



## CONGRESSIONAL BULLETIN

May 24, 2011

### INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the second edition of USAID's biweekly Congressional Bulletin. The objectives of this newsletter are –

- to inform you of the latest developments at USAID – including key personnel announcements and significant milestones reached – both in 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 reply to [USAIDCongressionalBulletin@usaid.gov](mailto:USAIDCongressionalBulletin@usaid.gov) 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.

### NOMINEES:

- **AA/Middle East:** We are pleased to report that **Mara Rudman**, USAID's nominee for Assistant Administrator for Middle East, was voted favorably out of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) on Tuesday, May 17. We are working to ensure her swift confirmation by the full Senate.
- **AA/Global Health:** USAID is working with the SFRC to schedule a hearing for **Dr. Ariel Pablos-Méndez**, the Agency'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.

### PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Senior Advisor / PPL:** Tom Carothers, Vice President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, has joined USAID on a part-time, temporary basis as Senior Advisor, based in our Bureau for Policy Planning & Learning. In addition to working on democracy and governance and political economy issues, **Tom** is also working closely with the Agency's Middle East Strategy Group.

- **DAA/Public Affairs:** The Agency bade farewell last week to **Moira Whelan**, our Deputy Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs, who has joined the Department of State as Senior Advisor for Crisis Communications. **Moira** leaves behind an impressive legacy, having brought USAID communications into the modern age, establishing a new and robust social media presence with tens of thousands of Twitter followers, reinvigorated our magazine [Frontlines](#) with a new design and format; and provided headquarters crisis communications support in more than 6 disasters worldwide. We look forward to working with **Moira** in her new capacity.
- **BIFAD Board Appointments:** President Obama recently announced five new appointments to the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development (BIFAD). **BIFAD** is a presidentially appointed advisory committee, comprised of seven members from the academic, NGO and private-sector communities, four of whom must represent the academic community. The Board's primary responsibility is to advise and assist the USAID Administrator on agriculture and food security-related issues and on mobilizing the U.S. academic community and their partners in agriculture and hunger/famine prevention and development assistance efforts. Click [here](#) to read the bios of all BIFAD members.

#### TESTIMONY / BRIEFINGS:

- **House Foreign Affairs:** USAID Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa **Sharon Cromer** testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on May 10 regarding the FY 2012 budget request for Africa. Click [here](#) to read her testimony.
- **House Oversight and Government Reform:** USAID Administrator **Raj Shah** testified before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee on May 11 at a hearing entitled "USAID: Following the Money." USAID Inspector General **Don Gambatesa** also testified at this hearing. Click [here](#) to read the [Administrator's](#) and [IG's](#) testimony.
- **Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission:** Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa **Sharon Cromer** testified before the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission on Indigenous Peoples in Africa on May 12, 2011. Click [here](#) to read her testimony.
- **Senate Foreign Relations:** Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia **Paige Alexander** testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on May 18 regarding Administration priorities for Europe in the 112th Congress. Click [here](#) to read her testimony.
- **Senate Foreign Relations:** Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance **Nancy Lindborg** testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs on May 19 regarding the next steps for Cote D'Ivoire. Click [here](#) to read her testimony.



- **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 –hosted a “USAID 101 for Congressional Staff” on May 19. This was the fourth “USAID 101” we have sponsored for Hill staff, and approximately 20 staff attended the event. 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.

**PUBLIC EVENTS:**

- **Dr. Shah Keynote at Chicago Council Symposium on Food Security:** Administrator Shah delivered a [keynote address](#) this morning at the Chicago Council on Global Affairs Symposium, highlighting progress made over the past year through [Feed the Future](#), the U.S. Government’s global hunger and food security initiative. More than 400 opinion leaders were invited to today’s event, which also included remarks by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture **Tom Vilsack** and Microsoft’s **Bill Gates**. Click [here](#) to learn more about the Feed the Future initiative.
- **Development Forum with Dr. Esther Duflo:** On May 23, USAID hosted a Development Forum entitled “Radically Rethinking Global Poverty,” featuring Dr. **Esther Duflo**. The co-author of *Poor Economics* and co-founder of MIT’s Poverty Action Lab, **Dr. Duflo** was recently named one of TIME Magazine’s 100 Most Influential People in the World, and is a recipient of both a MacArthur “genius” grant and the Clark Medal, awarded to the top economist under 40. A transcript and video of the event will be available on our website later this afternoon. Through USAID’s “Development Forum,” the Agency brings in leading experts, thinkers, and practitioners to discuss some of the biggest issues in development today. Please let us know if you’d be interested in joining us for a future Development Forum.
- **Deputy Administrator Speaks on “Women and War”:** On May 13, **Deputy Administrator Steinberg** spoke at the U.S. Institute of Peace’s “Women and War” symposium on peace and security. The Deputy Administrator underscored the critical link between gender equality and women’s empowerment and the achievement of our development and humanitarian assistance objectives. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Deputy Administrator Speaks on USAID & Conflict -- Hard Lessons from the Field:** On May 17, **Deputy Administrator Steinberg** spoke at an event co-hosted by the American Enterprise Institute and the Center for American Progress regarding the challenges facing the United States as it tries to help nations emerge from conflict, and prevent new conflicts and crises from arising around the globe. The conversation touched on key issues, including the role of the private sector in post-conflict settings, the importance of women in shaping enduring peace agreements, lessons learned since 9/11, the role of development in preventing conflict, and the future of assistance in Afghanistan and Pakistan. You can find **Deputy Administrator Steinberg's** remarks [here](#).
- **Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid:** On May 13, **Dr. Shah** hosted a public and business meeting of the [Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid](#) (ACVFA), the Administrator's advisory body. [Comprised of up to 30 members](#), ACVFA promotes a vibrant exchange of ideas between USAID and the non-governmental sector, and offers substantive input into the Agency's work. Recognizing the [diversity of international development actors](#), Dr. Shah has appointed leaders from NGOs, universities, corporations, and foundations. ACVFA will focus on issues of economic growth, democracy and governance, university partnerships, and civil-military relations. USAID will make a transcript of the public meeting available on [our website](#) within the next few weeks.

#### TRAVEL:

- **OECD Ministerial Meeting:** USAID Administrator Shah will attend the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Ministerial Meeting May 25-26, participating during a session on "A New Paradigm for Development" chaired by Secretary Clinton.
- **Humanitarian Assistance Needs in East Africa:** **Nancy Lindborg**, Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance will travel to East Africa this week to review humanitarian assistance needs in Somalia.
- **Haiti:** **Eric Postel**, Assistant Administrator for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade, is in Haiti this week to review USAID technical assistance programs in the areas of energy, natural resources management/agroforestry, infrastructure, microenterprise and microfinance.
- **North Korea:** **Jon Brause**, USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance and U.S. Special Envoy for North Korea Human Rights **Robert King** will travel to North Korea this week to meet with DPRK Government officials and conduct a field evaluation of food security needs.

#### PARTNERSHIPS:

- **Global Diaspora Forum:** USAID and the Department of State welcomed leaders of the nation's most influential diaspora networks to our respective headquarters last week (May 17-19) for a [Global Diaspora Forum](#), aimed at recognizing and celebrating the contribution of diaspora communities to America's relationship with their countries of origin or ancestry; fostering diaspora-centric partnership models; and encouraging intra-diaspora collaboration and learning. Click [here](#) for more information on USAID's diaspora engagement.
- **New Western Union Diaspora Marketplace Launched:** USAID used the diaspora forum as a platform to announce the launch of a second African Diaspora Marketplace (ADM) in partnership with Western Union. The ADM encourages sustainable economic growth and employment by supporting

U.S.-based African Diaspora entrepreneurs with innovating and high-impact ideas for start-up and established businesses in Sub-Saharan Africa. The new Marketplace will focus on priority, high-impact sectors in Africa, including agribusiness, renewable energy, and information and communication technology. Click [here](#) for more information.

- **Expanding Private Sector Partnerships in Agriculture / Food Security:** On May 18, **Tjada McKenna**, Deputy Assistant Administrator Bureau for Food Security, addressed the League of Black Women Voters at the organization’s 8th Global Strategic Leadership Conference on business opportunities in the global food chain. Joining U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Agencies in Rome **Ertharin Cousin**, the Millennium Challenge Corporation’s **Cassandra Butts**, and General Mills’ **Angela Mwaniki**, **Tjada’s** remarks centered on Feed the Future’s efforts to leverage private sector partnerships to build local capacity in focus countries for improved food security.

**HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE UPDATE:**

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

- [Haiti](#) earthquake and cholera fact sheet #5, dated 5/16/11
- [Libya](#) complex emergency fact sheet #27, dated 5/17/11
- [Cote d’Ivoire](#) complex emergency fact sheet #7, dated 5/19/11

**DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (DLI) UPDATE:**

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](#).

For more information about USAID's programs, please visit: [usaid.gov](http://usaid.gov). To read our blog, see [blog.usaid.gov](http://blog.usaid.gov).

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for nearly 50 years.

