



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FRONTLINES

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Haiti is rebuilding following last year's storms. See pages 8-9.



This girl attends a school in Gonaives, Haiti, where USAID is building new classrooms.

Photo by EDGE

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Obama Pledges Partnerships For Better Lives for Muslims

By Ben Barber

President Barack Obama delivered a speech in Cairo June 4 aimed at improving relations between the United States and Muslim countries.

He pledged U.S. foreign assistance for education, women's rights, democracy, and economic development. USAID is helping to plan the assistance the president pledged.

"Americans are ready to join with citizens and governments, community organizations, religious leaders, and businesses in Muslim communities around the world to help our people pursue a better life," Obama said.

His speech was widely seen in the Arab world over Al Jazeera and other satellite television networks which translated it into Arabic and other languages. The speech has been translated into 15 different languages on the White House Web site.

"I've come here to Cairo to seek a new beginning between the United States and Muslims around the world, one based on mutual interest and mutual respect," he said.

USAID has missions in 27 of the 49 countries in the world that have more than 50 percent Muslim population. With this

large presence on the ground, USAID is a central player in the president's agenda to improve relations with Muslims around the world and to assist partner nations in meeting their development goals.

Obama added that "because of modernity we lose control over our economic choices, our politics, and, most importantly, our identities—those things we most cherish about our communities, our families, our traditions, and our faith." He continued, noting that "... I also know that human

see **OBAMA** on page 15 ▶

Zimbabwe's Tsvangirai Meets USAID Leaders

The prime minister of Zimbabwe, Morgan Tsvangirai, came to USAID headquarters June 9 to thank senior officials for U.S. assistance and to request additional financing and aid to help small farmers plant their summer crops.

In a follow-up meeting with staff from USAID and the Treasury Department, members of Tsvangirai's delegation said it is critical that farmers receive the aid in time to acquire farm inputs by September or the planting season will be lost.

The USAID visit was one of several for Tsvangirai as he looks to U.S. support to restore a functioning government in Zimbabwe. A transitional government with Tsvangirai as prime minister and longtime President Robert Mugabe retaining his post has been in place since February. In five months, reform has been incremental.

Tsvangirai subsequently met with President Barack Obama on June 12, when the president encouraged continued reform in Zimbabwe and committed \$73 million in assistance.

The prime minister said his objective is to install democratic conditions, get a constitutional reform process "kick started" by July, and launch media reforms.

News reports out of the country say that police continue to arrest and harass journalists and human rights advocates.

The prime minister said that the repressive habits of the ZANU-PF party won't go away at once after 28 years of monopoly power, but the transitional government is setting up commissions to deal with human rights, corruption, media, and elections.

see **ZIMBABWE** on page 14 ▶

Haiti Restores Old Waterways For Farm Use

By John Waggoner

CROIX DES BOUQUETS, Haiti—When engineers tried to repair the fabled water system of Plaine du Cul de Sac, a vast farming valley near Port-au-Prince, the canals were covered in mud and debris—buried by eroding soil from deforested mountains that haunt Haiti.

Silt and sediment covered the water system by "more than three meters," according to engineer Jude Clercior Martinez, working on a USAID-funded project.

But a village elder remembered when the water flowed and indicated exactly where to find the buried canals.

Water had last run freely sometime in the late 1940s or early 1950s according to the elder, who reckoned time not by a calendar but by who occupied the Haitian presidency. It was a bit before the first Duvalier, the elder

see **HAITI FARMS** on page 8 ▶



Photo by Julie Johnson, USAID

Zahi Hawass, chairman of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities, explains the history of the Great Pyramid to President Barack Obama during the president's June visit to Egypt. From 2005 to 2009, the Council, USAID, and the American Research Center in Egypt have provided archaeological training for the Council's Egyptian antiquities personnel.

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KILLERS OF GRANVILLE, RAHAMA CONVICTED
See pages 10-11 for a tribute to the slain USAID workers.

WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ...

A column devoted to what our partners and others in the field of foreign assistance are saying about development

Billanthropy: Good or Bad?

By Matthew Bishop and Michael Green

Matthew Bishop and Michael Green are the authors of Philanthrocapitalism: How the Rich Can Save the World. They blog at: www.philanthrocapitalism.net. A longer version of this article appeared in the April edition of Developments, the quarterly magazine of Britain's Department for International Development, and is reprinted with the authors' permission.

Is Bill Gates threatening to dominate global health the way Microsoft once mastered the computer industry, and would it be such a bad thing if he did?

Having stepped down from Microsoft in the middle of 2008, Gates is now giving most of his time, as well as the \$30 billion or more that he has donated to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, to doing good, with a particular focus on eradicating infectious diseases in the developing world.

In doing so he has become the de facto leader of a remarkable new movement among rich business people who are dedicating their wealth and business skills to solving some of the world's most intractable problems.

We call this new movement "philanthrocapitalism." Our interviews with many philanthrocapitalists have convinced us that, despite the current economic crisis, they mean business and are becoming a genuine force for good.

For rich people to play such a prominent role in tackling society's problems makes many people

uncomfortable—Gates's generosity has made him a controversial figure to some veterans in the fields of global health and development. Nevertheless, we believe that it is crucial that everyone from governments to non-governmental organizations [NGOs] to multinational businesses finds a way to partner effectively with them, so that philanthrocapitalism can achieve its full potential. Gates's campaign against malaria shows why.

The problem with malaria is clear, according to Gates. The vaccines and medicines to treat these ailments don't exist simply because the people who suffer and die from them can't afford to pay for them, and therefore no one invests in the research and development of these drugs. "How many people work on, say, brownie mix? How many people work on a soft drink?" he complains, to illustrate the point. "Go get 0.1 percent of the scientists working on erectile dysfunction to come and work on malaria and you will be making a huge contribution."

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (Gates stresses that his wife is an equal partner) is already starting to turn around the battle against malaria. One

thing he brings from his business success is a belief that ambitious goals can be set and achieved. Malaria, for instance, used to be classified as a neglected disease because of the lack of money going into research to find a vaccine or a cure. But last September, Malaria No More—a coalition of governments, multilateral agencies, NGOs, celebrities, and companies, catalyzed by the Gates Foundation—pledged \$3 billion to reduce deaths from malaria to near zero by 2015, from over 1 million a year now.

Gates's interest in global health issues goes back to 1993 when he was shocked to discover that millions of people were suffering from diseases that the world had the technology to prevent or cure. He started giving his money away and lobbying others so that, before long, he says, "People would see me at cocktail parties and wonder 'is he going to come up and talk to me about TB?' I was the Tuberculosis Guy."

Since then Gates's portfolio of investments in fighting killer diseases has diversified. But, talking to Gates, it soon becomes clear that, for all his vast wealth, he knows that he cannot achieve his ambitious goals on his own. "We're a tiny, tiny little organization," he told us.

As a result, he has become increasingly keen on leveraging governments to do more to tackle killer diseases. In 2000 he launched the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization (GAVI), supported with \$750 million of his own money, to boost aid spending to prevent deaths from communicable

diseases. By getting children in developing countries vaccinated, GAVI claims to have already saved more than 3 million lives.

Yet Gates realized that by putting so much of his own money in up front, he had let governments off the hook. So when he launched the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in 2002, he made sure that his donation was contingent on others chipping in, too. Catalyzing partnerships, with governments and also non-profits, businesses, and other philanthropists, is now a core part of the Gates strategy, to ensure that his bucks generate a real bang.

Billanthropy is not without its critics, however. Health professionals have repeatedly claimed that Gates's interest in technological solutions focuses on particular diseases rather than building up the health systems of developing countries....

Patti Stonesifer, a Microsoft veteran and chief executive of the foundation until last year, acknowledges that the criticism has some validity. "We expected to concentrate on developing drugs and so on," she says. "We were a bunch of product development-development people! We assumed that others would focus on getting the products out there." Gates says he "gets" the need for health systems. "Just pure sanitation is a huge thing," he explains. "If you look at the dramatic improvement in infant mortality in the United States, it's not when antibiotics come along; it's when toilets and tennis shoes come along."...

Critics also worry about Gates's legitimacy: when he is negotiating with governments,

who chose him for this position of power? If he does the wrong thing, to whom is he accountable?...

The most significant criticism of the Gates Foundation is that it has grown too big and too dominant in the global health sphere (much like Microsoft did in the personal computing business, mutter the critics).... WHO's then malaria czar Arata Kochi said that "a lot of money leads to monopoly, and discourages smaller rivals and intellectual competition." According to Kochi and other critics, older foundations are being crowded out of the business because there's no point in putting your money into a problem that is soon to be drowning in Gates's dollars. No one can speak up against this new Gates "groupthink," they say, because everyone has grown dependent on his money....

Gates said: "We need to be clear about what we want to take the lead on and where we are happy to be supportive." He has given \$105 million to the University of Washington to provide independent analysis of all the work going on in global health, including that of his foundation.

Gates has also...called on governments to honor their pledges of increased international aid that they made at the G8 in 2005.... Gates is leading by example: he is increasing the foundation's giving in 2009 by over 10 percent to \$3.8 billion—the most that any foundation has ever given in one year. ★

Americans Support Aid to Global Health, Poll Says

The majority of Americans believe the U.S. government should fund efforts to improve people's health in developing countries, even though a recession is taking its toll, according to a poll released May 20.

Some 64 percent of those questioned supported U.S. aid for health programs abroad while 35 percent were opposed.

The poll of 1,004 Americans, conducted from March 25 to April 6, was carried out by World Public Opinion, a project managed by the Program on International Policy Attitudes at the University of Maryland.

While the poll found that support for U.S. aid is grounded in altruistic concern for the poor, it also comes with a belief that,

due to globalization, a health crisis anywhere could have an impact on Americans.

Eighty percent endorsed the idea that "these programs help people in poor countries be more productive and grow economically. This gives people a chance to thrive, and thus promotes global prosperity," the poll reported.

And 75 percent agreed that "global health programs express Americans' key values—compassion, generosity, and a desire to share knowledge that betters people's lives."

The idea that "these programs strengthen the image of the U.S. as a positive influence in the world, which makes cooperation between the U.S. and other countries easier," was endorsed by 73 percent.

In addition, the poll showed Americans support programs abroad such as improving maternal and child health in poor countries; providing reproductive health services; and strengthening overall health systems.

An overwhelming majority supports U.S. contributions to the World Health Organization and most said it is best to give

see **POLL** on page 15 ▶

MISSION OF THE MONTH



A neonatologist in Velikiy Novgorod introduces a girl to her healthy newborn brother.

R U S S I A



83 regions, reaching approximately 12.5 million people.

And the impact?

In the target regions of Vologda, Yakutiya, and Perm, the maternal mortality rate has decreased between 45 and 52 percent since 2003, a rate that is twice as fast as the national average. The use of modern contraceptives has increased by more than 15 percent, while traumas and infections in newborns have dropped precipitously, with infant mortality decreasing overall by almost 40 percent.

Abortion rates in target regions decreased at an average of 16 percent. While abortion rates have been dropping steadily for a number of years, 2007 marked the first time in decades that the number of live births in Russia outnumbered abortions. Some target regions are also beginning to report increases in their population.

The vice governor of Kaluga, Valery Loginov, praised the Maternal and Child Health Initiative for aiding in “the improvement of the quality of life for the population, the stabilization of the medicodemographic situation, the promotion of the idea of teaching the population a responsible attitude to their own health and to the health of future generations.”

There is still much to be done in this sector, and Russia’s population faces many other challenges such as alcoholism and smoking. Heart disease and other chronic ailments such as hypertension are also major contributors to the overall mortality rate. Currently, the number of deaths outstrips the number of births in the country, although deaths declined and births increased in 2007.

The Institute for Family Health, meanwhile, has developed into a strong partner for improving Russian health. In the past year, the organization won three Russian government grants totaling 70 million rubles (\$2.25 million) to disseminate in 47 regions USAID’s recommendations on preventing mother-to-child transmission of HIV. ★

Russia Seeks to Reverse Population Decline

By Tracy Dolan

Challenge

One of the largest threats to Russia and its long-term potential is the rapid decrease in the country’s population.

When USAID began working in Russia in 1992, the population was 150 million; it has since dropped to 142 million and is projected to fall below 100 million by 2050.

This demographic decline is due in part to high rates of maternal and infant mortality. While Russian rates are much lower than the global average, they remain the highest in Europe, though there is great regional disparity within the country.

Treatable conditions such as hypertension, sepsis, and hemorrhaging are among the leading causes of maternal death, and over half of all infant deaths occur within one month of birth. Add in Russia’s high abortion rate—the procedure accounts for nearly one-fifth of all maternal deaths in the country—and the spread of HIV/AIDS among women of reproductive age, and remedying the situation takes on even greater urgency.

Abortion and sexually transmitted infections are also responsible for the majority of Russian infertility cases.

Innovative Response

The Russian government has placed a high priority on

building healthy families through its National Health Project and other initiatives, and USAID is working with Russia to support these efforts.

Since 2003, USAID has partnered with regional health authorities under its Maternal and Child Health Initiative to decrease abortion rates, increase access to modern contraception, prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV/AIDS, and improve reproductive health services.

A key element of the project has been Russian ownership. Regions were selected through a competitive process that emphasized cost sharing and political support from the regional government. A top official at the regional ministry of health usually oversees the project in each region.

In 2004, USAID supported the development of a Russian NGO, the Institute for Family Health, which has become a national leader in its field.

USAID launched two new initiatives in 2008 to spread best practices at the federal level through collaboration with the Federal Public Health Institute and development of Centers of Excellence at the federal district level.

Results

To date, USAID-financed training, technical assistance, and recommendations on improving reproductive health practices have been rolled out to 20 of Russia’s

INSIGHTS

FROM ACTING ADMINISTRATOR ALONZO FULGHAM



As in many families, it often takes a tragedy to remind us of the greater purpose to which we dedicate our lives and our day’s work.

Over the past few weeks, the USAID family has been reminded once again that the work we do across the globe calls for unyielding determination, compassion, courage, and sacrifice—sometimes the ultimate sacrifice.

John Granville, a democracy and governance officer in USAID’s Sudan mission, and Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama, a driver and Foreign Service National better known to his friends as A.R., were killed in Khartoum on New Year’s Day 2008. Late last month, a Sudanese court convicted five men for their roles in these slayings.

And once again the USAID family stopped to remember our two colleagues, for a brief time replacing everyday discussions of program priorities and fiscal year budgets with talk of the nobility of public service and the heartbreak of lives cut short too soon.

A.R. was one of the original members of USAID’s Disaster Assistance Response Team in Darfur in 2004 and joined the Sudan office as a driver the next year. A Washington colleague said that he never had a quiet or jokeless ride when the 39-year-old father was at the wheel.

John went about his official duties with a light heart. Colleagues describe a young man of 33 living a life of joy and purpose—whether distributing solar-powered radios to connect rural South Sudanese to discussions about national elections or keeping coworkers and friends in stitches with tales of his adventures.

To be sure, many of the men and women of USAID put their lives on the line every day as they go about their efforts to support humanitarian and development programs in some of the world’s most dangerous locations.

As mission director in Afghanistan, I saw first-hand the kind of commitment to duty that a hardship post requires of USAID staff. These are the same attributes one might find in USAID staff working in Iraq, Pakistan, Colombia, Yemen, Georgia, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and many other countries where our jobs require work under precarious conditions.

Ours is a mission that provides a roadmap to peace and prosperity. But we often face danger, conflict, and even resentment along the route. USAID’s men and women working on the ground in these places deserve our deepest gratitude.

Is the work difficult? Undoubtedly. Is it worth the effort? Absolutely. I have a feeling that A.R. and John Granville would agree.

“I am doing what I love every day of my life,” John once told his mother. “How many people could ever say that?” ★

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

BRIEFS

Bangladesh Evacuations Saved Countless Lives

DHAKA, Bangladesh—Cyclone Aila hit Bangladesh in late May of this year but effective early warning systems and evacuation measures seem to have saved countless lives, according to U.N. news service IRIN.

The government delivered clothing, water purification tablets, and food to those affected, while the Directorate General of Health Services has dispatched some 700 medical teams to the field.

But a key factor was the creation around 20 years ago of an emergency system to inform those in low-lying areas of an impending storm surge and flooding.

The government also built a series of concrete two-story storm shelters—used as schools in normal times—where people could ride out the floods.

100 Million More People Hungry in South Asia

NEW DELHI, India—The number of hungry people in South Asia has increased by 100 million in the past two years, due in part to high food and fuel prices and the global economic slowdown, a UNICEF report said June 2.

More than 400 million people are now chronically hungry in South Asia, the region's highest level in 40 years, the U.N. children's agency report said, according to Reuters.

Calorie intake has remained stagnant or fallen

in many countries despite rising per capita incomes.

More than 1.18 billion people, or three-quarters of the region's population, survive on less than \$2 a day, the report said. Nearly half of children under five are malnourished, the worst level in the world including sub-Saharan Africa.

Millions of jobs have been lost in the region since the financial crisis hit, especially in the export sector as global demand fell. The report covered Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

H1N1 Spreads

The H1N1 virus is spreading rapidly in the Southern Hemisphere and through Europe, with Britain projected to reach 100,000 daily cases by the end of August, the Associated Press reported July 6.

The virus is even showing signs of rebounding in Mexico. Global health officials met July 2 in Cancun for a two-day summit to design strategies for battling the pandemic. Nations attending include the United States, Canada, China, Britain, and Brazil.

Mexican officials said tourism has plunged in Cancun even though the country shut schools and businesses for five days in May to control the epidemic.

The World Health Organization said Mexico is safe for travel but that the country is starting to see an increase in cases of H1N1 in isolated areas such as the states of Yucatan and southern Chiapas.

US Joins UN Human Rights Council

On June 20, the United States joined the U.N. Human Rights

Council, signaling a major shift in line with President Barack Obama's aim of a new era of engagement, the Associated Press reported.

The Council suffered wide criticism for failing to confront human rights abuses in repressive countries and for acting primarily to condemn Israel, AP reported.

By joining, "the U.S. may succeed in breaking diplomatic deadlocks where European countries failed," the AP added.

The United States pledged to work constructively in the 47-member council, according to Mark C. Storella, the top U.S. diplomat to the U.N. organizations in Geneva.

Uganda to Ban Female Genital Mutilation

Uganda will pass a law banning female genital mutilation, which is rampant among pastoralist tribes in the country's eastern region, President Yoweri Museveni said in a statement July 3.

In a resolution passed last year, the United Nations called female genital mutilation a violation of the rights of women and said that the practice increases the risk of HIV transmission, as well as maternal and infant mortality.

Pakistanis View Taliban as Critical Threat

A survey of public opinion in Pakistan has shown that more than 80 percent of Pakistanis view the Taliban and al-Qaida as a critical threat to the country,

the Associated Press reported July 2

Socio-Economic Development Consultants in Islamabad polled 1,000 people across Pakistan from May 17 to 28 for WorldPublicOpinion.org. The survey had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.2 percentage points.

According to the survey, 81 percent of Pakistanis believe the activities of the Taliban and other Muslim extremists were a critical threat to the country, up from the 34 percent polled on the same question in September 2007.

Furthermore, 82 percent said Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida was also a critical threat, exactly twice as many who thought so two years ago.

Results are seen as marking a turn in public opinion that stands to bolster the ongoing Pakistani army offensive against militants close to the Afghan border.

More Civilians Going to Aid Afghans

WASHINGTON—USAID, the Defense Department, and other U.S. agencies are sending more civilian experts to Afghanistan along with a large surge of U.S. troops, officials said June 18, Reuters reported.

The U.S. special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke, told the House of Representatives Oversight and Government Reform Committee in a written statement that the increase in U.S. civilians indicated a "commitment to supporting Afghan efforts to clear, hold,

and build their country."

Holbrooke said the State Department and USAID were getting strong responses for advertisements for 125 temporary or new civilian posts in Afghanistan.

The United States was also working to address Afghanistan's request for another 650 Afghan and international civil experts, Holbrooke said.

Tightened auditing of aid would curb corruption and measure the effectiveness of the aid programs, he added.

Human Trafficking Report Cites Nigeria's Gains

The State Department's 2009 report on how 175 countries deal with trafficking in persons, released June 16, has noted important gains by Nigeria in preventing the abuses of people for labor and sex.

The Trafficking in Persons (TIP) study elevated Nigeria to Tier 1 status for meeting the "minimum standards for the elimination of severe forms of trafficking," which it called a modern form of slavery.

The Nigerian government doubled the number of trafficking offenders convicted, improved assistance to victims, demonstrated strong awareness-raising efforts, and increased funding to its anti-human trafficking organization, the National Agency for Prevention of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), according to news reports.

From news reports and other sources. ★

Administrator's Forum Hears Call for U.S. Security Reform

The U.S. national security system—including USAID and the State Department—is in a state of "organized dysfunction" and urgently needs far-reaching reform, said James Locher, executive director of the Project on National Security Reform (PNSR), speaking at the second Administrator's Forum held June 1 in the Ronald Reagan Building.

Locher noted that the system is

"dominated by rigid bureaucratic and highly competitive agencies."

The Forum, which provides open discussion about issues of importance to USAID staff, is currently presenting a series of speakers on "smart power" and development. Locher was invited to speak on national security reform and the role of development in a smart power approach.

As a staff member of the

Senate Committee on Armed Services, Locher directed the bipartisan effort that resulted in the Goldwater-Nichols Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986, which ended some of the rivalry among the military services. At USAID's June forum, he proposed reforms that would similarly improve joint effort across civilian U.S. departments

and agencies.

"Threats require that we work horizontally across government," he said.

In December, the congressionally funded PNSR released a study of the national security system and proposed reforms called "Forging a New Shield." More than 300 national security experts provided input to the report.

"These reforms will probably take 10 years," Locher told the USAID forum.

Several members of the PNSR's Guiding Coalition have gone on to senior positions in the Obama administration such as National Security Advisor Gen. James Jones, Undersecretary of Defense Michele Flournoy, Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg, and Director of National Intelligence Adm. Dennis C. Blair.

Locher said that U.S. response to the 9/11 attacks and Hurricane

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Community Policing Programs Cut Crime in Guatemala

By Eric Beinhart and Gloria Jean Garland

When kidnapping and other violent crime increased in Antigua, Guatemala's tourism capital, the government threatened to curb visitors before the beginning of Holy Week in April. USAID—which had been working to reduce crime in other cities—helped police curb violence and preserve peace in the UNESCO World Heritage site.

USAID has been working for several years to decrease crime, corruption, and gang activity.

In 2006, the Agency started a community policing program in Villa Nueva, adjacent to Guatemala City. The program improves policing skills of uniformed police officers and command staff as well as school and community groups. It also improves communication between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve, and it trains police to deal with victims and witnesses.

Uniformed officers gained confidence to carry out operating plans developed with police command staff. And the officers improved coordination with prosecutors, which has been critical in developing successful cases against alleged criminals.

"The technical capacity of the program has helped us to develop serious cases in a very short amount of time," said Cpl. Alida Alonso of the 15th Precinct National Civil Police (PNC).



Youth from Ciudad del Sol, a stronghold of the gang MS-13, learn auto mechanic skills through a community policing program in Guatemala.

"The program has helped us all to learn while doing."

In Villa Nueva, several schools in 2005 and 2006 closed because teachers and students had been the victims of murder, extortion, and other violent crimes.

USAID, coordinating closely with the PNC and the U.S. Embassy's Narcotics Affairs Section, created a School Safety Initiative that deployed uniformed police patrols around schools during peak hours, allowing officers to get to know students on a personal basis.

As a result, in 2007 and 2008 no schools closed.

"The value for us has been the integration of youth in positive activities that keep them focused on a brighter future, one

in which they actively develop their own talents and abilities," said Sonia Guir Najarro, principal of the Ciudad del Sol public school. "If we are to form the citizens of tomorrow, we must give these kids a chance."

The School Safety Initiative has been set up in two other high-crime areas.

This year the policing program awarded 200 scholarships for young people to attend the National Training Center and for study in local private schools, including basic electrician training. The program is also working with the municipality of Villa Nueva this year to train staff of the newly founded Youth Secretariat in youth leadership development. ★



In this photo from *Kenya Burning*, a supporter of Raila Odinga stands before a burning banner of Mwai Kibaki following the December 2007 presidential election. The book contained no captions, allowing the images to speak for themselves.

Photos Prompt Kenyans to Revisit Causes of Unrest

By Sven Lindholm

"Never again will I want this to happen to my country," said one Kenyan after viewing a photo display that documented the wave of violence following Kenya's presidential election in December 2007.

Kenya had been seen as an island of political stability and economic progress in East Africa until the violence killed over 1,000 people and forcibly displaced hundreds of thousands during two months of chaos. The violence came after disputed elections between President Mwai Kibaki and Raila Odinga.

A power-sharing agreement in February 2008 resolved the immediate dispute, putting an end to the inter-communal violence as public attention shifted to the country's food crisis and political corruption scandals. Yet the underlying tensions remained.

To coincide with the first anniversary of the peace accord and to shed light on the suppressed tensions, the GoDown Arts Center, a multiethnic arts organization, compiled an array of dramatic pictures in the book *Kenya Burning*. It serves as a testimony that violent response to disputes does not spare any segment of society.

USAID is supporting the book to remind people of the dangers of ethnic politics, to mitigate the results of the chaos, and to help Kenya's citizens address the root causes of the instability.

Kenya Burning is split into four sections—campaigning and voting, violence, grief, and internally displaced—with comments by Kenyans preceding each section.

Reviewing the book, Charles Onyango-Obbo wrote in Kenya's

Daily Nation, "*Kenya Burning* is a very uncomfortable book to look at. The book, however, should not be kept away from the children...because it will give them an education about their country and its people that nothing can equal."

GoDown also organized a USAID-funded traveling exhibition. Over 3,000 people attended the opening show in its first three days and the public response was emotional.

After a show in Eldoret, a Rift Valley town that experienced post-election violence first-hand, one person left this comment: "After living through the violence in Eldoret, it is alarming how far we still have to go. The pictures in this exhibit are a reminder of how we must improve as human beings."

No Kenyan politicians attended the opening. However, copies of the book were sent to key government officials, including members of parliament, and to civil society groups, universities, and libraries.

By raising awareness of the scale and nature of the violence, GoDown and USAID aim to accelerate dialogue and reconciliation, and spur communities and leaders to reform.

The public display of the pictures of the political crisis has generated a discussion, which has placed pressure on the political leadership to address the underlying causes of election-related violence in Kenya.

Staff from USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives in Kenya contributed to this article. ★

Rice Farmers Profit from Pickles in Eastern Sri Lanka

By Vibeke Greni and Lorna Middlebrough

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—Traditional rice paddy farmers like P.G. Dayananda are embracing modern agricultural practices and improving their incomes by expanding to a cash crop with high demand: pickles.

USAID, in partnership with the Sri Lankan agricultural manufacturer Hayleys Group, is helping Tamil, Muslim, and Sinhalese rice farmers to increase their incomes and communities to begin working together after years of conflict.

Farmers in the eastern districts of Ampara and Moneragala



A Hayleys training manager, assisted by a translator, uses equipment provided by USAID to explain the importance of land preparation and water management for a good harvest to Tamil, Muslim, and Sinhalese farmers during a training program in eastern Sri Lanka.

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THE REGIONS

ASIA



Bolat Alipov, owner of the Alipov-T farm.

Kazakhstan Farmers Rotate Cattle to Protect Fields and Raise Milk Output

By Virginija Morgan

ALIPOV-T FARM, Kazakhstan—Unlike farms in the United States, most farms in Kazakhstan lack the modern know-how to operate as a business. With the fall of the Soviet Union, most of the collective farms, or kolkhozes, have been split into small, privately owned units whose owners cannot afford to hire agricultural specialists or purchase modern equipment.

To turn the situation around, USAID introduced the latest pasture management technologies to the Alipov-T farm in south Kazakhstan and the Kamyshinskoe farm in the north.

Alipov-T adopted a rotational grazing method and has cut feed costs, raised milk output, and improved the environment.

Dairy cattle now graze one section, or paddock, of a pasture for as little as 12 or 14 hours. As they rotate through the paddocks, grazed areas are able to re-grow and hooves massage manure into the soil.

The cows get fresh air and exercise, less mastitis and other infections, and improved muscle tone—which reduces the need for antibiotics and lengthens the life span of the animals. Because there is less need for machinery, harmful emissions are reduced as well as water pollution and the need for chemicals. This helps slow climate change.

“Now I sell the feed to my neighbors, while my cows

receive nutrients straight in the field,” says USAID partner Bolat Alipov, owner of the Alipov-T farm.

A month after using the new system, the herd was producing an average of 15 liters per cow per day. Milk production increased to 17 liters once dietary changes were introduced as well. Feed costs have also been cut.

“Now that the cows are grazing in the pasture throughout the day, the cows receive dry feed only in the evenings,” said Alipov. “We save on diesel, machinery, and staff time that was formerly required to produce and bring hay and water to the barn, as well as to remove the manure.”

Demonstrations and training sessions for farmers and agricultural specialists have helped to spread the message about rotational grazing to the rest of the country and neighboring Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Russia.

USAID formed the Kazakhstani dairy farm project in 2006 with Winrock International, the University of Vermont, Gallagher Animal Management Systems, Kencove Farm Fence, Fisher & Thompson, and Taurus Service. Kazakhstani partners are Taurus Service Central Asia, Alipov-T and Kamyshinskoe farms, the Dairy Union of Kazakhstan, and the Kazakhstan Land Cultivation Research Institute. ★

LATIN AMERICA

Sweet Onions Yield High Altitude Profits for Bolivian Farmers

Atop the Bolivian Andes, the region of Oruro traditionally has been dependent on its tin mines for its economic well-being. Efforts to break that dependency through agriculture had left Oruro’s farmers among the poorest in Bolivia until recently.

Roman Mamani was a miner in the town of Machacamaraca who was tired of spending long stretches of time away from his wife and six children just to make ends meet. Now, along with his two sons, he grows organic sweet onions on a parcel of once-barren land five minutes from his home, and his family’s income has doubled.

Partnering with USAID, farmers in Oruro and the neighboring region of Cochabamba began planting onions.

Although these varieties of onions had not been previously grown in this region, the area’s loose sandy soil, which contains little sulfur, is ideal for sweet onions.



Local producers tend to crops of organic sweet onions, which flourish on once-barren land in the Bolivian Andes region of Oruro.

“There were organic onions and sweet onions, but we brought a unique product,” said Marcelo Cespedes, the general manager of Bolivia Produce, who sold organic sweet onions at a trade fair.

In addition, at an altitude of more than 12,000 feet, there are fewer diseases and pests. This enabled onion farmers to become the world’s first commercial producers of certified organic sweet onions. Over the past several years, approximately

500 poor families have benefited from the project, increasing their household income on average by 70 percent and leading to the prospects of a better life.

“Thanks to the onions, we don’t have to leave our community for work,” said Roman. “Now we export them and we earn more money than we would with other crops.”

Bolivia’s organic sweet onions have been a big hit in the United States. Because the onions are harvested in December (the off-season for U.S. onion growers), the Bolivians have been able to enter a market with tremendous growth potential.

“We have seen 20 percent growth for the past several years,” said Matt Stocks, the organic vegetable buyer for Melissa’s World Variety Produce in Los Angeles. “We buy the product that has the best flavor profile in the market, and the flavor of the Bolivian onion is superior to the others on the market.” ★

MIDDLE EAST

Jordanian Mother Stands Up for Herself

Ten years ago, Amira owned a beauty salon, drove her own car, and helped her husband pay the household bills. But her life changed in an instant when she was hit by a car.

She was left disabled and forced to learn to walk again; her husband divorced her. Penniless, she worried how she would support her two young children. Divorced women in Jordanian society are particularly vulnerable, and Amira was desperate to find a means to feed her children.

She began working for a USAID-supported program



Women from the USAID-supported Ray of Light program in Jordan have assisted themselves and others.

called “Bushra” (Ray of Light). She began teaching others about HIV/AIDS and how behavior change can protect people—counseling vulnerable women in low-income areas.

In Jordanian society, even the discussion of HIV/AIDS is a cultural taboo. But Amira saw that she could help other women

through this program. Added to the stigma of divorce, Amira also faced the perception in the community that she spread knowledge about an “immoral disease.”

Despite these challenges, Amira continued to make a difference in the lives of women whose stories were not much different from her own. With her energy and enthusiasm, she was soon offered a full-time position.

Amira credits the USAID program with changing her life.

“I always had trouble standing up for myself. Now, I understand that I have rights, and I can defend the rights of other women as well,” said Amira, now the outreach coordinator for the women’s project. “I talk to my friends and their children about HIV/AIDS and how they can protect themselves. I am supporting myself and my children again. I have come a long way.” ★

AFRICA

Festival Artists Urge Zambians to Care for Their Health

By Uttara Bharath Kumar and Chris Mahoney

LUSAKA, Zambia—

Musicians, artists, actors, and dancers recently provided entertainment laced with preventive health care messages about malaria and HIV/AIDS to 12,000 Zambians who attended a free, day-long festival.

Thirty Zambian music artists—joined by legendary Zimbabwean musician Oliver Mutukudzi—performed during the country’s first combined music and arts festival with a health fair. The May 16 event was titled “Rhythm of Life: Move to a Healthy Beat!”

All the musicians attended a workshop prior to the concert to learn about key health issues and health promotion. A presentation on the benefits of male circumcision convinced a handful of the male stars to go for the procedure following the workshop.

Every performer agreed to include health messages in their performances which they tailored to their fan base and delivered in their own style.

Popular reggae star Maiko Zulu told the crowd: “Hey, AIDS is out there, mon! And it’s real! Use a condom, it will save your life!” He then broke into



Zambian singer Mozegater performs before the Rhythm of Life crowd.

his hit song, *Willy, Willy, Willy (Don't Be Silly)*.

Musician Mozegater, who has a huge following among Zambian youth, told his fans about the benefits of male circumcision as well as his personal experience with the procedure.

He had it done six days before the concert, figuring he could not encourage his fans without first undergoing the procedure himself.

Zambia’s Ministry of Health was a key partner in the USAID-supported festival. A variety of USAID partners and others provided information about preventing HIV/AIDS and malaria, voluntary counseling and testing services, male circumcision, blood pressure and weight checks, and health quizzes with prizes.

U.S. Ambassador to Zambia Donald E. Booth challenged the crowd and those watching on a live, nationwide broadcast to weigh the costs of treatment against the costs of prevention.

“It is missing days of work to treat malaria, instead of spending 10 minutes installing a mosquito net,” he said. “It is spending a lifetime on ART [antiretroviral therapy] instead of 10 seconds putting on a condom. It is losing years of life to breast or skin cancer instead of setting aside five minutes once a month for a self-exam.”

Lillian Mphuka of the Zambian Ministry of Health



Photo by Chris Mahoney, USAID

Reggae artist Maiko Zulu delivers his message on HIV/AIDS.

EUROPE & EURASIA



A child holds one of USAID’s electronic vouchers.

Vouchers Help Georgian Farmers Recover from Conflict

By Michael O’Brien

SHIDA KARTLI, Georgia—

Electronic voucher cards are a new way to help Georgia recover from the ancient problem of war damage and disruption.

Georgia’s region of Shida Kartli bore the brunt of the country’s 2008 conflict with Russia, but with an average household income of less than \$1,500 per year, it had few resources to begin the recovery process.

But now farmers are able to use the electronic cards to buy the supplies they need to restore their land and their income.

USAID’s Georgia Agricultural Risk Reduction Program (GARRP) began as a three-month, \$5.5 million emergency plan to help farmers plant wheat in Shida Kartli, which borders the breakaway province of South Ossetia, now occupied by Russian troops.

The U.S.-funded program has grown to a 15-month, \$19.5 million program reaching farmers in over 100 communities in central Georgia and helping displaced people in 18 settlements nationwide.

Now GARRP provides assistance to orchard farmers electronically via magnetic stripe voucher cards. Similar to an ATM card, the voucher cards are loaded with points worth up to \$1,000. This allows project managers to supervise assistance funds and recover unspent balances at the end of the program.

The cards allow people to shop at a minimum of five local retailers. This strengthens relationships

between growers and farm supply businesses and gives all local manufacturers an opportunity to participate. No single retailer, importer, distributor, or manufacturer is favored by the system, which also relieves the program from having to purchase, store, transport, and apply chemicals.

GARRP, which is implemented by USAID partner, the Citizens Network for Foreign Affairs, provides equipment and training needed to complete the transactions.

Products that can be purchased include pesticides and orchard-related equipment such as sprayers, pruning shears, gloves, masks, and coveralls.

Because farmers make multiple purchases, the voucher system can lead to future sales for retailers, including giving a boost to electronic commerce.

More than 15,000 farm families covering over 11,000 hectares of orchards will receive assistance from the program, which is expected to generate more than \$17 million in revenues for farm families.

Daniel Rosenblum, coordinator for U.S. assistance to Europe and Eurasia for the U.S. State Department, attended a voucher demonstration in Shida Kartli in May.

“In many communities of this area the signs of war are still visible,” Rosenblum said. “Returning these fields to their intended purpose—producing food and income for the Georgian people—gives us all a great deal of pride.” ★

see ZAMBIA on page 14 ▶

FOCUS ON HAITI



Part of an extensive network of canals being refurbished in the Plaine du Cul Sac area. During heavy rains, the water level typically rises beyond the height of this child.



This irrigation system had been buried under three meters of silt and mud. USAID projects are helping to restore the productivity of Haiti's land.

HAITI'S HISTORY: TURMOIL AND POVERTY

The history of Haiti and the United States is inextricably bound. When Christopher Columbus landed on the island of Hispaniola—shared by Haiti and the Dominican Republic—in 1492, he claimed it for Spain.

In 1625, French buccaneers landed on the island in what is today the Republic of Haiti. In 1697, Spain ceded the western part of Hispaniola to France under the Treaty of Ryswick, which resulted from dynastic wars in Europe.

Haiti declared independence from colonial French rule in 1804 after slaves rose up and defeated an army sent by Napoleon Bonaparte. As a result, Napoleon abandoned his dream of an American empire and sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States, sparking the great westward expansion that would make the United States a world power.

"We should not forget that the freedom you and I enjoy today is largely due to the brave stand taken by the black sons of Haiti ninety years ago ... striking for their freedom, they struck for the freedom of every black man in the world," said American civil rights pioneer Frederick Douglass at the World's Fair in 1893. Douglass served as U.S. minister and consul general to Haiti from 1889-1891.

But Haiti remains the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere:

- ▶ 6.2 million live below the poverty line.
- ▶ 1 out of 8 children die before they reach the age of 5.
- ▶ Illiteracy is estimated at 44 percent.
- ▶ The national unemployment rate is 70 percent.
- ▶ Nearly 7.2 million Haitians lack access to reliable energy.
- ▶ Life expectancy is 56 for women and 52 for men.

All this leaves a false impression of hopelessness. It discounts the character of the Haitian people: resilient, buoyant, good humored, expressive, and talented. The sacrifices that the poor make to pay for their children's schooling and uniforms are a testament to a people that seek a better future. ★—J.W.

HAITI FARMS from page 1

said, referring to the much feared "Papa Doc."

With the elder's advice and with \$800,000 in USAID financing, the amount of arable land in the Plaine du Cul de Sac has grown from 1,300 hectares to 4,000 hectares in less than a year, and as many as 30,000 farmers will now have the prospect for a better life.

Erosion, mud slides, blocked canals, and flooding abound in Haiti—especially during hurricane season. Poor people burn the trees off the hillsides to create farmland or to produce charcoal to sell to the city residents. With the roots gone, rains wash away the topsoil.

Because problems faced by farmers such as poverty and hunger impact the cities nearby, USAID's strategy for the country is shifting, said Alex Deprez, the Agency's acting deputy director in Haiti.

"We are moving from treating urban hotspots with projects that prioritize security and short-term job creation to creating zones of greater economic opportunity," he said. This means treating urban and rural areas together as development challenges.

The Plaine du Cul de Sac once was one of Haiti's key breadbasket areas but has suffered considerably from soil degradation. Reviving agricultural production there is seen as critical

to generating jobs and feeding a hungry country that was among the first to experience urban rioting during the food crisis last year.

Approximately 70 percent of Haiti's 9 million people work the soil on land that was once so productive, its sugarcane plantations stirred the ambitions of imperial powers. But today it is cheaper to import sugar than to produce it locally.

Sixteen kilometers of primary canals and 46 kilometers of secondary canals are being refurbished in the Plaine du Cul de Sac by a USAID partnership with the International Organization of Migration and the Cooperative Housing Foundation, with the support of Saint-Ange Darius, mayor of Croix des Bouquets, a town located just outside Port-au-Prince.

Darius said the future of his

town depends on those farmers: If they do not do well, it could result in a very restive city center. The mayor, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and local users of the water resources are working together on the restoration.

Farther up from the plain, a system of sluices directs the water flow in seven directions to the canals. And farther up yet, rock gabion walls are under construction that will protect the irrigation system's intake area at the periodically turbulent Gris River.

Similar engineering projects to control flooding and reclaim land on hillsides and in plains can be found in Gonaives, around Port-au-Prince, and elsewhere in Haiti. It is all part of a visionary scheme for the island that is working from ravine to reef to restore the productivity of Haiti's land. ★



Water intake system that feeds the irrigation canals of Plaine du Cul de Sac.

FrontLines writer John Waggoner wrote this series of articles following a trip to Haiti in May.

Doctor Rebuilds Hospital Where He Was Born

ST. MARC, Haiti—“I was born right here—in this hospital—in 1965,” said Dr. Serge Virtilus, who studied internal medicine in Brussels but resisted the lure of an easier life abroad.

He is now the director of the hospital where he was born, St. Nicholas Hospital in St. Marc, which is undergoing extensive reconstruction in partnership with USAID.

In his white laboratory coat, Virtilus covers the hospital grounds in large strides, greeting staff and patients, right and left, as he moves from administrative buildings to triage, recovery wards, laboratories, pediatrics, emergency rooms, surgery, and dental facilities.

Being from the community allows him to console and cajole the many patients he knows personally or through their extended families, often resorting to his infectious good humor.

The hospital in St. Marc—heart of the fertile Artibonite Valley region beginning two hours north of Haiti’s capital Port-au-Prince—is being upgraded by the Foundation for Cooperative Housing with USAID funds.

Work includes administration offices with office space for doctors and upgrades for the antiquated record system. It will also



Dr. Serge Virtilus, director of the St. Nicholas Hospital in St. Marc, speaks with USAID’s John Waggoner.

contain an X-ray wing and a new dispensary where medicine for the region will be warehoused and then taken by mobile clinics to rural areas as well as urban places such as Gonaives.

Each month, doctors at St. Nicholas see 4,000 patients, deliver 350 babies, and treat 150 road accidents, Virtilus said. With a new emergency room as well as a new X-ray wing, victims will no longer have to be transported to Port-au-Prince on rough roads to get X-rays.

USAID contributed \$500,000 to the reconstruction of St. Nicholas, one of many programs that help provide basic health care for 4.8 million Haitians—nearly half the country’s population. Services include vaccinations for 60,000 children and delivery of reproductive health care to more than 200,000 Haitian mothers.

see **HOSPITAL** on page 15 ▶

School Repair Holds Promise for Social and Economic Growth

GONAIVES, Haiti—At the Ecole Nationale Belfond Pierre, a school in Gonaives, 600 exuberant students, aged 6 to 16, rushed outside in all directions as classes ended. They split into groups; the boys jostled one another and the girls giggled in animated chatter, never far from the watchful eye of their matronly monitor.

When the students return to school in September, their lessons in math, Creole, French, social science, and experimental sciences will be taught in eight new classrooms built by USAID through a partnership with the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

Haiti’s adult literacy rate is 52 percent. Less than 65 percent of children attend school. Therefore, USAID views education and professionalizing teaching careers as the key to a better life through social and economic progress.

To rebuild and expand the Ecole Nationale Belfond Pierre, IOM employs local talent, providing people from Gonaives



Students at the Ecole Nationale Belfond Pierre in Gonaives. In the background are classrooms being constructed by USAID.

with jobs and the chance to develop their community.

Charles Minoon, 24, is a mason and one of the people working on school reconstruction sites around Gonaives. Skilled laborers such as Minoon keep jobs for long periods, but unskilled workers rotate frequently, giving others a chance to earn something.

Teams of up to 50 work for a two-week period before a new team is on the job.

Since the 2008 hurricanes struck Gonaives, 5,000 people

have been hired to repair and expand schools or other public works. Each person worked an average of 25 days.

Fixing schools in Gonaives provides a better environment for students to learn, improves health and hygiene, and provides safety—roofs and walls still display major structural damage from the hurricanes of 2008. In one school, the recreation area is still flooded by stagnant water.

see **SCHOOLS** on page 15 ▶

Aid Helps Haitians Rebuild After Storms

The storms that pounded Haiti last year affected more than 825,000 people in eight of Haiti’s 10 regions, causing 800 deaths and \$1 billion in property damage to an already impoverished island. Extensive flooding destroyed roads and bridges and isolated affected areas.

USAID delivered relief supplies, food, and water from the flight deck of the USS Kearsarge, keeping the loss of life from famine and disease from mounting even higher.

Kearsarge sailors went ashore in Port-au-Prince to load helicopters and conduct aerial surveys

of damage for a USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team.

Camps were set up for 600 families. One camp, on private land of the Ebenezer Church, still functions—it shelters 50 families. Families got basic building

see **STORMS** on page 14 ▶

Haiti’s Talented Artists Touch the World

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti—Music and art are part of the fabric of life in Haiti, whose creations are found in galleries of world capitals and sold on street corners of Port-au-Prince.

Oil paintings, wood carvings, metal sculptures, Compás music. They all grow out of the long history of African and Caribbean influences nurtured over the centuries.

A riot of colors is everywhere. They adorn the Tap-Tap painted trucks that transport Haitians through crowded streets. A kaleidoscope of art and messages abound with

whimsy as well as religious themes as murals on dilapidated walls left by anonymous artists.

Music of Haiti and its Caribbean region has shaped the world’s tastes. It is always in the background in Haiti but emerges in its own right mostly at night, when the noises of the day diminish.

To tap into the creative talent of Haiti and use it as a catalyst for economic growth, USAID has partnered with Aid to Artisans (ATA), spreading Haitian art and music beyond this island nation.

Einstein Albert’s woodworking skill in crafting bowls has found outlets in such high-end retailers as Nieman Marcus. He is one

of many who benefitted from an ATA/USAID grant.

When asked how he got his name, Albert smiled in anticipation of the question. He came from a family of musically talented siblings. He was the last child and his parents thought his name would destine him for celebrity.

This was perhaps not a matter of pure whimsy since high schools on the island have been named after John Paul Sartre, Sir Isaac Newton, and Immanuel Kant. Applying the names of geniuses may be seen as a way to encourage genius.

see **ARTISTS** on page 14 ▶



Haitian painting depicting the nation’s colorful tropical landscape.

REMEMBERING GRANVILLE, RAHAMA

VERDICT ANNOUNCED IN MURDERS OF USAID'S GRANVILLE AND RAHAMA

KHARTOUM, Sudan—A court convicted five men on June 24 for their role in the murder of USAID officer John Granville and USAID Foreign Service National Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama on New Year's Day 2008.

Granville, 33, who was brought up in Buffalo, N.Y., devoted his life to humanitarian work. He was a USAID democracy and governance officer who helped distribute thousands of solar-powered radios in southern Sudan to inform citizens of their rights and to help them prepare for elections. He served earlier in Cameroon as a Peace Corps Volunteer, from 1997 to 1999, and later as a Fulbright fellow.

Rahama, known to friends and colleagues as A.R., was born in Juba and joined USAID in 2004 as a member of the Agency's Disaster Assistance Response Team for Darfur. He became a driver for the USAID mission in Khartoum in November 2005. He is survived by his wife, Fatima Mohamed Ali Osman, and his young son, Mujtaba. He also provided support to his father, Abbas Rahama Mohammed.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said in a statement that Rahama and Granville "represented the highest ideals"

of USAID. She noted that they were both dedicated to "bringing peace and stability to Sudan."

Acting USAID Administrator Alonzo Fulgham issued a statement noting that "colleagues and friends at USAID ... mourn their loss but will continue to honor their memory and dedication."

Granville's mother, Jane Granville of Buffalo, N.Y., prepared a statement read to the court by her lawyer. (Her full statement is below.)

Granville and Rahama were returning from a New Year's Eve party in Khartoum when they were cut off and shot in their car on Jan. 1, 2008.

U.S. FBI officers helped to investigate the killings, the first murder of a U.S. diplomat since the early 1970s in a city that is generally safe for foreigners.

The U.S. government since 2005 has contributed more than \$6 billion in assistance to Sudan and eastern Chad. ★



John Granville, far left, with Sinclair Cornell, BearingPoint Inc.; Stephanie Funk, USAID; Faisal Sultan, BearingPoint Inc.; and Rich Haselwood, Mercy Corps, in Khartoum, November 2007.



Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama, left, with USAID's Walter Doetsch and Mubarek Khamis.

Statement to Sudan Court by Jane Granville

The following statement was read in court on June 24 on behalf of Jane Granville by her Sudanese lawyer following the announcement of a guilty verdict in the murder of her son:

I, Jane Granville, as the sole heir of my son, John Michael Granville, am taking this opportunity to convey my wishes to the court regarding the sentencing of the defendants in his murder trial. I would like also to confirm to the court that I have not and will not accept any form of payment in exchange for leniency.

From the day I brought

this beautiful man into this world, I knew he was special, and it was such a privilege to watch my only son grow into the unselfish humanitarian he became. The best example of that was illustrated in his last hours. I am told that he was unconscious when he arrived at the hospital after he and Abdel Rahman were shot. When he regained consciousness, his first question was, "How is AR?" and he kept asking that question over and over again. Until John's last moment, and despite the obvious differences of nationality, race and

religion, John identified what he had in common with others and viewed everyone as fellow human beings. Even as he was dying, he continued to care more about others than he did about himself.

That love of others is one of the reasons why John valued his work in Sudan. His dedication and commitment to supporting and advancing the Comprehensive Peace Agreement guided his efforts toward the dream of a just, stable, and peaceful Sudan. Losing John is, therefore, not only an enormous loss for his family,

friends and colleagues; it is also an enormous loss for the people of Sudan.

It is in John's spirit of putting the concerns of others first that I submit this statement on sentencing, as required by Sudan's legal system which found the defendants guilty of murder. This has been an extremely tragic and painful journey for all of us who knew and loved John. Our primary concern now is to ensure that the lives of other innocent, good-hearted and peace-loving people are not taken as his was. I believe that life in prison is

the most appropriate punishment for those that commit murder, but Sudanese law does not provide for such a sentence. Thus, it is with a heavy heart that I have to conclude that I am left with no other option. The death penalty is the only sentence that will protect others from those who took my beloved son's life. ★

Additional information on John Granville's work for USAID in Sudan is available at www.usaid.gov/locations/sub-saharan_africa/memorial_granville.html.

REMEMBERING GRANVILLE, RAHAMA

We Scattered John's Ashes in the Indian Ocean

Stephanie Funk, Pamela Fessenden, Teresa McGhie, and Faisal Sultan were close friends and colleagues of John Granville, who was killed in Sudan along with coworker Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama on Jan. 1, 2008. The following is adapted from a note about a trip to Zanzibar that Funk sent on behalf of this group to the Granville family. John's mother had requested that John's ashes be spread in Zanzibar in honor of a memorable trip he had taken there with his aunt and uncle.

ZANZIBAR, Tanzania— We all—Faisal, Pam, Teresa, and I—want you to know what a beautiful ceremony we had for John on Sunday morning, May 24 [2009].

On this Memorial Day weekend we sailed out into the Indian Ocean in a dhow, an Arab sailboat of ancient design, and placed John's ashes in the most crystal clear blue-green water we have ever seen.

For almost two hours we sailed, smiled, cried, and remembered John.

There were a number of coincidences that made us believe that John was with us.

First, it had been rainy and overcast for the previous three days, but when we woke up on Sunday morning the sky was blue and welcoming. It was almost as if John was telling us he was ready and inviting us to move forward.

Second, Faisal made it to Zanzibar the night before the ceremony despite numerous obstacles while flying from Sudan to Kenya and then Zanzibar, with a vehicle breakdown and an unscheduled landing in Kilimanjaro in-between. After all of that, who could doubt he was meant to be there?

Finally, the predator crows which had invaded the resort for the previous three days disappeared on Sunday in an interesting twist.

On that morning we took the box with John's ashes and headed to the sea.

While on the dhow, we asked our guide if we could go out past the reef, but there was a language bar-

rier and we weren't getting an answer. After a lot of confusion someone asked, "Where are we going?" And the funniest moment of the whole day came when the response to our question was "Sailing!"

We all broke out laughing and then glided into remembering our favorite funny stories about John. It was amazing how we remembered so many things that were said about him at the funeral ... the story about him clapping his hands while riding his bicycle out of respect for the chief he was passing on the road and then promptly flying over the handlebars; the story about him commenting to one of his high school friends when sitting in the back of his pickup truck how great it was to be in a pickup and not have chickens pooping on his head or babies crying on his lap; and other stories of how he always made us laugh and smile.

It was then time to raise our glasses and toast our friend John and his mother Jane for sharing him with us and begin the process of scattering his ashes.

One by one we poured his ashes into the beautiful, crystal clear water and just as we finished we turned to see a flock of seagulls rise up off a dhow into the sky. It was an incredible moment because for the past few days we had commented on the fact that there were only crows, and no seagulls, on the beach.

But there they were, spreading their white wings and lifting off into the sky. The timing and symbolism seemed to speak for itself.

Peaceful, beautiful, tranquil,

heaven bound.

In the end, John did what he always did best. He brought us together in a beautiful place and held us there in a meaningful way.

"Where are we going?"

Sailing ... sailing through life richer for having known him.

We can't thank you enough for sharing him with us. ★

On June 24, 2009, five men were convicted in a Sudanese court for the murder of John Granville and Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama.



Teresa McGhie pours her friend's ashes into the ocean.

Photo by Stephanie Funk, USAID



Left to right: Stephanie Funk, Teresa McGhie, Faisal Sultan, and Pamela Fessenden set sail to scatter John Granville's ashes into the Indian Ocean.

WHERE IN THE WORLD...

IN MEMORIAM

Michael Richard Jordan, 72, died May 14 in McLean, Va. Jordan's 45-year career in international development began in 1963 with the Peace Corps in Afghanistan. In 1966, he joined USAID as a field liaison officer in Vietnam. Jordan helped the Agency to develop social marketing programs for family planning and primary health care, and mentored many USAID recruits. Jordan served in India, Bangladesh, Egypt, and Ecuador. While in Bangladesh, Jordan secured funding for the Cholera Research Laboratory in Dhaka, now known as the International Centre for Diarrheal Disease Research. Centre personnel developed oral rehydration therapy—an intervention that has saved millions of lives. In Egypt, Jordan developed the first USAID population and family planning assistance program. He retired from USAID's office in Ecuador in 1994 and became chief of party for a rural health and development project in Peru. Jordan also worked as a consultant on international projects. He graduated from the University of North Dakota with a degree in pharmacy in 1958 and earned a master's degree in public health from the University of North Carolina in 1968.

Kenneth Youngs, 70, died May 9 in Palm Springs, Calif. Youngs served as the regional inspector general for USAID in Egypt and in the United States. Before joining the Agency in 1984, Youngs held positions in the federal government related to intelligence, security, and law enforcement operations. He was an advisor to foreign governments on training in law enforcement and internal security. His duties took him to the Philippines, Peru, and Vietnam. He graduated from San Jose State College with a bachelor's degree in police science. ★

Keeping the Peace

The strategy of restoring the natural productivity of marine resources by prohibiting or limiting access to them is well-proven and has become widely accepted in the Philippines. But setting up a marine sanctuary can still present challenges.

An effort by the local government of Panglima Sugala, in Tawi-Tawi Province in southern Philippines, to set up a marine sanctuary almost led to a shootout between those supporters and opponents of the initiative.

To ease the potentially explosive situation, a USAID-funded project there, which advocated for the sanctuary, arranged a mediation meeting between members of the opposing sides. Not everyone left the meeting completely sold on the sanctuary, but all parties agreed to exercise restraint and allow the initiative to continue without further trouble.

The benefits of protection have since become evident in higher fish catches and incomes for many stakeholders. Today, the sanctuary has become a showcase of community cooperation, guarded and protected by the community's men and women, young and old alike. ★

For more Telling Our Story features, go to www.usaid.gov/stories.

SIGHTED AT USAID



Helen Clark, who was appointed administrator for the United Nations Development Program in April, met with USAID Acting Administrator Alonzo Fulgham June 24 at Agency headquarters in Washington. UNDP runs global development programs in 166 countries, and shares some of the same aims and challenges as USAID. Clark, who is the first woman to lead UNDP, was formerly the prime minister of New Zealand.

Photo by Bethany Egan, USAID



Hernando de Soto, president of the Institute for Liberty and Democracy, kicked off USAID's 2009 Summer Seminar Series July 1 when he spoke about challenges to creating market economies in the developing world. He emphasized how both developing and capitalist countries face similar problems of property rights standardization and building credit lines.

Photo by Patricia Adams, USAID

FrontLines stories, photos, and related videos are available online at www.usaid.gov/frontlines. Additional online content about the Agency's work around the world is available from the Telling Our Story Web site at www.usaid.gov/stories (see "Keeping the Peace," this page, and "Insect Trap Saves Crops" on page 14).

Civilian-Military Teams Practice Conflict Control in Germany

By Pat Fn'Piere and Judith Dunbar

USAID, the State Department, the new Civilian Response Corps, and other civilian agencies joined with U.S. military officers in Germany in April for the first "whole of government" training to meet an international crisis and rebuild after a conflict.

Austere Challenge 2009, conducted by the U.S. European Command, gave civilians a chance to hone skills and learn to work with the military.

On the other hand, the military learned how to work with civilians in reconstruction and stabilization operations led by civilians.

The exercise focused on coordination between a mythical U.S. embassy in a conflict-racked country and a Joint Task Force comprised of all the military branches.

The embassy was in a "draw down" state with only essential personnel at post when a U.S. Advance Civilian Team arrived to bolster the embassy and work with the military.

This scenario played out at the U.S. Army's training center in Grafenwöhr on the eastern border of Germany near the Czech

Republic. The operation began in late April with the military poised to boot enemy troops out of the sovereign territory of a U.S. ally.

USAID played a key role in the exercise along with the State Department's Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction & Stabilization (S/CRS).

The training tested ways to manage a crisis by staffing an embassy with civilian reconstruction and stabilization experts, including those from a USAID Disaster Assistance Response Team and from the Agency's Bureau of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance.

S/CRS led the staff that embedded with the military.

The walls of the mock embassy's conference room quickly filled with lists on butcher paper of all the commonly used acronyms.

Terms like BUA (Battle Update Assessment), JFMCC (Joint Forces Maritime Component Command), and ATO (Air Task Order) were

see GERMANY on page 14 ►

APRIL 12, 2009 – MAY 9, 2009

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MOVED ON

Thomas P. Baltazar

USAID, Western Union Launch Competition for Diaspora Entrepreneurs

USAID and the Western Union Company and Foundation launched June 2 the African Diaspora Marketplace, a business-proposal competition aimed at finding and funding the most promising diaspora entrepreneurs.

The business competition taps into the entrepreneurial ambitions of the U.S.-based African diaspora and hopes to use its know-how and assets to create business opportunities that will boost employment in sub-Saharan Africa.

“The African diaspora have unique insights into their home countries and have the willingness and motivation to encourage direct investment into Africa,” said Alonzo Fulgham, Acting Administrator of USAID. “This is a unique opportunity for U.S.-based migrants to help alleviate the disparities surrounding Africa’s economic situation.”

The competition is accepting applications from June 2 to July 30. It will provide winners with matching grants to implement their business ideas. More than \$1 million in grants will be awarded. Finalists will have access to a network and financing mechanisms to start their programs. Some may also receive USAID technical assistance.

U.S.-based African diaspora organizations and members can submit proposals at www.diasporamarketplace.org. Entries will be evaluated based on the strength of their business idea, management capability, sustainability, development impact, and leverage potential. Finalists will present their proposals before a panel of business and development experts at a December awards ceremony.

“Harnessing the strength of this population, estimated at 1.4 million strong, is critical to solving poverty in Africa,” Fulgham said. ★

AFTER RETIREMENT, KURTZ RETURNS TO SERVE IN AFGHAN PRT

By Jan Cartwright

After a long and varied career, Bryan Kurtz has decided not to slip quietly into retirement.

He officially retired from the Foreign Service in 2003 after many years leading USAID programs that generated private sector jobs. But on May 21 this year, he was again sworn-in to government service.

“When I started hearing about the so-called civilian surge for Afghanistan, I knew it was something I wanted to be a part of. I see this as my way of making a contribution,” said Kurtz, who is 65 and lives in Washington, D.C., when he is not working overseas.

Kurtz will serve as a development advisor on a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Afghanistan, working to bolster the private sector and build Afghan capacity.

“I’m hoping to be able to contribute to economic growth and employment generation on the ground,” said Kurtz. “I look forward to working with local and provincial leaders to help develop their administrative capacity.”

“What excites me most,” he added, “is building bridges between cultures and between the public and private sectors ... and between civilian and military cultures within our own public sector.”

In addition to being a Foreign Service Officer, he also worked in international banking for over a decade, including three years with the World Bank.

Kurtz was always drawn to countries in transition such as Afghanistan. He served in the Peace Corps in Botswana immediately following its independence. He supervised the contract for a commercial banker training program in the former Soviet Union in 1993, just as free markets there were starting up. Shortly after the war in the Balkans subsided, he designed and led a \$300 million banking and business development project in Bosnia which helped businesses obtain commercial loans, generating over 20,000 jobs.

He worked in Iraq twice and launched USAID’s Threshold



Bryan Kurtz (left), with fellow PRT trainee Jay Kryk, is geared up for a ride.

Photo by Chip Oliver, USAID

Program for countries seeking to qualify for assistance through the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

Kurtz said his PRT assignment is an opportunity to build bridges between civilian agencies such as USAID and the Departments of State,

Agriculture, and Defense. As a first step, he attended a three-week joint training session, run by Defense at Camp Atterbury in Indiana.

“I am really looking forward to the teamwork environment of a PRT,” said Kurtz. “I think that the PRTs are at the cutting edge

of the administration’s emphasis on integrating our efforts along the civilian-military nexus.”

Finally, Kurtz looks forward to learning more about Afghan culture. “I plan to do twice as much listening as talking—that’s why we have two ears and just one mouth.” ★

PICKLES from page 5

have started to grow small cucumbers that are pickled in brine to become gherkins for the export market. Hayleys’ market access offers tremendous opportunities for Sri Lanka’s farmers to switch from subsistence to commercial farming.

The four-month project started last April with 160 farmers growing cucumbers during the idle months between the two traditional rice seasons. These farmers earned an additional \$232 on average, a substantial amount for paddy farmers in the region.

For I.K. Bandula, a farmer from Rununugama, Ampara District, the extra \$190 he earned from one cucumber harvest will be put to good use. “This is a help to me and my family as it will help me settle some of my defaulted loans,” he said.

After the pilot project ended, Hayleys expanded the program to work with 400 local farmers who produced 437 metric tons of cucumbers, valued at over \$75,000. The forecast for 2009 includes 600 farmers producing 1,500 metric tons of cucumbers

valued at over \$135,000, or an average of \$226.11 per farmer.

“The pilot project with USAID is one of the most exciting projects in the agriculture sector because it is introducing modern agricultural practices to a long-neglected area of our country,” said Rizvi Zaheed, Hayleys Group director. He predicts that “[the] success of the pilot project could be the catalyst for an agricultural renaissance in the Eastern Province through a conversion to modern practices and concepts.”

As a result of Sri Lanka’s longstanding conflict, the country’s eastern region has lagged behind the more prosperous western part of the island in economic development and contributes only 4 percent to the Sri Lankan Gross Domestic Product. With the return to government control in 2007, efforts are now underway to rebuild the multi-ethnic eastern region.

The farmers selected to participate in the pilot project represent all major ethnic communities of the East—Sinhalese,

Tamils, and Muslims. P.M.N. Dayaratna, deputy director of agriculture in Ampara District, said the project was important because it helped to reconcile the three ethnic groups by sharing knowledge, experience, and market information.

Hayleys Group accounts for 34 percent of Sri Lanka’s exports of fruits and vegetables and is the sole exporter of gherkins from Sri Lanka. At 8,000 tons a year, the yield accounts for 50 percent of the market for bottled pickles in Japan. Hayleys Group is also a major supplier to well-known international brands such as McDonalds, Burger King, Unilever, and Heinz, and accounts for 2.7 percent of Sri Lanka’s export income.

“Our partnership with Hayleys will help build a value chain that will bring sustainable economic growth to those in serious need in eastern Sri Lanka,” said Rebecca Cohn, USAID’s director in the country. “This is one way that people can move up the path from poverty to prosperity.” ★

Insect Trap Saves Crops

Like many farmers in Bangladesh, Nazrul Islam Khan, from the western district of Jessore, grows cucurbits, plants from the gourd family that include cucumbers and melons. For many years, he and his neighbors suffered great losses due to the melon fly (*Bactrocera cucurbitae*), an insect that decimates cucurbit crops.

But after scientists from a USAID-funded program taught him how to use pheromone traps, Nazrul made a profit. "We call it the 'magic trap' because it magically traps fruit flies," he said, referring to a recycled plastic bottle containing water, a small amount of pesticide, and a capsule of cuelure. Cuelure is a chemical compound that mimics female melon fly sex pheromones. When the trap is placed in a field of melons, "it works wonders," Nazrul said. "Insects flock to

the bottle to drown."

Scientists working with the USAID program demonstrated that the pheromone trap can catch 5 to 18 times as many flies as the original trap using mashed gourd instead of cuelure. Eliminating hundreds of flies daily, the traps reduce the cost of pest control, since farmers no longer apply pesticides so often and their yields increase. When farmers use cuelure traps together with mashed gourd traps, their net returns can more than triple.

Today, thousands of cucurbit growers in Bangladesh have adopted the use of cuelure to manage melon flies. In Jessore alone more than 90 percent of the farmers are now using the "magic trap." ★

For more Telling Our Story features, go to www.usaid.gov/stories.

ZIMBABWE from page 1

Tsvangirai said he has moved to reform the reserve bank and reined in soaring hyperinflation that made a loaf of bread cost millions of Zimbabwean dollars. And he warned that if international banks and the United States do not provide financial and development assistance "that help the people" it will enable Zimbabweans to say "we told you so—they cannot remove sanctions" blocking loans and financing.

"We have gone through a difficult period—some call it a lost decade," said Elton Mangoma, Zimbabwe's minister for economic planning and investment promotion. "There's a realization that things cannot continue this way."

Mangoma, who met with USAID representatives from

the Africa Bureau, the Office of Transition Initiatives, and the Office of Food for Peace, echoed earlier appeals from Tsvangirai for donors to move from humanitarian aid and safety net programs to development assistance.

In the last few years, Zimbabwe's political upheaval led to food shortages, rampant cholera, and shuttered schools. "Anything that's bad, you can associate with Zimbabwe. The people got tired of it," said Mangoma, who also said he believes momentum is clearly behind the new government succeeding.

U.S. foreign assistance goes to democracy and governance, health, HIV/AIDS, NGO programs, jobs, small-scale farmers, and food aid.

GERMANY from page 12

thrown around by the military officers, who were surprised when civilians were not immediately familiar with them.

Daily meetings, mostly conducted around finely crafted military PowerPoints, quickly filled everyone's calendars. After experiencing initial feelings of inadequacy, it became clear that civilians needed to speak up, ask what the terms meant, and educate the military colleagues as to the civilians' level of understanding.

The Advance Civilian Team, or ACT, was the eyes and ears of the embassy and gave voice to the "whole of government" objectives during military planning.

One USAID official asked that the locations of vital land and birth records be protected during military operations. The Department of Treasury advisor worried about important infrastructure that was vital to economic recovery. The Disaster

Assistance Response Team made clear their needs for getting humanitarian assistance into the country.

There were "aha moments" when civilians gained insight into how the military operates, why they do things the way they do, and ways to work with them to promote overall U.S. goals.

"We were worlds apart when we started. I witnessed the shift from a military-centered mindset to a 'whole of government' approach," said Rear Admiral William P. Loeffler, who served as the Joint Task Force Commander's liaison to the ambassador during Austere Challenge 2009.

"Although there is still additional work that needs to be done, we have made significant progress down the 'whole of government' road," Loeffler said. "I would gladly serve again alongside the professionals of the Civilian Response Corps." ★

ARTISTS from page 9

Albert uses the wood from the obeechee tree for his bowls and has a plantation of 22,000 trees to sustain his enterprise.

"Obeechee is a soft wood," he explains, "so it can't be used for charcoal." It is also a fast growing tree that makes it ideal for soil reclamation and redeeming the deforested hillsides that afflict so many people with mud slides, flooding, and erosion.

He would like to see the tree more widely planted and exploited for commercial purposes—furniture making, for example.

The Haiti MarChe Project builds local skills and links producers with regional and international buyers. Those links were severely damaged when the United States imposed a comprehensive trade embargo on Haiti in the 1990s to force a return to constitutional government. Small scale exporters were devastated, Albert said.

MarChe also targeted the tourism sector by getting local talent better known in hotels and resorts throughout the region.

Over the past 10 years, ATA efforts have produced \$230 million in retail sales, helping 125,000 artisans—70 percent of whom are women—sell products in 41 regions of the world. ★—J.W.

To read more about this USAID program, visit Aid to Artisans on the Web at www.aidtoartisans.org/where_we_work/haiti_marche. Included at this Web site are artist profiles as well as direct links to buy products from artists from around the world—many working in USAID-funded activities.

STORMS from page 9

materials to rapidly reconstruct modest new homes: corrugated metal roofing, plywood, and waterproof plastic sheeting. Neighbors helped each other with construction, copying a model home that still stands on-site on a concrete base with a thin wire supplying some electricity.

The Rev. Michel Morisset, 40, is the pastor of the Ebenezer Church and oversees the camp.

He is aided by Claire Chappuis, a medical doctor from Toulouse, France, who came 24 years ago and shares in his missionary work. She helps run a school, modeled decades ago on the French scholastic system and admirable for a "rigor" it still maintains, she insists.

Many families were scattered to "who knows where" in the aftermath of the hurricanes, Morisset said. "This is not the

case here." These are a very "courageous" people and draw strength from each other. It is very important to keep a community together, he said.

Morisset insisted on taking a visitor on a small trek down a dirt and gravel road to illustrate where three young men could be seen wheeling crushed stone. "They're helping build this community," he said.

A few hundred yards further

on and the road inexplicably stopped at a large lake. Out in the center was the carcass of a half-submerged building—the terminal of the Duvalier Airport, constructed in 1986, just before President-for-life Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier fled the country. The airport was a victim of Haitian politics as well as the caprice of nature in this ecologically stressed country. ★—J.W.



Zimbabwe Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai (right) meets June 9 with USAID Acting Administrator Alonzo Fulgham.

ZAMBIA from page 7

said, "The feedback received so far has been overwhelming... making it an annual event would be a very good strategy for informing our Lusaka community and beyond through music and art of key health issues."

"I personally felt proud to be a Zambian," she added.

Angela Nyirenda, the Queen of *Makewene* music in Zambia, summed up the event: "You have seen a lot of people here. They have rushed to listen to the music, but at the end of the day they go home knowing something. This means somebody out there has been protected." ★

OBAMA from page 1

progress cannot be denied. There need not be contradictions between development and tradition.”

Speaking before 2,000 people at Cairo University, Obama noted that financial crises, a new flu, nuclear proliferation, and human suffering affect all countries.

“When innocents in Bosnia and Darfur are slaughtered, that is a stain on our collective conscience,” he said, mentioning two Muslim-majority countries where U.S. assistance has saved millions of lives and continues to feed more than 2 million people.

He also said that U.S. support for democracy is being delivered in good faith. “No system of government can or should be imposed by one nation” over any other nation, he said.

But he added that all people yearn for “the freedom to live as you choose.”

Obama said he respects the right of women to choose a traditional lifestyle but added, “I do believe that a woman who is denied an education is denied equality....”

“And that is why the United States will partner with any Muslim-majority country to support expanded literacy for girls, and to help young women pursue employment through micro-financing that helps people live their dreams,” he said.

He said education was critical to growth and pledged to “expand exchange programs and increase scholarships, like the one that

brought my father to America.”


Concerning Pakistan and Afghanistan, the president said that “military power alone is not going to solve the problems.” He noted “that’s why we plan to invest \$1.5 billion each year over the next five years to partner with Pakistanis to build schools and hospitals, roads and businesses, and hundreds of millions to help those who’ve been displaced.”

On Afghanistan, Obama said “that’s why we are providing more than \$2.8 billion to help Afghans develop their economy and deliver services that people depend on.”

During his June visit to Pakistan, Special Envoy Richard Holbrooke visited some of the 2 million Pakistanis displaced by fighting between the Pakistan Army and Taliban militants.

The United States pledged to triple aid for the displaced to more than \$300 million—more than half the aid pledged by all donors. USAID officials accompanied Holbrooke on his visit.

Obama also promised to create a corps of business volunteers; a fund for technology; centers of scientific excellence in Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia; and science envoys to develop energy, create green jobs, digitize records, clean water, and grow new crops.

He also announced an initiative with the Organization of the Islamic Conference to eradicate polio. ★ 

HOSPITAL from page 9

The need to refurbish the emergency ward at St. Nicholas was apparent during a recent visit. A patient, intravenous drip attached, was being lowered by gurney from the back of an ambulance and rushed to a waiting physician. Patients recovering from surgery lay in an antechamber for administrative offices. The pediatric overflow found

mothers and children waiting where benches could be found.

They were normal scenes for Virtulus, whose challenges at St. Nicholas are as much administrative as medical.

“Now you know why I am turning gray,” said the youthful 44-year-old, drawing attention to his hair, speckled with white. ★—J.W.

POLL from page 2

aid through international efforts, rejecting arguments that when the United States acts on its own, it has more control over how aid is spent and gets more credit for results.

Most people mistakenly believed that the United States contributes a far higher percentage of its wealth in aid than do other donors. Only

11 percent thought, correctly, that the United States (along with Japan) gave the lowest percentage of all the 22 donor countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

To see the entire poll, go to: www.worldpublicopinion.org/pipa/pdf/may09/WPO_IOM_May09_rpt.pdf. ★

FORUM from page 4

Katrina are signs of system failure.

The need to reform the system is greater now due to the complexity of modern international problems and the speed at which change “comes at us,” he said.

“We have powerful agencies but a weak integrating mechanism,” he said. He noted that the National

Security Council has “no power” and a small \$8.6 million budget, but it represents “the most important organization in the world.”

And when representatives of the various agencies meet to deal with crises, each one thinks he or she is there to defend their own agency.

Having spent years as a

congressional staff aide, Locher said that Capitol Hill is part of the problem as there is “no ability to look at the whole of government” because committees look at issues in a parochial way.

To see the complete text of the PNSR report, go to www.pnsr.org. ★ —B.B.

SCHOOLS from page 9

USAID funding for school construction for the Artibonite region, including St. Marc, Ennery, Marmelade, L’Estere, as well as Gonaives, totals close to \$3.5 million.

As children walked to school in Gonaives, they emerged from cinder-block homes and searched for their footing as they walked on top of mud-clogged streets still

left from last year’s hurricanes. Schoolgirls were impeccably dressed in uniforms—pleated skirts with white shirts and ties. Their hair was elaborately braided and held in place by colored beads. One girl broke into a run until she reached flat, dry ground.

USAID is also funding 40,000 scholarships, which include school fees, subsidies for

uniforms, and other supplies that help students to attend school.

Asked what they want to be when they grow up, the overwhelming response that was shouted was “doctor,” “teacher,” and “nurse.”

Emmanuel, 10, tracked down a visitor and announced with a beaming smile that he wanted to be a journalist. ★—J.W.

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“I realize that there are among us those who are weary of sustaining this continual effort to help other nations. But I would ask them to look at a map and recognize that many of those whom we help live on the ‘front lines’ of the long twilight struggle for freedom—that others are new nations posed between order and chaos—and the rest are older nations now undergoing a turbulent transition of new expectations. Our efforts to help them help themselves, to demonstrate and to strengthen the vitality of free institutions, are small in cost compared to our military outlays for the defense of freedom.”

—John F. Kennedy, Special Message to the Congress on Foreign Aid, March 13, 1962

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SPOTLIGHT

SUDAN: 10,000 CHILDREN RECEIVE DEWORMING TABLETS

By Alexandra Pratt



Photo by Samino Jok Majak, HEAR Sudan

This boy hesitates before taking tablets that will free him from the scourge of worms. His cup will be filled with porridge after he has taken his vitamin A and deworming tablets.



Photo by Samino Jok Majak, HEAR Sudan

Elrasheed Abdalla, a former HEAR Sudan senior health advisor, distributes vitamin A and deworming tablets at the Louis Nyiok School in Abyei. These inexpensive and easily administered supplements are key to preventing damage to eyesight and chronic stomach ailments.

Many Sudanese children fall sick from worms and lack of vitamin A. This is caused in part by contaminated water and poor hygiene.

Now USAID is supplying vitamin A and deworming tablets to more than 10,000 children in Sudan. The aid will help to eliminate parasites, improve health, and reduce student absenteeism and classroom lethargy.

The Agency's Health, Education and Reconciliation (HEAR) Sudan program distributed vitamin A and deworming supplements to children in Abyei and Kauda. The supplements, donated by the World Health Organization (WHO), are some of the simplest and cheapest ways to improve children's health and academic performance.

Vitamin A deficiency during childhood is a major contributor to childhood illness, blindness, and mortality, according to the WHO. The vitamin is essential for the functioning of the immune system and children who lack it are at increased risk of dying from infectious diseases such as measles, diarrhea, and malaria. Vitamin A supplements can reduce child mortality by 23 percent, WHO officials said.

"As a result of treating school-age children, we can reduce the burden of disease due to intestinal worm infection by as much as 70 percent in the community as a whole," said John Boveington, former chief of party for HEAR Sudan.

HEAR Sudan is funded by USAID and carried out by Creative Associates International and the Education Development Center in Abyei, Southern Kordofan (Kauda), and Blue Nile (Kurmuk), the north-south border regions known as the Three Areas.

Vitamin A deficiency usually coincides with worm infection, so deworming medicines are distributed along with vitamin supplements. Worm infections cause a loss of micronutrients and can impede the absorption of vitamin A, contributing to retarded growth, anemia, and low cognitive performance in school.

HEAR Sudan also trains teachers and supports parent-teacher associations to ensure children have a safe learning environment.

Alexandra Pratt is with Creative Associates. ★



Photo by Inasheed Abdalla, HEAR Sudan

A Sudanese child receives vitamin A and deworming supplements from USAID's HEAR Sudan project at the Louis Nyiok School in Abyei, Sudan. The supplements, supplied by the World Health Organization, are one of the simplest and most cost-effective ways to prevent childhood illnesses prevalent in the developing world and, as a corollary, to improve academic performance.



Photo by Japheth Muguano Kiamba, HEAR Sudan

Children eat a helping of porridge after receiving vitamin A and deworming tablets. The porridge not only provides nutrition, but also serves to coat empty stomachs so that the tablets do not cause any aches.