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**TOP STORY**

**Bridges of Understanding**

*Remarks by Henrietta H. Fore  
Acting USAID Administrator and  
Acting Director of Foreign Assistance*



Meridian House, Washington, DC  
October 16, 2007

Private enterprise is a critical driver of world economic growth and social development. Governments should support, not dominate, that process. Recently, I spoke at the 50th anniversary conference of an umbrella organization for aid groups, the Society for International Development. I told them that today we are at the threshold of a new era - and in this new era we are just beginning to create what we could describe as a Global Development Commons. A Global Development Commons would be a community of continuous and real-time exchange, collaboration, partnership, and action between public and private donors, agencies, private enterprises, NGOs, host governments, and civil society. It is a time of great excitement and momentum, with an explosion of ideas, actors, and solutions.

As your organization's new entry into the field demonstrates, the number of players and the complexity of the issues in international development continue to grow. This growth demands that we build a more comprehensive and efficient network of resources, skills, and information exchange. Rather than command and control, we must communicate, collaborate, and act -- together  
[\(Full Speech\)](#)

**TOP STORY**

**USAID Promotes Gender Equity in Education in Southern Sudan**



USAID, in cooperation with the Government of South Sudan, has launched a five-year, \$6.5 million Gender Equity through Education program in Juba, Southern Sudan. The program will promote gender equity in secondary schools and teacher training institutes throughout Southern Sudan and the Three Areas (Abyei, Blue Nile, and Southern Kordofan).

Currently, less than one in 10 girls complete their primary education, and as few as one percent of them attend the less than 100 secondary schools that serve the millions of people living in Southern Sudan. In addition, there are significantly low numbers of qualified women educators.

The United States is the single largest donor to Sudan, contributing nearly \$4 billion toward assistance in Sudan and eastern Chad since fiscal year 2005. [\(Full story\)](#)

**USAID World News**



**LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN [USAID Provides Flood Assistance to Honduras](#)**

USAID has provided \$50,000 for the purchase of emergency relief supplies including blankets, hygiene kits, and kitchen items for flood-affected populations in Honduras...



**EUROPE & EURASIA [New Maternal Center to Open in Cahul, Moldova](#)**

With assistance from the United States Government, mothers and pregnant women in southern Moldova will have a new support center to shelter them in times of crisis and need...



**ASIA NEAR EAST [Testimony: Recruitment, Deployment and Care of Federal Employees During and After Service in Iraq and Afghanistan](#)**

Despite its small size, USAID has been able to meet the demanding staffing requirements in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sudan, entirely on a volunteer basis...



**AFRICA [USAID-financed study finds low-dose biopesticide effective against grasshoppers](#)**

USAID-sponsored advanced field trials just completed in Senegal have found that a more cost-effective, low dose of biopesticide reduced hungry grasshopper populations by more than 90%...

**In The News**

**[Debt for Nature Agreement to Conserve Costa Rica's Forests](#)**

An agreement to reduce Costa Rica's debt by nearly \$26 million over the next 16 years was reached by the governments of the United States and Costa Rica, the Central Bank of Costa Rica as well as U.S.-based Conservation International and The Nature Conservancy...

**[Suai Farmers Start Earning Incomes from New Cash Crop](#)**

Farmers in the southern district of Suai recently held a harvest ceremony as they started harvesting a new cash crop product, mungbeans, intended mostly for export to Southeast Asian markets...

**Telling Our Story**

**[Rebuilding Thai Villages through Consensus](#)**



***Villagers from the Kampuan subdistrict in southern Thailand gather regularly at town hall meetings to discuss relief efforts and community priorities.***

Photo: AIT/Vinij Tan

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