



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FRONT LINES

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New educational opportunities are opening for Serbs. See page 6.



Photo by A. Wötschurke

This Serbian high school student recently visited Germany through a student exchange program.

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Photo by Munir uz Zaman, AFP

Bangladesh is one of 20 countries to receive aid under the \$3.5 billion Feed the Future initiative led by USAID. Here, a Bangladeshi laborer winnows rice grains on the outskirts of Dhaka.

\$3.5B U.S. Hunger Plan to Feed 40 Million People

By Angela Rucker

Administrator Rajiv Shah announced on May 20 a wide-ranging plan to revamp agricultural assistance in developing countries and address the growing problem of world hunger.

The Feed the Future initiative calls for investing at least \$3.5 billion over three years to fight hunger and malnutrition in 20 focus countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. If it works as planned, Feed the Future will aid 40 million people over the next 10 years with food and other benefits.

"We know agricultural development is a springboard for broader economic development and we know food security is the

foundation for peace and opportunity, and therefore, our own national security," Shah said in announcing the initiative at a forum in Washington hosted by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

The initiative's formal announcement comes almost one year after President Barack Obama, during his first G8 Summit in L'Aquila, Italy, pledged to reverse years of shrinking aid budgets for agriculture in poor countries. Obama said that wealthy countries would pool together at least \$18.5 billion to make this happen.

see **HUNGER** on page 12 ▶

Clinton Calls for Unified U.S. Approach to Aid

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton has renewed a call for greater cooperation among defense, diplomacy, and development to advance U.S. goals in the coming years.

"One of our goals coming into the administration was to . . . begin to make the case that defense, diplomacy, and development were not separate entities . . . they had to be viewed as part of an integrated whole," she said in a speech May 27 at the Brookings Institution in Washington.

Speaking as the Obama administration released its first national security strategy, Clinton said U.S. "overriding objectives" are "security, prosperity, the explanation and spread of our values, and a just and sustainable international order."

She noted that efforts to unify diplomacy, development, and defense faced some "resistance in our government" and among international experts.

see **CLINTON** on page 14 ▶

InterAction Forum Debates Aid

By Ben Barber

WASHINGTON—Hundreds of foreign aid workers from major U.S. NGOs and aid agencies that belong to the InterAction coalition met at the Washington Convention Center June 2-4 to debate the methods, policies, goals, and rationale of U.S. foreign assistance.

"In the past three years, 80 InterAction members have put more than \$8 billion of U.S. taxpayer resources through USAID into work on behalf of, really, the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world," said Administrator Rajiv Shah in a keynote address at the InterAction 2010 Forum.

"In many cases, InterAction members put their lives on the line and take great risks in doing this work," said Shah. In 2008 alone, there were 62 humanitarian workers kidnapped, he noted.

USAID and InterAction members are "very much in this together, and I see the opportunity to visit with InterAction as a bit of a family reunion," Shah said.

The forum included a discussion of aid broadcast live on National Public Radio's Kojo Nnamdi Show.

Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-Va.) told the forum: "I'm old enough to remember justification for bilateral aid programs based on the Cold War. All of that rationale . . . has collapsed." He noted that Congress is working to revise the 1961 Foreign Assistance Act.

"American foreign aid has also become increasingly fragmented among various departments and

see **FORUM** on page 14 ▶



Photo by Anna Gohmann, USAID

Emergency aid to Haiti continues following the Jan. 12 earthquake. Here, channels dug underneath roads and walkways allow water to wash away from shelters. See story on page 5.

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Aid Groups Debate: Can They Protect the People They Serve?

This article first appeared May 24 on the website of the U.N. news agency, IRIN (Integrated Regional Information Networks). It is reprinted here with IRIN's permission and edited for space by FrontLines.

When people are driven from their homes by fighting or persecution, what they need most of all is protection. Since World War II, the United Nations has provided protection by giving out certificates that recognize people as refugees entitled to asylum.

But when people are driven from their homes yet remain inside their home countries, they are considered “displaced persons” and find it harder to get protection.

Some aid groups and human rights advocates say people should have protection from child abuse, rape, hunger, and disease—a protection that widens the meaning of the term and may be far beyond the ability of any agency to provide worldwide.

For example, in Rwanda, the international community proved unable to protect some 800,000 people murdered in a genocide against Tutsis in 1994. The following article debates the extent to which protection is or can ever be a real human right.

— B.B.

The U.N. refugee agency UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) have been protecting civilians for decades.

But protection by aid agencies, NGOs, and the wider humanitarian community is still relatively new and loosely defined.

Some experts warn of the danger of over-promising what cannot be delivered.

UNHCR and ICRC protection mandates are defined by international law; other humanitarian agencies protect people from harm, abuse, and exploitation. Sometimes they protect such rights as shelter, water, and education.

IRIN interviewed the following humanitarian protection specialists to discover the different ways of viewing protection: Marc DuBois, head of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) in Britain; Bo Viktor Nylund, UNICEF senior advisor on child protection in emergencies; Bill Forbes, associate director of protection at World Vision International, the world's largest relief and development NGO; and Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, deputy director

of international protection services at UNHCR.

Q: How do you define your organization's protection role and where its protection limits lie?

A: Marc DuBois, MSF UK—We struggle even with the word, “protection”—different people in MSF have different approaches to it and there is no consensus. Responding to humanitarian crises requires more than the sterile distribution of goods and services; if a population is being abused, it requires more than assistance, and humanitarians should pat themselves on the back for breaking through the “aid alone” barrier.

MSF's protection limits are not hard and fast. We can try to stop people at checkpoints from harassing patients crossing in search of health care; we can design our own programs to minimize violence, [like] delivering tents to Haitians in a way that will not end up in a riot, but we cannot go out and stop physical violence and abuse—that is a clear limit.

A: Bo Viktor Nylund, UNICEF—The way we define protection varies a lot. UNICEF's [2008] child protection strategy states [that it] is “preventing and responding to violence, exploitation, and abuse to ensure children's rights

to survival, development, and well-being,” but UNICEF also signs up to a broader, rights-based inter-agency definition of protection through the protection cluster.

Whenever you engage with governments or non-state actors on protection of civilians against harm or abuse, you always have to have in mind their accountability. You are there to assist them, to see how they will protect people from abuse.

You can't ... be the agency taking on those responsibilities. In Haiti, when there was no police force up and running, and displaced people were experiencing abuse, we could not just stand by and do nothing, but we tried to build the capacity of remaining police forces to address it.

In Sri Lanka, we advocated for the release of children in the government armed forces, but we wouldn't start sending supplies to strengthen police forces, or hand out money that could be used to fuel conflict. It's a thin line we tread.

A: Bill Forbes, World Vision—World Vision is committed to doing everything possible to ensure that our activities do not put children at risk. We define this as being a “child-safe organization” ... [which] includes efforts at prevention, responding, and protecting related to abuse, neglect, exploitation, and other forms of violence against children.

We do not promise that children in our target communities will be safe. We do not take on the responsibility for security, other than ensuring all efforts to not put people at risk of harm through participation in activities. However, since we work in volatile environments, even this must be spelled out in each crisis.

A: Ruvendrini Menikdiwela, UNHCR—We define it both [in terms of] content and the people we cover, which includes refugees, stateless people, returnees, and internally displaced persons [IDPs]. We don't have a generic protection definition.

For refugee protection, we follow the gamut of rights in the 1951 Refugee Convention, and for stateless people, the 1954 and 1961 Conventions are applied. With IDPs, there is no

internationally binding legal treaty, but our work is mainly based on the 1988 guiding principles.

The protection cluster's 40 or so members have adopted a definition, which defines protection as “all activities aimed at respecting the rights of the individual in accordance with letter and spirit of all relevant bodies of law, including international humanitarian law, international human rights law, or international refugee law.”

Q: Since few agencies have the same notion of what “humanitarian protection” means, should it be scrapped altogether? Should agencies just label the activities that make it up—mental health support, documentation of human rights abuses, and the like?

A: DuBois—There is no need to scrap it. The term works internally for us, and we do break protection into projects. We know what we mean by humanitarian protection, it is just not what the public understands by it. They think it is mainly provision of physical safety: when the armed forces stop bad people doing bad things to good people.

[Writing in Humanitarian Exchange magazine, DuBois cited the following question: If you were walking in the street and saw a group of people beating a child on the ground, which of the following activities would you consider protection?

1. Run across the street and stop the attacker.
2. Keep walking. Lobby for better street lighting.
3. Run home and write down everything you witnessed as a report for publication.
4. Visit the family of the victim to offer replacements for torn clothing.

He said humanitarians considered all the responses as examples of humanitarian protection, whereas the public overwhelmingly thought only of the first.]

A: Nylund—The risk [of scrapping humanitarian protection] would be that the 20 years we have spent trying to get coherence on what ... [it] means would be lost. We each feel a bit differently about what protection means, but hopefully we complement each

other in the field. If we all did the same thing, our services would not be wide enough.

A: Menikdiwela, UNHCR—Whatever category of assistance you use relates to fundamental human rights, which is protection. You can't scrap it. Each agency interprets the parameters through their own lens: UNICEF through child protection, OHCHR through human rights protection, UNHCR as refugee protection. The value of these mandates lies in their diversity.

We are clearly a long way from being perfect entities, but there are merits to diversity. The challenge is to ensure all protection responses encompass different aspects ... [and] displaced people, women at the risk of sexual violence, and unaccompanied children are all covered in a crisis.

Q: What do you see as being the biggest protection gaps?

A: Forbes, World Vision—From a child protection perspective, I would say that exploitation through labor, violence in the home, and harmful traditional practices are the most critical.

A: Nylund, UNICEF—The biggest protection gap relates to scale. The scale of UNICEF's and others' protection programs ... is not sufficient. While some donors are more forceful about making sure funding goes to protection, in humanitarian appeals, protection is almost always underfunded.

A: Menikdiwela, UNHCR—There are no gaps that are being completely unaddressed at the global level. Ten years ago, governments wouldn't be talking about “responsibility to protect.”

In some cases where states are not living up to their duties ... the gap is more about translating concepts at a [U.N.] policy level in Geneva and New York into the field of operations; transitioning from concepts to reality on the ground.

The entire article can be found online at: www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=89236. ★

MISSION OF THE MONTH



Children at Kindergarten No. 9 in Bakhchysaray, Crimea, benefit from USAID assistance. The kindergarten uses solar panels that reduce electricity costs.

Photo by Simone Kozhuharov

UKRAINE



USAID's assistance. Before the installment of the solar panels, water was warmed in a large cooking pot. Now, this work is done by solar panels. Hot water accumulates in the boiler, ready for use at any time.

By using solar panels, the kindergarten demonstrated to the community how it can cut costs as well as be more environmentally friendly.

Kindergarten Director Lyudmila Basenko said "solar energy helps us not only to

In 2008, the Creative Union of Scientific and Engineering Societies of Crimea was among the first winners of a nationwide grant competition in support of energy conservation funded by USAID.

save electricity, but also makes us less dependent on limited budget funding. At least we have warm water for our children."

To support solar energy, the Creative Union set up an information center in Simferopol to advise on energy-saving issues and installation of solar-power equipment. USAID funding also enabled the Creative Union to partner with four producers of solar equipment, local governments, and expert NGOs to expand its promotion of solar energy. ★

INSIGHTS

FROM ADMINISTRATOR DR. RAJIV SHAH



Since joining USAID, I have been enormously impressed by the capacity of this agency, including the breadth of the wisdom and innovation underway in so many corners of our organization.

As I have said consistently since my confirmation hearing, in order to make the most of USAID's unique knowledge and experience, we must enhance our institutional capacity to inform and shape development policies. To tackle the toughest global challenges—whether natural disaster displacements, threats of civil unrest, or the persistent social disparities that hold back human progress—we must be able to channel the expertise and experience of all our development professionals through a unified voice.

We have taken an important step toward achieving this goal with the establishment of the Bureau of Policy, Planning, and Learning (PPL). I expect PPL to provide policy analysis, meaningful evaluations, strategic planning coordination, and a dedicated focus on using science and technology to solve development problems. The bureau will also project an informed and unified voice in interagency and external fora.

PPL will also support USAID's evolution as a learning organization that is results-oriented and that fosters interchange among policy, planning, evaluation, research, innovation, and knowledge management activities. The bureau will promote active engagement with, and learning from, our national and global development partners. Finally, the bureau will play an active role in advising me regarding the fiscal year 2012 budget and in follow-up to the PSD-7 (Presidential Study Directive) and QDDR (Quadrennial Diplomacy and Development Review) processes.

As I have traveled to our missions overseas and engaged with Agency leadership in Washington, I have heard a consistent call for reasserting USAID's leadership through the design of development strategies. Working with our regional bureaus, PPL will support our missions in the preparation of Country Development Cooperation Strategies (CDCS) and will streamline planning and reporting processes. In July, we will organize Washington reviews for pilot CDCS in Liberia, Uganda, and Peru.

In mid-July, PPL will facilitate a conference of leading thinkers on "Transformational Development Through Science and Technology." In the fall, I will announce a new initiative on Monitoring, Evaluation, and Transparency, which will be led by the bureau.

PPL is also taking the lead in revising our policy formulation process, which will involve targeted teams, using an evidence-based approach to provide strategic and practical guidance to our agency and partners.

I hope that you are as pleased as I am to have in place such a crucial addition to the Agency's capabilities and to see this very real manifestation of progress toward our shared goal of bringing the best thinking into the service of development. But, with this new capability comes new expectations. We must lead based on the rigor, creativity, and strength of our ideas. I am excited about the challenge and the opportunity. ★

Solar Power Improves Energy Picture in Ukraine

By Katya Kopchuk and Olha Myrtsalo

Challenge

Using energy effectively and efficiently is one of the most pressing challenges facing Ukraine today.

During the summer tourist season, energy use and costs peak in Crimea, an autonomous region inside Ukraine.

"Crimea is one of the sunniest regions of Ukraine and enjoys about 280 sunny days a year. So it's the most appropriate place to utilize solar energy," said Aleksandr Slepokurov, head of the Creative Union of Scientific and Engineering Societies of Crimea, an NGO based in Crimea's capital city Simferopol.

"By installing solar panels, Crimeans can better satisfy their demand for energy use and significantly save costs."

Innovative Response

USAID programs improve energy efficiency and conservation in Ukraine by developing new technologies.

One of USAID's energy programs in Ukraine—Municipal Partnerships for Better Energy Use—is designed to involve local governments and communities in raising awareness of the issue, stimulate local partnerships and innovations,

and strengthen the ability of local organizations to continue work in the field.

In 2008, the Creative Union of Scientific and Engineering Societies of Crimea was among the first winners of a nationwide grant competition in support of energy conservation funded by USAID.

"We were very excited about the competition. Our team had been thinking about opportunities to develop solar energy in Crimea but we did not have enough resources," Slepokurov said.

Under the grant, experts from the Creative Union researched harnessing solar energy, evaluated current use and benefits of solar power, and listed all suppliers that provide solar equipment.

To apply this technology more effectively, the Creative Union audited the energy efficiency of 12 public-sector buildings—including a school, hospital, and administrative building—and analyzed energy-saving opportunities in the Bakhchisaray district. Based on these audits, experts developed instructions on solar panel installation that could be replicated by local authorities throughout Crimea.

Results

Kindergarten No. 9 in Bakhchysaray, Crimea, is among the first to benefit from

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

BRIEFS

Granville and Rahama Killers Escape Sudan Jail

KHARTOUM, Sudan—Four men sentenced to death for killing USAID employees John Granville and Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama escaped through the sewer system of Kober prison June 11 and shot dead a police officer as they fled the capital, police told Reuters.

Granville and Rahama were killed when they returned from New Year's celebrations on Jan. 1, 2008.

During the trial, the prosecution said defendants Mohamed Makkawi Ibrahim Mohamed and Abdel Basit al-Hajj Hassan fired the fatal shots. Prosecution statements said the third defendant, Mohamed Osman Yusuf Mohamed, a former Sudanese army officer, was the driver of the attackers' vehicle, while Abdel Raouf Abu Zaid Mohamed, the son of a well-known Islamic preacher, was a passenger.

The four denied murdering Granville and Rahama, saying taped confessions were extracted under torture.

A group in Sudan calling itself Ansar al-Tawhid (Supporters of Monotheism) claimed responsibility for the killings, saying they

were fighting against efforts to "Christianize" Sudan.

African Economy Growing Says McKinsey

Africa's economic growth is accelerating after decades of stagnation as global demand for commodities rises and as Africans move to cities and spend more, McKinsey & Co. said June 9 in a report, according to Bloomberg.

Fifty percent of Africans will live in cities by 2030, up from about 40 percent today, and the top 18 cities will have combined spending power of \$1.3 trillion, said McKinsey in its quarterly report.

The rate of return on foreign investment is higher in Africa than in any other developing region and gross domestic product expanded by 4.9 percent a year from 2000 through 2008, more than twice the pace of the 1980s and 1990s, McKinsey said.

Obama Pledges More Aid to Palestinians

President Barack Obama met with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas June 9 as tensions remained high over Israel's blockade of the Gaza Strip, Bloomberg reported.

Obama announced the United States will provide \$400 million in aid for housing,

school construction, and other infrastructure improvements in Gaza and the West Bank to help improve the "day-to-day lives of ordinary Palestinians," Bloomberg reported.

"The situation in Gaza is unsustainable," Obama said, calling for a new "conceptual framework" for Israel's blockade of ships bringing supplies to Gaza to focus more narrowly on stopping the flow of arms into Gaza.

Abbas thanked Obama for the aid pledge, saying the "United States cares about the suffering of the people in Gaza and about the suffering of the Palestinian people."

The aid includes more than \$100 million channeled through USAID. Of that, \$75 million will be for infrastructure improvements in the Palestinian territories, \$5 million for projects to repair water distribution and wastewater systems, and \$10 million to bolster Palestinian businesses. Another \$10 million would pay for construction of five new schools in Gaza.

The biggest portion is \$240 million to the Overseas Private Investment Corp. for home mortgages in the West Bank.

Gates, USAID Use Phones for Haitian Cash

SEATTLE/ WASHINGTON—The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and USAID

announced June 8 a \$10 million incentive fund to start offering financial services by mobile phone in Haiti and expedite the delivery of cash assistance to victims of the country's Jan. 12 devastating earthquake.

Enabling Haitians to send, receive, and store money using their mobile phones reduces the risks and costs of financial transactions, increases savings, and generates employment. They also connect people to services like banking, insurance, and utilities.

Administrator Rajiv Shah said that "before the earthquake, fewer than 10 percent of Haitians had ever used a commercial bank. A mobile money system can restore and remake banking in Haiti and serve as an engine of inclusive growth."

The first company to launch a mobile money service that meets certain criteria in the next six months will receive \$2.5 million. The second operator to launch and reach these benchmarks within 12 months will receive \$1.5 million. Another \$6 million will be awarded as the first 5 million transactions take place, divided accordingly between those operators that contributed to the total number of transactions.

Medical Group Says Donors Cut AIDS Funds

JOHANNESBURG—Doctors are being forced to turn away

people with HIV/AIDS in eight African countries as donors cut funding amid the global economic meltdown, an aid group said May 27, according to The Associated Press.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), also known as Doctors Without Borders, said funding cuts threaten to unravel years of progress on the continent hardest hit by AIDS.

The MSF study looked at AIDS programs in Congo, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Uganda, and Zimbabwe, and found the effects of funding cuts widespread.

In Kenya, clinics fear running out of money. Health policy makers in Mozambique and Uganda say they cannot afford to follow international standards for the commencement of treatment.

MSF found people were turned away because the clinics did not have enough medication.

However, Eric Goosby, head of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), said in a statement to AP that the budget had increased from \$6.8 billion in 2010 to "nearly" \$7 billion for 2011 and the number of people PEPFAR directly supports on treatment increased from 1.6 million to nearly 2.5 million in 2009.

From news reports and other sources. ★

FRONTLINES: JUNES PAST

1970: A May 31 earthquake strikes Peru, leaving 300,000 people homeless in the Callejon de Hulleas Valley of the Andes Mountains, reports the June 19 edition of *FrontLines*. USAID plays a key role in responding to the disaster that Robert Finch, presidential assistant in charge of relief for Peru, called "the worst

catastrophe in the history of the western Americas."

1980: While modern chemicals have helped to solve a host of problems—including the control of insects, weeds, rodents, and microorganisms—concerns arise over resulting threats to the environment and human health, reports the June 12 *FrontLines*. Use of alternative methods of control such as natural predators and

development of genetically resistant plant strains could decrease U.S. pesticide use by up to 75 percent, according to the congressional Office of Technology Assessment.

1990: Following Nicaragua's first "free and fair" elections on April 25, the Agency's Task Force on Humanitarian Assistance ceases operations, having completed its work, reports the June

FrontLines. The task force's \$157 million program supported the Central American peace process that included assistance for the Nicaraguan Resistance and resulted in an election victory for the democratic opposition.

2000: *FrontLines* highlights a report from the Business Alliance for International Economic Development concluding that growth of the

U.S. economy is linked to the increase of a worldwide middle class. "America's trading partners of the future will account for a growing percentage of the jobs within our borders," says the report. Development programs play a critical role in the process, notes the report that promotes the expansion of foreign assistance. ★

EMERGENCY AID TO HAITI CONTINUES AS RECONSTRUCTION BEGINS



Photo by Anna Gohmann, USAID

Sandbagging along a pathway in Haiti helps to prevent flood damage.

While some aid groups prepare to spend billions of dollars on reconstructing Haiti's capital after the Jan. 12 earthquake—among the worst disasters ever in the Western hemisphere—the emergency operations may continue up to a year and half, aid experts said May 25 in Washington.

“Four months after the quake, we are still into the emergency phase and will be for a long time,” said Paul Weisenfeld, USAID Haiti Task Team coordinator. He spoke at a panel held by the Society for International Development in Washington.

“Everyone has lost someone,” said Mark Schneider, former USAID assistant administrator in the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean and currently senior vice president of the International Crisis Group. “The emergency will go on for some time. This is a long-term project. It will take a generation to move Haiti forward.”

Haiti's disaster came after two years of relative progress under President René Préval, said Schneider. The Caribbean nation of 9 million is also benefitting from the presence of 7,000 U.N. peacekeepers, 3,000 U.N. police, and 1,000 international civilians.

William Canny, director of emergency operations for Catholic Relief Services (CRS), said aid was difficult to deliver after the quake left 230,000 dead and

destroyed much of the city—including government offices. Among the challenges:

- ▶ staff care was needed for Haitian and foreign employees who lost family and homes;
- ▶ needs assessments and delivery of relief supplies faced blocked roads, thousands of homeless survivors, and loss of skilled staff;
- ▶ security became a problem in the first week as some aid trucks were pillaged and criminals escaped from jail; and
- ▶ supplies were blocked by damage to the airport and seaport.

Canny said that troops from the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne Division broke the logjam, helped reopen the airport and seaport, and helped with security so that “we began to see humanitarian space to do our work.” By the third week, CRS, working with the World Food Program, was able to organize large scale distribution of relief supplies.

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Creative Student Ads Educate Public on Disaster Donations

Students competing to create winning public serve announcements (PSAs) aimed at decreasing the amount of inappropriate donations sent to worldwide disaster sites had plenty of natural disasters this past year to work with.

A magnitude 7.0 earthquake struck Haiti Jan. 12. A magnitude 8.8 quake struck the coast of Chile Feb. 27. In April, there were two more major quakes: the first, near the Mexico-California border, registered 7.2; and the second, in a quake-prone area of China, registered 6.9. And there was an assortment of floods, cyclones, volcanic eruptions, and other natural disasters

Money—rather than in-kind donations like clothing or canned goods—is the most efficient way to render assistance, disaster and development officials have stressed for years.

that received varying amounts of international attention and aid.

The students were competing in the fifth annual Center for International Disaster Information (CIDI) competition to design PSAs educating people who want to respond to international disasters. The message the announcements convey is that making cash donations to reputable relief agencies is the best way to help. Money—rather than in-kind

donations like clothing or canned goods—is the most efficient way to render assistance, disaster and development officials have stressed for years.

Cash allows first responders to provide immediate and appropriate relief at the height of a disaster and beyond.

“It’s a huge message. We’re trying to send out help to people who really need the help,” said Rika Endo, a rising sophomore at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia, whose team captured first place in the broadcast category of the competition.

“Chile happened while we working on it. Haiti was big enough,” she said. “It made me realize how much people really need help.”

Endo led a five-person team that considered nine different

see **STUDENTS** on page 11 ▶

Make sure he gets what he needs

When you make material donations (such as food & clothes) to disaster relief efforts, you are taking a chance on what victims need at the cost of sorting, storing, shipping, and distributing the items.

Pledge to make your good intentions count.

Please give cash.

www.cidi.org

CIDI USAID

1st place print winner in the 2010 PSAid competition: “Give Him What He Needs”

Authors: Lauren Ruggenroll, Aleena Astorga, Shannon Timms, Joshua Belhumeur, Kristen Schissel, Lindsey Erick, and Carmen Lamasdrif of Tucson, Ariz.

THE REGIONS

EUROPE & EURASIA



Students from Krusevac, Serbia, visit Germany through a USAID-supported exchange program.

Student Exchange Opens Channels Between Germany and Serbia

By Mirjana Vuksa

BELGRADE, Serbia—

In December 2009, the U.S. and German embassies announced they would fund education and other opportunities for young Serbs.

The announcement coincided with the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and the lifting of visa requirements for Serbs to travel to European Union (EU) countries.

Now, nearly six months later, approximately 100 students from five Serbian economic high schools have visited their counterpart schools in Germany, while 14 students from German schools have come to Serbia, with the remaining schools scheduled to participate in the exchange program at the start of the next academic year.

The United States is providing \$200,000 to form 30 economic school partnerships and allow 480 Serbian high school students and 40 Serbian teachers and headmasters to participate in an exchange program based on a competitive process. It also allows several hundred German students to visit Serbia and learn more about a future EU member state.

The United States is providing \$200,000 to form 30 economic school partnerships and allow 480 Serbian high school students and 40 Serbian teachers and headmasters to participate in an exchange program based on a competitive process.

The program gives students, teachers, and headmasters from economic high schools in Serbia an opportunity to experience first-hand a modern European educational system through partnerships with German economic schools.

“The participation of our school in the program is invaluable for the education of our children, for our economy, and our society as a whole,” said Milibor Sakovic, the director of the first economic high school in Belgrade. “It is the only possibility to create a cadre for the open labor market.”

Added Assistant Minister for Education Bogoljub Lazarevic: “It is only when we compete internationally that we can see how much we are actually worth.”

The program is part of USAID’s Partnership@work initiative.

U.S. Embassy Charge d’Affairs Jennifer Brush said that she knows how valuable such exchange programs can be. In the 1970s she came to Serbia as an exchange student and she still stays in touch with the people she met.

One of the goals of the program is to help establish long-term relationships between high schools in Serbia and Germany. It is also helping to encourage continued reform of Serbia’s education system and contribute to Serbia’s EU integration process. ★

LATIN AMERICA

Local Clinics Improve Health Services in Honduras

By Samantha Croasdaile

An old Honduran saying goes: “No two pregnancies or childbirths are ever the same.”

This is especially true for Marta Lidia Castro, a 28-year-old mother of two whose first child was born in Santa Rosa’s Regional Hospital, about a day’s walk from her home. Her second child was delivered only a few miles away from her house, in the Santa Rita Clinic.

“My experience at the clinic was much better than at the hospital,” said Castro. “The clinic is always open and has a doctor. At the hospital, I delivered pretty much by myself.”

She is one of 42,000 people in Copán, Honduras, who use the locally managed health care system.

In Honduras, public health care is financed and managed by the central government in the capital Tegucigalpa. However, the centrally run system is inefficient, lacks medicine, needs supplies, and closes frequently when the hospital workers are on strike.

For the past five years, USAID has helped local governments in Copán take over the management of area health care systems through a process called decentralization, which transfers health care management responsibilities and resources from the central government to the local government. The central government continues to finance health care services, while local governments implement and manage them.

Leonidas Aleman is the administrative director for a group of municipalities in the department of Copán. He says the decentralization has resulted in fewer deaths of women during pregnancy and childbirth.

“The changes in health in our communities are impressive,” says Aleman. “We went from having 12 mothers dying from pregnancy



A mother and child in a clinic in Taulabé, Honduras

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ASIA



Photo by Suzanne Ross, USAID

With the increased profits resulting from improved agricultural practices and productivity, Ramesh Chovatiya purchased a milk cow to improve his family's nutrition.

Indian Tractor Firm Helps Farmers Increase Yields

By Suzanne Ross

JAMNAGAR, India—Despite his best efforts, Ramesh Chovatiya was no longer able to grow the groundnuts he had sown and harvested for years on his now-depleted farm in Jamnagar, a town in India's western state of Gujarat.

Like most poor farmers, Chovatiya farms on a small plot of land, generating no more than \$1.25 to \$2.50 per day. With traditional farming producing low yields, Chovatiya knew he had to change the way he farmed. But he didn't know how.

That was when he sought out private extension services at the local *Samriddhi* (a Hindi word that means "prosperity") center, a new agriculture service available in India through a public-private alliance formed by USAID, Mahindra and Mahindra, one of the world's largest tractor manufacturing firms, and the University of Wisconsin.

Like most poor farmers, Chovatiya farms on a small plot of land, generating no more than \$1.25 to \$2.50 per day.

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MIDDLE EAST

Female Judges Gain Ground in Jordan

By George Kara'a and Jan Cartwright

AMMAN, Jordan—Judge Ihsan Barakat, the first female judge to head an appeals court in Jordan, has seen a sea change in her profession in recent years.

Although women have long served as lawyers, they have only served as judges since 1996. Today, 45 of the country's 750 judges are women, and 140 women judges are expected by 2011.

The growth in the number of female judges can be traced to the Jordanian government's strong support for women's participation in the legal profession, as well as support from donors.

In late 2006, USAID helped the Jordanian judiciary establish a streamlined, merit-based judicial appointment system to replace the old system, which



Judge Nawal Aljohari manages her court cases at the Amman First Instance Court.

Photo by USAID/Jordan Rule of Law Project

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AFRICA

Maternal Deaths Remain Huge Challenge in Namibia

By Kevin Hernandez



Photo by Eric Williams, Social Marketing Association

In USAID-supported New Start Centers in Namibia, women can get tested for HIV and learn how to prevent transmission to their children.

ANDARA, Namibia—On Jan. 12, Rosie* made her way from her village in the Kavango region of northern Namibia to Andara District Hospital, 50 kilometers away. Just 17 years old, Rosie was pregnant and her baby was due any time.

Although the majority of pregnant women in Namibia now have access to prenatal care, because of the remoteness of her village, Rosie did not.

Arriving at the hospital just before midnight, Rosie's labor

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*Rosie's last name has been withheld to protect her family's privacy.

FOCUS ON GUATEMALA

DUAL DISASTER STRIKES GUATEMALA

By Wende S. DuFlon

Guatemala was struck by two natural disasters in late May— heavy rainfall, which resulted in flooding, mudslides, and a sinkhole, and a volcanic eruption that covered the nation's capital with up to an inch of ash.

On May 26, heavy rainfall from Tropical Depression Agatha began in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, dumping up to 3 feet of water in some areas and causing an enormous sinkhole in downtown Guatemala City. Floods and mudslides were triggered in the majority of the country's municipalities.

Although the rain subsided May 30, the Ministry of Education closed all schools, public and private, for one week. Many public schools were converted into temporary shelters for families displaced by the storm.

On May 27, one of Guatemala's three active volcanoes, Pacaya Volcano, erupted 25 miles south of the nation's capital, Guatemala City, and spread ash, sand, gravel, and fist-sized pumice rocks for miles. The debris in the city prompted the closing of Aurora International Airport.

Subsequently, the government of Guatemala declared a state of

Scattered thunderstorms and heavy clouds against mountain slopes frustrated early relief efforts to deliver 6,500 pounds of supplies.

emergency due to the dual disasters, which struck 21 of the country's 22 departments.

The U.S. government responded immediately with \$150,000 in initial emergency humanitarian assistance from USAID.

The departments of Guatemala, where the capital Guatemala City is located, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, Sololá, and Izabal, and parts of the southern coast were the worst hit; more than 193,000 people have been affected by the disasters.

According to reports from Guatemala's National Emergency Commission (CONRED) and the Pan American Health Organization, as of June 8, the toll was:

174 people dead, 113 missing, 154 wounded, 162,857 evacuated, and about 63,000 in shelters. Some 1,300 public schools were serving as temporary shelters and emergency supply distribution centers. More than 39,000 homes were damaged.

CONRED is distributing emergency relief supplies to affected families with U.S. government assistance and is conducting damage and needs assessments and response operations outside Guatemala City in collaboration with the Guatemalan Air Force, the National Civil Police, and the U.S. government.

Scattered thunderstorms and heavy clouds against mountain slopes frustrated early relief efforts to deliver 6,500 pounds of supplies. However, as of June 4, CONRED had distributed emergency relief supplies to many affected families with the assistance of U.S. government helicopters.

Guatemala is largely agricultural and crop damage is extensive, particularly among large coffee and sugar plantations and among medium and small producers of specialty vegetables

see **GUATEMALA** on page 15 ▶



Photo by Johan Ordonez, AFP

A woman looks at the damage caused to her home by the eruption of the Pacaya volcano about 30 miles south of Guatemala City in Las Calderas, San Vicente Pacaya.



Photo by Johan Ordonez, AFP

A man pushes a wheelbarrow of mud as he helps clean a street near his house in Amatitlan, Guatemala, June 1.



Photo by SHARE de Guatemala

Tropical Storm Agatha caused flooding that carried rivers of mud through towns, homes, and croplands, causing extensive damage.

FOCUS ON GUATEMALA



Photo by SHARE de Guatemala

Flooding and mudslides prompted by Tropical Storm Agatha brought boulders from surrounding mountains into rural towns and villages like this one outside Tecpán in the department of Chimaltenango.



Photo by SHARE de Guatemala

Damage to homes and village infrastructure in Tecpán, Chimaltenango, Guatemala, May 30.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

Teamwork and Tea Among the Afghans Are Key for PRT

By Jan Cartwright

Trevor Hublin often gets the same question from colleagues headed out to serve in Afghanistan for the first time. “People always ask, ‘Is it like the book *Three Cups of Tea*?’ I say, ‘Yes, be prepared to sit, talk, listen, drink tea, and build relationships.’”

As an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps for more than seven years, Hublin served in conflict zones as well as in the aftermath of humanitarian crises and natural disasters. He was in Indonesia during the first weeks of the 2004 tsunami disaster, in Iraq in both 2003 and 2005, and in Chad and Afghanistan in 2008.

When a USAID opportunity presented itself, Hublin was pulled back to Afghanistan as a civilian—drawn by his admiration and concern for the Afghan people.

“[They are] the most wonderful, caring, and dedicated people I have ever had the honor of meeting. I tell [my friends and family] that I feel like an honored guest to be here, which motivates me to give my best shot every day.”

Having worked in Afghan National Security Force development efforts with both the national army and police, Hublin jumped at the chance to continue his efforts on the civilian side serving in an Afghan provincial reconstruction team (PRT). In March 2009, he was hired as a field program officer (FPO) for a PRT in Farah province in western Afghanistan, where he will serve for two years, until April 2011.

Hublin said his interest in listening to and helping the Afghan people has been key to his success living and working on a PRT.

“To be successful, an FPO must be able to stop, listen, and learn from the Afghans even if he’s had 25 years of prior development experience,” he says. “If the FPO is humble, outgoing, willing to live with hardships and put an honest effort to helping the Afghans out, he or she

will succeed and have a lot of fun doing it.”

Hublin credits close civilian-military cooperation for the improvements that he sees in Farah province. “Thanks to close cooperation between USAID,

“[They are] the most wonderful, caring, and dedicated people I have ever had the honor of meeting. I tell [my friends and family] that I feel like an honored guest to be here, which motivates me to give my best shot every day.”

the State Department, USDA [U.S. Department of Agriculture], and the military, we have helped the Farah provincial government to become more proficient, more service oriented, and more willing to take risks to get out to the rural countryside and serve their people.”

Hublin stresses that the true heroes are the local Afghans who often go to extraordinary lengths to help their fellow citizens.

An example of this was an experiment in which USAID worked throughout the fall of 2009 and into 2010 with the Farah government to establish a stabilization team through its Department of Rural Rehabilitation and Development. The team consisted of local civil engineers and community mobilizers, who partnered with the Afghan national army and police to go to



Trevor Hublin, left, wearing the traditional *shalwar khameez*, meets Roohul Amin, the governor of Farah province.

the most volatile parts of the province and begin delivering basic rural services once security was established.

The Afghan government officials were aware of the risks to their personal safety, but chose to go and help their fellow Afghans in these extremely disadvantaged areas. Hublin recalls

this effort as his “most inspiring experience.”

Hublin is grateful for the experience he gained in the Marines, but he is happy to now be with USAID, noting the Agency’s special role in “strengthen[ing] our country’s relationships with all nations of the developing world.”

“Serving in Afghanistan on a PRT as a USAIDER has reinforced my view that Afghanistan is the right place to be and that we can help the Afghans to get back on their feet and take their country back from extremism and poverty,” he says. “It’s been an incredible experience.” ★

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

EMERGENCY from page 5

A mass distribution of rice at that point, protected by the 82nd Airborne, “calmed the situation,” said Canny. He noted that the urban setting of the disaster forced CRS to improvise. For example, it was impossible to dig latrines in the asphalt streets, so portable toilets were provided to tent settlements. And blocked drains were cleaned out to avoid flooding in the rainy season.

However, Canny admitted that “we were slow on gender-based violence,” mostly affecting homeless women, and “we were not ready” for the flight of 600,000 people out of the capital to outlying cities and towns unaffected by the quake.

Finally, he noted “difficult land issues for shelter” as landowners were reluctant to permit transitional shelters to be built on their properties. At the same time, the Haitian government lacked strong legal standing to temporarily claim land for emergency housing.

“This was the largest urban relief operation” that USAID had ever engaged in, said Weisenfeld. With a number of contributing donors and organizations, the combined effort involved feeding 3 million people, caring for 1.5 million displaced, and vaccinating 1 million people. Heavy plastic tarps were distributed to more than 300,000 households.

In addition to its own efforts, the Agency is coordinating assistance from several other U.S. agencies, including adding 800 temporary staff to the U.S. Embassy in Port-au-Prince to help meet urgent needs immediately after the quake.

To prepare for heavy seasonal rains and possible hurricanes, USAID is inspecting 800 hurricane shelters nationwide. However, hurricanes generally bypass the capital and focus on the north, which was not hit by the quake.

Weisenfeld also said that the number of people in camps rose recently from 600,000 to between 1.5 million and 2 million because of the “draw” of aid and services offered there.

As part of a long-term strategy, the Agency is also helping the nation’s energy, infrastructure, health, and agriculture sectors. ★ — B.B. 📺

STUDENTS from page 5

ideas before settling on a concept using shadow puppets, paper cutouts, and a pair of human hands. The theme of their entry “Helping Hands” is “when lending a helping hand to those struck by disaster, cash is best.”

“It took us maybe a month,” Endo said. “We really wanted this PSA to mean a lot to people and for it to be visually appealing.”

The second place broadcast winner was a team—also from the California Institute of the Arts—led by animation major James Esparza. The animated 30-second spot called “A Walk Through Disaster” shows that cash donations can be used for food, water, medical supplies, and shelter.

“Of course, we were thinking about the natural disasters that were happening at the moment,” Esparza said. “But we were trying to stay away from addressing each one.” That way the PSA’s message could resonate with a wider audience in the future.

Like some of the other student winners, Boston University’s Allyson Dilsworth and her team, which took second place in the print category, spent much of their time brainstorming ideas they hoped would move an audience.

Dilsworth said she didn’t know that cash is best, like a lot of people in the United States. “They think when international disasters happen, the things people want are clothing or food or supplies. How are we to know if they do need clothes or they do

need canned food?”

The Boston team spun off the idea of the ubiquitous collection jars at local restaurants and convenience stores to come up with their print PSA entitled “Disaster Relief Fund.” The Mason jar, which they stuffed with bills and spare change, came from the Goodwill down the street from the campus.

Suzanne H. Brooks, the director of CIDI, which receives support from USAID, said student participation nearly doubled over the previous year—a sign of greater interest in disaster response.

“It is important to make sure that everyone knows that donating cash is the best way to help international disaster victims, and it’s especially timely this year given the devastating earthquakes we’ve seen in Haiti, Chile, and China,” she said.

“It is no coincidence that we saw our largest and most talented pool of entries to PSAid [Public Service Announcements for International Disasters] this year,” Brooks added. Each year PSAid challenges college students to create print or broadcast announcements for use by CIDI in its outreach and education programs.

Entries are posted on the PSAid website to be voted on by the public and a panel of judges. More than 70 student groups entered the competition this year, vying for a total of \$30,000. ★ — A.R. 📺

HONDURAS from page 6

and delivery complications every year, to none. The number of women who deliver at a clinic as opposed to at home has gone up from 57 percent to 95 percent.”

Health care costs the community less, too. “We do more with less money. Our clinics provide services to three times as many women, and our overall costs are lower,” Aleman adds.

Local governments also save money by using more efficient processes for buying medicines and supplies and for contracting doctors and nurses. The savings allow local governments to expand services. For example, in the last four years, local governments opened 10 additional community health centers and one new clinic specializing in maternal and child care. Five more health centers are scheduled to open this year.

Unlike the centrally run health care system, the locally run system focuses on prevention.

“Our social workers also help communities acquire clean water and sanitation systems. We cannot expect people to have healthier lifestyles if we don’t provide the means for them to do so,” says Kenya Lopez, local government project coordinator. Local governments also help to provide communities with water tanks and improve household stoves that reduce smoke contamination in the home. Decentralization also strengthens community involvement.

JORDAN from page 7

was cumbersome and inefficient. Over the past year, the number of women admitted to the Judicial Institute of Jordan (JIJ), the center where all judges are trained, increased from 3 percent to 65 percent of total admissions.

“Women have been able to prove themselves as judges,” said Judge Barakat.

“They are efficient, serious, and resistant to corruption. With the newcomers, the overall performance of the judiciary will be enhanced, and I fully expect that women will obtain even higher positions in the near future.”

She said that since entry barriers have been removed, there should be no obstacles for other women wishing to pursue a career in the judiciary as they have proven themselves through the entry process and as judges.

Judge Rateb Wazani, the chief justice of Jordan, said the new admissions policy at the JIJ will increase the percentage of women judges from the current level of 5 percent of sitting judges to 15 percent of all judges in just three years.

This advancement toward gender equality on the bench is complemented by two other USAID programs: the Woman-to-Woman mentoring program and the Future Judges program.

Woman-to-Woman, established by USAID with the Jordanian judiciary, pairs 25 female law students with sitting female judges to support the students as

they prepare for their future positions as lawyers and judges in the male dominated judiciary.

Today, 45 of the country’s 750 judges are women, and 140 women judges are expected by 2011.

“My mentor served as a role model for me with her humility and eagerness to offer assistance,” said Saly Al Mouasher, a student from Jordan University. “She exemplified will-power, self-confidence, and determination. I learned from her that with persistence and perseverance, women can assume the most prominent positions.”

The Future Judges program is an initiative of King Abdullah II and the Ministry of Justice to recruit top students to pursue legal degrees and eventually become judges. USAID has supported the program by developing the gender-neutral recruitment process and administration systems for the program, which resulted in women making up more than 50 percent of the program’s 100 admissions each year. ★

“Our social workers also help communities acquire clean water and sanitation systems. We cannot expect people to have healthier lifestyles if we don’t provide the means for them to do so,” says Kenya Lopez, local government project coordinator.

“Under the old system, there was a nurse assigned to a clinic that was closed for seven years,” says Anardo Napoleon, the mayor of the municipality of Cabañas, about 45 minutes from Copán Ruinas. “All that time, the nurse continued to receive pay, and her absence was excused as sick leave. No matter how much we complained, authorities in Tegucigalpa did nothing about it.”

Napoleon said the clinic has re-opened and it has medicine in stock, a doctor, two full-time nurses, and three social workers. It also remained open despite the fact that the centrally run clinics have been on strike several times. ★

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

HUNGER from page 1

That announcement came after more than a year of steep rises in global food prices that were accompanied by protests and riots in a few countries. That year also saw the number of people considered chronically hungry reach 1 billion—one-sixth of the world's population.

The new initiative will focus on agricultural research and agribusiness development, support efforts led by developing countries, and emphasize women.

"Women produce 60 to 80 percent of the food in countries where we work," Shah said, "And when women control gains in income, they're far more likely to spend those gains improving their families' access to health, education, and nutrition."

While USAID will have a lead role in Feed the Future, Shah also acknowledged that the Agency, and the United States as a whole, left the issue to drift during the last 30 years.

In 1979, agricultural programs made up 18 percent of foreign assistance; by 2005 that figure was below 1 percent—the result of shifting priorities. Now, development officials are talking of a second Green Revolution similar to the one in the 1960s where USAID helped India and other countries successfully grow enough food to feed their people.

William Garvelink, the former ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, has been tapped as the deputy coordinator for development for the initiative and is in the process of staffing an office at USAID. His charge: organize the more than 130 agriculture experts across several U.S. and other government agencies to work on food security issues as part of the new initiative.

"Obviously, coordination is critical to this," Garvelink said only seven days into his new assignment. "We're using all the tools available to us to make it work."

"This is a long-term commitment. If this is going to really work, it will take a minimum of five years."

Balancing competing interests from various bureaucracies—multilateral institutions, the U.S. State and Agriculture

departments, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the Peace Corps, and the U.S. Trade Representative, among others—as well as the nonprofit and private-sector partners is only the beginning of the challenges.

"A lot of this is going to fail and that's OK ... because we're going to learn from it and do better the second time around," Shah said during a question-and-answer session at the Chicago Council event.

In addition, Congress still must approve the full \$3.5 billion. However, Feed the Future has a high-level backer in Obama, who made mention of a U.S. response to hunger around the world in his inaugural speech.

"This has real potential," said Garvelink, a 30-year development veteran.

Countries set to benefit from the initiative are already moving forward with plans.

In Liberia, which is one of the focus countries, 70 percent of the population depends on agriculture for their livelihood, said President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who also spoke at the Feed the Future launch.

Though the country of 3.5 million has been addressing many of its post-conflict problems since 2006, Sirleaf said, "the challenges remain awesome and our nation fragile. Our population is still highly vulnerable to food insecurity."

"Our government is placing emphasis on this strategic sector," she said, describing a back-to-the-soil campaign that is focusing on improved rice and cassava production. "It is very clear to us that agriculture has the potential to become a major source of employment."

Sirleaf said between 2006 and 2009, rice production increased from 85,000 metric tons to 200,000 metric tons.

Shah said other countries like Liberia already have jumpstarted agricultural initiatives, and that they are the kinds of places where Feed the Future dollars will be invested. (See sidebars on Bangladesh, this page, and Sudan, page 13.)

"These plans and this political leadership show the signs of strength that we are looking for," Shah said. ★

FOOD SECURITY IN SPOTLIGHT AT BANGLADESH FORUM

DHAKA, Bangladesh—When USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah joined top agricultural policy makers at a meeting here in Bangladesh in May, the government of Bangladesh and its development partners pledged to enhance food and nutrition security in a key nation on the frontlines of the struggle to feed the growing world.

Bangladesh dramatically improved rice production over the past 30 years, and economic growth has averaged 6 percent a year over the past decade.

However, the world's most densely populated country—with 158 million people on land the size of Iowa—continues to confront rapid population growth, the loss of arable land, and extreme vulnerability to climate change. Stunted growth during childhood remains prevalent, as does anemia among children and women.

The Bangladesh Food Security Investment Forum convened by the Bangladeshi government in May brought together researchers, policy-makers, members of civil society, and NGOs to identify ways to reduce hunger and poverty.

Before the forum, USAID announced it would increase food aid to Bangladesh from \$32 million to \$42 million each year for the next five years—the U.S. government's largest non-emergency food assistance program in the world. Much of this will be for better nutrition, income generation, and food.

Under the Feed the Future initiative (see story, page 1), the United States is slated to provide an additional \$30 million per year to Dhaka, mostly for agricultural development.

"We know food security facilitates stable communities and resilient nations," Shah said in his opening address. "We know agricultural development growth is more effective at reducing poverty than general economic growth. And we know children need nutrition to learn and grow."

The May 26-27 forum was conducted with support from USAID, the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), and other groups.

In preparation for the forum, the government of Bangladesh commissioned papers on agricultural productivity, climate change, nutrition, safety nets, food distribution, trade, marketing, livestock, fisheries, governance, and gender equity.

Bangladesh could lose \$26 billion of agricultural production to climate change between 2005 and 2050, researchers said. Much of the country is barely above sea level and susceptible to flooding. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said climate change may make it increasingly difficult to provide food to all Bangladeshis.

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The minister for food and disaster management, M. A. Razaque, said farmers often do not receive fair prices because they are unable to move their products to the most profitable markets.

"There is considerable evidence that public spending on agricultural and rural development has the largest positive effects on growth and poverty reduction in developing countries," said Shenggen Fan, director general of IFPRI. Citizens must be empowered to demand better services from their government, monitor public spending, and hold service providers accountable, Fan said.

Bangladesh's experiences were to be discussed in June's G8 and G20 summits in Canada and again in July, at the Food Security Investment Forum for Asia and the Pacific, in Manila.

"The people of Bangladesh can look forward to a brighter future, free from extreme hunger and filled with greater economic opportunity," said Shah. ★

Visit the Feed the Future website at www.feedthefuture.gov.



USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah (left) attends the May 17 launch of the new Food, Agribusiness, and Rural Markets program with southern Sudan caretaker minister of agriculture and forestry Samson Kwaje in Juba, southern Sudan.

Photo by Jenn Warren

Agency Launches \$55M Agriculture Program in Southern Sudan

By Angela Stephens

JUBA, Southern Sudan—USAID is undertaking a five-year, \$55 million agriculture program with Sudan's regional government in southern Sudan, Administrator Rajiv Shah announced May 17 on a visit to Juba.

The program aims to boost food production and trade by linking areas of high agricultural potential with fast-growing markets for farm goods through road networks that are being improved and expanded. The Food, Agribusiness, and Rural Markets (FARM) program will also train farmers and others in the agricultural sector.

Agriculture is the backbone of economic development in southern Sudan, employing the majority of the region's more than 8 million people. More than 90 percent of southern Sudanese live on less than \$1 a day.

Southern Sudan is highly dependent on food imports from neighboring Uganda and Kenya—and the imports are expensive. Increased production of domestically produced food is expected to reduce the high food prices in Sudanese markets.

The program will initially target counties in southern Sudan's "greenbelt zone," which

Agriculture is the backbone of economic development in southern Sudan, employing the majority of the region's more than 8 million people.

spans Western, Central, and Eastern Equatoria states, all places where conflict destroyed agricultural production during Sudan's 22-year civil war. It will help smallholder farmers rapidly increase production of staple crops.

Shah noted, "It is five to eight times cheaper to give assistance in agriculture than to distribute food."

He encouraged southern Sudan's government to allocate 10 percent of its budget to agriculture.

Samson Kwaje, southern Sudan's caretaker minister of agriculture and forestry, said the program has the potential to turn southern Sudan's subsistence farmers, "who produce only food enough for the table," into commercial farmers able to earn an income.

Another focus of the FARM program is women because they

make up the majority of farmers in southern Sudan, as in many parts of Africa. "Unless we focus on women in a very fundamental way," including hiring female agricultural extension workers, Shah said, "we know these efforts will simply not work."

According to the USAID-funded Famine Early Warning System Network's latest analysis, there are currently about 6.8 million food-insecure people in Sudan (out of a population of approximately 39 million), including 2.3 million internally displaced persons. Five million of the food-insecure are in northern Sudan, including Darfur, and 1.8 million are in southern Sudan, concentrated in the states of Jonglei, Northern Bahr El Ghazal, Warrap, and Lakes, and parts of Upper Nile and Eastern Equatoria. ★

Science Seen as Cutting Edge of International Development

By Steven Gale

The new office of science and technology at USAID, and a July 14 forum on science and technology in development, are both signs that breakthroughs in science are increasingly seen as the way to solve pressing challenges in health, agriculture, and water in developing countries.

Science and technology have long played a vital role to advance development by helping to save millions of lives from life-threatening diseases, inadequate nutrition, and polluted drinking water.

USAID has harnessed such cutting edge science as far back as the 1960s when it helped introduce high-yielding seed varieties and increased use of fertilizers and irrigation—the so-called Green Revolution—enabling many poor countries in Asia to feed their growing populations.

The Green Revolution is credited with saving the lives of over a billion people worldwide from starvation.

Today's global issues like climate change, energy shortages, disasters, infectious diseases, and biodiversity loss increasingly threaten the lives and jobs of those in developing countries and the developed world as well.

Agency analysts are expecting to accelerate use of the latest science and technology to help solve more of today's most pressing development problems and address just over-the-horizon challenges.

While science, technology, and innovation (STI) has always played an important but perhaps understated role in development, recent evidence shows that its function is actually critical.

Developmental economists estimate that, over recent decades, more than half of the gains in developing countries' gross national product and over 80 percent of gains in per capita income are closely linked to progress in STI.

Low income countries face far greater difficulties in

adapting STI than developed countries. Poor countries often lack access to modern technology, regulatory and governance structures to support investments, and essential scientists, engineers, and entrepreneurs.

Aid donors are learning how to help developing countries boost their STI capacity so they can find, invent, or purchase appropriate technologies to solve their local and regional problems.

One promising and novel approach taken from the private sector is the use of challenges, prizes, and competitions to create revolutionary breakthroughs to benefit humanity. The most famous prize to date, the X Prize, worth a cool \$10 million, was awarded in 2004 to the first NGO to launch a reusable manned spacecraft into outer space twice within two weeks.

The X Prize was the catalyst that kick-started a brand new private sector capability for manned space flight. Such private sector competitions may be used to solve tough development challenges overseas.

Administrator Rajiv Shah will convene a forum July 14 to promote the use of STI to transform the Agency and help solve difficult development challenges faced by the world's poor. Participants will include leading STI thinkers spanning private, public, and academic communities.

The forum's main goals are: to develop a consensus around the top development challenges of the 21st century where science and technology can have a profound impact; to build a shared science agenda to accelerate and connect current development-related research throughout the entire federal government; and to explore new approaches and mechanisms, such as prizes and competitions, to help solve today's and future development challenges.

Ideas for using STI to help solve development challenges can be submitted at: www.transformingdevelopment.ideascale.com. ★

CONTINUED...

CLINTON from page 1

“That is an incredibly short-sighted view...most members of Congress feel their highest duty is to the security of the United States” and that it is necessary to show that diplomacy and development support security, she said.

“We are trying to...have a unified approach that will gain the credibility of our government and our Congress and our people; that will present a united front supported by [the Department of Defense] for our development and diplomacy effort. And it’s just a smarter way to get the resources we desperately need.”

Clinton also pledged U.S. backing for democracy, women’s rights, and fighting hunger, working with the private sector as well as through traditional aid programs.

“We believe that if we’re going to be committed to development, we’re going to have to ask the American taxpayers to help pay for sending somebody else’s child to school or providing somebody else’s mother maternal healthcare, we’d better be able to show results,” she said.

And she noted that in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, when U.S. military officers “meet with

tribal leaders or to survey a dam the United States had repaired or a school we had built, they went in mine-resistant armored vehicles or they flew on helicopters. Our civilians don’t have those resources.

“So in order for us to pick up the responsibilities and to fulfill our obligations of the security of our diplomats and our development experts, it costs money. We have to fortify the places they work and live.... We can’t in good faith send people into harm’s way without the physical security being taken into account.” ★ — B.B.

FORUM from page 1

agencies,” Connolly said. “We have to have one voice when it comes to international development issues and that one voice needs to be [US]AID.”

Shah noted there is currently a “political opportunity” to improve foreign aid because President Barack Obama “deeply believes in development” and sees “shared prosperity as the common basis of our long-term security...”

Shah proposed reforming foreign aid through the following:

- ▶ Using the latest knowledge, insight, and evidence to be more effective. For example, in Haiti, the Poverty Action Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology found that distributing chlorine tablets at water delivery points cut diarrhea to 12 percent below pre-earthquake levels.
- ▶ Investment in women and girls, which is likely to improve household living standards, education, health, nutrition, and farm output.
- ▶ Working with the private sector, including the NGOs in InterAction, to tap resources such as direct investment that dwarf foreign aid. For example, Mercy Corps expanded access to bank credit for farmers by market research and helping banks design projects in rural Africa.

USAID was “in many cases, appropriately criticized,” Shah said, for operating independently from local governments and institutions, and it will now stress training and helping each country to design and carry out its own development program.

Shah said USAID was setting up a Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning as well as a budget office that will redesign “how we allocate what are essentially a series of congressional priorities in a way that allows our country missions to have more flexibility...”

He pledged to reform the way the Agency buys services and materials, cutting back on paperwork that provides “almost a false transparency” and masks “how much did you spend on this program, what are you getting in result, and what’s your unit cost.”

Reforming procurement, said Shah, means to:

- ▶ Broaden the base of partners from a “small handful” of large contractors.

The forum included a discussion of aid broadcast live on National Public Radio’s Kojo Nnamdi Show.

- ▶ Reduce the size of awards and encourage greater competition of ideas and strategies.
- ▶ Set targets for building local capacity and create conditions for “our long-term exit.”
- ▶ Design, monitor, and evaluate programs within the Agency instead of paying contractors to do this work.
- ▶ Set up transparent ways for the public to click on a map and see aid projects, what they’re doing, and the outcomes they’re getting.

Shah said that by August, the Agency will begin hiring “a significant number” of talented and experienced people, including those hired through the ongoing Development Leadership Initiative as well as other mid-career technical professionals.

He also pledged to tap the skills of the 4,000 Foreign Service Nationals at USAID offices overseas. “They include people who’ve been ministers of state; they include people who are doctors or technical experts; they’re people who know both the culture of their community and how things will be perceived and received far more effectively than, generally, outsiders will,” Shah said.

Finally, Shah said the Agency would try to better monitor results of aid programs, beginning by “collecting baseline data” to judge progress.

He criticized the tendency in the Agency to write reports in aid jargon which he called “development-speak” and for writing 400-page reports that are “failing to make our work as transparent as possible.”

However, Shah noted that with the financial crisis and calls in Congress to curb spending, foreign aid will have to make a strong case to get funds. ★

Excerpts from the 2010 National Security Strategy

In May, the Obama administration released its first National Security Strategy, a 60-page document outlining goals and visions for the future in fields of security, diplomacy, and development. The entire document is available online at: www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/rss_viewer/national_security_strategy.pdf

Following are some excerpts from the NSS that detail the U.S. government views on development issues.

Accelerate Sustainable Development

The growth of emerging economies in recent decades has lifted people out of poverty and forged a more interconnected and vibrant global economy. But development has been uneven, progress is fragile, and too many of the world’s people still live without the benefits that development affords. While some countries are growing, many lag behind—mired in insecurity, constrained by poor governance, or overly dependent upon commodity prices. But sustained economic progress requires faster, sustainable, and more inclusive development. That is why we are pursuing a range of specific initiatives in areas such as food security and global health that will be essential to the future security and prosperity of nations and peoples around the globe.

Increase Investments in Development: The United States has an interest in working with our allies to help the world’s poorest countries grow into productive and prosperous economies governed by capable, democratic,

and accountable state institutions. We will ensure a greater and more deliberate focus on a global development agenda across the United States Government, from policy analysis through policy implementation. We are increasing our foreign assistance, expanding our investments in effective multilateral development institutions, and leveraging the engagement of others to share the burden.

Invest in the Foundations of Long-Term Development: The United States will initiate long-term investments that recognize and reward governments that demonstrate the capacity and political will to pursue sustainable development strategies and ensure that all policy instruments at our disposal are harnessed to these ends. And we will provide our support in multiple ways—by strengthening the ability of governments and communities to manage development challenges and investing in strong institutions that foster the democratic accountability that helps sustain development. This will expand the circle of nations—particularly in Africa—who are capable of reaping the benefits of the global economy, while

contributing to global security and prosperity. Exercise Leadership in the Provision of Global Public Goods: Our approach needs to reflect the fact that there are a set of development challenges that strongly affect the likelihood of progress, but cannot be addressed by individual countries acting alone. Particularly in Africa, these challenges—such as adaptation to global warming, the control of epidemic disease, and the knowledge to increase agricultural productivity—are not adequately addressed in bilateral efforts. We will shape the international architecture and work with our global partners to address these challenges, and increase our investments and engagement to transition to a low-carbon growth trajectory, support the resilience of the poorest nations to the effects of climate change, and strengthen food security. We must also pursue potential “game changers” for development such as new vaccines, weather-resistant seed varieties, and green energy technologies. ★

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The service is part of USAID's Partnerships for Innovation and Knowledge in Agriculture (PIKA) which brings together businesses, universities, scientists, agriculture specialists, and farmers to improve production, markets, and distribution systems.

With a tractor division that had saturated the market, Mahindra and Mahindra was eager to grow. In an effort to improve farm productivity and increase its customer base, the company began opening farm service centers in 66 of its tractor dealerships.

The University of Wisconsin brought agricultural expertise and training that allowed Samriddhi center staff to provide soil and water testing, as well as on-farm consultations.

By recommending crops to grow, crop rotation schedules,

and fertilizers, and by solving specific agricultural problems, Samriddhi center staff develop close ties with farmers. As the centers provide extension services, farmers increase crop yields.

Chovatiya saw a 50 percent increase in his cotton crop and a 35,000 rupee (\$800) profit.

Today, he is a champion of progressive farming, sharing valuable information through his demonstration farm and encouraging hundreds of farm families to seek advice at the Samriddhi centers.

It seems to be working. Ten Jamnagar famers increased their crop yields by 20 percent or more based on advice from a Samriddhi center.

Mahindra and Mahindra is reaping benefits from the alliance as well. After farmers'

feedback, the company developed new products tailored to farmers' specific needs, like quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, and tools. With more customer friendly services, Mahindra and Mahindra even saw their stagnant tractor sales increase.

"Two years ago we were an engineering firm that built tractors," said Sanjeev Goyle, a senior vice president of marketing at Mahindra and Mahindra. "Today, we are growing our business by creating a range of new products, which couldn't have come about if we didn't create a feedback loop of experimentation and learning between our engineers, the dealers, agricultural specialists, universities, and the farmers, our customers." ★

GUATEMALA from page 8

and fruits, ornamental plants, and shrimp.

Health officials are concerned about the outbreak of diseases such as malaria and dengue and are monitoring for increased numbers of children with acute malnutrition due to the affects of the crisis in areas with high chronic malnutrition rates. The economic and social effects of the dual disaster are expected to last into 2011.

International NGOs and agencies are delivering supplies and human resources in response to the dual disaster. A nine-person USAID assessment team is working closely with the Guatemalan government and humanitarian groups to coordinate the U.S. government response. In coordination with the U.S. Embassy and USAID, the U.S. Southern Command brought in helicopters and

a detachment from Joint Task Force-Bravo, based in Honduras, to support evacuations, search and rescue efforts, and transport of emergency supplies.

Unfortunately, Guatemala can expect more natural disasters. The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (2009) states that "Guatemala is among the top 10 countries with the highest mortality risk index due to natural disasters. Guatemala is at high risk for climate-related hazards such as landslides, droughts and earthquakes that provoke physical and economic vulnerability."

In the last decade, seven natural disasters have been declared in Guatemala. USAID has provided approximately \$5 million in emergency humanitarian assistance to the country since 2000. ★ 

NAMIBIA from page 7

was long, lasting into the next day. The baby was born not breathing and unresponsive. But a medical officer was on hand to resuscitate the baby and save its life. Rosie, however, collapsed on the floor. Despite efforts to resuscitate her, Rosie died from post-partum hemorrhage.

Rosie's tragic death is just one of hundreds of preventable maternal deaths in Namibia.

The problem is complex. The lack of outreach to isolated communities places women in Namibia at especially high risk. With a nationwide lack of emergency obstetric care and high rates of HIV/AIDS among women and children, maternal health constitutes a national emergency in Namibia.

Maternal mortality rates in Namibia have skyrocketed from 271 per 100,000 births in 2001, to 449 deaths in 2008. This exacerbates what is already an alarmingly high number of orphans and vulnerable children in the country.

"Because of the vastness of Namibia, the distances expectant mothers have to travel to receive adequate care often create delays. These delays are at the root of the problem," said Dr. Ochi Ibe, USAID senior HIV/AIDS care and nutrition adviser. "When combined with the complications associated with HIV/AIDS, it is causing maternal deaths to climb."

In response, USAID is working to minimize the delays and improve the adequacy of care. The Agency provides training and equipment to health care providers so expectant mothers like Rosie can receive timely emergency care closer to home.

For those mothers that must be seen at a larger facility, USAID is rehabilitating Waiting Mothers Shelters with short-term living facilities so expectant mothers can travel to hospitals earlier in their pregnancies and remain close to care and support.

The aftereffects of maternal deaths are inconsistently recorded, but research shows a link between a mother's early death and poor health among the infants they leave behind—including high infant mortality.

Additional resources are badly needed to combat the rising maternal mortality rates. Ready access to prenatal care could have identified risk factors for Rosie and emergency obstetric skills may have prepared hospital staff for her difficult delivery.

Increased access to contraception may have prevented Rosie's pregnancy in the first place. Transportation, medical personnel, and more modern equipment are also needed as part of an extensive outreach effort to expecting mothers in remote areas. ★

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"I realize that there are among us those who are weary of sustaining this continual effort to help other nations. But I would ask them to look at a map and recognize that many of those whom we help live on the 'front lines' of the long twilight struggle for freedom—that others are new nations posed between order and chaos—and the rest are older nations now undergoing a turbulent transition of new expectations. Our efforts to help them help themselves, to demonstrate and to strengthen the vitality of free institutions, are small in cost compared to our military outlays for the defense of freedom."

—John F. Kennedy, Special Message to the Congress on Foreign Aid, March 13, 1962

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SPOTLIGHT ON AFRICAN DIAMONDS



Gleaning diamond laden gravel in Ngotto, Central African Republic. Few rough diamonds are sifted out of large amounts of gravel from sand and gravel deposits in West and central Africa.



Diamond miners are filmed as they sift for rough diamonds in Ngotto, Central African Republic, as part of a media campaign conducted by the PRADD project.



Staff from the PRADD project records property rights claims information from a diamond miner in Ngotto, Central African Republic.

Africa's Diamond Trade: Bringing Justice to Miners through Property Rights

It is ironic that diamonds, the beautiful stones that many cultures use to celebrate love and marriage, have also been used to finance violence and oppression.

The trade in illegal diamonds in Africa, worth billions of dollars, has been used by warlords and rebels to buy arms to fight wars in Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. These wars have not only cost millions of lives, but also have shattered weak economies, spread disease, fueled government corruption, and created millions of refugees.

Miners and their families have been kept in near slavery conditions, digging diamonds for little return as others reap the profits and their families, communities, and governments remain poor. The land around their communities is stripped of nutrients as they mine along streams.

USAID is part of an international effort to combat the trade in these “conflict” diamonds. Since 2002, the United Nations and governments of diamond producing and trading countries, including the United States, have been working with the diamond industry and civil society groups on a program known as the Kim-

berley Process. It requires participating countries to certify their shipments of rough diamonds as “conflict free” through clear accounting and tracking. Diamonds must be legally mined and sold from source to export.

Despite the high prices that diamonds command in the international market, mining communities in central Africa are desperately poor. The people are easily exploited by warlords, criminals, and dishonest buyers who cheat them on price.

In 2007, USAID began piloting the Property Rights and Artisanal Diamond Development (PRADD) project in the Central African Republic.

It is a collaborative effort—created and implemented by USAID with funding and diplomatic support from the Department of State to meet the requirements of the U.S. Clean Diamond Trade Act. And its aim is to establish clear ownership of land on which diamonds are mined. For years, property rights in mining areas were rooted in customary rules that were not recorded, making it difficult to trace the source of diamonds.

The PRADD project uses community meetings and surveys as well as geospatial infor-

mation to help miners establish their property rights. This also helps the government comply with the Kimberley Process by identifying the exact source of the diamonds. Once a property right is validated, the miner is able to acquire a diamond mining license from the government.

To help stop miners from being swindled, PRADD provides training in diamond valuation. To address the environmental effects of open pit diamond mining by large numbers of artisan miners, PRADD supports rehabilitation of damaged areas and the adoption of techniques to limit degradation.

Educating miners about environmental rehabilitation is accompanied by training focused on alternative livelihoods and agricultural productivity, allowing miners and their families to earn more from alternate sources and grow more of their own food.

Madeleine Wékombo, the owner of a diamond mining claim in the heart of the PRADD pilot zone, said: “I’m very happy for the PRADD training. Before this project, we didn’t know that much about diamonds. We didn’t know the real value of our diamonds and usually we sold them at a very undervalued price.”

Because of PRADD’s success in pilot zones in the Central African Republic, it is now being expanded to other artisanal diamond mining areas in the country’s southwest.

USAID is also expanding the PRADD program to Liberia and other donors who hesitated to address conflict diamonds in the past are becoming involved.

The PRADD project, designed and managed by USAID’s Office of Natural Resources Management in the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade, is one component of a global USAID program on land tenure security and property rights. A USAID-produced documentary on the PRADD project recently won an award at the Houston International Film Festival, and is available in the video archive at www.rmportal.net.

For more information on this program, contact Gregory Myers, gmyers@usaid.gov, or Timothy Fella, tfella@usaid.gov. ★ 🇺🇸

Sierra Leone's Blood Diamond

One country where the Kimberley Process has helped limit the trade in illegal diamonds is Sierra Leone. Activists estimate that during the civil war, the Revolutionary United Front rebels raked in around \$125 million a year from smuggled diamonds. Sierra Leone’s civil war raged for several years until 2002, and the country became synonymous with blood diamonds, serving as the backdrop to the Leonardo DiCaprio movie “Blood Diamond.”

Back then, legitimate exports of diamonds from Sierra Leone were worth a little more than \$1 million a year. Although some smuggling still goes on, official exports are now worth well over \$100 million a year, providing much-needed funds for the government.