



CONGRESSIONAL BULLETIN

July 20, 2011

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HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Horn of Africa:** Early this morning, the United Nations announced that a famine has been declared in Somalia. Across the eastern Horn of Africa, more than 11 million people are now in need of emergency assistance to survive. [The United States is one of the largest donors of emergency assistance to the region, helping more than 4.4 million of those in need and providing over \\$459 million to date in fiscal year 2011.](#) **Administrator Shah**, who is in the Horn of Africa as of this writing, offered [these remarks](#) in response to the famine declaration. Through the [Feed the Future Initiative](#), the USG is also working to address the root causes of hunger and malnutrition. On July 6, the Agency activated a regional Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to monitor regional drought conditions and coordinate response activities with other donors. Last week, USAID also stood up a Washington-based task force on the crisis, chaired by **Deputy Administrator Donald Steinberg** and led by Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance **Nancy Lindborg**. On July 11, the Deputy Administrator and Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa **Raja Jandhyala** traveled to the Dolo Ado refugee camp on the Ethiopia/Somalia border to assess current needs and conditions. **Paul Weisenfeld**, Assistant to the Administrator for the Bureau for Food Security, traveled to Kenya July 11-18 to assess the current drought as well as Kenya's Feed the Future programs. Following a visit to Somalia and Kenya in late May, **Nancy Lindborg testified** on the humanitarian situation in Somalia on July 7 before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights. Click [here](#) for Administrator Shah's July 13 Huffington Post interview or [here](#) to watch a BBC interview with the Deputy Administrator for more on the crisis in the Horn of Africa and USAID's ongoing work there. Access USAID's landing page on the emergency [here](#).
- **South Sudan Independence:** South Sudan became Africa's 54th nation on July 9 in an event attended by delegations of many nations, including the United States. [Deputy Administrator Donald Steinberg attended the independence ceremony with the U.S. delegation](#), headed by U.S. Ambassador to the UN **Susan Rice**. For more information on South Sudan and USAID's work in the country, click [here](#).

- **Saving Lives at Birth:** Join us July 26-28, as USAID hosts a “Development Xchange” here in the Ronald Reagan Building in association with the Agency’s Grand Challenge around “Saving Lives at Birth.” An estimated 150,000 women die each year in the 48 hours following a child’s birth. Through our Grand Challenge for Development, USAID has sought low-cost, far-reaching innovations from members of the general public. Next week’s event will highlight the work of 77 innovators from around the world who will present their projects to help save lives at birth. Workshops and panels will center around issues of maternal and child health and development. Members of the public are invited to view and judge the projects. Click [here](#) for more information on the event or [here](#) for information on Saving Lives at Birth.

TESTIMONY / BRIEFINGS:

- **House Foreign Affairs Committee:** On July 7, **Nancy Lindborg**, Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, testified before a joint hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights and the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade concerning Somalia. Her testimony can be read [here](#).
- **House Foreign Affairs Committee:** On July 12, Assistant Administrator for the Middle East **George Laudato** testified before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia about aid to the Palestinian Authority. Read his testimony [here](#).
- **House Agriculture Committee:** On July 13, Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance **Nancy Lindborg** testified before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Rural Development, Research, Biotechnology, and Foreign Agriculture regarding U.S. food aid. Read her testimony [here](#).
- **Senate Foreign Relations Committee:** On July 19, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance **Christa Capozzola** testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near Eastern and South and Central Asian Affairs regarding U.S. Policy in Yemen. Read her testimony [here](#).
- **USAID 101 for the Foreign Assistance Effectiveness Caucus:** On July 18, USAID was pleased to welcome a bipartisan gathering of staff affiliated with the House Foreign Assistance Effectiveness Caucus to Agency headquarters for an orientation to the Agency, including presentations on [USAID Forward](#). Please let us know if you would be interested in co-hosting or attending a future USAID 101 by emailing Aysha House-Moshi at ahouse-moshi@usaid.gov.
- **Consultations with USAID Mission Directors:** USAID offers the following Mission Directors for meetings/briefings with interested Members and staff on July 28, 2011: **Joseph Williams** (Albania); **Jatinder Cheema** (Armenia); **Michael Greene** (Azerbaijan); **Allan Reed** (Bosnia-Herzegovina); **Diana Putman** (designate, Democratic Republic of Congo); **James Watson** (Dominican Republic); Jonathan (**Jock**) **Conly** (Georgia); **Kevin Kelly** (Guatemala); **Nancy Estes** (Guinea); **Carol Horning** (Guatemala); **David Leong** (Regional Services Center, Budapest); **Erna Kerst** (Kenya); **Maureen Shauket** (designate, Kosovo); **Douglass Arbuckle** (designate, Malawi); **Dana Mansuri** (designate, Nigeria); **Rosemary Rakas** (Paraguay); **Charles North** (Russia); **Susan Fritz** (Serbia and Montenegro); **Janina Jaruzelski** (Ukraine, Moldova, and Belarus); **Melissa Williams** (designate, Zimbabwe). To arrange meetings or briefings with the Mission Directors, please contact: Europe and Eurasia - **Mike Hathaway** at mhathaway@usaid.gov; Africa –

Heather Flynn at hflynn@usaid.gov; or Latin America and Caribbean - **Kate Beale** at kbeale@usaid.gov .

PUBLIC EVENTS:

- **Administrator in Tunisia:** Prior to his travel to the Horn of Africa (see Highlights above), **Administrator Shah** was in Tunisia this week to review current assistance strategies and survey how the Agency may further support the country's democratic transition. During this trip, the Administrator met with young entrepreneurs, farmers, business leaders, representatives of civil society organizations, and government officials to hear first-hand from a broad range of counterparts.
- **Tidewater Meeting:** From July 20-22, Deputy Administrator **Donald Steinberg** will be in the United Kingdom to participate in the annual Tidewater conference of development ministers. This year's discussion will focus on policy reform, economic growth, and the challenges of development in the Middle East and North Africa.
- **WTO Global Review:** On July 18-19, **Eric Postel**, Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Economic Growth and Trade, attended the World Trade Organization's Third Global Review, where he presented lessons learned regarding trade building capacity and best practices, highlighting the findings of USAID's recent evaluation "[From Aid to Trade: Delivering Results.](#)" To learn more about the event, read his blog post [here](#).
- **White House Youth Webchat:** On July 7, **Administrator Shah** participated in an interactive White House youth roundtable moderated by **Kalpen Modi**, Associate Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement, to discuss how young people can play a critical role in international development. The [USAID Youth Impact](#) page, created to support the White House live chat with Administrator Shah, received more than 5,000 visits and over 100 comments during the event. To read the Administrator's blog post regarding the chat, click [here](#).

NOTABLE DEVELOPMENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS:

- **USAID – Gates Foundation DIV on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene:** USAID and the **Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation** have established WASH for Life, a new program in the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) sector. Over the next four years, the partnership will use USAID's [Development Innovation Ventures](#) (DIV) to identify and test approaches to cost-effective and sustained services in developing countries. To learn more about the partnership, click [here](#). To read Maura O'Neill, Senior Counselor for Innovation's blog post on this partnership, click [here](#). We view this partnership as an important validation of DIV's approach, which systematically seeks, tests, incubates, and mainstreams cost-effective, breakthrough ideas to substantially improve the lives of people in developing countries. Leadership through this type of innovation is a key piece of [USAID Forward](#) and DIV aims to be both a model and incubator for other donors, host countries, and organizations looking to use proven successes to impact people in developing countries.
- **USAID – Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture:** USAID and the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture's Disaster Risk Management and Food Security Sector recently launched the [Atlas of Ethiopian Livelihoods](#). With the current drought in the Horn of Africa, this uniquely comprehensive data set provides an important tool for planning development initiatives, strengthening early warning

preparations and emergency responses, and identifying particularly vulnerable populations so that USAID and other humanitarian organizations can effectively provide assistance.

- **Field Guide on Assistance to Civilian Law Enforcement:** USAID has created a field guide for the Agency's Democracy and Governance Officers entitled "Assistance to Civilian Law Enforcement in Developing Countries." The guide provides an important roadmap to implementing law enforcement development assistance and illustrates how a sustainable approach to developing law enforcement agencies helps strengthen democracies. For more information, click [here](#).

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOMINEES:

- USAID is working with Senate leadership to secure the confirmation of **Mara Rudman** to serve as Assistant Administrator for the Middle East.
- **Kevin Mullally** was sworn in as the first Mission Director to South Sudan. Stationed in Juba, **Mullally** will oversee a development program that addresses the nation's needs for effective government, conflict mitigation, health, and education. **Mullally** has served as mission director to Senegal and Rwanda and deputy mission director to Mali. He also brings extensive experience in agriculture assistance, one of the main focuses of the South Sudan mission. For more information, click [here](#).
- **Richard Greene** was sworn in as the new Mission Director for Bangladesh. He previously served as the Director of the Office of Health, Infectious Diseases, and Nutrition in USAID's Bureau for Global Health. For more information, click [here](#).

USAID IN THE NEWS:

- [Voice of America](#) aired a TV piece on the drought in the Horn of Africa. Featuring **Moffatt Ngugi**, a USAID Advisor in the Bureau for Food Security, the video emphasizes the importance of long-term solutions such as Feed the Future to develop markets and strengthen value chains to improve food security.
- [CNN](#), [McClatchy Newspapers](#), and [The Washington Post](#) reported on July 12 that at a speech to the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** cited the importance of foreign aid and how the State Department and USAID are using "commercial diplomacy" to help U.S. companies compete and win in the future.
- In a July 13 interview with [The Huffington Post](#), **Administrator Shah** discussed the current drought and food crisis in the Horn of Africa. Shah stated that the food shortages are putting millions of lives at risk and threatening to further destabilize a troubled region of the world.
- Foreign Policy's [The Cable](#) blog reported on July 14 that in a recent interview with Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources **Tom Nides**, the State Department and USAID have a national security mandate. "We are helping countries through Feed the Future, Global Health Initiatives, climate change, and economic support funding. We're doing that because we're building up these countries to be more self-reliant and have stronger economies. By doing that, that helps our national security," said Nides.

- On July 17, [The Washington Post](#) reported on USAID’s aid efforts in a post-Mubarak Egypt. The Agency has been providing pro-democracy grants to Egyptians in order to build businesses and promote transparent, democratic governance.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE UPDATE:

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

- Afghanistan Complex Emergency [fact sheet #3](#), dated July 13, 2011
- Cote d’Ivoire Complex Emergency [fact sheet #15](#), dated July 15, 2011
- Haiti Earthquake and Cholera [fact sheet #9](#), dated July 11, 2011
- Horn of Africa [fact sheet #2](#), dated July 14, 2011 [Note: Updated fact sheet available July 21]
- Libya Complex Emergency [fact sheet #35](#), dated July 15, 2011
- Pakistan Complex Emergency and Floods [fact sheet #2](#), dated July 8, 2011
- Yemen Complex Emergency [fact sheet #6](#), dated July 13, 2011

DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (DLI) UPDATE:

USAID has hired 711 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’s priority is in hiring applicants in the following backstops: Contracting Officers (BS-93), Agriculture Officers (BS-10), Crisis Stabilization & Governance Officers (BS-76), Program/Project Development Officers (BS-02/94), and Controllers (BS-04). To learn more about the DLI, including opportunities for employment, click [here](#). Check for the currently advertised positions.

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

Please let us know how we can be of assistance to you in the future by accessing an updated [list](#) of our Legislative Affairs team. For more information about USAID’s programs, please visit: usaid.gov. To read our blog, see 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.

