



CONGRESSIONAL BULLETIN

August 25, 2011

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HIGHLIGHTS

- **Horn of Africa Crisis Response:** On August 11, Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** spoke at the [International Food Policy Research Institute](#) on the drought crisis in East Africa, the U.S. response, and the efforts underway to raise funds for relief efforts. Secretary Clinton announced that the USG is providing an additional \$17 million to meet humanitarian needs in Somalia and Ethiopia, bringing total USG assistance to the region to more than \$580 million to date in FY 2011. **USAID and State continue to host weekly conference calls with Congressional staff to provide updated information on the U.S. Government's response to the drought in Ethiopia and Kenya and the famine in Somalia.** We invite you to join the call each **Tuesday at 10:30 a.m.** by dialing in at 1-877-848-9316, password "Horn." USAID is also working with Congressional offices, particularly Members who represent Somali, Ethiopian or Kenyan diaspora constituencies, to maintain the flow of information about the response effort and how people outside of the region can help those directly affected. **For more information or to arrange an event in your Congressional district, please contact Morgan McClain-McKinney at mmcclainmckinney@usaid.gov or (202) 712-1476.** Click [here](#) or read below for more information on the crisis.
- **Libya:** USAID continues to provide [humanitarian assistance](#) to conflict-affected populations in Libya. **On Friday, August 26, USAID and State will begin weekly conference calls with congressional staff** to provide information on humanitarian assistance to Libya and to Libyan refugees on the Egypt and Tunisia borders. These calls will be held **each Friday at 10:30 a.m.** To join the call, dial in at 1-877-848-9316, password "Libya."
- **Tropical Storm and Hurricane in the Caribbean:** USAID responded to Tropical Storm Emily and is closely monitoring Hurricane Irene. For Tropical Storm Emily, USAID activated disaster teams in the Dominican Republic and Haiti to monitor the storm's progression and impact and to work with local authorities to respond as necessary. For Hurricane Irene, USAID staff are closely monitoring the storm, which continues its current path over Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Turks and Caicos Islands, the Bahamas, and toward the United States.

- **Cyprus Disaster Declaration:** The U.S. Embassy declared a disaster in Cyprus as a result of the July 11th explosion that took place at the Evangelos Florakis naval base killing 13, injuring dozens more, and leaving the island without sufficient energy and water supplies. Official requests for assistance came from the Republic of Cyprus' Ambassador to the U.S. and from the Cyprus Red Cross Society (CRCS). Fifty thousand dollars from USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance will be provided to the CRCS to obtain new portable generators, communications equipment, and other relief supplies so that it can service its Home for Children with Disabilities and other vulnerable populations concentrated in regional community centers.
- **Award for the Advancement of Women:** USAID is proud to announce that **Deputy Administrator Don Steinberg** and **Melanne Verveer**, State's Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women's Issues, have been selected as winners of InterAction's [2011 Mildred Robbins Leet Award for the Advancement of Women](#). In his eleven months at USAID, **Deputy Steinberg** has worked to mainstream gender into all of our priority initiatives, launched USAID's contribution to a National Action Plan on women, peace and security, brought on board talented staff to focus on gender issues, and shaped the new Office of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. Click [here](#) for more information on USAID's work in this area.
- **From the Archives...** As USAID marks its fiftieth anniversary, we have recently uncovered audio of [President Kennedy speaking to an early group of USAID Mission Directors](#) and Deputy Mission Directors in the Rose Garden at the White House in 1962. Click [here](#) to listen to President's Kennedy's remarks.

PUBLIC EVENTS

- **Congressional Black Caucus Job Fair and Recruitment:** USAID was pleased to send representatives to job fairs in Atlanta and Miami over the past two weeks as part of the Congressional Black Caucus' ['For the People' Jobs Initiative](#). For more information on USAID career opportunities in Washington, DC or overseas, please click [here](#).
- **InterAction Forum 2011:** On August 10, USAID Deputy Administrator **Donald Steinberg** joined several USAID principals in addressing InterAction's Forum 2011: Investing in Common Solutions. Click [here](#) to read Deputy Steinberg's opening address.
- **Procurement and Implementation Reform Open Forum:** On August 17, USAID employees joined **Administrator Shah** for an update on procurement and implementation reform efforts and to share lessons learned and best practices. Through the [USAID Forward](#) agenda, the Agency is focused on providing guidance and adjusting policy where appropriate to enhance competition, broaden our partner base, and achieve greater long-term sustainable impact. Click [here](#) to learn more about USAID's work to reform our procurement processes and improve implementation. On a related note, USAID/South Africa recently delivered a capacity building course, drawing partners came from five countries across the region to build their understanding of USAID policies and procedures, enhance their capacities in program design, monitoring and evaluation, and deepen the partnership with USAID regional staff from technical, financial, program and contractual offices. Currently, over one third of USAID/South Africa's portfolio flows through South African organizations.

- **2011 Alliance Builders Forum:** USAID hosted nearly 120 attendees at an Alliance Builders Forum in late July to promote knowledge sharing in the area of public-private partnerships. Key participants included USAID alliance officers as well as private sector representatives from such businesses and associations as Amway, Caterpillar, Chevron, Clean Air Action, Cisco, Corporate Council on Africa, HP, Intel, Microsoft, WaterHealth International, and the World Cocoa Foundation. Key thought leaders – Jason Saul, CEO and founder of Mission Measurement and author of *Social Innovation, Inc.*; Christopher Jurgens of Accenture Development Partnerships; Bart Houlihan of B Corporation, Sameer Mithal of WaterHealth International, and Alan Trager of Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government – spoke on current alliance trends and innovations. Click [here](#) for more information on USAID’s public-private alliances.
- **Iftar Dinner:** USAID was pleased to welcome Congressional colleagues to the Agency’s 10th annual Iftar Dinner on August 17. More than one hundred participants attended this year’s Iftar, including interagency colleagues, leaders from other faith-based communities, diplomats, NGO and think tank leaders, as well as USAID senior staff.
- **Mobiles for Education for Development:** USAID and Stanford University co-hosted a [Mobiles for Education for Development](#) (m4Ed4Dev) Symposium in Washington, D.C., bringing together donors, NGOs, foundations, private sector partners, academic researchers, and implementing organizations to explore cutting edge intersections between mobile devices, education, and development and analyze current projects to share results and best practices.

PARTNERSHIPS AND NOTABLE DEVELOPMENTS

- **Horn of Africa:** On August 8, Second Lady Dr. **Jill Biden**, USAID Administrator **Rajiv Shah**, former Senator **Bill Frist**, Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration **Eric Schwartz**, and Special Assistant to the President **Gayle Smith** travelled to the Horn of Africa and issued [statements](#) to raise [visibility of the famine and drought](#). The delegation visited the Dadaab Refugee Complex in eastern Kenya, met with Kenyan President Kibaki, Prime Minister Odinga and Agriculture Minister Kosgei, and visited the Kenya Agricultural Research Institute in Nairobi. **Administrator Shah** penned a two-part [blog post](#) about the immediate needs in Kenya’s refugee camps and agricultural innovations that are addressing long-term food security.
On August 11-17, **USAID Bureau for Food Security staff** travelled to Kenya and Ethiopia to establish a joint planning cell with the Kenyan and Ethiopian Missions and discuss emergency response, social safety net programs, and long-term resiliency building with USAID/Kenya and other partners on the ground. **Nancy Lindborg**, USAID Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, is in the region this week.
- **Mobile Alliance for Maternal Action (MAMA) Pilot in Bangladesh:** First announced by Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** in May 2011, USAID/Bangladesh recently launched its first pilot project under [MAMA](#). The [partnership](#), which creates a platform to send both audio and text messages to pregnant women, new mothers, and family gatekeepers on health issues, leverages the resources of USAID, the Government of Bangladesh, and the Beximco Pharmaceuticals Limited, a leading pharmaceutical company in Bangladesh. Over the next three years, the partnership will work across Bangladesh to help coordinate and increase the impact of existing mobile health programs, provide resources and technical assistance to promising new business models, and develop case studies on the effective application of mobile technology to improve maternal health.

- **India Pesticide Reduction Project:** A partnership between USAID, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in India has saved more than \$98 million in papaya plantation losses and an additional \$36 million due to reduced pesticide use, through the introduction of a bio-control agent that manages the spread of the crop-devastating papaya mealy bug. The crop savings and reduced pesticide use resulted from a total investment of \$200,000, which facilitated the release of the agent in 36 research stations and 1,500 villages across Tamil Nadu over the past year.
- **Music Television End Exploitation and Trafficking (MTV-Exit):** More than one million people in Thailand recently viewed "Enslaved: An MTV-EXIT Special," a documentary exposing the dangers of human trafficking. Nearly half of those viewers hailed from rural areas, where the most vulnerable populations live. Another special shown on the mainstream media during Thai prime time, reached an audience estimated at 3,617,000 people. Of this, more than two million viewers were in the targeted rural areas. USAID contributed \$450,000 for the [entire campaign](#), which continues to demonstrate its effectiveness in Thailand and throughout Southeast Asia.
- **USAID Education Reform Program Bears Fruit in Liberia:** USAID-supported educational reform efforts bore fruit on August 8 when Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf signed the Liberian New Education Reform Act of 2011. The Education Reform Act will make basic education – up to grade 9 – compulsory and free, and create county school boards that will promote community responsibility for schools and their effectiveness. The formulation of the new education law is an example of USAID support for country-led policy reform, under the leadership of the Ministry of Education. USAID has provided targeted technical assistance to the Ministry of Education for several years, undertaking education sector studies, conducting legal and policy reviews, hosting consultative conferences with education stakeholders, and assisting Ministry of Education efforts to publicize the law.

PERSONNEL

- USAID is working with Senate leadership to secure the confirmation of **Mara Rudman** to serve as Assistant Administrator for the Middle East.
- **Melissa Williams** was sworn in as Mission Director for Zimbabwe on August 5, 2011.
- USAID is proud to announce that **Fernando Bolanos**, who has worked as a Senior Foreign Service National for our education office in Peru for more than a decade, has been appointed by President Humala as Peru's Vice Minister of Education for Institutional Management.

USAID IN THE NEWS

- On August 8, **Nancy Lindborg** discussed the efforts to alleviate the effects of the famine with the [Huffington Post](#).
- On August 9, [AP reported](#) that on Monday, Dr. **Jill Biden** and **Administrator Shah** visited Somalis at a refugee camp in Kenya. The [AP also highlighted](#) the White House announcement of \$105 million in humanitarian aid that will provide food, shelter, water, and sanitation and health services to those in need.
- [ClimateWire interviewed](#) Dr. **Kit Batten**, USAID Climate Change Coordinator, to discuss USAID's climate change policy.
- An August 10 feature story published in [The Sheboygan Press](#) highlighted the work of a local USAID Foreign Service Officer. **Michael Eddy**, a Sheboygan, Wisconsin native, recently completed working in South Sudan, helping the new country achieve independence.

- On August 10, [NPR](#) and [Reuters](#) reported on funding for development and humanitarian assistance priorities as the drought in the Horn of Africa.
- President of Liberia **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** wrote an Op-Ed for the [Washington Post](#) on August 12 entitled “How American aid is lifting Liberia.” The article emphasized the significant impact that USAID has had on Liberia’s economic, social and infrastructural progress.
- On August 16, former **Senator Bill Frist** wrote a piece on CNN’s website about why Americans should [care about famine in Africa](#) and emphasized the importance of medical care in emergency response. In an August 16 [Wall Street Journal](#) op-ed, Dr. Frist wrote about his trip to the Horn of Africa.
- On August 23, **Administrator Shah** [blogged on the Huffington Post](#) about the international partnership called Saving Lives at Birth: A Grand Challenge in Development and posted a short [video documentary](#) which captures the spirit of the initiative.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE UPDATE

- Haiti Earthquake and Cholera [fact sheet #11](#), dated August 12, 2011
- Horn of Africa Drought [fact sheet #8](#), dated August 18, 2011 *A new fact sheet will be issued on August 25 and can be viewed [here](#).*
- Libya Complex Emergency [fact sheet #40](#), dated August 18, 2011
- Cote d’Ivoire Complex Emergency [fact sheet #17](#), dated August 12, 2011
- South Sudan Complex Emergency [fact sheet #1](#), dated August 10, 2011
- Yemen Complex Emergency [fact sheet #8](#), dated August 10, 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. A listing of our Legislative Affairs team members is available [here](#).

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.

