



CONGRESSIONAL BULLETIN

May 9, 2011

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the inaugural edition of USAID's biweekly Congressional Bulletin. The objective of this newsletter is threefold –

- to inform you of the latest developments at USAID – including key personnel announcements and significant milestones reached – both on our development programs and the [USAID Forward](#) Agenda;
- to preview new partnerships, policies, or strategies we are working on and invite you to engage with us as we move these forward; and
- to give you a sense of what's on the horizon – not only in terms of upcoming Congressional testimony or briefings but also opportunities to meet with our Mission Directors, when they're in Washington for consultations .

We welcome your input and want to make sure that this newsletter is useful to you. Please hit "reply" to give us feedback on what you'd like to see more (or less) of in future editions.

Attached please find an updated list of our Legislative Affairs team. Please let us know how we can be of assistance to you in the future.

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Chief of Staff:** We are pleased to announce that **Margie Sullivan** has joined the Agency as **Chief of Staff to the Administrator**. (Today was her first day on the job.) Margie comes to USAID from San Francisco-based Farallon Capital Management where she directed the Political Risk Management office. Margie has a long history of federal service including serving as Chief of Staff to Secretary Andrew Cuomo at the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Chief of Staff to United States Trade Representative, Charlene Barshefsky in the Executive Office of the President. Other federal service includes Special Assistant to Secretary of Defense William Perry, and Senior Policy Advisor to House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt. She also served as a professional staff member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, as well as the House Armed Services Committee. We look forward to introducing her to you.
- **Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment:** As part of our push to elevate gender at USAID, **Carla Koppell** officially joined the Agency on April 25, as **Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment** in the Office of the Administrator. Carla will accelerate our efforts to integrate gender equality as cross-cutting

throughout the Agency. She will provide USAID's leadership with expert advice and guidance, having most recently served as director of the Institute for Inclusive Security and the Washington office of the Hunt Alternatives Fund. Carla has worked extensively with women and civil society leaders from conflict areas around the world including Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, the Middle East, and Sudan. She is also no stranger to USAID, having previously served as Special Assistant to Administrator Brian Atwood and Director of our climate change program.

- **Director, Office of Learning, Evaluation and Research:** USAID bade farewell last week to **Ruth Levine**, Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning (PPL). Effective this week, Ruth will take up new responsibilities at the Hewlett Foundation in California, where she will join her husband, a professor at Stanford University. Ruth leaves behind an extraordinary legacy, including above all, the world-class [evaluation program](#) and policy she has helped put in place, and the USAID-State streamlining project, which she has co- led, in an effort to make our foreign assistance programs more effective. The Agency is excited to welcome **Cindy Clapp-Wincek** as the new Director of the Office of Learning, Evaluation, and Research in the Policy, Planning and Learning Bureau. Cindy [re]joins USAID with 30 years of experience in strategic planning, performance monitoring, and evaluation of U.S. foreign assistance programs, split between the Federal Government and independent consulting. She began her career in the Evaluation Office at USAID (which became CDIE) and ended her 14 years at USAID as the Evaluation Officer for the Africa Bureau.
- **Senior Advisor / LPA:** As many of you know, **Barbara Larkin**, Senior Advisor in the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, took a bad fall six weeks ago, breaking her leg and shoulder. She is making steady progress in her recovery. Many thanks to all for your support and warm wishes.
- **Senior DAA / EGAT:** USAID thanks **Dr. Michael Yates** for his leadership of the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade (EGAT) as Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator since June 2009. Effective tomorrow (May 9), Mike will assume his new duties as Director for the Regional Development Mission for Asia, based in Bangkok, Thailand. A Senior Member of the USAID Foreign Service, Mike has been with the Agency for over 20 years, including tours as USAID Mission Director to Afghanistan, Bolivia, and the Philippines. Mike will be succeeded by **Dr. Mary Ott** as EGAT's Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator. Mary has more than 20 years of experience in development, including tours as Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for the EGAT Bureau, Deputy Mission Director in Egypt and Bangladesh, and Director of the Economic Growth Offices for USAID/El Salvador and USAID/Panama. Mary has also served as Chief Economist in USAID's Latin America bureau.
- **DAA/Management:** USAID is pleased to announce that **John Munzer** has been appointed Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Management. John served previously as Associate Director in the Governor of Illinois' Office of Management and Budget, where he had leadership roles on a number of successful enterprise-wide operational initiatives, including implementation of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, realignment of administrative functions and business processes, and management of operational studies of multiple large agencies. Prior to joining the Governor's office, he held management positions at Lissner Associates, iXL/Scient, PricewaterhouseCoopers/IBM, and SNET/AT&T.

NOMINEES:

- **AA/Middle East:** We are working with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) to ensure swift consideration of **Mara Rudman's** nomination to serve as Assistant Administrator for the Middle East. Mara's confirmation hearing was held on April 5. Click [here](#) to read her testimony.

- **AA/Global Health:** We are also working with SFRC to schedule a hearing for Dr. Ariel Pablos-Méndez, USAID’s nominee for Assistant Administrator for Global Health. Ariel is currently Managing Director at The Rockefeller Foundation and Professor of Clinical Medicine and Epidemiology at Columbia University in New York. Since 2007, he has led the Rockefeller Foundation’s global health strategy on the transformation of health systems in Africa and Asia. From 2004 to 2007, Ariel served as Director of Knowledge Management at the World Health Organization (WHO) in Geneva. He first joined the Rockefeller Foundation in 1998, spearheading public-private partnerships in R&D for diseases of poverty, the Foundation's strategy on AIDS care in Africa, and the Joint Learning Initiative on Human Resources for Health.

TESTIMONY / BRIEFINGS:

- **House Oversight and Government Reform:** USAID Administrator **Raj Shah** will testify before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on May 11, 2011 at a hearing entitled “USAID: Following the Money.” The USAID **Inspector General Don Gambatesa** also will testify at this hearing.
- **House Foreign Affairs:** Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa **Sharon Cromer** will testify before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on May 10 regarding the FY 2012 budget request for Africa.
- **Senate Foreign Relations:** Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia **Paige Alexander** will testify before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on May 18 regarding Administration Priorities for Europe in the 112th Congress.
- **Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission:** Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa Sharon Cromer will testify before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on Indigenous Peoples in Africa on May 12, 2011.
- **House Caucus for Effective Foreign Assistance Launch:** Administrator Shah will serve as a guest speaker at the launch event for the “Caucus for Effective Foreign Assistance” on May 12, 2011, speaking on the topic of “the importance of effective foreign assistance.” The caucus is co-chaired by Reps. Ander Crenshaw and Adam Smith.
- **USAID 101:** USAID, in partnership with the **Congressional Tri-caucus** – comprised of the Congressional Black Caucus, the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus – will host a “USAID 101 for Congressional Staff” on May 16. This will be the fourth “USAID 101” we have sponsored for Hill staff, and the first to take place on the Hill. These sessions have focused on USAID Forward (the Agency’s reform agenda) including segments on procurement reform, innovation, science, technology, policy and budget; humanitarian assistance, including live demonstrations from our Operations Center; key initiatives and national security priorities; and the tracking of foreign assistance dollars through <http://foreignassistance.gov>. Please let us know if you are interested in attending or co-hosting a USAID 101 on the Hill.

TRAVEL

- **Administrator Shah Travels to Sudan, Co-Chairs World Economic Forum in South Africa**
Administrator Shah returned today from Sudan, where he joined Development Ministers Andrew Mitchell of the UK and Erik Solheim of Norway to underscore and advance their respective countries' support for a peaceful transition this July 9th. The U.S. pledged to host an International Engagement Conference for South Sudan this fall to promote investment in the private sector and anti-corruption and transparency efforts. Click [here](#) to read an [op-ed](#) co-authored by Shah, Solheim and Mitchell, which ran in this weekend's edition of the *The Guardian*. Prior to Sudan, Dr. Shah traveled to South Africa to address the PEPFAR Implementers' Conference aimed at maximizing the effectiveness and impact of the US Government's efforts to prevent and fight HIV/AIDS and served as a [co-chair](#) of the World Economic Forum in Cape Town, where he partnered with key private and public sector leaders to advance economic investment in Africa, specifically in the areas of private sector-led development/economic growth; accountability/good governance and science and technology.
- **Deputy Administrator to Lead U.S. Delegation to Least Development Countries Conference**
Deputy Administrator Donald Steinberg is leading the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations Least Developed Countries (LDC IV) Conference in Istanbul this week. In this role, DA Steinberg will conduct bilateral meetings with foreign dignitaries and provide remarks on the role of the private sector in LDC's, resource mobilization for development and global partnership, and participate in a UNICEF event on nutrition, co-hosted by the Government of Nepal and the World Food Program.

UPDATE ON USAID POLICY TASK TEAMS

The **Policy Planning & Learning (PPL) Bureau** plays a leadership and coordination role on matters of policy, strategic planning, evaluation, donor engagement, and utilization of science and technology to address development challenges. Last year, the PPL Policy Office established Policy Task Teams (PTTs), which are the main vehicles to establish Agency-wide policies and strategies. These teams of 7-9 technical experts, drawn from across the Agency, are convened to draft policies and strategies, which are further developed and vetted through a wide-ranging internal and external consultation process, including Congressional staff and Members.

Products of the inaugural PTTs include (1) the [evaluation policy](#), released in January 2011; (2) the [education strategy](#), released in March 2011; (3) a policy on the development response to violent extremism and insurgency, which is anticipated for release in May 2011 (4) a global climate change strategy, which is anticipated for release in June 2011; and (5) a water strategy, which is anticipated for release in Summer 2011.

The six newly announced PTTs are: (1) **Youth in Development**; (2) **Gender Equality and Female Empowerment**; (3) **Donor Engagement**; (4) **Economic Growth**; (5) **Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance**; and (6) **Sustainable Service Delivery in an Increasingly Urban World**. The first four PTTs have begun their work, and the last two will be launched within a few months.

We look forward to seeking your input and feedback as we move forward with these policies and strategies.

PARTNERSHIPS

- **Mobile Alliance for Maternal Action (MAMA) USAID and Johnson & Johnson** In honor of Mother's Day, Secretary Clinton announced last week the Mobile Alliance for Maternal Action (MAMA) to harness the power of mobile technology to deliver health information to new and expectant mothers. Over the next three years, the MAMA partners -- USAID, Johnson & Johnson, the UN Foundation, the mHealth Alliance, and BabyCenter are expected to mobilize \$10 million for work in Bangladesh, South Africa and India. MAMA will coordinate and increase the impact of existing mobile health programs, provide resources and technical assistance to promising new business models, and build the evidence base on the effective application of mobile technology to improve maternal health. The mobile health messages will quickly and easily disseminate information that will inform women of ways to care for themselves during pregnancy, dispel myths and misconceptions, highlight warning signs, connect women with local health services, and make new mothers aware of how best to care for their babies. MAMA is about getting timely information to women who own mobile phones in low and middle countries to improve their lives and the lives of their children. The partnership addresses the challenge of reaching women in developing countries who are pregnant or new mothers in-need of basic health information. Click [here](#) for more information on this exciting alliance.
- **USAID-NASA LAUNCH:** Last week NASA Administrator Charles Bolden and USAID Administrator Shah signed a five-year MOU at NASA Headquarters to formalize ongoing agency collaborations that use Earth science data to address developmental challenges, and to assist in disaster mitigation and humanitarian responses. The agreement also encourages NASA and USAID to apply geospatial technologies to solve development challenges affecting the United States as well as developing countries. Last Thursday at an event on Capitol Hill, the USAID/NASA LAUNCH Team was selected as a finalist for the Service to America medal, in the *Science & Environment* category. This is the first time that a USAID team or individual has been nominated in this category. For more information, please visit the [LAUNCH website](#).
- **ACVFA Members Announced / Public Meeting May 13:** Last week USAID formally unveiled the membership roster of the [Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid \(ACVFA\)](#). Established by Presidential directive after World War II, ACVFA serves as a link between the U.S. Government, the private sector, and private voluntary organizations active in humanitarian assistance and development work overseas. [Members](#) are appointed by the Administrator for two-year terms. They serve without compensation. We are especially excited by the breadth and depth of experience reflected in this year's ACVFA line-up and invite you to join us for the Committee's official meeting, which will take place **Friday, May 13 from 9-11AM at the National Press Club**. For more information, please visit the ACVFA [website](#).

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE UPDATE

USAID provides life-saving humanitarian assistance throughout the world. Below are links to the latest fact sheets describing our work:

- [Libya](#) complex emergency fact sheets #24, dated 5/02/11, and #25, dated 5/05/11
- [Haiti](#) earthquake and cholera fact sheet, dated 5/03/11
- [Kyrgyzstan](#) complex emergency fact sheet, dated 5/03/11
- [Cote d'Ivoire](#) complex emergency fact sheet #5, dated 5/06/11

DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (DLI) UPDATE

As of today, USAID has hired 720 new Foreign Service officers under the Development Leadership Initiative (DLI) -- a multi-year effort launched under the Bush Administration with strong, bipartisan support from Congress - to enhance the Agency's capability to effectively deliver U.S. foreign assistance and to increase its overseas presence. USAID is currently seeking applicants in the following backstops: Contracting Officers (BS-93), Agriculture Officers (BS-10), Crisis Stabilization & Governance Officers (BS-76) and Program/Project Development Officers (BS-02/94). To learn more about the DLI, including opportunities for employment, click [here](#).

A NOTE OF THANKS

Thank you for your interest in USAID and your support for our work. Please let us know what we can do to be responsive to your concerns. We're eager to hear your suggestions on how we can partner more effectively with you in the future. Please also let us know what you'd like to see more (or less) of in this bulletin. Thank you!