



# FRONTLINES

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Schoolchildren learn the importance of hand washing. See page 16.



This Indonesian boy tastes treated water during Safe Water Day.

Photo by Ila Francica

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## Afghanistan Opens First National Park



On Earth Day, April 22, USAID's office in Afghanistan announced the establishment of the country's first national park, Band-e-Amir, which covers a series of six lakes in central Bamyan Province. The Agency has been working since 2006 with the Afghan government and local communities to create the park. Here, a member of the Band-e-Amir Protected Area Committee stands before a defining landscape of water, rock, and desert.

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## H1N1 Flu Milder than Feared Global Spread to Continue

By Ben Barber

Between April and mid-May, more than 10,000 people in at least 40 countries were infected with a new form of the Influenza A (H1N1) virus that contains segments of bird, swine, and human flu viruses.

So far, nearly 100 people have died.

Given the potential of this new virus to spread rapidly and become a pandemic, USAID responded quickly, especially in the Americas where the H1N1 outbreak started. The first steps included distribution of protective

clothing and other aid—some of which had been previously stockpiled to fight H5N1 avian flu.

Following the rapid spread of the new virus, the World Health Organization (WHO) on April 29 raised its pandemic alert level from Phase 4 to Phase 5, indicating sustained human-to-human spread of a novel virus in two countries in one WHO region.

“We do not know whether this outbreak will become severe or remain mild as it appears to be at the moment,” said Dennis Carroll, special advisor to the

Acting Administrator on pandemic influenza. “Additional work is underway to determine the virulence of this virus and track any changes in the virus over time.”

WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan said: “We do not know how long we have until we move to Phase 6, which indicates we are in a pandemic. We are not there yet. The criteria will be met when we see, in one region outside North America,

see **H1N1 FLU** on page 15 ▶

## Avian Flu Threat Was Reduced by \$949M in Aid

Just three years after the H5N1 avian influenza virus spread rapidly across Asia, Africa, Europe, and the Middle East, killing dozens of people and sparking fears of a global pandemic, a vigorous global effort led by USAID has apparently helped reverse the geographic spread of the disease.

The virus now has an endemic presence in only five countries: Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Indonesia, and Vietnam.

Leading all other international efforts, the U.S. government committed \$949 million to combat avian flu globally, including \$543 million from USAID.

“USAID’s system has proved extraordinarily efficient—we’ve had substantial progress in 53 countries,” said Dennis Carroll, special advisor to the Acting Administrator on pandemic influenza.

Compared to 55 countries affected by H5N1 outbreaks between 2003 and 2006, only nine countries have reported outbreaks in poultry or humans during 2009.

see **BIRD FLU** on page 15 ▶



Photo by IRG Ltd.

Liberia is turning to renewable energy to meet its needs for electricity. See how solar power is making its mark on pgs. 8-9, including this light made from an empty plastic water bottle.

## US Provides \$110 Million More to Pakistanis Fleeing Swat Conflict

**WASHINGTON**—At a May 19 White House announcement, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said that the United States would send \$110 million more in aid to Pakistanis fleeing their homes as the Pakistani Army sought to rein in Taliban militants.

The aid comes in addition to \$62.2 million USAID and other

U.S. agencies have sent in recent months to assist Pakistanis displaced by fighting in Swat, Buner, and the Federally Administered Tribal Areas.

USAID sent a Disaster Assistance Response Team to support the Pakistan government

see **PAKISTAN** on page 14 ▶

The icon  at the end of a story indicates that associated videos are available through the online version of *FrontLines*. Go to [www.usaid.gov/frontlines](http://www.usaid.gov/frontlines) to view these videos.

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING ...

A column devoted to what our partners and others in the field of foreign assistance are saying about development

### The Politics of Toilets

By Rose George

On Earth Day, let's not forget the dirt. The planet is soiled with sewage, on land and sea. Our waste is the biggest marine pollutant there is, according to the United Nations Environment Program. In the developing world, 90 percent of sewage is discharged untreated into oceans and rivers, where its high nutrient content can suffocate the life out of seas, contributing to dead zones (405 worldwide and counting).

There are dead zones on land, too. Human waste contaminates environments all over the world, rich and poor. Imagine getting up at 4 a.m. in darkness, trekking to a nearby bush or field, and going to the bathroom out in the open. Imagine then being hit by a farmer who doesn't like you toileting in his field, or being raped by someone taking advantage of the dark, which you need to preserve your modesty. The quarter of the world's population without access to sanitation—not even a bucket nor a box—don't have to imagine this. It's their daily reality. What's more, all that excrement lying around has deadly consequences.

More children—up to 2 million a year, or one every 15 seconds or so—die of diarrhea, 90 percent of which is due to fecal contamination in food or liquid, than of TB, malaria or HIV/AIDS. Diarrhea is the world's most effective weapon of mass destruction.

That's the gloom. The good news is that it's solvable. And solving the world's sewage mess would be such a bargain that it should appeal to politicians holding the purse strings even in these straitened times. Investing \$1 in sanitation reaps \$8 in health costs averted and labor days saved. Look at it another way: not investing \$1 in sanitation loses you \$7. Last year the World Bank calculated that poor sanitation cost Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam between 1.4 and 7.2 percent of their GDP. When Peru had a cholera outbreak in 1991, losses from tourism and agricultural revenue were three times greater than the total money spent on sanitation in the previous decade.

If numbers are too technical, let's get practical: Installing latrines and clean water supply in a typical village has dramatic effects.

In the far reaches of Orissa, India, I visited the leader of a

village named Samiapalli, which until recently had no sanitation and endemic open defecation in nearby woods and along roadsides. Of course, those weren't the villagers' only problems: they also faced rampant alcohol abuse, domestic violence, and persistent caste discrimination. Today is different. Although it took 162 meetings to get everyone to agree to install one (and to contribute to the cost), everybody has a latrine, bathing room, and running water. With the confidence gained through those 162 meetings, women had kicked out the illegal alcohol brewers (and tied the most persistently violent men to a lamp post). Eighty percent more girl children now went to school, the leader told me. Women were earning money growing peanuts and selling other goods at market with the free time they had gained from not having to spend hours finding somewhere private to do their business, or to fetch cripplingly heavy water. Diarrhea had dropped dramatically (a latrine can reduce disease by 40 percent; a clean water supply reduces it by 20 percent).

Sanitation isn't a symptom of development. It can trigger it. "It's the hardest entry point," says Joe Madiath, whose NGO Gram Vikas had helped bring the toilet revolution to Samiapalli. "But once you succeed with sanitation, you can do anything."

Samiapalli's story, and those of other sanitation success stories, makes the lack of international resources for sanitation baffling. A target of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (though it was included late and against great opposition), sanitation continues to lag far behind access to clean water, an easier topic to sell and publicize. Celebrities happily promote a village's shiny new faucets, preferably with a photogenic child nearby, but fail to make the logical step over to the new latrines that have lengthened that child's life and enabled her to go to school.

These priorities persist behind the cameras. The United Nations Human Development Report noted in 2006 that water and sanitation budgets in most countries are less than 0.5 percent of GDP; and of that pittance, 90 percent goes on clean water supply. Things may be improving, but slowly: The times when much of the U.S.'s overseas water and sanitation budget went toward restoring infrastructure in places it had helped destroy—notably Iraq and Afghanistan—are thankfully over. [Senator] Paul Simon's Water for the Poor Act has actually been allocated proper money (\$300 million), and the Reports to Congress about the act laudably mention "sanitation." But there are still 994 references to water in the report, and only 249 mentions of "sanitation."

This is understandable, given how long sanitation has been in water's shadow. And the fact that sanitation is mentioned at all is cheering. But we must not let that semantic imbalance translate into an imbalance of funds allocated for sanitation—the most off-track target, after all, of all the targets in the Millennium Development Goals.

The International Year of Sanitation ended in December, but our pressure on politicians and donor agencies should not. Funds that have long gushed away to the cause of clean water, at the expense of sanitation, should be diverted back. In financially straitened times, it makes economic sense to invest in the most cost-effective health prevention mechanism we have. With a new Global Sanitation Fund up and running, it couldn't be easier. Earth Day is as good a day as any to remember that sewage may be dirt, but sanitation shouldn't be treated like it.

*Rose George is a freelance journalist and author of "The Big Necessity," a report on the realities of the world's sanitation situation. She posted the above article on Earth Day, April 22, at <http://newsweek.washingtonpost.com/postglobal/needtoknow>. It is reprinted with her permission. ★*

### Interview with Sam Worthington

Sam Worthington is president and chief executive officer of InterAction (the American Council for Voluntary International Action), an alliance of 179 private voluntary organizations. Millions of Americans contribute to these NGOs, which carry out extensive anti-poverty and relief activities in the United States and overseas, much through USAID. On May 7, Worthington sat down with *FrontLines* Editorial Director Ben Barber for an interview.

**Q:** What do NGOs do and why does USAID work with them?

**WORTHINGTON:**

The U.S. public is interested in engaging with the world's poor and trying to make a difference in their lives. Tens of millions of Americans give resources to U.S. NGOs to engage in work overseas.

For decades, we've had a partnership with USAID to leverage our mutual work and to provide services through civil society in a way that could not be happening if USAID was working directly with populations.

**Q:** Is USAID funding for the NGOs increasing?

**WORTHINGTON:**

Over the past 10 years, it has remained relatively flat. And interestingly, during the same period we've seen a tripling of private resources coming to our community. For every dollar that we receive from the U.S. government, there are three dollars coming from the broad public. This is a good thing—it certainly gives more independence of action by our community.

**Q:** How do NGOs reach the general public?

see **WORTHINGTON** on page 14 ▶

### Displaced Sri Lankans Receive Aid as Tamil Tigers Defeated

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka**—Sri Lankan troops on May 19 ended the 25-year-old insurrection by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, killing Tiger leader Velupillai Prabhakaran, said military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara.

Since the beginning of the war, it is estimated that over 70,000 people were killed. Definitive numbers on deaths and wounded in the recent fighting are not available since the government of Sri Lanka did not allow journalists or international organizations into the conflict area.

U.N. refugee agency spokesman Ron Redmond said an estimated 80,000 people left the former war zone in the last three days of fighting, bringing the number of internally displaced persons (IDPs) to more than 280,000, mostly confined to displacement camps in Jaffna, Mannar, Trincomalee, and Vavuniya districts.

During the final months of the war, USAID provided funding solely for emergency, life-saving assistance to displaced

see **SRI LANKA** on page 15 ▶

## MISSION OF THE MONTH



Children from La Balestera Mrgen Izquierdo in the Department of Meta in Colombia work with a new educational kit at their recently renovated school.

## Colombia Increases Security, Services in La Macarena to Overturn Coca and Conflict

By Miguel Reabold, Nadereh Lee, Dana Peterson, and German Acevedo

### Challenge

The lack of state presence in large parts of Colombia has allowed illegally armed groups to operate with impunity, creating the conditions for growing and trafficking coca, and for moving arms and guerillas.

Government efforts to consolidate state presence in these areas has had limited success, despite three decades of fighting Colombia's coca-fueled guerilla war. But change has begun.

Since 2007, USAID has worked closely with Colombian government officials in La Macarena to develop and carry out a model consolidation plan for bringing peace and stability to conflict regions. La Macarena is in a strategically important area in the Department of Meta, which is close to the geographic center of the country, and just east of the Andes Mountains in the Llanos plains. It is also one of the major coca-producing parts of Colombia.

### Innovative Response

First, the Colombian army establishes permanent security for communities—a departure from the days when

the military ejected guerilla groups and moved on, leaving communities at the mercy of the guerillas when they inevitably returned. Security creates conditions for manual eradication of coca by police-led teams and voluntary eradication efforts by the community.

Next, small, quick-impact infrastructure and income-generating projects are carried out that immediately demonstrate state presence. These include rehabilitation and equipping of schools and health facilities, and technical assistance and resources for farmers. The goal is to transition from coca to legal economies.

Longer-term projects follow such as helping farmers get legal title to their land; improving education; health services; and strengthening agricultural producer associations.

At the local level, military, police, and civilians work together through a “Fusion Center.”

At the national level, the Center for the Coordination of Integrated Action (CCAI) brings together 14 government ministries to coordinate establishing government services in post-conflict parts of the country. USAID

## COLOMBIA



has provided technical assistance to CCAI to improve its efforts throughout the country.

### Results

When the Colombian government decided to carry out a pilot plan in La Macarena, USAID provided assistance to:

- ▶ develop a three-year plan to establish state presence
- ▶ hire and support civilian staff for the consolidation plan
- ▶ increase the capacity of mayors' offices to provide services
- ▶ carry out hundreds of small, quick-impact infrastructure and income-generating projects—such as repairs to market roads—to create confidence in the Colombian government; and
- ▶ conduct surveys, improve communications, and help prevent youth recruitment by illegally armed groups.

Little over a year has passed since the consolidation plan began, and the military continues to expand the secured areas, followed by an increasingly positive perception by communities. More than 9,000 hectares (22,239 acres) of coca have been eradicated without the typical widespread violence and community protests. Replanting rates are less than 3 percent.

Today, as improved security is perceived as permanent in large parts of the region, the private sector is becoming more involved. As an example, more than 4,000 hectares of rice were planted this year in previously insecure areas and where rice has never been grown before.

Increasingly, La Macarena is viewed as a model to launch consolidated state presence, spur economic and social development, and restore long-term peace in other parts of Colombia that are suffering from violence and narco-trafficking. ★

## INSIGHTS

### FROM ACTING ADMINISTRATOR ALONZO FULGHAM



Last month, I was thrilled to have the opportunity to address the fifth group of new officers to join USAID through the Development Leadership Initiative (DLI).

Under the DLI, a total of 196 new Foreign Service Officers have entered the Agency over the past 11 months, which represents the largest intake of new officers in 20 years.

I would like to share with the Agency a few facts about the fifth class. Of the 40 new officers:

- ▶ 13 have experience in the developing world as Peace Corps volunteers;
- ▶ 15 have worked with other U.S. government agencies;
- ▶ Four have prior experience with USAID;
- ▶ Two have served our country in the armed forces; and
- ▶ One is a Fulbright Scholar.

As a group, this new class of Foreign Service Officers speaks a total of 33 different languages.

During their graduation ceremony, I shared a few thoughts with the new officers about where we are going with foreign assistance, some of which I'd like to pass on here: I firmly believe that, in the future, as international affairs scholars and others look back on this time, it will be recorded as something of a paradigm shift in foreign assistance.

At a time in which the community of nations is undergoing some of the most severe economic and security challenges ever, the United States has stood firm in its commitment to increase foreign assistance to developing nations.

We have been asked by our president and secretary of state to actively engage in new ways with our development and country partners—and with a much wider range of stakeholders—in order to find creative solutions to old problems.

We have begun to operationalize a new business model in fragile states—one in which civilian leadership is working hand-in-hand with our Defense colleagues to bring peace, security, and sustainable development to areas with some of the most extreme conditions ever seen.

Along with our development partners, most developing nations, and organizations from across civil society, we have committed to a new set of agreements that stress mutual accountability, results, and country ownership of the development process, along with better alignment and harmonization.

And we are now using technology to address the needs of vulnerable populations in ways never imagined.

In this new arrangement, development is no longer the shortest leg of the three-legged foreign policy stool. We are much more evenly balanced alongside defense and diplomacy.

However, to take advantage of these new conditions, we will need to make some adjustments in the institutional culture of our Agency. We have always done our best work when we have been forced to innovate, to think creatively, to experiment. Many of the development tools and technologies still in use around the world were the product of such creativity.

The strength of our organization lies with its people—the fine women and men of our Foreign Service, Civil Service, Foreign Service National Corps, and our personal service contractors. As I travel to our missions abroad and interact with our people here in Washington, I see great promise for the future of our Agency. ★

## BRIEFS

### UN Says Sudan Humanitarian Crisis Eases

AL FASHER, Sudan—Two months after 13 key international aid agencies were expelled from Sudan, the U.N. on May 10 said it was cautiously optimistic about the humanitarian situation in Darfur.

The U.N. emergency relief coordinator, John Holmes, who was visiting the region, said there was no hard evidence that more people had died because of the disrupted aid effort, the BBC reported. However, the situation remained fragile.

The foreign aid agencies were expelled after Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir was indicted for war crimes by the International Criminal Court. Holmes said that, despite the expulsion, the humanitarian situation had not deteriorated as dramatically as many had feared since the U.N. and the Sudanese government have filled many gaps.

Privately, other U.N. officials went further, arguing that the operating environment had actually improved, and welcoming the fact that the Sudanese government was being forced to take more of a role in the relief effort.

### Pakistan Tribal Areas Get Clean Water Assessment

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—USAID has completed an assessment of 500 water systems in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA), the Agency reported April 23. The report included maps for each Agency and Frontier Region showing the type of water supply schemes, contamination levels, depth to water table, and population served.

Unclean water and poor sanitation account for 60 percent of child deaths in Pakistan, and approximately 630 Pakistani children die each day from diarrhea. The water

data will help donors expand and repair water systems as well as construct new ones. USAID has already started to rehabilitate 20 water supply systems in Khyber Agency.

### Pakistan's Parliamentarians Trained to Govern

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—Newly-elected members of parliament have received a training course by USAID that gives an overview of the structure and functions of the assemblies, procedural rules, and the committee system, the Agency reported in April.

The \$11.2 million USAID-funded Pakistan Legislative Strengthening Project conducted the orientation for senators elected in early March. Since the February 2008 elections, the project has provided orientation sessions for all the national provincial assemblies for newly-elected members.

### Somalia Fighting Drives Thousands to Flee

MOGADISHU, Somalia—Fierce fighting in Somalia's capital has killed 113 civilians in the past three days and forced more than 27,000 to flee their homes, a human rights organization said May 12, according to the Associated Press.

Some 10,000 civilians fled their homes in Mogadishu May 12 alone, according to Ali Sheik Yasin Fadhah of the independent Elman Human Rights Organization. About 345 civilians have been wounded in what has become Mogadishu's worst violence in recent weeks, he said.

The renewed violence in the Horn of Africa nation is pitting pro-government fighters against those allied to al-Shabab, an insurgent group seeking to overthrow Somalia's Western-backed government and establish an Islamic state.

*From news reports and other sources. ★*

## World Malaria Day Marked in Liberia, Other PMI Countries

By Ashley Peterson Allen

Yemeh Smith smiled nervously as she received a rapid diagnostic test (RDT) for malaria in rural Todee District, Liberia.

The gloved volunteer sanitized Smith's middle finger, then pricked it and deposited a drop of blood into the testing mechanism to wait 15 minutes for the result.

Smith falls into the category of those most vulnerable to malaria—women who are pregnant and children under the age of 5. She tested negative, a result she attributes to prevention information she received from a community health volunteer (CHV) who visited her home and health professionals at the local clinic who have provided treatment to help prevent malaria during her pregnancy.

The test and special treatment Smith received are two of several weapons in the arsenal to fight malaria provided by the U.S. President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), led by USAID in partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, country health ministries, and an array of NGOs and civic organizations.

In Liberia, malaria is the leading cause of sickness and death, and perpetuates the cycle of poverty as people infected often miss work or school. Over the last year, PMI distributed 197,000 long-lasting insecticide-treated mosquito nets, and purchased another 430,000 for distribution through 2009 in the country.

USAID also sponsored training in malaria case management for 395 health workers in clinics that received 425,000 RDTs and over 1.6 million doses of anti-malarial drugs. The numbers will increase to over 1,000 health workers, 850,000 tests, and over 2 million treatments by the end of 2009. Indoor residual spraying, a fourth element in the anti-malaria arsenal, begins in June in 25,000 households.

A major malaria-related concern in Liberia is proper diagnosis, which RDTs help facilitate. Health experts want to avoid situations where all fevers are treated



Expectant mother Yemeh Smith receives a rapid diagnostic test for malaria from a trained community health volunteer in Todee District, Liberia, on World Malaria Day this year.

Photo by Ashley Peterson Allen, USAID

as malaria and resources are wasted, while ensuring that those infected receive proper treatment from trained staff in clinics.

PMI is just one year into its three-year operation in Liberia, but a small survey of 146 households in Bomi County showed that over 60 percent possessed mosquito nets, though just under 40 percent hung them properly.

In rural districts like Todee, CHVs walk along dirt roads up to three or four hours to villages

where they share the malaria message with village leaders and households. One volunteer explained that before the awareness campaign, many people thought malaria was caused by sucking oranges, eating bad mangoes, or drinking too much beer. Others resisted using nets, saying they were too hot or hurt their skin, and sold them or used them improperly to make curtains, to strain food, or to fish.

On World Malaria Day, which fell on April 25 this year, countries hard hit by the disease joined advocacy groups and health agencies to highlight malaria's impact and the programs to eradicate the disease which kills about 1 million people every year.

In Todee District, where Smith and others were tested that day, school children donned World Malaria Day T-shirts and paraded through the villages. They sang songs about the day's theme, Counting Malaria Out, and warned, "Don't let the mosquito bite—it may give you malaria!"

Read more about World Malaria Day at [www.pmi.gov/news/wmd\\_09.html](http://www.pmi.gov/news/wmd_09.html). ★

## Research Study Confirms PEPFAR Has Saved Lives

By Roslyn Matthews and Jessica DiRocco

A \$15 billion U.S. program to fight HIV/AIDS saved 1.2 million people from dying of AIDS between 2004 and 2007 in 12 African countries, according to a study published in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in May.

PEPFAR—the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief—is the largest initiative in the world to combat the global AIDS crisis. It lowered the death rate on average by 10.5 percent a year in Botswana, Cote d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, according to the study.

"What this study confirms is that, over time, PEPFAR is changing the dynamics of the HIV/AIDS epidemic," said Robert Clay, director of USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS. "This is certainly good news. But we must not get off track; our success is tempered by significant challenges that still remain ahead."

USAID implemented 60 percent of PEPFAR assistance in 2008.

The study noted that, as the number of people receiving anti-retroviral drugs increases, the cost of providing treatment is expected to increase as well.

"A key issue for us within the PEPFAR program is making sure we enhance our collective understanding of the economic and clinical implications of sustained AIDS treatment programs," Clay said. "This is essential to ensure the survival of people that desperately need treatment, the sustainability of programs, and valuably underscores the need for strong HIV prevention strategies."

Officials will talk about the next steps in the battle against HIV/AIDS at the HIV Implementers' Meeting, which includes partner organizations, in Namibia June 10 to 14. The international event is co-sponsored by PEPFAR, along with the government of Namibia; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund); UNAIDS; UNICEF; the World Bank; the World Health Organization; and

## Lebanese Youth Air Political and Social Concerns

By Sven Lindholm



Photo by USAID

A young man takes part in a Hyde Park-style debate in Beirut.

Over the past few months, hundreds of Lebanese youth have been using national media to tell leaders, contemporaries, and the public at large about the issues that affect them.

Lebanese youth have not been immune to the country's

recent political crises. And while they appear at rallies and demonstrations, they are not involved in the decision-making process on a substantive level and lack places where they can constructively express their views and aspirations.

Nahar Ashabab, a Lebanese NGO, is working to change that, galvanizing youth across the country through two projects supported by USAID.

The first was a modern-era model, with television cameras rolling, using the Hyde Park Speaker's Corner debate scheme from the 1800s, named after the London park where anyone can make a speech about their concerns.

Through six televised debates, youth questioned their leaders about emigration, extremism, Palestinian-Lebanese relations, and other issues. They also gave legislators an earful about what the lawmakers should be doing to improve the country.

"Youth don't always have a voice in Lebanon—when they do, it is usually through political parties or sometimes NGOs," explained Basil, 19. "I want to give my opinion and have my voice be heard. I want youth to

have a role in our country and freedom of speech."

None of the questions were pre-screened and the show's facilitators worked to ensure that speakers presented different political perspectives. "With all that is happening in Lebanon, it's very important for youth to talk and listen to others' opinions," said Violette Khairallah Selwan, the show's coordinator.

The episodes aired by Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation, the first private television station in Lebanon, provided a rare opportunity for youth to express themselves and speak directly with politicians in front of millions of viewers.

Nahar Ashabab, USAID's partner, also hosted a three-day National Youth Dialogue workshop that allowed young people a way to recommend changes they want to see in Lebanon.

Their top requests to the nation's leaders included

reducing the voting age to 18, legalizing civil marriage, and providing free education for all. These issues were published in a special supplement to *An-Nahar*, Lebanon's largest newspaper.

"I wish everyone in Lebanon this chance to think together and discuss controversial and heartfelt issues as they relate to the destiny of our country," Kholoud, a 21-year-old participant from the Beqaa, said.

By speaking out about issues that affect them, the youth who took part in these activities say they now sense that they can hold their leaders accountable in a democratic manner. The two efforts have also increased the visibility of youth organizations, and, according to another youth, may "...add pressure on youth NGOs to be more effective."

*Staff from USAID's office in Lebanon contributed to this article. ★*

the Global Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS.

Reauthorized in July 2008, PEPFAR is in its second phase and is expanding approaches to the prevention of sexual transmission of HIV. Over the next several years, PEPFAR will emphasize a combination approach towards HIV prevention, including male circumcision and a focus on most-at-risk populations.

Through the PEPFAR reauthorization, the United States has now committed an additional \$39 billion for HIV/AIDS projects in specific countries and for the Global Fund. This is in addition to the more than \$18 billion the United States has already invested for global AIDS through the first years of PEPFAR, well exceeding the original commitment of \$15 billion.

New goals for PEPFAR include providing treatment for at least 3 million people, preventing 12 million new infections, and providing care for 12 million people, including 5 million orphans and vulnerable children.

Currently, there are about 33 million people living with HIV, and two-thirds of those infected are in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the World Health Organization and UNAIDS. ★ 

## U.S. Loan Guarantee Helps Ghana Port Company Acquire Forklifts

By Nancy Leahy

In 2005, Safebond was a two-year-old port services company in Ghana that had yet to make a name for itself in the industry. With its business on the line, Safebond finally got its big break when the government of Ghana awarded the start-up company a contract to provide services for the Ghana Ports and Harbors Authority.

Under the contract, Safebond was responsible for loading, offloading, and storing cargo coming in and out of Ghana's busy port in Tema.

For such a young company, the contract was a coup. However, one significant challenge remained: Safebond needed forklifts to move the cargo on and off ships. To buy the six forklifts required for the job, the company needed to secure a loan for \$600,000.

"As a start-up, it was difficult to get the loan we needed," said Safebond Director of Finance Isaac Kodom. "We didn't have

the financials to support our loan application unless we could find a company to guarantee our application."

Faced with this seemingly impossible situation, Safebond ultimately approached Ecobank Ghana Ltd. for a loan. Ecobank had recently entered into an agreement with USAID that allowed the bank to issue credit to borrowers that might otherwise be deemed too risky.

The agreement between USAID and Ecobank was a credit guarantee program through a public-private partnership mechanism called the Development Credit Authority. Credit guarantees spread the risk of a loan default among partner institutions. The partnership between USAID and Ecobank allowed Safebond to get financing without the financial history that a loan application would normally require.

Credit guarantees can introduce banks to new or underserved



Photo by USAID

A Safebond-owned top-lifter loads a container.

sectors by mitigating the risk of issuing loans by up to 50 percent. Once the guarantee expires, banks are familiar with new borrowers, and these borrowers, in turn, have proven their creditworthiness. As a result of these guarantees, lending does not rely on external donor funding, since local financial institutions have realized the profitability of these underserved borrowers and continue to lend to them without the credit guarantee.

Because of the guaranteed \$600,000 loan from Ecobank, Safebond has been able to establish a credit history and

obtain subsequent financing both from Ecobank and from other financial institutions without a USAID guarantee. The company has grown from a small start-up into a company worth \$20 million with 800 permanent employees, and has expanded operations in Ghana's other port in Takoradi. Safebond is also working in Liberia, and plans to expand to Kenya and Angola.

Without the initial financing from Ecobank, says Kodom, "I don't know what would have happened."★

# THE REGIONS

## MIDDLE EAST

### Health Visits at Home Educate Jordanian Women

**AMMAN, Jordan**—“The first time I am a little nervous, but the second visit they are actually waiting for me!” says Rasha Mashaella.

She is one of the 140 female community health educators who go door to door in towns and villages throughout Jordan. They conduct home health visits with women who are among the most difficult to reach and have the greatest health needs.

The health educators discuss the benefits of modern family planning methods, the importance of early detection of breast and cervical cancer, and the best methods for self-breast examinations. They also provide referrals for family planning and care before and after childbirth.

The home visits, aimed at women ages 15 to 60, are the foundation of USAID’s Private Sector Project for Women’s Health in Jordan, active in the country since 2005.

The project’s director, Dr. Rita Leavell, is a physician with an MBA in marketing and over 20 years of field experience. “Interpersonal communication is one of the keys to positive behavior change,” she said, “and we have found that talking to another woman privately helps in making that final decision to take action.”

Since its inception, the program has reached over 900,000 out of 1.1 million women in the target age group. Nearly 92,000 married women of reproductive age have accepted modern contraceptive methods for the first time.

Although Jordan’s health statistics show relatively good numbers in some family health categories, certain challenges persist among Jordanian women.

Total fertility in the country, for example, has dropped dramatically since 1983, from 6.6 births per woman to 3.6 in 2007. Since 2002, however, contraceptive use—particularly modern methods—has stalled.

According to the 2007 Jordan Population and Family Health Survey, 57 percent of married women practice family planning, but only 42 percent use a modern method—the IUD is the most popular, followed by oral contraceptives or “the pill.”

About 12 percent of married women of reproductive age have been unable to access family planning, with highest unmet need among poor women with little or no education. Unmet need for family planning also varies by governorate, ranging from 9 percent in Zarqa, a city about 12 miles northeast of Amman, to 21 percent in the southern Jordan city of Ma’an.

In addition, breast cancer is the leading cancer and second cause of death among women in Jordan. This is primarily because of late detection, leading to a high mortality rate. If found earlier through regular self-exam or clinical exams, the mortality rate could drop as much as 35 percent.

This is where women’s home health visits come in. During the first visit, the health worker develops a registration card that details the woman’s maternal health and family planning information. The health worker will then educate the client on women’s health issues, family planning methods, and how to conduct self-breast exams. If the client has no health problems and is completely satisfied with her ongoing family planning method, she will receive one additional visit from the health worker.

Women who have health problems, are pregnant, are trying out a new family planning method, or who have some difficulties with their family planning method of choice will receive four to eight return visits from the health worker. The health worker will conduct



Dr. Rita Leavell, left, and a community health educator prepare for a home visit in Jordan.

additional health assessments and provide necessary health education, support, and referrals during these visits as necessary. Home visits are conducted every four to six weeks.

Referrals are made to all types of clinics in the country—both public and private. Dr. Leavell says that “to be effective, it is important that outreach is tailored to the woman’s needs and does not promote only one health issue or service point.” The data from an extensive reporting system document the success of the approach, with over 50 percent of women acting on referrals.

The project works through NGOs, Circassian Charity Association, and General Union of Voluntary Societies to recruit and train women to become community health workers. Those hired typically have a secondary education or high school diploma and live in the communities where they work.

“The NGOs have been great partners and are very enthusiastic about outreach as it improves health and also employs women,” says Dr. Leavell. “We are now upgrading the data system to Web-based servers and introducing handheld computers for data collection.”

The outreach and referrals are part of a comprehensive private sector program including mass media messages and continuing education for private physicians. ★

## ASIA

### New Delhi’s Children Find Shelter from the Street

By Meeta Parti and Kathryn Viguerie

**NEW DELHI**—Growing up desperately poor in West Bengal, India, Vicky Roy felt sure that few opportunities would come his way. Hoping for a better life, he ran away from home at the age of 11 and, like many homeless children in India, he made his way to the crowded New Delhi railway station, where he spent six months living on the train tracks.

Eking out a meager existence collecting and selling plastic bottles with other street children, Roy found life on the railway tracks dangerous and bleak. Roy’s life, however, began to change when he was referred to the Salaam Baalak Trust (SBT), a USAID-supported NGO that helps street children.

Encouraged by another boy, Roy entered SBT’s residential program, which operates four full-service shelters for children in New Delhi and nearby Haryana. In addition to shelter, USAID assistance enables SBT to provide food, medical care, and the opportunity to attend school. Even more important, the shelters provide the children with security, a sense of home, and a chance to be children again.

Close to half a million street children live in New Delhi. Helpless and exploited, they suffer from chronic malnutrition and illness. Many become victims of drug peddlers and child traffickers or worse.

Noting Roy’s interest in photography, SBT arranged for him to take a year-long course in photography and further hone his skills with a professional photographer who volunteered at SBT.

With the consistent encouragement and support of SBT, today, at the age of 20, Roy is an accomplished and internationally recognized photographer who has exhibited his photos in India, England, and other countries.

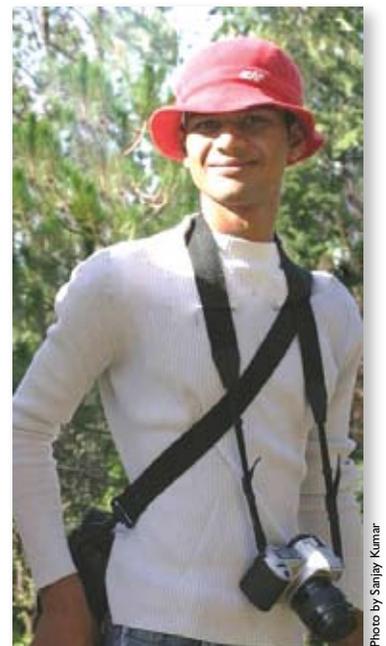
Last year, Roy won a prestigious scholarship from the U.S.-based Wilhelm and Karl Maybach Foundation, which provides exceptionally talented young adults from adverse circumstances the opportunity to connect and mentor with distinguished global leaders.

SBT operates seven outreach contact points near the Delhi railway station and a 24-hour toll-free helpline service for children in distress. Social workers from SBT visit the station platforms of Delhi’s main railway station daily and look for newly arrived runaways—rescuing almost 30 girls and 100 boys each month.

SBT also provides services—including medical checkups, treatment, health education, and referrals to government hospitals—to children who choose to remain on the street or live in nearby slums, but still need and want to access services. Most of the children supported by SBT receive formal schooling, which includes lunch each day.

In addition to their schooling, children are encouraged to pursue vocational training, open bank accounts, and save money. SBT runs a computer training course and links with other institutes for training on tailoring, fashion design, automobile repair, photography, and dance, among others. In many cases, the training is followed up by industry placements.

To see examples of Roy’s photos, go to [www.vickyroyphotography.com](http://www.vickyroyphotography.com). ★



Vicky Roy came to the Salaam Baalak Trust residential program as a homeless 11-year-old. Now he is an accomplished photographer.

## AFRICA



EHP nurse Leah Achieng' Chiaji attends to patients at Majengo Dispensary in Tana River District, Eastern Kenya.

## Health Workers Increasing Care in Kenya's Neglected Communities

By Michael Gebremedhin

**NAIROBI, Kenya**—Kenya lacks trained health personnel, leaving many of its citizens with little access to health care. However, the government recently hired 870 permanent health care workers to strengthen health services.

In 2007, the new health workers were hired, trained, and deployed to public health facilities through USAID's Capacity Project, a global plan to strengthen human resources. The project works in almost 20 countries throughout Africa, Asia, and Latin America and helps developing countries build and sustain their health workforce so they can deliver quality health programs.

Kenya—which has faced staffing shortages, a hiring freeze, staff attrition, and migration—really needed the new staff and decided to appoint these contract workers to permanent positions in the public health care system. This decision ensures that the increased access to HIV/AIDS care, family planning, and other critical services gained through the emergency plan will continue.

The initial group of workers hired through the plan—whose three-year contracts were set to expire—will not miss a paycheck.

“The health facility would have closed down if we weren't hired by the EHP [Emergency Hiring Plan],” says Leah Achieng' Chiaji, a community health nurse in Tana River District, an arid, sparsely populated area in the eastern part of Kenya. “That would have been a big loss to the community.”

Chiaji, who has worked with EHP for 18 months, and her

fellow EHP staff currently reach more than 200 health facilities.

Their work is considered invaluable in communities traditionally underserved by Kenya's health system. “All of the EHP staff plays a major role in every district we work,” Chiaji said. “We bring services closer to communities in marginalized areas of our country.”

The Capacity Project and government officials collaborated to create a transparent and fair hiring system. The government initially received more than 6,500 applications from health workers, and winnowed that list to 4,500.

The final 870 candidates were screened, interviewed, and deployed three-and-a-half months after the positions were first advertised. The process normally takes a year or longer.

“In addition to its direct impact on health service delivery to underserved populations, the EHP program has changed the way of doing business in Kenya,” said Melahi Pons, health sector and systems strengthening team leader at USAID's office in Kenya.

“EHP is helping the government make its hiring systems transparent, efficient, and rigorous.

“These changes will not only strengthen the health system, but improve the quality of health care that Kenyans will receive. This is an important and clear signal of the government's firm commitment to public health, especially when one takes into consideration the challenges brought by the current global financial climate.” ★

## LATIN AMERICA

## USAID Program Provides Opportunities for Jamaican Youth

**KINGSTON, Jamaica**—When the World Bank holds its Commonwealth Secretariat Regional Caribbean Conference on “Keeping Boys Out of Risk” this year, it will showcase some of the best programs to help young men live productive lives and stay on the right side of the law. Among those programs is one run by USAID and a local NGO.

It started in 2005 when USAID's office in Jamaica participated in the Education for All (EFA) Youth Challenge grant program. EFA is a worldwide effort spearheaded by the United Nations to provide basic education for all children and adults by 2015.

The program in Jamaica targeted 50 young men from the formerly violence prone Grants Pen community in Kingston, who were among the thousands of the country's unemployed and out-of-school youth. The aim: to create opportunities for a better life by addressing the educa-



Orret Perkins attends a training session at a music studio as part of the Jamaica Education for All Youth Challenge Grant Project.

tional and employment challenges of urban boys.

Participants ages 15 to 24 were encouraged to take on more positive roles in their community. The program taught literacy, math, business development, skills training, and personal development. Lessons also covered music, conflict resolution, communication

and presentation skills, deportment, and aquatic skills.

People's Action for Community Transformation (PACT), a local NGO and USAID partner, in association with the Boston-based Education Development Center, implemented the program.

Participants Ramone Jeffrey, Damion Stewart, and Andre Fairclough are still part of a network that, four years later, meets weekly in person or by telephone.

Jeffrey, now 22, said he recalled “seeing so many young men stand together at the graduation ceremony in 2007, many of whom were probably doing nothing and getting into trouble—former gang members—all standing together because they wanted to elevate themselves.”

Fairclough said simply: “This program was God-sent.” He found out about it when he helped

see **JAMAICA** on page 14 ▶

## EUROPE & EURASIA

## Former Aid Recipients in Europe Become Aid Donors

By Michelle Barrett

**BUDAPEST, Hungary**—Bulgaria, Croatia, and Romania are former recipients of assistance from USAID, but they are now starting to develop their own foreign assistance programs.

Between February and April, government representatives took part in a series of workshops held in Sofia, Zagreb, and Bucharest on best practices in delivering foreign aid, also called Official Development Assistance (ODA). The series was coordinated by USAID's Regional Services Center (RSC) in Budapest as part of the Agency's engagement with Eastern Europe's emerging donors, which began in 2006.

After graduating from assistance in 2008, Bulgaria and Romania joined the European Union (EU). Croatia expects to join in the next round of enlargement. As part of their EU



USAID trainer Michelle Adams-Matson discusses strategy planning with a participant at the Croatia development assistance training.

obligations, each country must establish a program for assisting less-developed countries.

Upon request, the RSC determined each country's capacity to provide aid and USAID ran a workshop in each country explaining how the Agency administers aid. Attendees included

government officials, civil society representatives, and U.S. Embassy officers. NGO representatives came to the workshops to explain their capabilities and perspectives on how to work with donors to deliver ODA.

see **HUNGARY** on page 13 ▶

# FOCUS ON LIBERIA

## LIBERIA FINDS SOLAR POWER GETS THINGS MOVING AGAIN

By Nena Terrell

**MONROVIA, Liberia**—Liberians who live, study, or work outside the limited electric grid of the capital, Monrovia, do not have affordable, reliable light. A place to charge a mobile phone is a daily quest.

Less than 2 percent of rural areas and about 10 percent of the urban capital area have modern energy sources.

People who live in thatched or makeshift dwellings use hazardous candles and kerosene lamps—there are no fire fighters to come to the rescue. A fortunate minority have generators that run on expensive fuel.

Renewable energy is emerging to fill the need for power, allowing the rebuilding country to leapfrog over polluting fuels into “green” energy using the country’s abundance of sun and water.

In 2006, the USAID Liberia Energy Assistance Program (LEAP) began helping the post-war government of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf create a national energy policy, including a strategy to reach the most underserved.

In two years, LEAP showed the benefits of low maintenance solar technologies at 19 sites in schools, clinics, small businesses, and public buildings supported by other USAID programs. Some examples of these pilot sites and how they renewed people’s lives and livelihoods follow. ★



A solar-powered vaccine refrigerator keeps medicines cool.

Photo by IRG Ltd.

## Solar Refrigerator Preserves Vaccines and Saves Lives

At the Sakonnedu Health Clinic in Lofa County, LEAP provided a solar-powered vaccine refrigerator and a portable solar lantern for night births and other emergencies.

Before receiving the refrigerator, vaccines weren’t always available when needed as Sakonnedu staff had to bring ice packs from the county capital to keep vaccines in a cold box.

Opportunities to vaccinate infants coming from remote villages were often lost.

A health worker at the clinic, which is run by International Medical Corps, credits the solar-powered refrigerator with saving lives: “Before a lot of newborns died, mostly from tetanus; since the refrigerator came, no more.”—*N.T.* ★

## Entrepreneurs Turn Plastic Bottles into Solar Lamps

A few Liberian groups are testing out a new business using empty plastic water bottles to make solar-powered lanterns with three tiny LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs. The small lantern serves as a flashlight or flexes to become a reading light.

The solar torch was developed and donated by Green Energies, LLC, for micro-enterprises in Tanzania. A start-up assembly tool kit costs \$100 and light kits are \$15 each. The lanterns are sold for about \$25 each, including a small (1.5W) solar panel for recharging the batteries.

In Liberia, people can spend up to \$15 each month on kerosene and candles, so makers of the small lights expect brisk sales.

After training, a person can assemble four or five lights in a day.—*N.T.* ★



Workers install a solar-powered street light in Robertsport. Solar light panels are attached to sturdy aluminum mounting racks, each including a maintenance-free battery and a “dusk to dawn” charge controller.

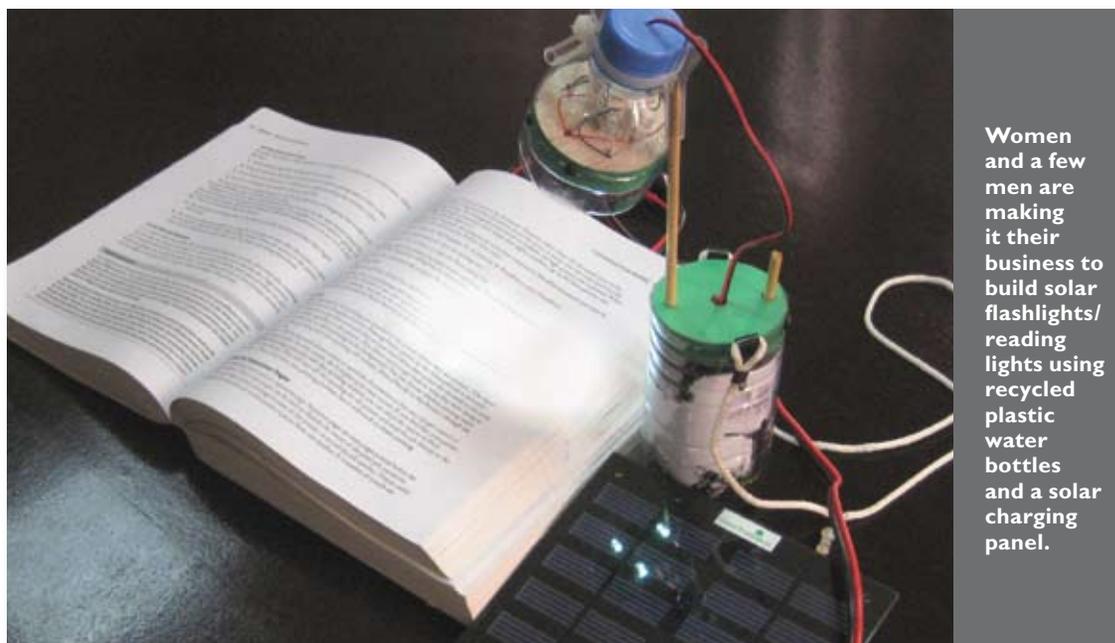
Photo by IRG Ltd.

## Lights Revive Social Life in Robertsport

Robertsport is the capital town of Grand Cape Mount County, known for its scenic beaches, lakes, and hills. But it had no street lights for nearly 20 years until LEAP installed 10 at the center of the town.

A cook at a small camping lodge catering to tourists from Monrovia said shops are open longer and the lights enable her to work at night and get home safely. And the lights revived social life after years of conflict.

“Now people come out at night; they aren’t afraid anymore; they meet and talk. I think the lights bring us more together,” she said.—*N.T.* ★



Women and a few men are making it their business to build solar flashlights/reading lights using recycled plastic water bottles and a solar charging panel.

Photo by IRG Ltd.

# FOCUS ON LIBERIA



Solar lighting outside teacher trainee and faculty residences at Rural Teacher Training Institute in Kakata, Liberia, provides safety and also lights the way home at night, when it is pitch black in the countryside. Until the lights were installed, the newly refurbished residences couldn't be used.

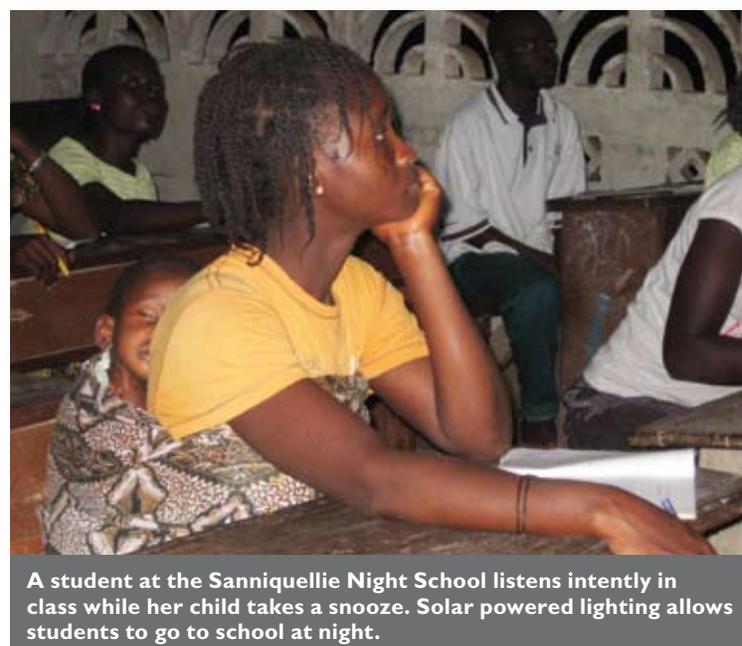
Photo by Nena Terrell, USAID

## Light Gives Girls and Women a Chance at Night School

**At Sanniquelli Central High School in Nimba County, a precious commodity is locked in a closet: compact fluorescent light bulbs powered by a solar roof panel and used for night classes.**

Night school enrollment in USAID's Accelerated Learning Program has increased 24 percent since LEAP installed the solar panel and four solar "street" lights in each corner of the school yard. Most of the 900 part-time students eke out a subsistence living and tend to basic family needs by day; many are women with babies or are pregnant teenagers who are no longer permitted to attend regular school.

Night school principal Sylvester Gonquoi said women feel safe because of the lights and more attend because they know class won't be cancelled. "When we relied on generators we didn't have the fuel money for regular night classes, and once a generator was stolen. When people hear we have consistent light, they come every time."—*N.T.* ★



A student at the Sanniquellie Night School listens intently in class while her child takes a snooze. Solar powered lighting allows students to go to school at night.

Photo by IRG Ltd.

## Powering Up a Small Business

The Be Honest Fishery lies in a tiny hamlet just outside coastal Greenville in Sinoe County. Fishery owner David Gbanwulue says he wants to attract customers with his motto.

LEAP provided a solar lantern, a street light, and workshop lighting along with business development support from

USAID's Liberia Community Infrastructure Program. The light allows Gbanwulue to operate longer hours—before dawn and after dark—to prepare nets and gear, to fish at night, to add to the types of fish he sells, and to sell more.

As a result, Gbanwulue, who used to struggle to buy school supplies and shoes for his

children, now employs five assistants and several market women full-time who dry and sell the fish.

"The lights help all my neighbors—people come to read, to do their hair, to charge their phones," said Gbanwulue. "It's very black out here at night and the light frightens away criminals."—*N.T.* ★

## Investors Wanted for Renewable Energy

The Liberian government now seeks international partners and capital investors to scale up solar power use, as well as biomass and hydropower to meet the country's electrification needs for industry and economic growth. In her 2009 State of the Union address, President Johnson Sirleaf cited USAID's LEAP, stating "with the recorded success of the pilot projects, we will now move along quickly to launch full-scale implementation..." The challenge is largely financial. Solar-powered systems are cost-effective over years of use but require large up-front investments. Public-private partnership is needed. ★

## Taguba Headlines Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Celebration

By Mary Jane Cotter

Retired Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba, the second Filipino-American to attain the rank of major general in the U.S. Army, was the keynote speaker for the Agency's celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month May 5.

The event was sponsored by USAID's Office of Equal Opportunity Programs, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection, and the Postal Service.

"Don't get mad; don't get even; just get ahead," Taguba said during his address to an audience at the Department of Commerce auditorium.

Eun Yang, weekend news anchor for NBC4/WRC-TV, was the mistress of ceremonies, and Kristen Soper, an assistant to Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski (D-Md.), delivered greetings from Mikulski's office. Breeze 6, a local singing group involved in a variety of community service programs, opened the event with Chinese melodies.

Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, the first Chinese-American

appointed to the post, opened the program. Locke, a two-term governor in Washington, said his grandfather came to America to realize a dream of a better life. He worked for a family as a houseboy in exchange for English lessons, just one mile from the governor's mansion in Seattle where his grandson would live 100 years later.

Locke said: "Asian/Pacific Americans helped build the railroads, worked in the gold mines, logged the forests for the wood that became cities and towns, farmed the land to feed the nation, and fought in world wars to keep America safe and free."

For his part, Taguba also shared his family roots. He told the audience his family emigrated from the Philippines and learned English as a second language on the island of Oahu, Hawaii. Though it was a difficult transition for him, his parents insisted he dedicate himself to the challenge.

Taguba's father survived the Bataan Death March in World War II. He later instilled in his son a sense of duty for his country. After he graduated from

college, Taguba began his career with the U.S. Army.

The 34-year Army veteran is known for the Taguba report of abuses at Iraq's Abu Ghraib prison. He retired shortly after the report was made public.

He has served as a role model and advocate for fellow Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Today, he is a member of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans. He also serves as chairman of the Pan American Leaders and Mentors, a group dedicated to promoting Asian American and Pacific Islander leaders in military and civilian ranks.

Asian immigrant history in the United States began more than two centuries ago—before the Revolutionary War. Filipino sailors were the first Asians to settle in the United States around 1750 in Saint Malo, a small fishing village in the bayous of current day Louisiana. Today, the Census Bureau reports there are about 15.2 million Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders living in the United States, or about 5 percent of the nation's population. ★

**MARCH 15, 2009 – APRIL 11, 2009**

### PROMOTED

**Justin Armstrong**  
Administrative Officer

**Tajuana D. Brown**  
Administrative Officer

**William Ray Dingeman**  
Criminal Investigator

**Alcides S. Evora**  
Criminal Investigator

**Katherine Kuo**  
Program Analyst

**Kenneth E. Matthews**  
Program Specialist

**Adrienne T. Thompson**  
Administrative Officer

### REASSIGNED

**Brian S. Bacon**  
DCHA/FFP/PTD to A/AID/  
COO/PAC

**Kenneth H. Baum**  
EGAT/AG/ARPG to EGAT/I&E

**Alexander V. Bond**  
Iraq/MGT to COMP/FS

**Bruce N. Boyer**  
OIG/AIG/A to RIG/Manila

**Monica Dore Carlson**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Haiti/PCPS

**Alicia Contreras**  
COMP/NE/OJT to El Salvador/  
SOI

**Gregory H. Cosgrove**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Afghanistan/  
OEG

**Christine L. Davachi**  
COMP/NE/OJT to RDMA/  
PDO

**Eileen S. Derby**  
COMP/NE/OJT to USAID  
REP/East Timor

**Erin E. Epstein**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Macedonia

**Porshia J. Everett**  
Peru/CONT to COMP/FS

**Lee K. Forsythe**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Uganda/JOPA

**Anne C. Gaven**  
SA/JOPA to Kenya/JOPA

**Deanna Gordon**  
Asia/EAA to COMP/FS

**Edith I. Houston**  
COMP/LWOP to Jordan/SSO

**Sepideh Keyvanshad**  
Afghanistan/OPPD to COMP/FS

**Alyssa W. Leggoe**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Russia/SSR

**Jesse A. Leggoe**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Russia/  
DHRD

**Garnet Lenora Mason**  
DCHA/OFDA/PS to HR/ELR

**C. Grant Morrill**  
FA/COO/NEA to A/AID/  
COO/PAC

**Timothy L. Ong**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Sri Lanka/D

**Bradford C. Palmer**  
COMP/FS to Nigeria

**Elizabeth G. Ramirez**  
COMP/NE/OJT to West Bank/  
Gaza

**David A. Ratliff**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Paraguay

**Alexandra L. Riboul**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Haiti/HRD

**Ryder Rogers**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Ukraine/  
OEG

**Cael H. Savage**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Caucasus

**Andrea G. Sawka**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Sri Lanka/D

**Aaron M. Schubert**  
COMP/NE/OJT to India/PHN

**Eileen K. Sienkiewicz**  
COMP/NE/OJT to RDMA/  
GDO

**Jennifer A. Slotnick**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Dominican  
Republic/HPO

**Michelle R. Walker**  
HR/FSP/FSS to EGAT/PDAM

**Corina Warfield**  
COMP/NE/OJT to RDMA/PDO

**Iris L. Young**  
EGAT/ED/HEW to Iraq/FSTB

### RETIRED

**James A. Elliott**  
**Hermione R. Slaughter**

### MOVED ON

**Remedios B. Blake**  
**Patricia Ann Chaplin**  
**Scott P. Cook**  
**Ralph Koehring**  
**Peter B. Lapera**  
**Donald B. Reese**  
**Barbara Jo Smith**  
**Ike Udejiofor**  
**Keyonna D. Washington**



USAID and other federal agencies celebrated National Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month at the Department of Commerce May 5. Left to right: Commerce Secretary Gary Locke, retired U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Antonio M. Taguba, and Kristen Soper, assistant to Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-Md.), spoke at the event.

Photo by Larry Levin/The Assignment Desk

## Your Voice

By Nina Fedoroff

**Your Voice**, a continuing **FRONTLINES** feature, offers personal observations from USAID employees. Nina Fedoroff is the science and technology adviser to both the Secretary of State and the Administrator of USAID. This column was excerpted from a letter Fedoroff wrote to Andrew C. Revkin, a New York Times reporter whose blog—[dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com](http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com)—covers environmental issues.

### ‘The Food Crisis Isn’t Going Away’

Feb. 27, 2009 [posted on blog March 3]

Dear Andy,

I write you from the far frozen north of Norway. Near the village of Longyearbyen, on the island of Spitzbergen, is a remarkable structure called the Svalbard Global Seed Vault. In chambers deep in a mountain whose temperature never rises above freezing is a storage chamber, further cooled to a temperature of—15 degrees Celsius. In it are seeds of some 70,000 varieties of the 64 of the world’s major food crops. Marking the Vault’s first anniversary, a small scientific meeting focused on how climate change will affect humanity’s ability to grow food.

It’s cold here. But a deeper chill settled on us as we listened to the climate scientists’ scenarios for the coming decades.

Even if we all stopped driving, flying, and turned every light out tomorrow, the CO<sub>2</sub> we’ve already poured into our atmosphere over last 100 years means that [the] next hundred will be much hotter than the last 100.

It seems we’ve begun to absorb the notion of hotter, drier

summers, rising sea levels, and more extreme weather—bad enough. But who’s thought much about what a changing climate might mean at the grocery store? No matter whose projections, no matter whether the best, worst, or most probable scenario, our crops will suffer—and I mean OUR crops, not just those in some distant land.

Here’s a real example of what a higher temperature can do. In 2003, France and Italy had a summer that was just 3.5 percent hotter than their usual summer. It rained as usual, but the yields of major crops were still down by 20 to 36 percent. Projections show that this will be the average summer by 2090.

And within the next few decades, it’s nearly certain that we’ll be recording summer[s] hotter than ever recorded. Many of our crops fail completely if the temperature goes much above 100 degrees Fahrenheit for just a few days at a critical flowering time. During my days as a corn geneticist, I watched the tassels turn brown and sterile [as] the summer

hit 108 degrees in Columbia, Mo., at pollination time.

To put this in perspective: the food crisis of 2008 called attention to how close we are to the limits of the global food supply. But unlike the financial one, the food crisis isn’t going away. This is because the number of people on the planet is still growing and by mid-century we’ll need to roughly double the food supply—which, of course, starts with growing crops, whether to feed us, or to feed pigs and cows and chickens. Yet the amount of land on the planet that’s good for growing crops hasn’t changed much for more than half a century.

Will the warming climate open lands for cropping farther north? Probably, though how much is uncertain. What is quite certain by now is that climate change will squeeze those farther south as soil moisture declines. This will affect the most populous countries, countries whose populations are growing fastest.

So what do we do? The Global

Crop Diversity Trust ([www.croptrust.org/main/arctic.php](http://www.croptrust.org/main/arctic.php)), which funds the Vault, is dedicated to the preservation of the genetic diversity in our food crops. They are motivated by the belief that it is this diversity that will be the source of the genes we will need to develop plants that can grow on a hotter, drier planet.

Maybe. But the fact is that over the entire (more than) 10,000-year history of agriculture, the CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere were between 180 and 280 ppm [parts per million]. We’re at 389 now.

It’s not unlikely that we’ll hit 700 ppm before we get this problem under control. That’s going to mean that it’ll get hotter and drier than anything but desert plants have seen before. Desert agriculture isn’t new, but scaling it up will be a challenge and may



Nina Fedoroff

mean venturing outside the limits of our current stable of crops.

I rather think we should also be scrambling to explore and understand organisms—not just plants—that have evolved to survive and thrive in the parts of the earth that are already the hottest and driest. We’ll need to understand how they survive. We’ll need to capture the genes that make it possible. If we’re lucky, we’ll be able to use these to arm some of our super-productive crops plants to survive and thrive under such conditions. If we’re lucky. And if people stop being so reluctant to use modern molecular science to enhance crops. ★

## AGENCY INCREASES SUPPORT TO SEED VAULTS

By Angela Rucker

USAID will spend \$7 million in 2009 to support the Global Crop Diversity Trust, an organization that works to preserve a variety of crops and supports gene banks like the Svalbard Global Seed Vault in Norway.

This year’s funding comes on top of about \$7.5 million the Agency has spent since 2002 to help the Trust operate and create an endowment to continue its work.

The Norway facility—known as the doomsday seed vault because its frigid location is likely to withstand climactic shifts and most disastrous scenarios—is just one of several gene banks the Agency supports, said Rob Bertram, an agricultural expert in USAID’s Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade. The goal, he said, is “to make sure the world’s seed heritage is conserved for future generations—especially those in developing countries and regions.”

The Agency’s interest is twofold: to ensure long-term conservation grants are available to organizations that collect and

store a variety of seeds, and to provide assistance to gene banks to operate at internationally accepted standards. A dozen gene banks—from Norway to Peru—hold millions of seeds from plants and other crops.

The Agency has a history of being closely involved in the Trust, dating back to the early 2000s when then-Administrator Andrew Natsios was a passionate supporter of the creation of the Global Crop Diversity Trust to provide sustained support to long-term conservation needs. USAID has supported international seed banks since the 1960s.

Today, USAID works alongside more than 30 other countries, agencies, and organizations, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research). As of April, close to \$152 million had been pledged by these groups and individual donors to support the Trust’s work. ★

## IN MEMORIAM

**Audrey Stevenson Douglas**, 84, died April 16 in Washington, D.C. Douglas’ career with the federal government began with the Department of the Army. She joined USAID’s predecessor agency in the late 1950s as a personnel officer. Douglas later worked as an administrative officer in the Bureau for Management until her retirement in 1980. ★

## Harvard Business School Students Volunteer at USAID

By Sharon Hsu

Some Harvard Business School students now have the opportunity to volunteer as unpaid consultants at USAID offices around the world during their winter break.

More than 100 Harvard students applied for 11 available slots in a program developed by the Agency's Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade.

"The enthusiasm for the program shows the growing interest—and the concern—amongst business school students in global development issues," said first-year student and program coordinator Richard Chung. "It's an exciting time to be at this intersection of the public-private sectors and we hope to explore it with more programs next year."

Driven by their interest in international development, the students applied their business knowledge and skills at Agency offices in the Philippines, Morocco, and Jordan to address specific challenges in the clean energy and water sectors.

USAID's field offices benefited from the students' diverse experiences and knowledge, while the students gained first-hand exposure to the opportunities and challenges of using business principles to support development goals.

"Electrification is something that most of us in America take for granted," said Sean Cameron, a first-year HBS student and program participant. "But think of the meaningful advances that electrification brings to the development of emerging economies."

In Baguio City, Philippines, micro-hydro plants are in serious need of rehabilitation and expansion. To assist the city government, Cameron and his two teammates—Tara Reeves and Erica Harris—developed a list of management options for the hydro plants and a framework for analyzing these options that included financial, technical, and social considerations.

In a newspaper article, the city's mayor expressed his appreciation for the students'



Students Marc Oman, Richard Chung, Marwan Chaar, Alla Jezmir, and Jon Doochin took their business acumen to Morocco under a USAID-Harvard Business School initiative. Here they stand, left to right, in front of the Hussein Mosque in Casablanca with two representatives (2nd and 4th from left) from private sector partner CETEMCO, a consortium of construction materials manufacturing companies.

work, calling their study a "tool to aid us in choosing the best business deal for Baguio or to measure our capability in handling hydros on our own."

The students also shared their results with Energy Department Secretary Angelo Reyes.

In Morocco, wind resources are excellent and the government has made renewable energy a priority, but the private sector has been slow to invest

in wind power. Five students developed a financial model for a wind farm, identified barriers to investment, and recommended ways the government could encourage private sector development of wind energy. The financial model was presented to the U.S. Ambassador to Morocco and used by private sector partners.

In Jordan, three students analyzed employee incentive schemes to improve efficiency and performance of the Miyahuna water utility, which provides water and sewage services to more than 2.6 million people in the greater Amman area. The students' proposal for an annual bonus and incentive plan was thoroughly debated at the final meeting, and ultimately, Miyahuna's CEO and all seven directors agreed to implement the students' proposal.

A member of the Jordan project team, Ali Hashmi, said: "So much of the learning in business schools is based on certain premises—availability of near-perfect information, well-defined legal and regulatory regimes, predominance of the private sector—many of which do not hold in the developing world.

"As a result, one is forced to truly think outside of the box to assist local sponsors devise workable solutions to their most intractable development challenges. I feel many of us got a taste for this through the USAID-Harvard Business School initiative."

EGAT intends to expand the program in January. Participating offices will be asked to provide lodging and airfare for the students. To sponsor projects, e-mail Sharon Hsu at [shsu@usaid.gov](mailto:shsu@usaid.gov). ★



Wind farms in Tetouan, Morocco. Harvard Business School students, working through a USAID program, recently recommended ways for the Moroccan government to encourage private sector development of wind energy.

Read about the Harvard Business School students' experiences by visiting the student newspaper *Harbus* at [www.harbus.org](http://www.harbus.org) and searching by article title, as provided below.

- ▶ Morocco: "Immersion Experience—USAID: Morocco Trip"
- ▶ Jordan: "Immersion Experience—USAID: Jordan Trip"
- ▶ Philippines: "Immersion Experience—Actualizing Dreams in the Developing World"



Christopher D. Crowley (center), USAID's director in Iraq, examines a newly planted fruit tree following a March 9 ribbon-cutting ceremony that kicked off a project to invigorate Iraq's once-vibrant orchards and vineyards. Approximately 50,000 high-yield grape vine and fruit tree cuttings, grown in California nurseries, will be distributed for planting through the project, which is part of USAID's Inma Agribusiness Program. USAID's embedded Provincial Reconstruction Team members are helping Iraqi farmers to plan and prepare the sites, manage the spacing of trees, and plant the cuttings. The farmers will receive training this summer on how to prune and take care of vines and trees, as well as how to market the resulting products effectively. The agriculture sector is the largest employer in Iraq.

## HUNGARY from page 7

"It was heartening to see the level of interest and engagement of these emerging donors," said RSC Director David Leong, who participated in the workshop held in Bucharest. "The countries are grappling with issues that we, ourselves, have had to deal with and they are making a serious attempt to achieve results, maintain procurement integrity, and have a story to tell their own citizens as to why they are supporting projects outside their own borders."

One Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) representative in Croatia said: "The workshop was very interesting by combining principles and experience with concrete examples. It was an excellent combination of general principles of project management in ODA with USAID procedures and requirements."

In Romania, an MFA official said: "There are many useful ideas that came out during the seminar on how to deal with different issues. I also appreciate

the standard approach of different phases of implementing ODA and there are some models that we could also apply, adapting them to our own needs."

There is strong interest in additional, in-depth training. Other countries and USAID offices have approached the RSC with proposals for activities.

Bulgaria, Romania, and Croatia officials say they are enthusiastic about the possibilities of partnering with USAID in their priority countries. Many USAID offices are equally interested in developing partnerships with these emerging donors in order to infuse the donors' experience—with political and economic transition, accession to the EU, and as recent recipients of ODA—into USAID programs.

Other former USAID recipients that have also established foreign assistance programs include Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Slovenia, all of which have worked with the RSC to build their capacities to deliver ODA. ★

## IN-HOUSE BRIEFS

### Former USAID Accountant Named to Liberia Government Post

Gayee Alphonso Gaye, who worked in USAID's office in Liberia from 2001 to 2005, was recently named that country's minister of transport by Liberia President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf.

Gaye worked in finance for USAID. He also worked as an accountant on temporary duty assignments at USAID's office in Ghana.

Previously, he served as Liberia's commissioner of customs and excise in the country's Ministry of Finance, and, according to *The Liberian Times*, introduced a number of reforms to the office.

### Two at USAID Named Service to America Medal Finalists

Amy Meyer and the Global Development Commons team led by Karen Turner have been named finalists in the 2009 Service to America Medals.

Meyer, director of USAID's Pakistan Economic Growth office, was recognized for managing economic assistance to Pakistan as it increased from \$12 million to \$200 million annually.

Turner and the Global Development Commons team were recognized for leading USAID's Development 2.0 Challenge, in which the public was polled for ideas on solving international challenges like famine and public education.

Thirty finalists were honored May 6 on Capitol Hill. Eight final award recipients will be announced Sept. 23.

The Partnership for Public Service, a nonprofit organization, awards Service to America Medals, known as Sammies, each year to honor federal Civil Service employees.

### Agency Continues to Recruit 100 More People for Afghan Team

To fully staff the 150 new positions at the USAID office in Afghanistan by September, hiring continued unabated in April and May.

By April 23, some 50 individuals had been identified, mostly in the category of Foreign Service Limited (FSL). In addition, there are Foreign Service direct hire, retirees, and Civil Service employees who are volunteering. ★

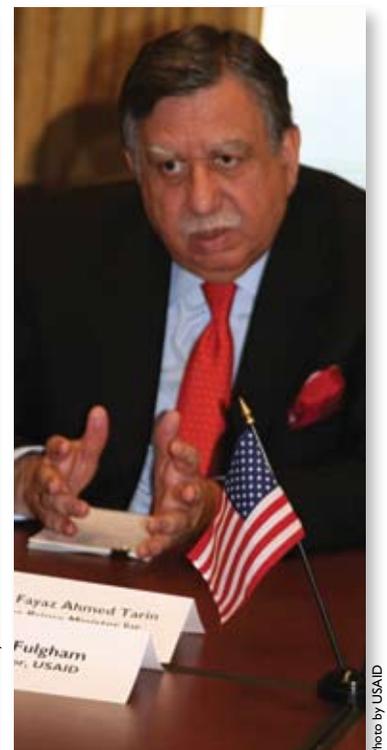
## Sighted at USAID



Karl Eikenberry, right, former U.S. military commander in Afghanistan and recently named U.S. ambassador to the country, met at USAID with leaders of about 30 NGOs to discuss relief and development work in the Asian country. At left is Sam Worthington (see interview, pg. 2), head of InterAction, a consortium of private voluntary organizations.

### CORRECTION

In the April *FrontLines*, in the article "Ethiopian Farmers Learn to Produce Milk, Butter, Cheese" on page 9, the group that worked with Land O'Lakes to bring bull semen to Ethiopia was WorldWide Sires Ltd. ★



Advisor to the Prime Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs Shaukat Fayaz Ahmed Tarin of Pakistan was in Washington, D.C., to attend International Monetary Fund/World Bank meetings April 25-26. The federal minister, an economist, also met with USAID Acting Administrator Alonzo Fulgham to discuss reconstruction and other development efforts.

# CONTINUED...

**WORTHINGTON** from page 2

**WORTHINGTON:** We made an effort to create a movement similar to what the environmental community has done. So we set out consciously, over 10 years ago, to bring to universities, thought leaders in our country, and celebrities, a conversation about the world's poor. That effort has proved to be far more successful than we'd anticipated.

Our community does spend in the hundreds of millions of dollars to talk to the American people, both to fundraise through television or direct mail, but also tens of millions of dollars on development education efforts focused on helping American youth and the population understand why they should engage in international development.

**Q:** Have donations to NGOs been hit by the financial crisis?

**WORTHINGTON:** In 2009, there is a significant financial hit because of the current recession—an estimated billion dollars less out of the \$6 billion that is coming to our community. And we are beginning to see organizations dismantling their capacity.

**Q:** Does the \$6 billion coming into your community include USAID?

**WORTHINGTON:** No. The \$6 billion is from private donors, including 13.6 million Americans. In addition, the U.S. NGO community has a

roughly \$2.8 billion relationship with the U.S. government, and probably 80 to 90 percent of that is from USAID.

**Q:** Increasingly in recent years, USAID and other aid agencies operate in dangerous environments—post-conflict countries, still-conflict countries. How do NGOs protect their staff or prepare them for risk?

**WORTHINGTON:** This issue of protecting our staff is a very real one. Sadly, on an annual basis, between 30 and 50 staff of our member organizations are killed while serving the world's poor and most vulnerable and supporting their organizations' missions overseas.

The ability of the U.S. NGO community to remain safe in hostile environments depends on their relationship and the trust relationship between them and local communities.

At present time, there are staff—including American staff of U.S. NGOs—operating in areas where the Taliban are active in Afghanistan, staff in very difficult environments

throughout Africa, whether it be Darfur or other areas. And the ability to function is to make ourselves part of a humanitarian effort in that humanitarian space. The trust accorded by different actors, including belligerents, enables us to continue to function.

**Q:** USAID has worked in recent years fairly closely with the U.S. military—the PRTs [Provincial Reconstruction Teams] in Afghanistan and Iraq, and in other areas. Has that been an issue with the NGOs?

**WORTHINGTON:** What this has led to is a tremendous



Sam Worthington

conversation between our community, USAID, and the U.S. military. This has led to a set of operational guidelines, particularly for use in non-permissive environments.

The broader challenge is that if we get too close to, or are associated with, the U.S. military, the ability of our community to operate as neutral actors in humanitarian space closes and puts our staff at risk.

**Q:** USAID is doubling its Foreign Service Officers by 2012. Foreign aid is also set to double. How will this affect the NGOs?

**WORTHINGTON:** We've strongly advocated for an increase in USAID OE [operating expenses] budgets. Because of the lack of staff, USAID has needed to bundle projects into larger and larger amounts. There's just not enough staff in USAID missions to manage these many relationships. So they pool the resources into one large group, have a contractor or an NGO manage it, and have no connection with the broader U.S. civil society engaged in that country.

**Q:** Will there ever be a time when foreign aid will no longer be needed?

**WORTHINGTON:** Foreign aid aims to improve human well-being around the world, and over time we have seen that well-being increase. But I do think that we are in a

multigenerational exercise that will continue for a long time.

The other impetus behind foreign aid is a desire to be a good neighbor. It provides the American people with an opportunity to reach out to the people of the world, and I think that will only increase over time.

Foreign assistance is also a central part of our foreign policy. And that I don't see changing even in the lives of our grandchildren.

**Q:** What is the size of the NGO community? How many people work in NGOs in the United States and the globe?

**WORTHINGTON:** The InterAction community is about 160,000 staff, of which the vast majority are local nationals operating in 180-plus countries. Worldwide, the number of people working for NGOs gets into the millions.

**Q:** Are you planning a 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary event?

**WORTHINGTON:** Our annual forum takes place this July 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> here in Washington, D.C. We will bring in about 800 development leaders from around the world to discuss the role of private development assistance, civil-military issues, overall effectiveness of our community and, unfortunately, the impact of the current global economic crisis on the world's poor. ★ 🎉

**JAMAICA** from page 7

another potential participant complete the application form.

Lorna Peddie of PACT said that by the end of the project, the young people had changed their outlook and increased their self-esteem. "Other than their training, the project brought them an understanding of their rights as citizens," she said, adding that "they learned about their heritage and got the chance to interact with positive male mentors."

Jeffrey, Stewart, and Fairclough have started a recording label and spend time with producers, studio engineers, and other professionals learning about the industry.

While pursuing a certification in electrical installation, Jeffrey writes songs and is an aspiring recording artist. Stewart, 23, juggles plumbing with learning video editing and production. Fairclough is studying events and entertainment management, honing his keyboard skills and developing artist management expertise in Project Artist—an initiative sponsored by a major corporation.

They have also developed a business plan for a recording studio, which will be housed in the Grants Pen community. They say having the studio in their community will be their chance to help other young people.

"We can then teach them what we have learned about music, how to use their voices better, and how to work with video cameras," says Jeffrey.

The project participants have dubbed themselves "Youth for Change" and while they meet on their own, members of the PACT team have continued to mentor them after the project's end.

Grants Pen is also one of the 38 communities where USAID is working to increase citizen participation in security through public education and youth engagement.

*Staff from USAID's office in Jamaica wrote this article. ★*

**PAKISTAN** from page 1

relief efforts, manage the U.S. government response, and coordinate with the humanitarian community.

About 2 million people fled their homes, with many of them moving in with relatives or host families. Some 80,000 refugees moved into sweltering camps set up by the government and the United Nations, most of them near Mardan. On May 14, columns of cars, trucks, and horse-drawn carts packed with people and laden with bundles of possessions streamed out of Mingora, in Swat, according to witnesses and television reports.

Clinton said the U.S. assistance—\$100 million from

USAID and the Departments of State and Agriculture, and \$10 million through the Defense Department—would be delivered through NGOs, international organizations, and the Pakistan government. She voiced confidence in the Pakistani general in charge of relief, Nadeem Ahmad, saying he won praise for directing aid to 2.8 million homeless survivors of the October 2005 earthquake that left more than 73,000 Pakistanis dead.

Clinton said \$26 million of the \$100 million would be used to purchase local wheat from a bumper harvest, thereby boosting local farmers and markets. ★ 🎉

## BIRD FLU from page 1

Bangladesh had a dramatic turnaround. Outbreaks in poultry dropped sharply from 221 in the flu season between October 2007 and March 2008, to just 31 in the 2008-2009 flu season.

Despite this progress, the disease is still a threat: more than 60 percent of at least 420 humans who caught the disease have died; and the H5N1 virus continues to mutate, raising the possibility that it could someday trigger an influenza pandemic in humans.

Since 2005, USAID has worked with the Departments of State, Agriculture, Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support

national planning, surveillance, response, containment, risk awareness, and pandemic preparedness. These efforts have increased country-level capacities to respond to and limit disease spread.

Three years ago, USAID began working with the United Nations and other partners to strengthen surveillance systems in Vietnam, China, Indonesia, and other countries so that outbreaks of the disease would be quickly reported to health and agriculture officials. As a result, detection times fell from 12 days in 2006 to five days in 2009. Shorter detection times means that outbreaks can be contained before the disease has a chance to spread further.

USAID trained 82,000 people in rapid response to poultry outbreaks and human cases; and provided 700,000 sets of protective clothing to 84 countries to protect response workers. The Agency also stockpiled supplies for disinfection in these countries.

Increased surveillance helped identify how avian flu has spread. In Indonesia, Egypt, and Bangladesh, the disease was likely circulating on commercial farms and spread through the movement of poultry to bird markets and to holding centers where birds are processed for shipment to urban areas. USAID provided training and supplies in these countries and in Vietnam to clean and disinfect holding centers and

markets to reduce the amount of H5N1 virus.

To minimize the chances of human infections with H5N1, USAID supported public awareness campaigns—including distribution of posters at public events and TV and radio spots—to inform people of the risk posed by the disease and the importance of preventing and containing it.

In addition to activities intended to prevent the emergence of a pandemic, USAID has also been working through its Humanitarian Pandemic Preparedness Initiative with the United Nations, international and national NGOs, and militaries to improve pandemic preparedness in developing countries.

About 96 percent of mortality due to an influenza pandemic would be concentrated in developing countries, estimates say.

Following its success with H5N1 avian flu, USAID now intends to broaden its efforts to monitor and respond to other zoonotic diseases—illnesses that are spread to humans from animals. Initial focus areas will be the Congo Basin, Southeast Asia, and the Amazon, where there is rich wildlife and increasing human contact and where many diseases have emerged in the past. In fiscal year 2009, Congress appropriated new funding for USAID to build a global early warning surveillance and response network for the next generation of emerging pandemic threats. ★ —B.B. 

## H1N1 FLU from page 1

clear evidence of community-level transmission.”

She said that experience with H5N1 avian flu over the past decade has taught the world to expect a pandemic and to plan for this event. As a result, the world is now better prepared for an influenza pandemic than at any time in history.

Historically, influenza pandemics have circled the globe in multiple waves. The deadly 1918 H1N1 pandemic started with a mild wave and was followed by a much more lethal wave of the disease.

Chan said that “this virus has quickly demonstrated its capacity to spread easily from one person to another, to spread widely within an affected country, and to spread rapidly to additional countries. We expect this pattern of international spread to continue.”

USAID’s humanitarian assistance in response to the H1N1 virus as of May 19 was \$6.24 million. This includes \$5 million to WHO and the Pan American Health Organization to detect and control H1N1 in Mexico and other countries.

USAID is also providing support to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for surveillance of the new H1N1 virus in animals in Central and South America. As of May 18, USAID has also delivered 130,000 protective clothing kits to Latin America.

On May 1, USAID established an influenza task force to assist countries around the globe to limit the spread of the virus and

reduce the mortality and social and economic impact from the disease. At the core of USAID’s response is the prevention of deaths related to H1N1 influenza through monitoring, prevention, treatment, and assuring food security. Response measures include informing the public about respiratory hygiene, social distancing, and other behaviors that should be adopted during an influenza pandemic. At the same time, USAID will support continued monitoring of the virus to track any changes in virulence.

The Agency is also launching a program to pre-empt or combat new diseases in humans that originate in animals. This builds on work to control the H5N1 avian flu and H1N1 influenza viruses and includes: monitoring wild animal populations; training animal and human health teams to investigate and respond to emergent diseases; strengthening animal- and public-health diagnostic laboratories; and supporting behavior change and communications efforts to reduce the risk of disease transmission from animals to humans. ★

## SRI LANKA from page 2

populations. Lack of access to the camps for donors, U.N. agencies, and NGOs, as well as restricted movement of IDPs within the camps, are continuing concerns for the Agency.

In 2008 and 2009, USAID contributed nearly \$60 million for food and other aid to care for the displaced. ★

## FRONTLINES

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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



Photo by Yessi Maryam

Indonesia students practice testing and treating water to make it safe to drink during a Safe Water Day event supported by USAID and Coca-Cola.



Photo by Nana Garbrah-Aidoo, UNICEF Sierra Leone

Students in Sierra Leone march to support the first ever Global Handwashing Day on Oct. 15, 2008.

## STUDENTS TEACH PARENTS THAT HAND WASHING MEANS HEALTH

By Ashley Allen and Patricia Mantey



Photo by Crystal Thompson, AED

Students at the Isorana School in Madagascar use "tippy taps," a simple hand washing device that consists of a hanging water-filled plastic bottle with holes in the cap to act as a faucet; soap is provided nearby.



Photo by Crystal Thompson, AED

Schoolkids in Madagascar wash their hands with soap at a portable hand washing station.



During Safe Water Day, schoolkids in Indonesia try water treated with Air RahMat, a chlorine-based water treatment solution.

Photo by Ika Francisca

The H1N1 flu outbreak has health experts advising people to wash hands frequently to stay healthy. But this practice—discovered in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a key to preventing illness—has been part of USAID health and education programs for years.

School programs have become particularly useful because students often bring home to their parents sanitary practices and health information that end up helping the whole family—messages on HIV/AIDS, reproductive health, personal safety for girls, nutrition, civic education, environment, and hygiene. Recent school projects incorporating messages on simple and effective environment and hygiene practices have reached millions in the developing world.

Information on good practices in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) was given to 250,000 elementary school students in Madagascar last year through USAID's Hygiene Improvement Project. Each week teachers review with students three practices that improve health: using latrines, drinking only treated water, and washing hands with soap.

"Before we had WASH instruction, students were often sick with diarrhea," said Madame Brigitte, a teacher at Isorana. "Now the students aren't sick as much and can study regularly."

Diarrhea, according to the World Health Organization, causes 2.2 million deaths worldwide each year. Hand washing with soap can reduce the incidence of diarrheal disease by 44 percent, according to a study by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

In Indonesia, USAID support for the Clean, Green, and Hygiene school program is helping 80 schools teach students to promote what they've learned to their communities. The SD Pertiwi elementary school in Bandung sent 25 hand washing "ambassadors" to a nearby neighborhood to share what they learned about clean, healthy, and hygienic living and

to demonstrate the proper way to wash hands with soap.

At the Kampung Wangkal Elementary School near Bekasi, Indonesia, students practiced testing and treating water to make it safe to drink, using Air RahMat, a locally produced and inexpensive water treatment solution.

In Liberia, USAID-supported reading classes incorporate stories about the importance of hand washing. After listening to a story, children are asked questions to emphasize the importance of hand washing before eating and that hand washing removes germs and can keep the children healthy. Gib Brown, a USAID basic education advisor, said "schoolchildren in Liberia have been taught versions of a hand washing song to sing to guests."

In October 2008, many USAID offices overseas and their partners supported the first ever Global Hand Washing Day. ★