and their staff who served on the committee investigating the energy contract.

The allegations in the report made headlines for days. The press furor sparked Parliament into action when it formed an investigation committee. But the next move was the one that made history.

### Results

In an unprecedented reaction, Parliament read the report of its investigation—all 173 pages of it—on national television. The report clearly implicated the

## INSIGHTS

FROM  
**HENRIETTA H. FORE**



From March 15 to 17, I visited the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to work side-by-side with the Congolese people in helping them to build a more stable and prosperous country. U.S. development assistance to the DRC is expected to surpass \$100 million this fiscal year, bringing total U.S. contributions for 2008 up to \$500 million, compared with \$460 million in 2007.

The DRC presidential elections in 2006 marked a major step toward stability and our investment is intended to nurture this new beginning for democracy.

I urged the government and the people of the DRC to create an environment where the private sector can flourish. Among other reforms, this requires being better stewards of the country’s vast natural resources that could provide the raw materials for robust economic growth.

While in the Congo I visited the village of Epulu, which serves as the administrative headquarters of the Okapi Faunal Reserve, a UNESCO World Heritage site in the Congo Basin, and seat of the Ituri-Aru landscape management program funded by USAID and the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE). CARPE is part of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership, a 33-member international U.S. Presidential Initiative with the objectives of reducing the rate of biodiversity loss and forest degradation in the Congo Basin.

The area that I toured constitutes one of the largest intact tracts of lowland rainforest remaining in northeastern DRC. The landscape is dominated by the Okapi Reserve, which was established in 1992 with technical assistance and advocacy of The Wildlife Conservation Society to help conserve nearly 14,000 kilometers of spectacular plant and animal diversity in the heart of the Ituri region. The Okapi Reserve supports the largest remaining population of okapi, the Congo’s rainforest giraffe, as well as large populations of elephant, 17 species of primates, two species of pigs, 10 species of antelope, and the forest buffalo. Over 300 species of birds and 500 species of butterflies have been identified in the central sector of the reserve.

More than 80 million Central Africans depend on the rich forests and natural resources of the Congo Basin for their livelihoods. These forests play an important role in global climate regulation and contain unique and important biodiversity.

Despite the richness of the Congo Basin, the people who live there are among the poorest in Africa. CARPE aims to strike a balance in the conservation of these natural resources to satisfy current needs while protecting the resource base for future generations and mitigating global climate change.

The brightening prospects for the DRC and the region depend on indigenous peoples reconnecting with the riches of their heritage and effectively managing it for the future. ★

# GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

## INDIA'S HIGH TECH GIANTS GREW WITH U.S. HELP

India's extraordinary economic growth in recent years was fueled by huge companies dealing in high technology and pharmaceuticals.

And many of these firms—such as Cipla, Thermax, Zandu Pharmaceuticals, Tata, Unisys, and Ballarpur Industries—got a boost from USAID. Partially as a result of that help, many of these firms are now worldwide market leaders.

USAID's mission in India pioneered private sector partnerships long before the Global Development Alliance (GDA) was established in Washington.

In 1985, for example, USAID financed Indo-U.S. private sector joint ventures that accelerated technological innovation in India. These ventures built the research

and development capacity of India's private sector.

In 1993, USAID helped Wipro Technologies provide multimedia applications for the health care sector. Wipro now has revenues of \$3 billion and is among the top three offshore business process outsourcing providers in the world.

Over the last three years, USAID's India mission used \$238 million to leverage nearly \$1.2 billion from the public and private sector—a ratio of roughly 1-to-5.

"Our experience in India demonstrates that seed funding and technical assistance can be used to tremendous effect in a number of critical sectors," said George Deikun, USAID's India mission director.

USAID/India also helped develop India's capital markets—and helped to bring in foreign investment. M. Damodaran, leader of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, said recently at a conference, "I want to complement USAID for all the work they have done in the last several years...in the development of India's capital market...for providing expertise of the highest order, for undertaking to work alongside us as our officers picked up the skills required to intervene effectively in the marketplace." Some \$60 billion is the estimated foreign investment in the Indian equities market; half is from the United States.

Education is another area where partnerships have taken root. The Quality Education and



The Community and Progress Workforce Development project teaches disadvantaged youth the skills they need to get jobs in India's growing economy. USAID funds the overall program while Indian partner companies, working to ensure a viable workforce, provide financial and technical support to training centers.

Skills Training Alliance has teamed up with Microsoft, Lucent Technologies, Wipro, and British Telecom to improve the quality of education and ensure that youth develop the skills needed in India's emerging economy.

"Building public-private partnerships is now our fundamental approach to the way we do business in India," said Deikun. "With limited funds, we can have a broad impact by leveraging the resources of others to help India meet its serious development challenges." ★

## BRIEFS

### House Approves \$50 Billion AIDS Plan

WASHINGTON—The House voted 308-116 April 3 to more than triple U.S. spending to fight HIV/AIDS from \$15 billion over the past five years to \$50 billion in the coming five years.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has already approved a similar measure.

Some of the money would go to fight malaria and tuberculosis in Africa and other areas of the world but \$41 billion would be devoted to AIDS, significantly expanding the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which has saved 1 million lives in Africa and was the largest investment by any country ever against a single disease.

PEPFAR provides anti-retroviral treatment for about 1.45 million people. The new funding includes up to \$2 billion a year for the international Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

### Report Says Attacks Rise on Afghan NGOs

KABUL—Taliban and other groups increased attacks on NGOs and aid workers in Afghanistan in the first quarter of 2008, according to a report by the Afghanistan NGO Safety Office (ANSO).

"NGO security incidents attributed to armed opposition groups have doubled from eight in the first quarter of 2007 to 16 in the same period this year," said Nic Lee, the ANSO director in Kabul. The report was cited by IRIN, the news agency of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Sixteen of the 29 attacks were by Taliban insurgents and other rebel fighters and 13 were by criminals seeking financial gain.

"Anywhere else in the world NGOs would, should, and do operate on both sides of a conflict. Only here, for one reason or another, that sense of independence has become a lot more politicized and subject to agendas which really [they] should not be subject to, and it has become very difficult for

NGOs to implement and enforce their neutrality," he said.

Many international staff members have left Kandahar province over the past few months, ANSO found. Others have recruited more local people.

### Bird Flu Center Set Up in Southeast Asia

BANGKOK—USAID recently opened a large regional center in Thailand stocked with supplies to combat a potential outbreak of avian influenza. Larger than a soccer field, the Bangkok warehouse contains enough protective equipment, decontamination kits, and laboratory equipment to serve tens of thousands of people throughout Southeast Asia.

It is the first of three centers worldwide and cost \$550,000 to stock.

Millions of chickens and ducks have been wiped out despite billions of poultry vaccinations and culling of hundreds of millions of more birds.

### Sanctioned Countries May Get Aid

Although several countries are subject to economic and trade sanctions imposed by the President, USAID may still

operate assistance programs in those countries if licenses are obtained from the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC).

Licenses have been issued by OFAC to USAID for assistance to be provided in Burma, Sudan, Iran (aid transfers to Afghanistan), West Bank and Gaza, and Nepal.

### Haiti's Watershed Getting Protection

WASHINGTON—Haiti's vulnerable watersheds are receiving help from an \$18 million program over three years from USAID aimed at protecting communities from killer floods.

The program will buy time to introduce long-term changes needed to boost economic development.

The agency will establish hardwood and fruit tree nurseries to re-grow hillside forests, introduce new crops and efficient farming methods, introduce more efficient charcoal stoves, and support voluntary family planning aimed at curbing a population that is growing beyond Haiti's farming output.

Years of haphazard agricultural practices and poor land conservation have stripped

forests and hillsides of the vegetation that blocks erosion and preserves aquifers, making Haiti's population more vulnerable to flash floods.

More than 2,000 people died in May 2004 when tropical rains and mudslides destroyed many mountain towns. In September 2007, Tropical Storm Jeanne killed another 3,000 in two of Haiti's most populated urban areas.

### Ocean Freight Costs Rise

Due to significant increases in ocean freight rates charged for Title II commodities over the last six months, USAID's Office of Food for Peace (FFP) is increasing the ocean freight rates used for budget planning. As of March 17, rates rose from \$180 to \$210 per metric ton for packaged commodities; and rates rose from \$115 to \$180 per ton for bulk commodities. As a result, FFP is setting aside \$43 million to pay for the unanticipated costs, reducing the total funds available for programs for the rest of the year. ★

## EGELUND CALLS FOR U.S.-U.N. COOPERATION

Jan Egelund, the former U.N. undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs from 2003 to 2006, said March 11 in Washington that U.S. engagement in peacekeeping and in peace negotiations is vital to avoid an increase in military clashes and attacks on civilians worldwide. “We failed to explain to the

American people how the U.S. and U.N. work together,” Egelund said at the U.S. Institute of Peace.

The United States has worked within U.N. peacekeeping operations in Sierra Leone, Burundi, Ivory Coast, Congo, Southern Sudan, East Timor, and Kosovo, he said at a meeting to discuss protecting people displaced by

natural disasters, conflict, and ethnic tensions.

By working with the United Nations, a U.S. investment of 22 percent of the peacekeeping operations brought stability and peace in many places, he noted.

“During the [2004 Asian] tsunami, U.S. helicopters saved the day,” said Egelund, currently

director general of the Norwegian Foreign Affairs Institute.

Egelund discussed his new book, “A Billion Lives—An Eyewitness Report from the Frontlines of Humanity,” which was released March 13, two days after his speech in Washington.

Egelund cited the role of U.S. and U.N. intervention in saving lives after the 2006 Pakistan earthquake killed 75,000 people four weeks before the onset of winter in the mountainous north of the country. Despite massive damage to housing, roads, schools, and other structures, there was no increase in mortality that winter because of the rapid and successful international aid

operation. U.S. helicopters played a vital role in that relief operation as well as the tsunami.

However, Egelund, who brought Israelis and Palestinians together in the Oslo Accords, wondered aloud whether foreign aid has “become an alibi—we keep people alive until they are massacred?”

“There is not enough investment...and pressure” to protect people from genocide, militants, and repressive regimes.

Finally, he said that “it is important that the U.S. is involved in the [Middle East] peace process,” which could take up to 10 years to achieve results. ★

## Al Anbar Reaps Maize Bounty

FALLUJAH, Iraq—Farmers in Iraq’s Al Anbar province tripled their normal yield of corn as they harvested their second field crop at the end of 2007 using hybrid maize seed provided through USAID’s Inma Agribusiness Program.

The high yields resulted from quality seed, precision planting, and technical assistance in preparing fields and applying fertilizer.

The project began because shipping and security constraints had raised prices of imported maize, crippling the region’s poultry industry, which once provided food, jobs, and income. The Sheikhs Council of Al Anbar requested assistance from U.S. Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) to re-establish a competitive local poultry industry.

Bill Gibbons, working with the Ramadi PRT, believed that the best way to help the poultry farmers was to improve the availability of feed and lower its price. His idea of growing feed locally was a good one, but in order to work, the window for planting was extremely tight.

“Inma had only been in Iraq three weeks,” said Inma contractor Herschel Weeks. “Tony Laos [Inma livestock sector manager] and I guaranteed we’d split the cost for the seed to make sure it would get bought.”

The demonstration area stretched approximately 80 miles along the Euphrates River through Fallujah, Ramadi, and Hit. The challenge of dealing with so many rural Iraqi communities taught a crucial lesson—reaching out to a wide cross-section of farmers required interacting

with myriad stakeholders.

Fifty Al Anbar farmers were sought out to participate in the planned demonstration. The farms had to have irrigation and neighbors had to be allowed to observe the planting methods and resulting crops. In Ramadi, sheikhs selected area participants. In Fallujah, selection was done by the farmers’ association, which included local leaders. In Hit, it was the district director general who made the selection. In the end, 61 farmers took part in the effort.

An Iraqi NGO hired and trained six Iraqi agronomists for the project, providing on-site assistance on behalf of the Inma Project as participating farmers prepared their fields, planted, irrigated, and harvested.

At the end of last year, production had increased from between .5 and .7 tons per acre of maize to as much as 2.2 tons per acre.

Part of the harvested grain

was sold by the farmers as food in the open market or as feed to poultry producers, while the remaining part was cleaned and stored for planting next season. Maize producers were also able to sell off plant stalks for green feed, which is used to feed livestock, thus adding to their earnings.

Although security issues delayed the transport of seed—and was complicated by a scarcity of herbicides and fertilizer which were not provided by the project—farmers who followed the agronomists’ advice on planting and irrigating were pleased with the results. By the time the maize neared ripening, most were glad to have participated in the effort.

The program showed Al Anbar farmers that commercial maize production is viable under local conditions and can become the cornerstone for rural sustainability and for improved lives and livelihoods throughout the province. ★



A maize production promotion supported by USAID in Al Anbar showed farmers that commercial maize growing is viable under local conditions and can become the cornerstone for locally produced poultry feed.

## RUSSIA CLEANS UP BANKING SYSTEM

By Gideon Culman and Elizabeth Kountze

With 90 percent of Russian banks still not in full compliance with the country’s financial laws, Russia is making an effort to clean up its banking system—in part with a Global Development Alliance (GDA) that helps banks prevent money laundering.

The \$2.89 million GDA links the Central Bank of Russia, USAID, the Citigroup Foundation, and the Financial Services Volunteer Corps (FSVC).

These alliance partners have been providing training and technical assistance to help Russia fight corruption in its financial system since 2006. The partnership’s anti-money laundering (AML) training program helps prevent financial crime and combat financing of terrorism (CFT). Since 2007, over 250 individuals from roughly 100 different Russian banks, government agencies, and NGOs have participated in a series of AML/CFT compliance seminars.

The alliance training boosts compliance among Russian private sector financial institutions by promoting the adoption of domestic and international AML/CFT standards. In addition, it bolsters compliance oversight among Russian government agencies including the Russian Federal Financial Monitoring Service under the Ministry of Finance.

The GDA program brings experienced financial regulators from developed markets to share with their Russian counterparts

difficulties they have had to overcome. Central Bank of Russia staff receive on-the-job training such as direct participation in AML examinations at U.S. banks.

“This Global Development Alliance has provided valuable, practical advice, and comprehensive commentaries that have helped shape major financial sector legislation,” says Pavel Medvedev, a member of the Duma’s Financial Markets Committee.

Over the past two years, the Central Bank of Russia has stripped licenses from 104 banks that were involved in suspicious operations. Large cash withdrawals, which have notoriously been used to dodge taxes or to offer kickbacks to officials, fell by 8 percent last year. “For the first time, the amount of suspicious cash withdrawals has fallen,” Viktor Melnikov, deputy chairman of the Central Bank of Russia, said in a recent interview with Reuters.

USAID/Russia Mission Director Leon Waskin notes, “Besides its prime goal of advancing the AML/CFT capacities in Russia, this program contributes to formation of long-term professional partnerships between Russian and U.S. financial sector regulators. This will provide a key basis for addressing challenges in the financial sector, both domestically and internationally, long after the program ends.” ★

# THE REGIONS

## AFRICA

### Mali Teachers Train with Modern Technology

**BAMAKO, Mali**—Mali's teachers are increasingly being trained to improve their classroom lessons through radio programs and high technology supported by USAID.

Teacher Training via Radio (TTvR), which USAID introduced in Mali in 2004, has evolved beyond radios to computers and videos and expanded last year from four sites to all 12 of the country's teacher training institutes, which are known by the French acronym IFM (Instituts de Formation des Maitres).

In its first three years, the TTvR project focused on creating computerized "virtual training centers" for teachers in Niono, Tominian, Nara, and Tombouctou. Each is equipped with computers, printers, scanners, a video-camera, and a television. IFM professors and teachers-in-training use the centers to prepare lesson plans, complete homework, conduct research, and review recordings of their own classroom performance to gauge where they excel and where they might need improvement.

The virtual aspect comes into play when teachers use the Internet to connect with their peers and others in on-line learning exchanges.

The results from the initial phase impressed officials: 91 percent of teachers could use computers, up from 7 percent at the start of the program; 41 percent of teachers said they used the Internet to add to their lesson plans, compared with none before the effort; and 72 percent of students said they regularly used the centers for research, review of classroom sessions, or homework.

Mali's Ministry of Education provided an additional \$80,000 to expand TTvR to eight additional IFMs—in Kayes, Kangaba, Sikasso, Bougouni, Gao, Koro, Sevare, and Dire. TTvR staff fanned out across the country in August and September 2007, instructing 245 teachers in the use of basic software like Microsoft Word, research tools on the Internet-like Encarta, and "micro-teaching"—a practice where teachers videotape themselves in the classroom to improve their skills.

see MALI on page 15 ▶



USAID-backed training for school teachers in Mali has received high marks from the educators for introducing them to ideas and strategies they can use in their classrooms.

## EUROPE & EURASIA

### New Referral System Helps Armenia's Most Vulnerable Students

By Armine Karabekian and Jen Citrolo



As part of its Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances project, USAID/Armenia has provided youth with the opportunity to attend summer camps where a variety of recreational activities are offered, including swimming and horseback.

**YEREVAN, Armenia**—Armenia has reformed its educational system in recent years, but poor and disabled children have often been left behind. Their struggling families sometimes then turn to institutional care, only to find that their children may end up in facilities designed for the disabled and lack any normal schooling.

Meanwhile, children with special needs have continued to face exclusion from specialized or mainstream educational facilities, preventing their integration into society.

Their numbers are significant. Over 10,000 children in Armenia were enrolled in special education schools in 2005 and over 900 were placed in eight state orphanages in 2006 because of financial, interpersonal, or behavioral problems in their families. A sizable

## LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

### Farmers Prosper From Pepper Exports

**PARIKA, Guyana**—Growing hot peppers for export received a boost when USAID distributed 175,000 bull-nose pepper seedlings through its Pepper Project to 26 farmers in the Parika area starting in February 2007.

These peppers are in high demand by buyers in North America and the Caribbean, and their promotion is part of a larger market-led strategy for agricultural diversification in this region.

Farmer Mahadeo Lall stumbled onto the project at a meeting at his local plant nursery. He received 7,200 pepper seedlings, which he planted on two acres of his farm in nearby Tuschen.

Another farmer, Kalicharran, who uses only one name, heard about the project through word-of-mouth. "We have to produce quality things to get money—if you have quality, you

can hold for your price," said the farmer, who planted approximately 9,000 pepper seedlings on close to three acres of land.

Severe flooding as well as pests and fungus damaged more than a quarter of Lall's pepper plants and more than half of Kalicharran's. They resolved not to give up, however. "I spent a lot of money and cared for the plants for a long time, so I was determined to get something out of it," Lall said.

That is where USAID Guyana Trade and Investment Support (GTIS) stepped in once again to help. GTIS, the organization behind the Pepper Project, is a joint effort between the Government of Guyana and USAID to ratchet up the South American nation's presence in export and international trade.

Working with a GTIS extension officer, both farmers experimented with different treatments until they found a combination that saved enough peppers to

make their efforts worthwhile.

The market also came through for them—a shortage of peppers locally helped increase wholesale prices. Lall sold 4,000 pounds of peppers during this period and Kalicharran made similar progress, averaging sales of 200 to 300 pounds of peppers per week.

The benefits for Lall, Kalicharran, and the other farmers aren't just for the short term. Because pepper plants will continue to bear fruit for up to a year and a half after the first harvest, farmers who maintain their plants will have produce to sell for a sustained period.

The Pepper Project receives support from the Guyana Ministry of Agriculture, National Agricultural Research Institute, Poor Rural Communities Support Services Project, Partners of the Americas, and New Guyana Marketing Corporation. ★

proportion of the children in special schools are estimated to be potential candidates for integration into mainstream schools.

The Armenian Ministry of Education and Science conducted a study of the current situation in special and mainstream schools. Its findings revealed that Armenia lacked a formalized institution to assess children with special needs and refer them to an appropriate educational facility.

As a result, the first National Multidisciplinary Assessment Center was recently established to assess children with special needs in Armenia. To create the center, the ministry collaborated with USAID's Children in Especially Difficult Circumstances (CEDC) project, the Agency's implementing partner World Vision Armenia, the Yerevan City Municipality, and nongovernmental organizations Mission East and Bridge of Hope.

"I am confident that the establishment of the center will be a

pivotal step toward serious reforms in the sphere of inclusive education in Armenia," said Yerevan Deputy Mayor Kamo Areyan at the center's September 2007 opening ceremony.

"We work together to overcome stigmatization and provide proper care and education to these children," declared a center specialist. "One of the parents refrained from taking her daughter to school, thinking that disabled children should stay home. The little girl now enjoys going to school and is not ashamed to visit the local community center, which provides professional services to children and their families by trained psychologists and special educators."

Operating under the Armenian government's supervision, the center serves both the capital and citizens nationwide by identifying children's educational and social needs, helping integrate children with disabilities into

see **ARMENIA** on page 15 ▶

## MIDDLE EAST

### Provinces to Work with Iraq Government on Development



Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki speaks at Iraq's first nationwide provincial development strategy conference on March 2.

**BAGHDAD, Iraq**—Representatives from Iraq's 18 provinces gathered in Baghdad on March 5 for the country's first provincial development strategy convention aimed at helping each province coordinate with the national government on ways to spur development.

The central government's planning ministry agreed to use development strategies drawn up by each province as the cornerstone of national planning and established a commission to coordinate that work.

The meeting, hosted by the Ministry of Planning and Development, was significant since Iraq for decades had been run by a powerful central government. It required major

see **MIDDLE EAST** on page 15 ▶

## ASIA

### Pakistani Families Learn to Read and Write Together

By Mehdi Ali Khan

**RAWALPINDI, Pakistan**—Every line on the face of 48-year-old Ghulam Sughra tells the story of years of hardships. She was born in a poor and conservative family of a factory worker in a suburb of Rawalpindi, 10 miles south of Islamabad.

"When I would watch my brothers go to school," Sughra, now a mother of three, recalls, "I wished I could go with them."

But her uncle ruled the family, and he strongly opposed education for girls. Despite her desire to attend school, Sughra remained illiterate.

As she grew up, she continued to desire an education. She became her mother's helper around the house and learned how to cook. "Someone once told me about cooking recipes printed in magazines," she recalls. "I clipped and hid them away, dreaming there might come a day when I'd be able to read them."

Today she can read those recipes and a lot more. More than a year and a half ago, Sughra

completed training in USAID's Interactive Teaching and Learning Program. With a voice that reflects new self-esteem, Sughra displayed her recipe collection, which includes newspaper clippings like those she wished she could read in years past.

The \$7.8 million Interactive Teaching and Learning Program is being implemented in 400 schools throughout Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and Karachi. The family literacy component aims to promote literacy by bringing parents and their children together in a comfortable learning environment.

Over 800 teachers have been trained to carry out the program, which includes 100 language and math lessons. Thus far, more than 5,200 parents and adult siblings of students in 140 schools in Rawalpindi, Islamabad, and Karachi have received literacy training and learned basic math skills. Three thousand parents and adult siblings are currently enrolled in the program.

Now that she can read her saved collection of recipes, Sughra cooks meals that her family has judged as exceptional as her youngest daughter, who is preparing for her own graduation exams, continues to help Sughra improve her reading and cooking skills.

In addition to recipes, Sughra can also easily read Urdu newspapers and make household calculations. Recently, a neighborhood

vegetable vendor was shocked when Sughra reminded him of the money that he had promised to pay her months ago—he had not realized that she was now able to write and was keeping a small ledger of expenses.

"I was like a partially blind person who could only see shadows," Sughra says. "USAID brought me the vision to see the world—a world I was so eager to see." ★



Mahadeo Lall walks among his bull-nose pepper plants in Tuschen, Guyana.



Ghulam Sughra waited most of her life to learn to read and write, and is now enjoying the benefits literacy provides.

# FOCUS ON PHILIPPINES

## FOSTERING ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES

**GENERAL SANTOS CITY, Philippines**—These days there is increasing economic activity in General Santos City and other communities across the Southern Philippines region of Mindanao. Before U.S. assistance began to transform the General Santos region in the 1990s, this area was more often known for separatist conflict and extreme poverty.

U.S. assistance developed the fishing port and airport in General Santos City, which now has a reputation for having one of the world's largest tuna fishing fleets.

Fishing is a central part of life in Mindanao, where the two major industries are agriculture and fisheries. USAID continues to promote economic development in the region by working with local governments and private-sector partners to improve employment opportunities and health services for local residents based on the communities' link to the sea.

Before these changes, many youth had limited education and employment opportunities, and some had been in trouble with the law. An employment alliance program spearheaded by USAID and the International Youth Foundation, supports education and employment opportunities for disadvantaged youth by providing technical and vocational training in General Santos City and other cities in Mindanao. Employable skills such as welding, and small engine and automotive repair help these youth gain a fresh start in life.

A recent class at the Marcellin Foundation School graduated 39 young men who are ready to use their new skills to make a living, help support their families, and stay away from activities that had troubled their pasts. Ten of the graduates had jobs with the local fishing company, Domingo Teng Fishing Industry (DTFI) beginning the Monday morning after graduation. By 2011, USAID estimates that it will have helped 100,000 out-of-school youth attain the technical, academic and life skills needed for employment.

Approximately 90 percent of the national tuna industry production is located in Mindanao, providing over 100,000 jobs and annual direct revenues of \$400 million. The Philippines

ranks second in the world in for tuna caught and fifth in canned tuna production.

Recent improvements at the Fish Port Complex, supported by USAID, have changed the way fishermen operate. In the past, fishing fleets would bring their catch up on the beach, clean the fish, and then sell them on the spot. This created serious sanitation issues.

Today, the renovated Port Complex is the hub of fishing operations in the City, catering to small, medium, and large fishing boats and fish carriers. Up to 1,000 tons of tuna are brought onto the dock, processed and graded each day. The facility provides processing space, ice-making/cold storage, and a commercial fish market.

From the port, the fish is transported by truck to the international airport, which also received support from USAID. From there—usually in three hours or less—the sushi grade fish is flown to Japan and the United States. Sushi restaurant buyers in Tokyo and San Francisco buy these high quality fish for making “sashimi” or raw tuna dishes.

The money fishermen earn through these exports is helping bring them and their families out of poverty.

The families have also benefited directly from USAID's health sector programs. USAID partners with a local foundation to fund a family health program that provides family planning and other health services to employees of DTFI, their wives and children. USAID has replicated this model of providing family health in the workplace at nine other fishing companies.

Every two weeks on payday, the fishermen's families arrive at the fishing company to pick up the pay and participate in health information activities supported by USAID.

USAID's approach to designing programs geared towards the General Santos Region provides new perspective on the age old adage “give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day, but teach a man to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime.” For Mindanao, teaching a man to fish not only helps him feed himself and his family, but also helps expand zones of prosperity and peace. ★



One of the fishermen from a “municipal fishing boat,” or small local fishing boat, is bringing in marlin to the dock. These fishermen “hand line” fish with no poles and use monofilament line to bring in these fish, some weighing as much as the fishermen themselves.



This is the municipal fishing boat or “pumpboat” Juditha, one of many such boats that operates out of the General Santos City harbor on Mindanao. With a crew of 14 to 16, these boats go out to sea for as much as 25 days, packing the fish in ice in the holds below, while the crew lives on the deck.



Once the catch is brought ashore, the market becomes very busy. Much of the seafood is sold directly to consumers in the local or “wet fish” market, and eaten right in Mindanao. The General Santos City Fish Port Complex, supported by USAID, helped increase the quality of the catch, especially in sanitation, and therefore, the marketability of the tuna. This facility notably improves the process of preparing fish over the days when fishermen just hauled their catch onto the beach and cleaned it right there.

All photographs by Harry Edwards, USAID



# FOCUS ON PHILIPPINES



Yellow fin tuna is one of the more prevalent catches. The large tuna are inspected, graded, and, if they meet the standards, go into the international sashimi trade. The grade is determined by external appearance, flesh color, and texture of the meat.



There are all kinds of fish, not only the sardines shown here, but swordfish, marlin, squid, Mahi mahi, and, of course, tuna. The port in General Santos City is responsible for supporting the tuna industry in southern Mindanao and brings in annually \$400 million in fishing revenues, 100,000 jobs and \$280 million in export earnings.



At the General Santos City Fish Port Complex, renovated and enlarged with USAID assistance, the focus is on tuna fishing. However, these moon fish also provide income for fishermen and food for local residents.



Some of the graduates from the welding school with their instructor.



Motorcycle taxis in the Philippines provide low-cost transport not only inside cities, but also between towns. They also provide steady jobs for their drivers and for the mechanics that build and repair them.

# WHERE IN THE WORLD...

**FEBRUARY 3, 2008 – MARCH 29, 2008**

## **PROMOTED**

### **Tiffany D. Adams**

IT Specialist (INFOSEC)

### **Thomas H. Allen**

Security Specialist

### **Kimberly J. Ball**

Supervisory General Business Specialist

### **Sarah L. Blanding**

IDI (Health & Population Officer)

### **Kristin M. Bork**

IDI (Health & Population Nutrition Officer)

### **Ebony L. Bostic**

International Cooperation Specialist

### **Avon T. Bowe**

Executive Assistant

### **Judy M. Britt**

Lead Management Analyst

### **Avis Brown**

Administrative Specialist

### **Victoria E. Carethers**

Administrative Operations Assistant

### **Clint M. Cavanaugh**

IDI (Executive Officer)

### **Rohit L. Chowbay**

Supervisory Auditor

### **Daniel A. Corle**

Program Analyst

### **Corey D. Croom**

Administrative Officer

### **Michael Cyr**

IT Specialist

### **Briera B. Dale**

General Business Specialist

### **James N. Davis II**

Lead Contract Specialist

### **Marcelle K. Davis**

Administrative Assistant

### **Brendan T. Farrar-Foley**

IT Specialist (INFOSEC)

### **Victoria R. Gellis**

IDI (Program/Project Development Officer)

### **Helen Grant Glaze**

Program Analyst

### **Kovia Gratzon Erskine**

IDI (Health & Population Nutrition Officer)

### **Shannon N. Green**

Democracy Specialist

### **Lawrence Hardy II**

Deputy Mission Director

### **Vickie M. Harris**

Transportation Claims Examiner

### **Stephen P. Horneman**

Budget Analyst

### **Barbara L. Hughes**

Human Resources Assistant

### **Freda G. James**

Administrative Specialist

### **Velma Lee Jones**

Management Analyst

### **John W. Kiruri**

Auditor

### **Michael Eric Kite**

Democracy Specialist

### **Philip D. Lamade**

Contracting Officer

### **Jeanette Lee**

Program Specialist

### **Juli L. Majernik**

Program Analyst

### **Maria G. Marigliano**

Supervisory Human Resources Specialist

### **Sarah K. McKim**

Contract Specialist

### **Shirley Moore**

Program Analyst

### **Angela M. Muenzer**

Administrative Officer

### **Sharon B. Nichols**

Supervisory Program Analyst

### **Cory K. O'Hara**

General Business Specialist

### **Kofi Owusu Boakye**

Financial Management Specialist

### **Theresa J. Rauch**

IT Project Manager

### **Michael J. Reilly**

IDI (Program/Project Development Officer)

### **John Riordan**

General Development Officer

### **Marguerite A. Rivard**

IDI (Program/Project Development Officer)

### **Angela J. Rucker**

Writer-Editor

### **Palma J. Saunders**

Administrative Officer

### **Elizabeth K. Schoenecker**

Supervisory Social Science Analyst

### **Sherron Bernice Scott**

Human Resources Specialist

### **Stanley Sienkiewicz**

Supervisory Congressional Liaison Officer

### **Ericka M. Sikes**

Human Resources Officer

### **Kevin D Skoric**

Supervisory Program Analyst

### **Carolyn J. Taylor**

Secretary OA

### **Dennis J. Weller**

Deputy Mission Director

### **Melissa S. Williams**

Mission Director

### **Marquita A. Wise Williams**

Secretary OA

### **Ruthann L. Yates**

Program Operations Assistant

## **REASSIGNED**

### **Arturo A. Acosta**

COMP/NE/OJT to Indonesia/JOPA

### **Patricia Alexander**

DCHA/DG/ROL to LAC/CAR

### **Jeffrey W. Ashley**

Indonesia/BHS to Iraq/PRT

### **Gary L. Barnett**

OIG/AFA to OIG//Africa-NE

### **Jeannie Bassett**

FA/COO/Africa to LAC/SA

### **Sarah Jean Berry**

E&E/ECA/B to E&E/ECA

### **Rosalind Best**

E&E/OM/OD to Africa/SA

### **Sarah L. Blanding**

COMP/FSLT to Peru/OHR

### **Kathy Body**

COMP/FS to Africa/DP

### **Jeffrey M. Borns**

Africa/SD to DCHA/FFP

### **Ebony L. Bostic**

Asia/SCAA to LAC/CAM

### **Martha C. Brady**

M/CIO/ICIO to M/CIO/BSE

### **Aleksandra Braginski**

LAC/RSD to E&E/EA

### **Patricia Brown**

E&E/PO/PPPD to Asia/SPO/B

### **Valerie Chien**

Asia/SCAA to E&E/ECA

### **Daniel A. Corle**

PPC/SPP/SPA to FA/GF

### **Thomas E. Corts**

AA/EGAT to COMP/Detail/SUP

### **Michael J. Crosswell**

PPC/P to FA/GF

### **Joseph P. Duggan**

PPC/P to ES

### **Polly C. Dunford Zahar**

COMP/FSLT to Mozambique/GD

### **Julia I. Escalona**

EGAT/WID to Africa/EA

### **A. Camille Garcia**

COMP/NE/OJT to Caucasus

### **Crystal C. Garrett**

ES to Africa/WA

### **Anne C. Gaven**

RS Africa/SO3 HEA to Peru/OHR

### **David E. Hull**

Sudan/OSSP/EI to COMP/FS

### **Marcus A. Johnson Jr.**

India/RCO to East Africa/CON

### **Michael S. Karbeling**

Africa/WA to LAC/SA

### **Jeffrey Kaufman**

Asia/SPO/B to COMP/FS

### **Linda L. Kelley**

Mozambique/GD to COMP/FS

### **Karin Anne Kolstrom**

O/S LANGTRNG to Ukraine/D

### **Timothy Lamping**

OIG/A/PA to RIG/Baghdad

### **Norma J. Lippe**

LAC/CAM to LAC/SA

### **Ian S. MacNairn**

DCHA/OFDA/DRM to Africa/SA

### **Franklin C. Moore**

EGAT/ESP to AA/Africa

### **Bobbie E. Myers**

Afghanistan/OD to El Salvador/D

### **Karen R. Nelson**

Africa/EA to FA/COO/WHA

### **Christopher O'Donnell**

Kenya/D to East Africa/CON

### **Anne Patterson**

Iraq/GPRT to Caucasus

### **Milan Pavlovic**

COMP/FS to COMP/FSLT

### **Mark L. Phillips**

E&E/EA to E&E/ECA

### **Carl S. Abdou Rahmaan**

COMP/FS to DCHA/OMA

### **Andrew P. Rajec**

A/AID to E&E/ECA

### **Danielle M. Reiff**

Uganda/PPD to Uganda/JOPA

### **Michael J. Reilly**

COMP/FSLT to Bolivia/SOS

### **Maria Rendon Labadan**

DCHA/DG to COMP/Detail/SUP

### **Judith L. Robinson**

E&E/PO to E&E/EA

### **Robert W. Salley**

HR/FSP/SP to A/AID/COO/M

### **Zema Semunegus**

COMP/FSLT to West Africa/FFPO

### **Aaron Stern**

COMP/NE/OJT to Philippines/PRM

### **Sarah Swift**

PPC/DCO to Africa/WA

### **Cara Thanassi**

COMP/NE/OJT to Colombia

### **Trent Thompson**

A/AID to A/AID/COO/PAC

### **Mai Tran T. Tran**

M/CFO/CMP to M/CFO/WFS

### **Joseph W. Van Mater Jr.**

EGAT/PAICO/CKM to COMP/FS

### **Bobbie J. Wallin**

E&E/MO/AIS to E&E/EA

### **Dennis J. Weller**

Ghana/OD to Rwanda

### **Susumo K. Yamashita**

GH/OHA to AA/E&E

## **RETIRED**

### **Neen B. Alrutz**

### **Annette O. Braxton**

### **Daryl P. Daniels**

# WHERE IN THE WORLD...

## JORDAN STEPS DOWN

Michael S. Gould  
Bradford T. Greene  
Gary V. Kinney  
Louise E. Pierce  
Leonel T. Pizarro  
William Henry Renison  
Leonard M. Rogers  
Margaret Jean Sarles  
William B. Schaeffer  
James D. Shelton  
Linda D. Tarpeh Doe  
Nancy T. Toolan  
Susan M. Walls

### MOVED ON

Thomas B. Anklewich  
Jeffrey J. Brokaw  
Bradford Camp  
Roger D. Carlson  
Larry P. Cork Jr.  
Briera B. Dale  
Michael A. Daschbach  
Karen J. Doswell  
Daniel C. Evans  
Paul L. Freedman  
Harvey P. Galloway  
Corina R. Gardner  
Christine M. Gottschalk  
Pamela L. Harris  
April A. Herlevi  
Shawn Renee Hill  
Bao Quyen T. Hoang  
Thomas Hudson  
Linh Chau Lam  
Bernard Mazer  
Melody Owen Woolford  
Michael T. Peddicord  
Sarah M. Perrine  
Christopher L. Rager  
Allyson K. Stroschein  
Anthony P. Sundy  
Nathaniel J. Weber  
Jasmine W. Westfield

After almost a 25 year career at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Ambassador Mosina H. Jordan has retired as Counselor—the third ranking position at the Agency. A career member of the Foreign Service who holds the rank of Career Minister, Jordan assumed this post in June 2005 when she became the first African American to serve in this position in the history of the Agency.

As the senior career officer at USAID, Jordan served as ombudsman for career employees, advising the Administrator and other senior staff on a wide range of policy, operational, and management issues.

Speaking to an overflow crowd at USAID headquarters April 25, Jordan said she began her career dedicated to helping those in need when she became a social worker in New York City in the 1960s. A native of New York, she earned her bachelor's degree from New York University and later received a Juris Doctor from American University.

At her farewell ceremony, Jordan reminded the audience that former Administrator Brian

Atwood had appointed her to be a mission director. Later, she became only the third USAID employee to be named a U.S. Ambassador, when she was named to serve in the Central African Republic. Previously she had been the senior deputy assistant administrator for the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean. Prior to that, she served as a mission director in Jamaica, Barbados, and Guyana, as USAID Representative in Belize, and deputy mission director in Cameroon. She also served as deputy director of the Office of Central African Affairs for the Bureau for Africa, and director of the Office of Equal Opportunity Programs. Before joining USAID, Jordan worked for the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee's Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human Services, and Education, as well as the Community Services Administration.



Acting Deputy Administrator James Kunder congratulates Agency Counselor Mosina Jordan on her retirement at a ceremony at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington April 25. As Counselor, Jordan advised senior staff on a range of issues and served as ombudsman for career employees. Her nearly 25-year service with the Agency included posts as mission director in Jamaica, Barbados, and Guyana, and as U.S. Ambassador to the Central African Republic.

Towards the end of the ceremony, Jordan personally thanked former Administrator Andrew Natsios—who joined her for the farewell event—for bringing her back to work at the Agency as Counselor.

“You brought me back, but then you left,” Jordan quipped, noting that Natsios had resigned to become a Georgetown University professor right after she became Counselor. ★

## LISA CHILES NAMED NEW AGENCY COUNSELOR



Lisa Chiles, center, is welcomed to St. Benedict College-High School in the Philippines during a visit in February. Chiles, who had been deputy assistant administrator for the Asia and the Near East Bureau, recently assumed the role of Agency Counselor. Also in the photo are Robert Barnes, USAID/Philippines economic growth advisor and Carmelita Serrano, who heads the St. Benedict school.

Lisa Chiles has been named the new Counselor to the Agency, a job that will put her in the role of ombudsman for career employees at USAID. The appointment was announced on April 14.

Chiles has been with USAID nearly 30 years, most recently serving as the deputy assistant administrator for the former Asia and the Near East Bureau. In that position, which she assumed in April 2006, Chiles was responsible for East Asia, avian flu, civil-military affairs, and congressional relations.

From 2004 to 2006, Chiles was mission director at USAID/Pakistan. In addition to dealing with the aftermath of a devastating October 2005 earthquake in the country,

Chiles' tenure in Pakistan coincided with initiatives to improve education and health care, build democratic governance, and launch programs in that country's border region with Afghanistan.

Chiles also served as mission director in Cambodia from 2000 to 2003. Her other overseas postings include Indonesia, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, and Bangladesh. Chiles was also a member of the General Counsel's office in Washington, and before joining USAID served as a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice.

Chiles takes over the Counselor role from Mosina Jordan, who retired from the Agency in April. ★

## Ecuador Mission Responds to Flooding

Heavy rains that began in early January continued unabated and by the end of February, eight of Ecuador's 22 provinces were flooded. Forty-seven people died and over 300,000 were seriously affected by the flooding, including nearly 15,000 who had no choice but to move to shelters. On Feb. 21, U.S. Ambassador Linda Jewell declared a disaster after over 247,000 acres of crops and pastures had been destroyed, causing over \$200 million in agricultural damages.

USAID's mission in Ecuador and the Agency's Office for U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), joined with the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) developed a rapid, joint U.S. response to the crisis. Within four days, USAID had delivered over 3,000 hygiene kits, 3,000 10-liter water containers, 200 rolls of plastic sheeting, and a 10,000-liter water bladder, at a cost of \$177,000, from a warehouse in

Miami to the Ecuadorian Red Cross in Guayaquil. Meanwhile, Mission Director Alexandria Panehal approved a \$50,000 grant to the Ecuadorian Red Cross to deliver hygiene kits, mosquito nets, and protection kits to over 400 families in dire need. On March 3, an additional shipment of 5,088 hygiene kits costing \$108,000 arrived in Guayaquil and was transferred to the Ministry of Health.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provided 3,800 respirators and tens of thousands of clean up supplies such as gloves, boot covers, and biohazard trash bags. Most of these materials were delivered to Manta March 6 by the Kentucky National Guard.

On March 7, USAID signed a \$169,000 grant with the American Red Cross to supply kitchen materials and mosquito netting (to reduce the risk of malaria and dengue). USAID was also involved in final negotiations

with CARE to provide \$200,000 for water and shelter in the hard-hit southern province of El Oro, and with World Vision to provide \$258,000 to provide blankets, hygiene kits, and cooking supplies to Manabí, in the north.

SOUTHCOM also donated relief supplies, including

mosquito nets, sanitary supplies, and bedding worth approximately \$45,000. Additionally, SOUTHCOM loaned 10 sets of night-vision goggles and eight zodiac boats to Ecuador's National Police for rescue operations, and deployed a search-and-rescue specialist and

disaster assessment team to the flood zone.

The Ecuadorian Red Cross immediately put relief materials to use, provisioning temporary shelters as well as delivering supplies to needy families in their homes. ★



January flooding left 47 dead and 15,000 displaced in Ecuador. Thousands received USAID assistance in the form of plastic sheeting, hygiene kits, water containers, as well as food rations from the government of Ecuador.

## IN HOUSE BRIEFS

### State to Review Two USAID/Sudan Deaths

On April 8, the State Department announced it would convene an accountability review board to examine the circumstances surrounding the deaths of two USAID employees who were killed in Sudan on New Year's Day.

John Granville, 33, a democracy and governance officer, and Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama, 40, a mission driver, were shot while driving home from a holiday party. At least two men have been arrested in connection with the slayings.

State's under secretary for management announced the review board would examine the circumstances surrounding the attack and report back with findings and, if necessary, recommendations. The review board is mandated by law in situations involving loss of life related to a U.S. mission abroad.

The board has asked anyone with information relevant to the review of the incident to call (202) 647-5204 or send a fax to (202) 647-3282. The board expects the examination to take 60 days.

### OSDBU to Host Small Business Conference

On June 26, USAID's Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) will host a Small Business Conference in the Ronald Reagan Building's Atrium Hall from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. One of the goals of the conference is to help program offices find small businesses capable of becoming USAID partners in development. OSDBU anticipates that the conference will foster new partnerships and result in an expanded vendor pool for the Agency. For more information about the conference—including details about the schedule of events for the day—call Sharon Jones-Taylor in OSDBU at (202) 712-0119. ★

## GUATEMALA GETS NEW MISSION BUILDING



On Dec. 5, 2007, a new USAID/Guatemala building was opened for business and some 88 staff members moved into their new offices. The building is the result of a unique design/build-for-lease concept developed by USAID and Guatemalan developers and represents the continuation of USAID's 60-year relationship with the Guatemalan people.

The building was officially inaugurated April 17, with U.S. Ambassador James M. Derham, USAID Assistant Administrator for Management Sean Mulvaney, USAID Mission Director Wayne R. Nilsestuen and Executive Officer William Elderbaum, and Guatemalan Vice President Rafael Espada.

USAID's budget for Guatemala in fiscal year 2008 is \$54.5 million, which includes PL 480 Title II food aid, a program set up to address food insecurity for the most vulnerable sectors of the population. In addition, the mission manages a \$6.4 million regional HIV/AIDS program. ★



Left to right: USAID Mission Director Wayne R. Nilsestuen, Guatemalan Vice President Rafael Espada, and U.S. Ambassador James M. Derham inaugurate USAID's new Guatemala mission building on April 17.

ABOUT USAID
OUR WORK
LOCATIONS
POLICY
PUBLIC AFFAIRS
BUSINESS
CAREERS
HOME



FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

You are here » [Home](#) » [Press](#) » [FrontLines](#) »

### FrontLines

Welcome to *FrontLines*, the employee news publication of USAID. *FrontLines* features articles about the work that USAID is doing, and the people who are doing it. It is produced monthly and distributed electronically and in print to every employee and retiree, as well as some friends of USAID.

#### Current Issue

**March 2008**

- Asia Near East Bureau Split into Middle East and Asia
- Russian Officials Study U.S. Development Assistance
- 6 Years of U.S. Aid Boosts Afghan Health, Education, and Commerce
- Bush Visits Africa, Boosts Aid
- Where Does USAID's Money Go?
- Fore Plans Improvements
- Regional Office of the Month: Costa Rica
- USAID Assists North Korea in Denuclearization
- Maputo Declaration Aims to Improve Medical Labs
- Canal Provides Haiti Flood Relief and Jobs
- MCC Board Upgrades Malawi's Status to Compact-Eligible
- Youth Network Sheds Light on Troubles in Middle East

[... and more!](#)



- Press Home »
- Press Releases
- Mission Press Releases
- Fact Sheets
- Media Advisories
- Speeches & Testimony
- Development Calendar »
- Photo Gallery »
- Public Diplomacy »
- FrontLines »
- Contact USAID »

#### EMAIL

Sign up to receive FrontLines by email

Email:

First Name:

Last Name:

#### PREVIOUS ISSUES

- February 2008
- December 2007-January 2008
- November 2007
- October 2007

To subscribe to the *FrontLines* electronic edition, go to:

<http://www.usaid.gov/press/frontlines/>

## IN MEMORIAM

**Wilford Bernard Lane**, 57, died March 27 in Fredericksburg, Va. During his 35-year career with USAID, Lane served as an economic growth officer and a country desk officer. He retired from the Agency in October 2007 after serving a number of years in the Africa Bureau.

**Charles F.B. Wilding-White**, 91, died April 12, in Chevy Chase, Md. A Navy veteran of World War II, he joined USAID in 1965 as a financial management specialist and advised host government agencies on matters including taxation and budgets. Wilding-White retired from the Agency as chief of the human resources development division in Haiti, where he helped to introduce Creole into the primary education system. After his retirement, Wilding-White worked as a financial specialist for private contractors on projects in Africa, Central America, and the Middle East.

# CONTINUED...

## MILITARY from page 1

organizations are field oriented and have an expeditionary mindset. Vocabulary seems to be one of the biggest obstacles to closer coordination—for example, USAID employees call the overseas environment “the field,” while the military calls it “the theater.”

But the bottom line remains the same: using U.S. resources and staff to improve conditions so people can earn a decent living, feel secure, and reject the appeal of insurgent recruiters.

To further this new bonding between these “soft” and “hard” sides of U.S. foreign policy, two offices have been stood up within the last five years as part of USAID’s Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance: the Office of Military Affairs (OMA) and the office for Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM).

In early April, Elizabeth Martin of CMM traveled to the Foreign Service Institute to teach civilian (USAID, State, U.S. Department of Agriculture) and military personnel about instability and conflict as part of their preparation for a year-long deployment to a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Iraq.

Using a newly developed conflict tool—the Tactical Conflict Assessment Framework (TCAF)—she told the trainees that to effectively stabilize an area, you have to know what is causing instability. The best way to do this is to ask the local population. TCAF has four key questions that help in understanding the reasons for instability in an area:

Have there been changes in the village population in the last year?

What are the most important problems facing the village?

Who do you believe can solve your problems?

What should be done first to help the village?

USAID’s civilian aid experts have learned through long and sometimes difficult experience how to approach people in different cultures and in unstable conditions. This knowledge is being transferred, not just to civilians serving on PRTs in Afghanistan and Iraq, but also to officers at military bases around the country.

James Derleth of the OMA took USAID’s work in conflict assessment and “translated it for use by the military—it needed to be more operational,” said Martin.

Derleth has used the TCAF to train troops heading for Afghanistan, Iraq, and the Horn

of Africa. “This is back to the future—the first years of USAID after it was created in 1961 were spent in Vietnam in the CORDS Program,” said Thomas Baltazar, head of the OMA. CORDS (Civil Operations and Revolutionary [later changed to Rural] Development Support) merged civilian aid teams with military groups to deliver assistance and foster stability in unstable areas.

“After Vietnam, we went our separate ways,” Baltazar added. USAID hired a lot of former Peace Corps volunteers and the staff gravitated towards more traditional long-term development in stable areas, so this re-engagement with the military has been “a kind of laboratory” said Baltazar.

Since the military tends to have “a manual for everything,” Baltazar is trying to institutionalize USAID’s ideas into military strategy and doctrine towards failed and failing states.

“TCAF has gotten huge traction with the U.S. and British military—the Brits are in the process of incorporating it into their military doctrine and the U.S. Army has included TCAF in their soon to be published Operations and Counterinsurgency manuals,” said Baltazar. This means USAID’s conflict assessment tools will be “taught in all the Army schools.” ★

## POLLS from page 1

respond to the needs of their people, monitor tensions, and measure how people see their leaders.

For example, surveys in Africa have asked people how often they must pay bribes each month. A poll in Afghanistan asked if the government should allow peaceful opposition.

Charney’s Afghan poll queried Afghans in all 34 provinces and found declining support for U.S. and NATO forces in some areas since last year and a slight increase in support for the Taliban. But it also indicated places where swing groups could be affected by schools and other USAID projects.

A previous poll discovered that, since most Afghans live in isolated villages, they had no knowledge of the extensive foreign aid programs building schools, roads, and clinics. This undermined their confidence in

the government. The poll also found that most Afghans got news only through radio or personal contacts.

In Indonesia, polls were used in 1998 to determine civic and voter education needs and to identify key topics that people wanted to discuss in advance of elections after the downfall of the 20-year Suharto dictatorship, said Karma Lively of the Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI). Focus groups and polls asked how people viewed the media and then created public service announcements (PSAs) designed to calm fears and promote cooperation in forming a new government.

“We learned what groups had impact, such as a popular Indonesian band,” said Lively. “So we integrated them in a PSA. Some of the TV ads made little sense to us but resonated with Indonesians because they

were designed by local public relations firms” in touch with local tastes. Lively also noted that the capacity to conduct effective polling varies from country to country and can be particularly challenging in societies devastated by war.

Polls are especially valuable in countries such as Liberia, where USAID re-entered after years of war, to find out what people are thinking and what they need. OTI often starts by studying all the polls carried out by others.

And polls can help aid workers identify the services that people want the most and thus target foreign assistance to have the biggest impact. This kind of polling is an extension of the basic assessments carried out by aid workers after disasters or other crises.

In Afghanistan, for example, OTI carried out a survey using

## STATES from page 1

- ▶ in a few weeks and spend up to a year overseas—only about 10 to 25 percent would be available at any given time; and
- ▶ 2,000 people in a “Civilian Response Corps” modeled on the U.S. military reserves—they would sign up for a four-year commitment and be expected to serve up to a year of that commitment overseas.

Herbst said the new office was set up because of “problems” in reconstruction and stabilization experienced during the past several years.

S/CRS would operate “so all the instruments of the U.S. government are utilized in a coherent way” with skilled civilians “ready to deploy,” he said.

Herbst noted that Niccolo Machiavelli said that “there is nothing harder to do in government than to create a new system... I spend 95 percent of my time fighting bureaucratic battles” over establishing the new office. However, he acknowledged that he is only recreating skills that existed during the Vietnam War when USAID and other civilian agencies ran the CORDS (Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support) program to win hearts and minds by agricultural development and other aid.

The new office would create an inter-agency management system in failed or failing states or states in conflict through a country reconstruction and stabilization group.

“The first group of 250 people will have skills for coping with a failed state or emergencies” and will include judges, city planners, public health experts, port operators, and others, he said. They will get six to eight weeks of training with the U.S. military.

The team would stay in-country and work closely with Department of Defense units, similar to the way the Provincial Reconstruction Teams operate in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“The most likely agency to be in charge [of country teams] is USAID,” Herbst said. However, depending on the nature of the tasks in a country, other U.S. agencies could take the lead.

Herbst said that, when his office is fully funded and staffed, he hopes to deploy as many as 1,200 people to control all operations in a crisis zone.

NGOs and other partners will continue to be the primary mechanism to deliver aid and will work with other donors.

Finally, Herbst warned that problems of failed states are “complex” and that one must have “modest expectations.” U.S. response should also be made when U.S. national interests are at stake. ★

face-to-face interviews soon after the Taliban was ousted and millions of Afghan refugees began returning home.

“In late 2001 to early 2002, our implementing partner asked about 800 people in several of the largest cities in Afghanistan a dozen questions and one of the top priorities they identified was education, including rebuilding schools destroyed by the Taliban,” said Lively. “As a result, we started working with the new government and communities in identifying and rehabilitating dozens of schools. The USAID mission in Kabul later built or rehabilitated more than 600 schools.”

In the West Bank and Gaza, USAID carried out polls that asked the Palestinians if they knew that U.S. assistance was

providing water, sanitation, roads, and other services. When the polls showed that few people were aware that USAID was a major donor, then a series of locally crafted TV ads and billboards informed the public about the extent of U.S. assistance. Polls then showed that public awareness of U.S. aid had risen sharply.

The November poll that Charney carried out for ABC News—he shared the results with Agency communications experts in March—told where the swing groups are—along the Pakistan frontier and around Kabul. Charney said that if aid was focused in these areas, the swing groups would be moved to support the Karzai government. ★

## MIDDLE EAST from page 7

changes to get the provincial governments to accept the responsibility, prepare the budgets, and then hone the skills necessary to draw up their own development programs—suited to their local geographic and economic needs.

The convention was funded and organized through USAID's Local Governance Program, which is being carried out by RTI International.

The 220 participants included 11 governors, 16 provincial council members, six committee chairs from the council of representatives, 23 directors general from central government ministries, the mayor of Baghdad, and representatives of the diplomatic community.

The convention identified ways to coordinate provincial planning and the national development strategy. In a large ballroom decorated with banners from each province, delegations from almost all of Iraq's provinces presented their development strategies to the Minister of Planning and Development as the moderator described the unique cultures and features of each province.

Provincial development strategies are intended to guide development and capital budgeting for the next three to five years. Each province creates its own strategy through a process involving local leaders and citizens—a process that had been criticized by central authorities as being insufficiently coordinated with national planning in the capital.

Iraq Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki opened the convention with a surprise appearance, spoke favorably about the role of strategic planning at the provincial level, and signaled his intention to improve development planning and coordination between national and provincial governments.

Planned projects include building housing complexes, rehabilitating schools, constructing roadways and bridges, expanding sewer and storm drainage networks, and clearing rivers and tributaries of debris.

Representatives from USAID and the State Department were limited to roles as observers at the meeting, along with representatives of the United Nations and a number of Western embassies.

Geoff Minott, Iraq Provincial Reconstruction Team coordinator, said "the event was a watershed because it clearly demonstrated the political acceptance by the central government of planning by the provinces."

"Allowing the provinces to create the document that will guide public investment by the ministries as well as the provinces will be a major advance in making providers of essential services in the provinces responsive to the priorities of the people."

The conference culminated more than two years of work to create provincial development strategies since 2006. The "bottom up," participatory planning process is expected to strengthen local governance in Iraq. ★

## MALI from page 6

Participants' reactions ranged from amazed to frustrated—one quipped, "I can't believe that this hasn't happened sooner." Teachers have given the training high marks for introducing them to new information they can use in the classroom.

Alex Newton, USAID's Mali mission director, said, "this level of collaboration between Mali's ministry and a USAID mission partner in education is a remarkable support to education and exactly what we are looking for."

Sara Rasmussen-Tall, who is also with USAID in Mali, explained that the assistance from the Mali government helped address one of the challenges of the initial program—that some of Mali's teachers would receive more training than others simply by virtue of where they live.

"This extraordinary collaboration, where our ministry partner contributed all of the costs of a nationwide training effort, has enabled us to take a step towards harmonizing what teachers learn at the pre-service training stage," Rasmussen-Tall said. "The ripple effect of that, we expect, will be that students across the country will receive better instruction from the teachers that USAID has helped trained in the IFMs." ★

## FOOD from page 2

food security; health, economy, and market systems; nutrition; logistics; humanitarian coordination and information management; and water, sanitation, and hygiene interventions. The Agency's Office of Food for Peace, which consistently provides up to 50 percent of food assistance program requirements

per year to Ethiopia, has spent nearly \$47 million in emergency food assistance for Ethiopia, including \$12 million earmarked for the Somali region.

Between 1991 and 2007, USAID provided more than \$2.6 billion in humanitarian assistance to Ethiopia. ★



Ahmad Omeir, 24, gestures towards a photo of a young woman playing the violin—one of several taken by Palestinians in a photography class sponsored by the Ruwwad Youth Movement that were displayed at USAID in Washington. USAID sponsors Ruwwad, which has 1,000 volunteers who help organize Palestinians in the West Bank to clean up schools and tackle other community activities. A two-page display of Ruwwad photos of Palestinian life, art, and culture will be featured in the May issue of FrontLines.

## ARMENIA from page 6

society and mainstream life, and providing proper education to all children, regardless of physical or mental disabilities.

The center also actively works with families to prevent institutionalization of children. Center specialists will examine every child currently enrolled in a special school to identify misplacements and make referrals to mainstream educational facilities.

Gohar Petrosian, whose 7-year old daughter, Lilit, has a speech disorder, said, "People

should not think that some kids are different. God made us all equal and we should realize that in life."

USAID's CEDC project has been working with the Armenian government since 2004 to overcome serious challenges facing the country's most vulnerable children. To date, this Global Development Alliance initiative has benefited more than 7,000 children and their families. ★

## FRONTLINES

IS PUBLISHED BY THE **U.S. Agency for International Development**,  
THROUGH THE **BUREAU FOR LEGISLATIVE AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS**.

**Jeffrey Grieco**

*Assistant Administrator  
for Legislative and Public Affairs*

**Steve Tupper**

*Chief of Strategic Communications and Publications*

### FRONTLINES STAFF

**Ben Barber**, *Editorial Director*

**Claire McIntyre**, *Production Editor*

**Angela Rucker**, *Writer*

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

### CORRESPONDENTS:

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

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

**EGAT** – Jane Stanley; **E&E** – Sarah Berry, Jen Citrolo; **EOP** – Gloria Blackwell; **GC** – Ritu Tariyal;

**GDA** – Lorin Kavanaugh-Ulku; **GH** – Sandra Jordan, Roslyn Matthews, Chris Thomas;

**IG** – Debra Scott; **LAC** – Dan Battle; **LPA** – Barbara Bennett; **M** – Mary Mertens;

**ME** – Hope Bryer, Lori Severens; **OTI** – Rick Swanson; **SEC** – Dwayne Moore, Lorraine Meehan

Submit notices, story ideas, feedback to FRONTLINES articles and requests to be added to the mailing list to [FrontLines@usaid.gov](mailto:FrontLines@usaid.gov).



# SPOTLIGHT

## Namibian Children Get Yogurt with HIV/AIDS Education

USAID is providing yogurt to young Namibian children, coupled with HIV/AIDS prevention education. The yogurt offers children a healthy supplement of nearly 500 calories, which boosts overall health and helps them to be less vulnerable to HIV.

This healthy dietary supplement is paired with HIV/AIDS education, including age-appropriate strategies focusing on awareness, prevention, communication and relationship skills, cultural norms, and gender issues. For the very youngest participants, the effort provides a safe haven where they can build confidence and interact with their peers.

The yogurt plus prevention education is carried out in partnership with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. In February, USAID launched a public-private partnership in cooperation with Standard Bank, the largest bank on the African continent; Namibia Dairies, that country's leading dairy company; and the Namibia Business Coalition on AIDS.

Already the program is having an impact. At the outset, 400 children were being reached at two sites. As of March, just one month later, the number of children attending HIV/AIDS prevention programs had doubled. ★



A public-private partnership launched by USAID is allowing these children in Namibia to receive a cup of nutritious yogurt, coupled with HIV/AIDS prevention education, every day.



A homemade game of mixing and matching is one activity children enjoy at an HIV/AIDS prevention site in Namibia.



Cups of nutritious yogurt are being prepared for young children who are also participating in HIV prevention education activities.

In its nearly 20-year history as an independent nation, Namibia has invested heavily in education and health, and has been committed to promoting the economic, social, and political empowerment of historically disadvantaged Namibians. Tackling the country's HIV/AIDS epidemic is no exception. USAID delivers HIV/AIDS programs and service to Namibians in partnership with the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Namibia is one of the Emergency Plan's 15 focus countries, and in fiscal year 2007 received \$91.2 million to support HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, and care programs.



At an HIV prevention education site in Namibia, the number of children attending the program has doubled since the launch of the public-private partnership.



While attending an HIV/AIDS prevention program, a young Namibian boy enjoys a cup of nutritious yogurt.