



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives NEWSLETTER

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1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington DC 20523
fbci@usaid.gov 202-712-4080

By J. Mark Brinkmoeller

Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives

Dear Friends,

In this month's newsletter I would like to offer quick updates on a couple of exciting developments – specifically in the areas of USAID's efforts to strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities to drought and advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

As the end of 2012 approaches, we in the Center thank you for everything you do to advance the needs of vulnerable women, men, children and families around the world.

We look forward to working with you in 2013.

Sincerely,

J. Mark Brinkmoeller
fbci@usaid.gov

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News and Events

Faith-based & Community groups join USAID in launch of new resilience policy



David Beckmann, President of Bread for the World; Neal Keny-Guyer, CEO of Mercy Corps; and Carolyn Woo, President & CEO of Catholic Relief Services take part in a panel discussion at USAID's launch of the resilience policy.

Photo Credit: USAID

On December 3, USAID released a new policy and program guidance aimed at bolstering relief efforts by building resilience in parts of the world most often affected by severe drought and famine. USAID defines resilience as the ability of people, households, communities, countries, and systems to mitigate, adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.

Last year the worst drought in 60 years struck the Horn of Africa, placing 13.3 million people at risk of starvation, hunger and malnutrition. Months later, a similar drought crises emerged in the Sahel, placing millions more at risk. In the past decade the international community has spent over \$90 billion in lifesaving relief, concentrated in just nine countries most common hit with similar disasters.

Administrator Rajiv Shah announced the new policy and was joined at the event by His Excellency Ambassador Elkanah Odembo, Kenyan Ambassador to the United States; The Honorable Jim McGovern (D-MA); Gayle Smith, Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director at the National Security Council; David Beckmann, President of Bread for the World; Neal Keny-Guyer, CEO of Mercy Corps; and Carolyn Woo, President & CEO of Catholic Relief Services.

READ: *Building Resilience to Recurrent Crisis: USAID's Policy and Program Guidance*, [here](#)
Administrator Shah's remarks, [here](#)

Update on USAID's Gender Equality and Empowerment efforts

Over the past year, USAID has taken many steps to advance its vision toward gender equality and women's empowerment. In October, the Agency launched the [US Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence](#), accompanied by a Presidential [Executive Order](#), a new policy on to combat counter-trafficking in persons, the U.S National Action Plan on [Women, Peace, and Security](#), and a vision for addressing [early marriage](#).

As a part of a government-wide strategy to advance gender equality and women's empowerment, USAID has launched three incentive funds to enable creative programming and promote learning in support of the new vision.



Photo Credit: USAID

In addition to these efforts, in the past month USAID participated in 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, starting with International End Violence Against Women Day on November 25 and culminating on International Human Rights Day on December 10. During this time, the agency's DC office joined missions across the globe, offering trainings and awareness campaigns focused on ending gender-based violence.

For more information on these efforts, visit USAID's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment [page](#).

REMINDER: Campus Challenge Counter Trafficking in Persons International Contest

Last month, USAID launched an international contest open to university students asking for innovative ideas on combatting modern-day slavery. Students have until January 8, 2013 to submit their entries and qualify for the prizes, which include up to \$5000. Please visit [ChallengeSlavery.org](#) for more information.

Select Grant Opportunities

USAID

NEW! Pre-Solicitation Notice—Strengthening Political Entities and Civil Society (SPECS) – Overview USAID/Afghanistan plans to release a Request for Applications for a new program to address critical needs in elections and political processes. The program will start in 2013 and end in 2016 in order to contribute to credible, transparent, and inclusive elections in 2014 and 2015. The program will involve the strengthening of political entities – including parties, independent candidates, and coalitions – to develop and articulate platforms, perform outreach within their communities, and compete in elections. The project will enhance the ability of political entities to attract and empower women and youth both as voters and as party leaders. The program will also work with local domestic monitoring organizations to train and deploy observers to monitor the elections. The full RFA will be expected to go out in the next month.

For more information and a full description, click [here](#).

USAID/West Africa— Family Planning Services - USAID/West Africa, through the Regional Health Office, intends to increase access to and use of quality family planning (FP) services in select urban and peri-urban areas of four francophone West African countries—Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Niger and Togo. This Project, Agir pour la Planification Familiale (AGIR-PF), aims to: 1) strengthen and expand the delivery of quality FP information, products and services; 2) adapt and implement evidence-based service delivery approaches; and 3) coordinate efforts to remove policy barriers and improve contraceptive commodity security.

The closing date for this announcement is January 08, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).

NEW! Cote D'Ivoire—Justice Sector Support Program - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is seeking applications for Assistance Agreements from all U.S. and non-U.S. qualified organizations for funding to support a program entitled “USAID Justice Sector Support Program - Cote D'Ivoire”. The overall goal of the program is to improve the delivery of justice services, especially criminal justice, in Cote D'Ivoire. The closing date for this announcement is January 10, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).

NEW! Nigeria—Support to Vulnerable Households (SVH) for Accelerated Revenue Earnings - The purpose of the Support to Vulnerable Households for Accelerated Revenue Earnings project, referred to throughout this document by the shorter Support to Vulnerable Households (SVH) Project, is to strengthen the participation of an estimated 42, 000 very poor households in rural economic growth and to improve their livelihoods, nutrition and health. USAID/Nigeria is particularly interested in applicants that respond with a clear understanding of the linkage between poverty, markets and the nutritional status of very poor households, and food security.

The closing date for this announcement is January 14, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).

NEW! Uganda—Communication for Healthy Communities - USAID/Uganda anticipates awarding a new, \$50 million, five-year cooperative agreement for an activity titled Communication for Healthy Communities (CHC) program. The goal of this program is to contribute to a reduction in HIV infections, total fertility, maternal and child mortality, malnutrition, malaria and tuberculosis (TB). The main Objective of the program is to increase adoption of healthy behaviors (including uptake of critical health services) through strengthened health communication, in order to contribute to these improved health outcomes.

The closing date for this announcement is January 15, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).

Request for Applications for Title II Development Food Assistance Programs - This Request for Applications (RFA) for Zimbabwe, specifically, provides information on funding opportunities for multi-year development food assistance programs. Food security is the cornerstone of the Title II program because “...enhancing food security in the developing world through the use of agricultural commodities...” is a policy of the United States as stated in the Food

for Peace Act, which authorizes Title II food aid. Thus, FFP's goal for multi-year development programming is to reduce risks and vulnerabilities to food insecurity and increase food availability, access, and utilization/consumption. Title II programs must target the vulnerability of food insecure individuals, households, and communities directly. Note that assistance made available pursuant to this RFA may be used to meet emergency/exceptional circumstances as provided in accordance with the terms of those awards and 22 C.F. R. 211.5(o).

To be considered for an award, the applicant must be a private voluntary organization or cooperative that is, to the extent practicable, registered with the USAID Administrator, or an intergovernmental organization, such as the World Food Program. This includes U.S. and non-U.S. nonprofit organizations as defined in Section 402 of the Food for Peace Act and as described in the Private Voluntary Organization Conditions of Registration on the USAID website: <http://idea.usaid.gov/lspvo>.

The closing date for this announcement is January 16, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).

NEW! Thailand—Ba Distrito (To the Districts) Program – USAID/Timor-Leste Mission is seeking applications from international and U.S. non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to implement a program entitled “Ba Distrito” which supports the Mission’s development objective of strengthening institutional and human capacity to improve the lives of Timor-Leste’s citizens, as described in Section I (Funding Opportunity Description) of this Request for Application (RFA). The focal points of this program will be those government and non-government institutions that directly impact on communities at the local level. The strengthening of suco (village) councils and their linkage both to the communities they serve and up to the sub-district and district levels of local government, including line ministry programs, is the principal focus of this program. In addition, the project seeks to foster access to justice for citizens of local communities, both through governmental and non-governmental institutions. The Ba Distrito Program project aims to improve Government incorporation of community needs into the local governance process and increase its capacity to deliver services more effectively, efficiently and sustainably.

The closing date for this announcement is January 22, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).

Ukraine—Enterprise Growth Project- The purpose of the Enterprise Growth in Ukraine Project is to improve the regulatory and business enabling environment in Ukraine by leveraging local organizations which have recognized technical proficiency and knowledge of domestic institutions, and to strengthen the capacity of those organizations to identify policy corrections and motivate concrete institutional reform. Proper implementation of market oriented policies and regulations, strengthening public-private dialogue to promote SME growth, and enhancing education capacity to meet the market demands will allow increasing resilience and competitiveness of private sector.

Ukrainian nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are eligible to apply. The closing date for this announcement is January 23, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).

NEW! USAID— Sustainable Landscapes, Clean Energy and Adaptation – USAID’s climate change program uses three pillars of funding—“Sustainable Landscapes” investments in land use practices that stop, slow, and reverse emissions from deforestation and degradation of forests and other landscapes; “Clean Energy” investments to establish a foundation for low carbon energy systems; and “Adaptation” to increase the resilience of people, places and livelihoods to a changing climate. This Addendum to the GDA APS seeks private sector partners that wish to collaborate with USAID on programs that realize these three pillars while pursuing their own business or philanthropic interests.

The closing date for this announcement is January 21, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).

USAID-Bangkok—Higher Education Partnerships to Support Democracy, Peace and Prosperity-

USAID/Burma is making a special call for the submission of concept papers for Higher Education Partnerships to Support the US-Burma Commitment to Democracy, Peace and Prosperity. USAID/Burma is specifically calling for university-private sector partnerships involving U.S. businesses and U.S. and Burmese higher education institutions (HEIs) to address Burma’s critical short, medium and long-term development needs. This approach will provide a mechanism for U.S. organizations to collaborate with the private sector to accelerate and expand the valuable contributions of Burmese HEIs to Burma’s social and economic development. Given this objective, USAID/Burma welcomes participation through Concept Paper submissions from a wide range of U.S. organizations with a strong interest in partnering with the private sector and Burmese higher education institutions to promote development in Burma. Proposals that do not leverage private sector resources of at least a matching amount to what is requested will not be considered under this announcement.

The closing date for this announcement is January 31, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).

FY 2013 American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) Program Worldwide- The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Office of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA), is accepting funding applications from U.S. Organizations that assist schools, libraries and medical centers outside the United States to serve as study and demonstration centers for American ideas and practices.

The closing date for this announcement is April 15, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).

NEW! Cambodia— Annual Program Statement (APS) for MATERNAL&CHILD HEALTH, TUBERCULOSIS, HIV/AIDS, AND Malaria- Annual Program Statement enables support to local civil society organizations to implement small and concrete activities in the areas of MCH, TB, HIV/AIDS and Malaria.

The closing date for this announcement is May 17, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).

U.S. Department of State

NEW! Democracy, Human Rights, and Rule of Law in Africa and the Near East Region – The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) announces a Request for Proposals from organizations interested in submitting proposals for projects that promote democracy, human rights, and rule of law in Kenya and Tanzania.

The closing date for this announcement is January 4, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).