



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



2006: 12 MONTHS OF
TELLING OUR STORY

COVER: A farmer uses a net to collect tilapia from a fish farm in Mozambique. The fish will be used to help others start fish farms and diversify their sources of income.

PHOTO: USAID/SUZANNE POLAND

Every day, all over the world, USAID brings hope to those who suffer from violence, health to those who struggle with sickness, and support to those who live in poverty. It is these individuals—these uncounted millions of lives—that are the true measure of USAID’s success and the true face of America’s foreign assistance programs. The Telling Our

Story project seeks to document these successes by spotlighting their lives.

Through anecdotes, photos and facts, USAID’s Telling Our Story creates a record of how the American people assist individuals, families and communities. USAID overseas missions and their partners submit stories about their work online, which are then converted into

ready-to-use publications and other online resources. The publications’ simple design and clear language make them versatile communications tools that share America’s successes with a global audience.

For more information, please contact Telling Our Story at tosinquiries@usaid.gov or visit www.usaid.gov/stories.

TELLING OUR STORY

www.usaid.gov/stories

“ We will stay dry when the rains come. We can lock up our things, and most of all our family can have some privacy. It’s a real home... Thanks, America.”

B. Disannayake



The Disannayakes stand in front of their new, temporary home, which has a metal roof, fabric walls, a steel frame and a door that locks.

TSUNAMI HOMES

Since the tsunami swept away his home, Sri Lankan fisherman B. Disannayake has struggled to keep his family together while living in a hot, wet tent. But in March 2005, they were able to regain some normalcy by moving into a new home. On the foundation of his old house, USAID built a 200-square-foot transitional shelter. USAID is building more than 10,000 shelters in Sri Lanka, and people like Disannayake can earn a month’s wages by helping with construction.

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 National Holiday Cameroon	2 U.S. Federal Holiday New Year's Day National Holiday Albania, Russia, Ukraine	3	4 National Holiday Angola, Congo, Burma	5 National Holiday Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina	6 National Holiday Cyprus, Croatia, Dominican Republic	7 National Holiday Ethiopia
8 Pay Period 1	9 National Holiday Egypt*, Afghanistan*	10 National Holiday Egypt*, Afghanistan*, Ethiopia*, Albania, Benin	11 National Holiday Egypt*, Afghanistan*, Mali, Morocco	12	13 National Holiday Togo	14
15	16 U.S. Federal Holiday Martin Luther King, Jr. Day National Holiday Benin	17 National Holiday Malawi	18	19 National Holiday Ethiopia	20 National Holiday Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Guinea Bissau, Cape Verde Islands, Mali	21 National Holiday India, Morocco*, Iraq*, Dominican Republic, Barbados
22 Pay Period 2 National Holiday Morocco*, Iraq*	23	24 National Holiday Senegal, Togo	25	26 National Holiday India, Dominican Republic	27 National Holiday Bosnia and Herzegovina	28
29 National Holiday Egypt*	30 National Holiday Jordan, Mongolia, China, Vietnam	31 National Holiday Mongolia, China, Vietnam				

HELP FOR THE HANDICAPPED

Elisabeth Nassalan, wife and mother of six, was harvesting mangoes when she lost her legs to a landmine in 2001. But now Elisabeth has hope for a brighter future. With help from USAID, she opened a small shop in her house that allows her to support her family.

USAID has assisted handicapped people in Senegal since 1999, helping them integrate into society and providing prosthetics, transportation, education, training and start-up funding for alternative forms of income, like Elisabeth's home kiosk.

USAID is also supporting a landmine awareness campaign that has reached 400,000 people.

“**Now, even though I am alone, I am able to earn money and care for my children. The assistance I have received has helped me greatly in making a fresh start.**”

Elisabeth Nassalan



USAID/RICHARD NYBERG

Elisabeth Nassalan and her son, Jonas, rest outside their home in Casamance, Senegal.

TELLING OUR STORY



S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 National Holiday China, Vietnam	2 National Holiday China, Vietnam	3 National Holiday Sao Tome, Principe	4 National Holiday Angola
5 Pay Period 3 National Holiday Mexico	6	7	8	9	10 National Holiday Morocco*, Iraq*, Indonesia*	11 National Holiday Iraq*, Liberia
12 National Holiday Burma	13	14	15 National Holiday Angola	16	17 National Holiday Afghanistan	18 National Holiday Gambia
19 Pay Period 4	20 U.S. Federal Holiday Presidents' Day	21 National Holiday Bosnia and Herzegovina	22	23 National Holiday Guyana, Russia	24	25
26	27 National Holiday Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dominican Republic	28 National Holiday Haiti				

*estimated date, contingent on lunar sighting/calculation

CAMEL BUSINESS

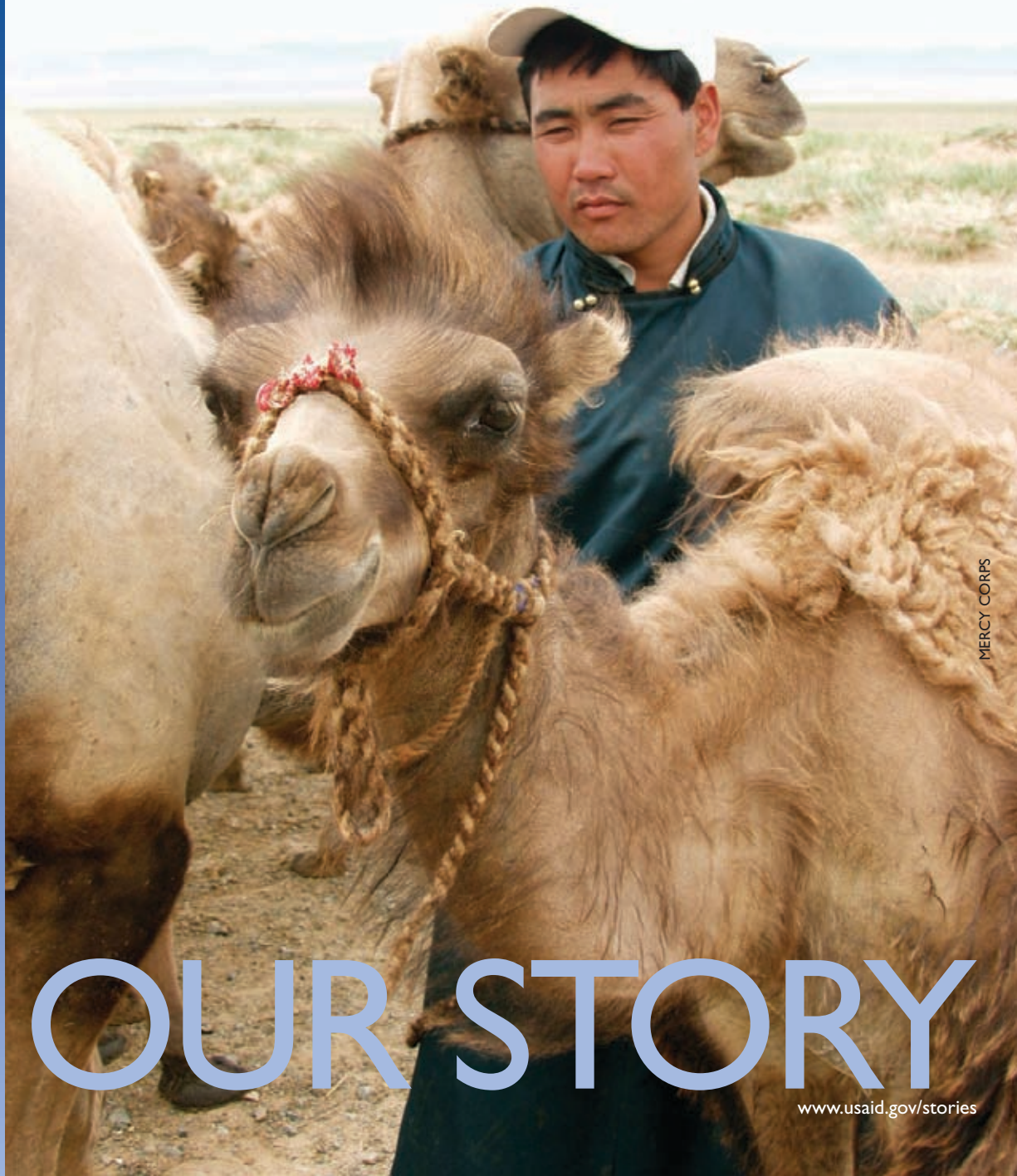
The Bactrian camel was once the symbol of Mongolia, providing rural herders like Ikhbayar with not only a hardy method of transportation, but also dung for fires, milk, meat and wool. But its numbers have steadily declined as rural dwellers move into cities for better income.

USAID is helping strengthen Mongolia's rural businesses through diversification and new market opportunities. Local cooperatives were formed to help herders identify and secure sources of raw materials, and families were shown marketing techniques that will boost their income. Ikhbayar now markets dairy products in a nearby town, and his wife is experimenting with new processing techniques she learned at a training.

“ We have been able to increase our income with the training. ”

Ikhbayar

Ikhbayar, a Gobi camel herdsman, joined a cooperative with 18 other herder families, who work together on cashmere classification, animal breeding and dairy production.



MERCY CORPS

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 National Holiday Bosnia and Herzegovina, Jamaica	2 National Holiday Ethiopia	3 National Holiday Malawi	4
5 Pay Period 5 National Holiday Senegal	6 National Holiday Ghana	7	8 National Holiday Equatorial Guinea, Liberia	9	10	11 National Holiday Indonesia
12 National Holiday Zambia, Gabon	13	14 National Holiday Cyprus, Albania	15 National Holiday Liberia	16	17	18
19 Pay Period 6	20	21 National Holiday Afghanistan, Mexico	22 National Holiday Albania	23	24	25
26	27 National Holiday Burma	28	29 National Holiday Madagascar	30	31	

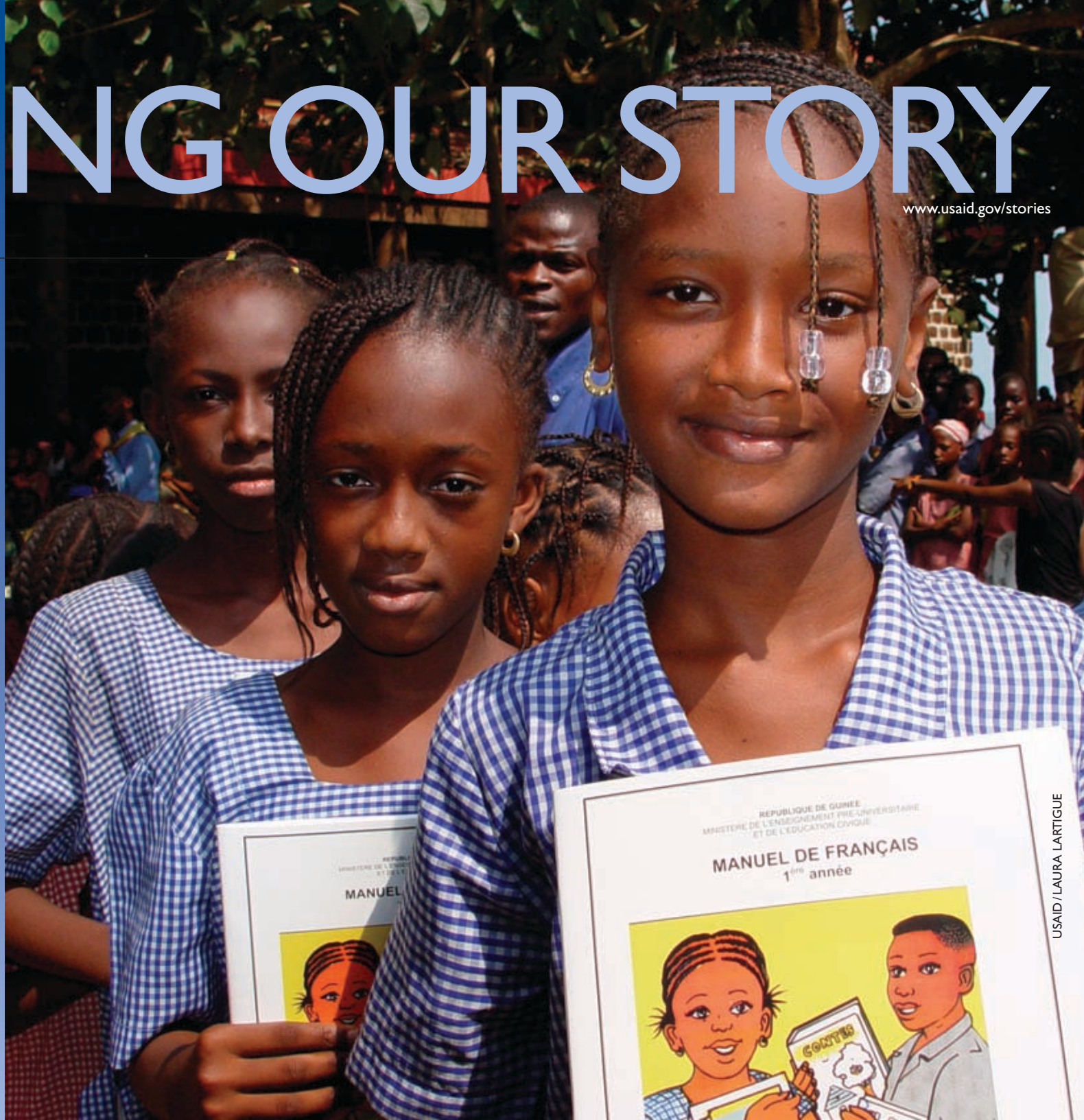
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CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Dancing and smiling schoolchildren from all over Conakry, Guinea, animated a ceremony where USAID handed out over 500,000 new textbooks for primary students across the country. In a country where only 41 percent of adults can read, and where children—girls in particular—face daunting barriers to schooling, strengthening the educational system is essential to development. USAID is also offering a scholarship program to encourage girls to complete primary school and is training teachers to improve the quality of education they'll receive when they get there.

Three girls hold language arts textbooks produced through the USAID-supported Africa Education Initiative.



USAID / LAURA LARTIGUE

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 National Holiday Cyprus, Benin
2 Pay Period 7	3 National Holiday Guinea	4 National Holiday Senegal	5	6 National Holiday Thailand	7	8
9	10 National Holiday Egypt*, Ethiopia	11	12 National Holiday Liberia	13 National Holiday Peru, Mexico, Chad, Thailand, Laos, Burma	14 National Holiday Peru, Mexico, Jamaica, Haiti, Cyprus, Nigeria, Thailand, Liberia, Cambodia, Dominican Republic, Israel, Romania, Laos, Burma	15 National Holiday Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Burma
16 Pay Period 8 National Holiday Albania, Burma	17 National Holiday Senegal, Jamaica, Burma	18	19 National Holiday Sierra Leone	20	21 National Holiday Iraq*, Afghanistan*, Morocco*, Ethiopia	22 National Holiday Morocco*, Senegal, Indonesia*
23 National Holiday Albania, Russia, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Macedonia	24 National Holiday Israel, Cyprus	25 National Holiday Egypt	26	27 National Holiday Sierra Leone, Togo	28 National Holiday Barbados	29
30 Pay Period 9						

*estimated date, contingent on lunar sighting/calculation

GRASSROOTS DEMOCRACY

Dire economic conditions, a lack of security and a history of government corruption are realities of life in the West Bank and Gaza, making the practice of democracy particularly challenging. USAID has provided \$16 million in grants to Palestinian organizations to promote democracy and set the stage for a free and fair electoral process.

For the January 2005 presidential elections, USAID trained community leaders, who then recruited and organized hundreds of election observers. This grassroots participation gave Palestinians a sense of ownership over the vote and is helping them become neutral watchdogs over their emerging democratic process.

A Palestinian woman casts her vote for president on January 9, 2005.



YUSEF ABU-ELJEDIAN, TAMKEEN

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1 National Holiday Egypt, Ghana, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Zambia, Dominican Republic, Guyana, Haiti, Barbados, Albania, Vietnam, Burma	2 National Holiday Egypt, Vietnam, China, Laos	3 National Holiday China	4 National Holiday China	5 National Holiday Guyana, Thailand	6 National Holiday Liberia
7	8	9 National Holiday Russia, Ukraine	10 National Holiday Mexico	11	12 National Holiday Israel	13
14 Pay Period 10 National Holiday Liberia	15 National Holiday Barbados	16 National Holiday Cambodia	17 National Holiday Congo	18 National Holiday Haiti	19	20 National Holiday Cameroon, East Timor
21 National Holiday Cameroon	22 National Holiday Yemen	23 National Holiday Jamaica, Thailand, Jordan, India	24 National Holiday Indonesia	25 National Holiday Equatorial Guinea, Zambia, Chad, Liberia, Senegal, Madagascar	26 National Holiday Dominican Republic, Croatia, Guyana, Cambodia	27
28 Pay Period 11 National Holiday Ethiopia	29 U.S. Federal Holiday Memorial Day National Holiday Nigeria	30 National Holiday Israel, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Congo	31			

SMART FORESTS

Furniture retailers are increasingly purchasing timber solely from certified well-managed forests, yet only 0.5 percent of all forests meet that requirement. To help Bolivia comply with international standards so that loggers and indigenous communities can profit from the timber trade, USAID helped foresters develop ecologically and economically

sustainable practices that limit soil and water degradation while protecting biological diversity. Thanks to the way the country manages its forests, Bolivia is now home to almost 8 percent of the world's eco-certified forests, and in one year's time, its exports of certified products increased fivefold.

Botanist **Marisol Toledo** inspects a tree trunk in La Chonta forest.



LAURA MILLER

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4 National Holiday Ghana	5 National Holiday Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar, Senegal	6	7 National Holiday Chad	8	9	10
11 Pay Period 12	12 National Holiday Russia, Philippines	13 National Holiday Israel	14 National Holiday Malawi	15 National Holiday Haiti	16	17
18	19 National Holiday Ukraine	20 National Holiday Cyprus	21	22 National Holiday Croatia	23	24
25 Pay Period 13 National Holiday Croatia	26 National Holiday Madagascar	27	28 National Holiday Ukraine	29 National Holiday Peru	30	

SMALL LOANS

Madame Fanfan used to sell rice on the side of the road to support herself and her family and worried every day whether she would be able to feed her five children. But after receiving a small loan from USAID, she was able to purchase a stall in a prime location in the market and has diversified her wares beyond rice to include flour, coffee, oil and other products.

USAID provides small loans and other financial services to the poorest Haitian women so they can create or improve their own small businesses. In December 2004, a \$400,000 increase in capital allowed the program to increase its outreach to women like Madame Fanfan by more than 35 percent.

Madame Fanfan says she no longer worries about whether her children will be able to eat every day.



A new stall in the market ensures a dependable income for Madam Fanfan's family.

ROBERT BENGSTON, FINCA INTERNATIONAL

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JULY '06

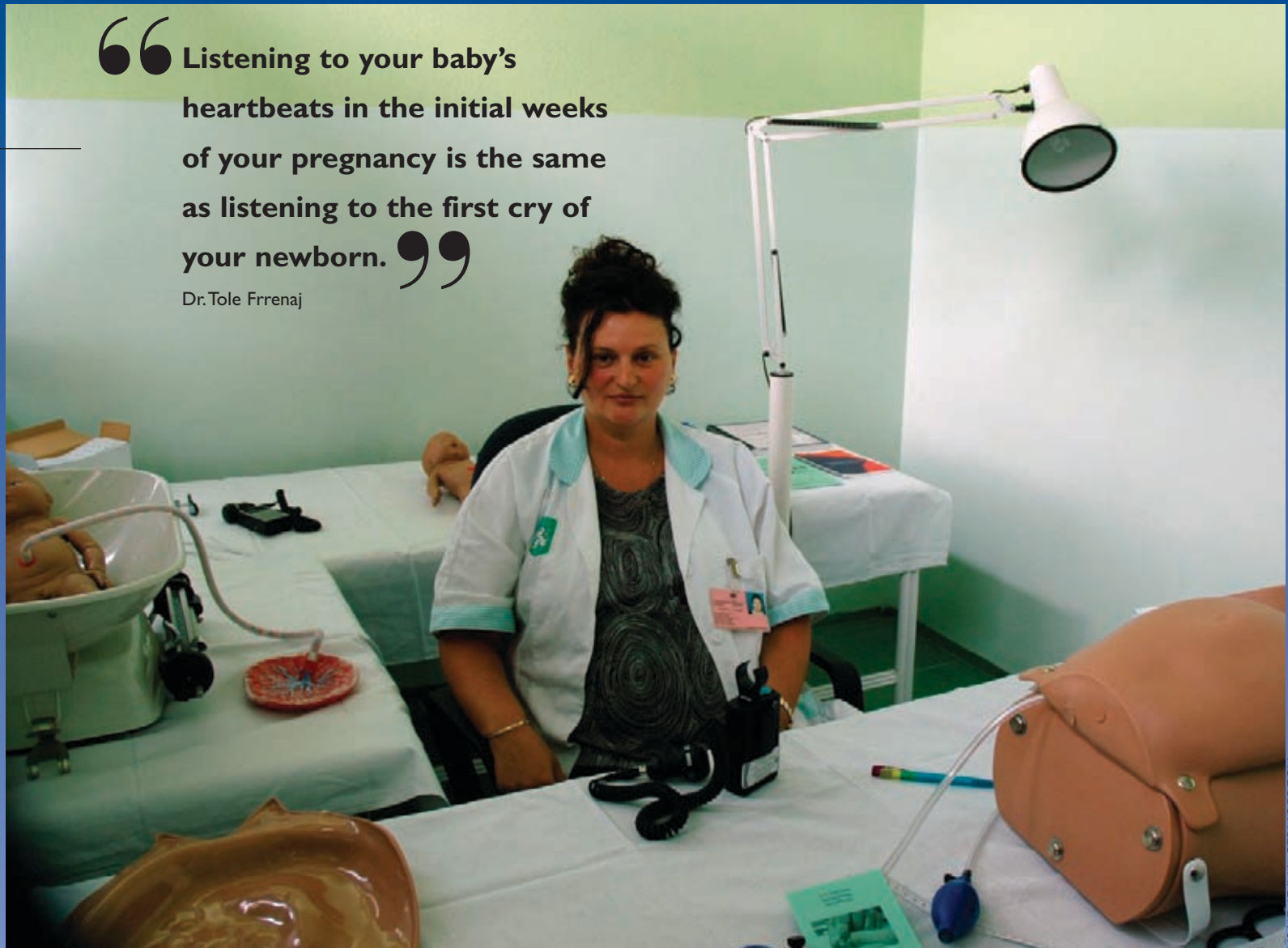
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 National Holiday Ghana
2	3 National Holiday Guyana	4 U.S. Federal Holiday Independence Day National Holiday Zambia	5 National Holiday Zambia, Cape Verde Islands	6 National Holiday Malawi	7	8
9 Pay Period 14	10	11 National Holiday Mongolia	12 National Holiday Mongolia, Sao Tome/Principe	13 National Holiday Mongolia	14 National Holiday Iraq	15
16	17	18	19 National Holiday Burma	20	21	22 National Holiday Gambia
23 Pay Period 15 National Holiday Equatorial Guinea	24	25	26 National Holiday Liberia	27	28 National Holiday Peru	29 National Holiday Peru
30	31					

A BABY'S HEARTBEAT

Kosovo has one of the highest infant mortality rates in Europe at 35 deaths per 1,000 births. USAID is helping reduce those numbers by supporting careful monitoring and prenatal care. USAID donated a fetal Doppler heart monitor to one clinic, allowing Dr. Tole Frrenaj, who is pregnant with her third child, to monitor unborn babies' heart rates. Now, in addition to routine pregnancy exams, Tole can monitor changes to the baby's development—all during the very early stages of pregnancy.

“Listening to your baby's heartbeats in the initial weeks of your pregnancy is the same as listening to the first cry of your newborn.”

Dr. Tole Frrenaj



Dr. Tole Frrenaj now uses a fetal Doppler instrument for prenatal care.

USAID/DINA CERNOBREGU

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S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 National Holiday Zambia, Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana, Congo, Benin	2 National Holiday Barbados, Macedonia	3 National Holiday Equatorial Guinea, Guinea, Guinea Bissau	4	5 National Holiday Croatia
6 Pay Period 16 National Holiday Jamaica	7	8	9 National Holiday Sierra Leone	10	11 National Holiday Chad	12 National Holiday Thailand
13	14	15 National Holiday Cyprus, Gambia, Cape Verde Islands, Chad, Cameroon, Haiti, Equatorial Guinea, India	16 National Holiday Dominican Republic, Gabon	17 National Holiday Indonesia	18	19 National Holiday Afghanistan, India
20 Pay Period 17	21	22	23	24 National Holiday Ukraine	25	26
27 National Holiday Guinea	28	29	30 National Holiday Barbados, Peru, East Timor	31		

AN ALTERNATIVE CROP

Uganda's uplands are officially the home of coffee farms, but bad harvests and depressed markets had reduced coffee's practicality for producers. Based on studies it funded in the 1990s, USAID developed several varieties of rice well suited to the upland conditions, then trained farmers how to

cultivate them. In 2003, Uganda produced 110 tons of upland rice; by early 2004, production rose to 275 tons. The new rice strains can be grown outside flooded rice paddies, which undermine wetland conservation and require farmers to work in pest- and disease-ridden swamps.

Majidu, a 32-year-old father of five, stands in his upland rice field with one of his daughters.

Majidu went from digging latrines to commercial rice farming in just a few years.

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MATT HERRICK, CHEMONICS INTERNATIONAL

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 National Holiday Senegal, Madagascar	2 National Holiday Iraq*
3 Pay Period 18	4 U.S. Federal Holiday Labor Day National Holiday Vietnam	5	6 National Holiday Sao Tome/Principe	7	8 National Holiday Macedonia	9
10	11 National Holiday Ethiopia	12 National Holiday Cape Verde Islands, Senegal, Angola	13	14	15	16 National Holiday Mexico
17 Pay Period 19	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 National Holiday Dominican Republic, Guinea Bissau, Togo	25	26	27 National Holiday Ethiopia	28 National Holiday Guinea	29	30 National Holiday Sao Tome/ Principe

*estimated date, contingent on lunar sighting/calculation

CLEAN WATER

After the Soviet Union collapsed, so too did the infrastructure of Jar-Kyshtak, an Uzbek-Kyrgyz border town. Its 2,400 residents only had access to contaminated water, causing hepatitis A and typhoid outbreaks. Ethnic tensions flared, splitting the border village in two. USAID worked with the cross-border communities to improve infrastructure and open lines of communication. Over five months, the entire village—more than 400 families—reconstructed its water system and dug 30 new wells. Although the local Uzbek government at first was reluctant, the Kyrgyz residents invited all 160 Uzbek citizens to freely use the fresh water from its new wells.

“We are all parents. We all want our children to stay healthy. [Water] is our life.”

Nasiba Ganieva, a 57-year-old Jar-Kyshtak resident



An Uzbek boy fills up on fresh water at a newly dug Kyrgyz well.

USAID / MAHABAT ALYMKULOVA

TELLING OUR STORY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1 Pay Period 20 National Holiday Cameroon, Nigeria	2 National Holiday Guinea	3 National Holiday Cambodia, China	4 National Holiday Cambodia, China, Israel	5 National Holiday China, Israel	6 National Holiday Egypt	7
8 National Holiday Peru, Croatia	9 U.S. Federal Holiday Columbus Day	10 National Holiday Malawi	11 National Holiday Macedonia	12 National Holiday Equatorial Guinea, India	13 National Holiday Israel	14
15 Pay Period 21	16	17 National Holiday Jamaica, Haiti	18 National Holiday Laos	19 National Holiday Israel, Albania, Laos	20	21
22 National Holiday Egypt*, Afghanistan*, Yemen*, Iraq*, Indonesia*	23 National Holiday Egypt*, Afghanistan*, Yemen*, Ethiopia*, Iraq*, Indonesia*	24 National Holiday Afghanistan*, Yemen*, Zambia, Albania, Thailand	25 National Holiday Israel	26 National Holiday Benin	27	28 National Holiday Cyprus
29 Pay Period 22 National Holiday Liberia	30	31 National Holiday Cambodia				

BUSINESS SCHOOL

Georgia's economic transition has been a painful process. It needed top business graduates to help, but in the late 1990s, not one MBA program was offered in the country. In 2001, USAID helped establish the Caucasus School of Business, which is now a highly regarded, self-sustaining institution. The school offers four degree concentrations, and its graduates fill the ranks of Georgia's most successful businesses.



Caucasus Business School students celebrate graduation day.

BRIAN RANDALL, EURASIA FOUNDATION

TELLING OUR STORY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 National Holiday Peru, Guinea, Cape Verde Islands, Chad, India, Angola	2 National Holiday Haiti, Mexico	3 National Holiday Macedonia	4 National Holiday Russia, India, Morocco*, Iraq*
5 National Holiday Morocco*	6 National Holiday Dominican Republic	7 National Holiday Liberia	8	9 National Holiday Cambodia	10 U.S. Federal Holiday Veterans Day	11 National Holiday Angola, East Timor
12 Pay Period 23 National Holiday East Timor, Liberia	13	14 National Holiday Guinea Bissau, Jordan	15 National Holiday India, Cambodia	16 National Holiday Cambodia, Laos	17 National Holiday Cambodia	18 National Holiday Morocco
19	20 National Holiday Mexico	21 National Holiday Sao Tome/Principe	22 National Holiday Guinea	23 U.S. Federal Holiday Thanksgiving Day	24	25 National Holiday Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burma
26 Pay Period 24 National Holiday Sao Tome/ Principe	27	28 National Holiday Albania	29 National Holiday Albania	30 National Holiday Benin		

*estimated date, contingent on lunar sighting/calculation

TELLING OUR STORY

A USAID-trained health worker demonstrates how to purify water.

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EMERGENCY WATER

Tropical Storm Jeanne inundated Gonaïves, Haiti, in September 2004, leaving hundreds of thousands of people without clean water and causing a public health crisis. Days after the flooding, USAID

began distributing PuR, a household water purifier that eliminates all contamination. Within two months, 41,000 families had used PuR, which provided each household with 100 liters of safe,



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DECEMBER '06

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1 National Holiday Romania, Chad	2 National Holiday Laos
3	4	5	6 National Holiday Ghana	7	8 National Holiday Equatorial Guinea, Peru, East Timor	9
10 Pay Period 25 National Holiday Equatorial Guinea	11	12 National Holiday Thailand, Russia	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Pay Period 26	25 U.S. Federal Holiday Christmas	26 National Holiday Ghana, Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana, Sierra Leone, Nigeria, Malawi, Croatia	27	28	29	30
31 National Holiday Ethiopia*						

*estimated date, contingent on lunar sighting/calculation

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