



# Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives Newsletter

AUGUST 29, 2008

## *Letter from the Director*

Dear Newsletter Recipients,

With the Global Food Crisis being such an area of concern, the need for faith and community based organizations to get involved in this issue is paramount. In the Success Stories portion of the newsletter be sure to read about "Amaizeing Grace," an innovative approach to addressing this need through the Foods Resource Bank's coalition of churches in Iowa. This project is a wonderful example of how people can work together to help in **other communities** around the world.

We are also featuring another useful tool from the HHS Sustainability Program on, "Fund Development and Fundraising, Part One."

Warmest regards,

Terri

**Terri Hasdorff**  
*Director, Center for Faith Based & Community Initiatives*  
*U.S. Agency for International Development*  
*U.S. Department of State*  
*1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW*  
*Washington, DC 20523*

[FBCI@usaid.gov](mailto:FBCI@usaid.gov)

**USAID Press.....Humanitarian Assistance to Georgia- Press Briefing with Administrator Henrietta H. Fore, DGP Invited**

**Helpful Links..... USAID Frontlines**

**Helpful Tools.....HHS Sustainability Program: Sustainability Strategies: Fund Development and Fundraising**

**Success Stories.....Amaizeing Grace**

**Articles of Interest..... 2008 Global Corporate Citizenship Conference, U.S. Diplomat: U.S.-Vietnam Cooperative Ties to Thrive**

**Grant Opportunities..... USAID and U.S. Department of State**

If you would like to sign up to receive regular updates from the USAID Center for Faith-Based Community Initiatives, or if you would like to discontinue receiving the newsletter, please [click here](#).

USAID P

**Press Briefing with  
Henrietta H. Fore  
Administrator, USAID and  
Director of U.S. Foreign  
Assistance**

**Humanitarian Assistance to  
Georgia**

**Via Telephone from Tbilisi,  
Georgia  
August 21, 2008**



To read Administrator Fore's remarks in their entirety, [click here](#).

MODERATOR: Okay, Administrator Fore, we've done a roll call. We have the full gamut with you today, and they're ready for your opening statement.

ADMINISTRATOR HENRIETTA FORE: Good. Thank you very much, Jeff and hello, everyone.

We've had a very good and very interesting day here in Tbilisi, Georgia. And we've had the chance to visit an IDP center for internally displaced persons in the old forestry center here in Tbilisi. About 237 of the IDPs were housed in the complex we visited.

And we visited with a number of families, but one in particular, headed by a very eloquent mother who was the head of the family, Lucia. She spoke about how she left her village and she spoke about how she brought her family out, her son and daughter, and how they have -

MS. FORE: - been hoping to have the family reunited. And they are now all at the IDP center, but their village has been burned, a village named - (inaudible). And 40 other families from their village have gathered in this IDP center.

It is a rough center in that there are not showers and many of the toilets do not work, but they are safe. They have bedding, sleeping bags, toiletries and things that have been furnished by the United States. And that is good news. They are asking for more things for children and for babies, so it was a place that had hope but has many, many needs.

And then we moved to a hospital, which is a good success story for the United States. We've been helping on development assistance for this hospital, helping with Emory University School of Medicine, to train and exchange doctors and nurses and administrators.

They've also had a field hospital in Gori. They have not yet lost any patients. They've been treating civilians and soldiers alike. And they are setting up emergency medical networks for Georgia. And then later in the day, we met with the president, the prime minister, the ministers of finance, health and economic development and agriculture.

And there are two main messages that I've been sending today, in addition to the one that you all know, which is that we as the United States government stand as friends with a vigorous and ongoing humanitarian assistance to the people and the government of Georgia, and that we are working as a team: diplomacy, development and defense.

And I called on Russia for allowing the IDPs to return home. This is the time for them to be able to return home. And second, I called for full access to all humanitarian teams as well as for the assessment teams for both humanitarian as well as reconstruction assistance.

You know, we have more teams coming in, government. Reuben Jeffery from the Department of State and Doug Menarchik, the assistant administrator in USAID, will be joining that team.

So we are looking forward to more of our teams assessing the activities on the ground. Today, there have been U.N. agencies and NGOs that have been distributing assistance in Gori. It is just one day, so the first day has gone well.

MODERATOR: I think we're going to open now for some questions. If you could, identify yourself, your organization. And we'll proceed as long as we can, for the 15 minute time

limit that we've placed on this call. Thank you.

First reporter question.

QUESTION: Hello. Can you hear me?

MODERATOR: There we go.

QUESTION: Oh, okay. Great. Hi, this is Betsy Pisik with The Washington Times.

I wonder, Madam Fore, could you tell us a little bit about what you actually saw there in terms of, were you able to see a Russian presence? Was there evidence of fighting? I mean, can you describe a little bit of the situation?

MS. FORE: From here in Tbilisi, I did not see a Russian presence.

QUESTION: Okay.

MS. FORE: And we did not see fighting.

What we did see were both civilian and military casualties in the hospitals. And most of the casualties, as I believe you've been hearing, are head wounds particularly from shrapnel and other pieces that have injured civilians and soldiers.

QUESTION: Okay.

QUESTION: This is Kirit Radia with ABC News. I just had a question, Madam Administrator.

If you could tell us, last time we spoke, we asked you about the Russians opening up humanitarian corridors. And at the time, it didn't seem like they were. But there are indications they are opening them up now.

Can you give us an update on that and then also an update on if there are any U.S. efforts to get either U.S. personnel or U.S. aid into South Ossetia? Thank you very much.

MS. FORE: There have been the reports that I mentioned today, U.N. agencies and NGOs who have been in Gori today. And they've been distributing food as well as hiking boots and other things that the people of Gori need. And that has gone well today, without the distribution problems that we have heard about. And so it is important for that to continue.

This is a large and complex challenge for internally displaced persons, to have access to food and water and bedding and mattresses and all of the things that you need for a quality of life. We have non-governmental partners who are operating in South Ossetia. And for all of them, it is the distribution of humanitarian assistance that is difficult. So distribution is a challenge.

QUESTION: Are there any plans to send either U.S. personnel or U.S.-provided aid to South Ossetia?

MS. FORE: We have aid going through implementing partners, so through other agencies.

But at this time, we are not sending any of our American team into South Ossetia.

QUESTION: And then - (inaudible) - the other part of my question about whether the Russians are opening up the corridors, is that because they will not let you in? Or is it a U.S. decision that you don't want to go in? And then again, on the corridors. Thank you.

MS. FORE: We are not allowed in to South Ossetia. And Gori - the access today for Gori is still challenging. We heard from the United Nations agencies - there's a full complement here - as well as their experience with the NGOs. It is still - there are many roadblocks. We are calling for full access to all humanitarian teams and that is very important.

To read the rest of the remarks for Administrator Fore, [click here](#).

*The Office of Development Partners invites  
interested U.S. PVOs to the  
Launch of the  
Development Grants Program*

The Development Grants Program (DGP) is a new competitive grant program aimed at engaging potential partners that have had limited experience working with USAID.

This event will include a discussion of the DGP Annual Program Statement by USAID panelists, including eligibility, the application and evaluation process as well as the sectors and geographic regions for which awards will be supported. It will include an opportunity for audience Q&A.

**When:**

**Monday, September 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Registration at 8:30 a.m.**

**Event from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

**Where:**

**Atrium Hall, Concourse Level, Ronald Reagan Building  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W., Washington, D.C.**

This invitation is extended to interested U.S. PVOs. Pre-registration not required for this event.

For further information, please  
contact:

**Kirsten Bontrager**

**[kbontrager@usaid.gov](mailto:kbontrager@usaid.gov)**

# USAID Frontlines

To view the August edition of Frontlines in its entirety, [click here.](#)



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# FRONTLINES

WWW.USAID.GOV

AUGUST 2008

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Under U.S. tropical forest legislation, developing countries can transfer their national debts to local funds to protect biodiversity—a “debt-for-nature” swap. See page 16.

The endangered yellow-headed parrot is getting protection from poachers and wildfires in a 240,000-acre preserve in Belize.

### FRAMEWORK OBJECTIVES:

#### Peace and Security

Middle East students learn about peace in the Arava Desert . . . . . SEE PAGE 8

#### Governing Justly and Democratically

Bush observes Captive Nations Week, hails Agency’s work . . . . . SEE PAGE 1

#### Investing in People

Assessing early reading skills to help students achieve success . . . . . SEE PAGE 5

#### Economic Growth

Serbia cuts bureaucracy to help businesses grow . . . . . SEE PAGE 6

#### Humanitarian Assistance

Norman Borlaug in Search of New Green Revolutions . . . . . SEE PAGE 2

## US to Provide \$48B to Fight AIDS, Malaria, TB

By *Bex Barber*

President Bush signed a bill July 30 providing \$48 billion over five years to fight AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.

The lion’s share of the money—\$39 billion—will more than double the \$15 billion spent since 2003 under the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

PEPFAR has been widely recognized abroad as a successful example of U.S. foreign assistance on par with the post-World War II Marshall Plan. It placed 1.7 million people on lifesaving antiretroviral medication. More than half of PEPFAR’s \$4.6 billion budget in 2007 was spent through USAID.

The bill signed by the president is called the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States



Africans line up for AIDS care and treatment provided through U.S. assistance, which was nearly tripled to \$48 billion for the next five years under a bill signed July 30 by President Bush.

Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008.

It authorizes \$39 billion for HIV/AIDS, \$5 billion for malaria, and \$4 billion for TB

over five years. The massive bill gives USAID:

- ▶ joint responsibility with the Global AIDS Coordinator to use HIV/AIDS funds to cover food and nutrition.

see AIDS on page 15 ▶

## Bush Tells USAID to Keep Democracy Focus

President Bush addressed more than 600 diplomats, democracy activists, and USAID employees in the Ronald Reagan Building July 24 to hail the Agency’s work supporting freedom and democracy around the world during the seven years of his administration.

“I want to thank all those who work for this very important Agency. I appreciate you being on the front lines of compassion and decency and liberty,” Bush told Administrator Henrietta Fore.

He spoke during Captive Nations Week, observed during July each year since it was set up in 1959 by President Eisenhower to take note of countries suppressed by Soviet communism.

“Those countries are now independent. Bush said today’s “captive nations” are now oppressed not by foreign powers but by their own dictators, such as Iran, Sudan, Syria, and Zimbabwe, even countries which the United States had

good relations with, such as Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and China, have been asked to improve human rights.

Bush said his administration has worked to spread democracy in Iraq, Afghanistan, Ukraine, Georgia, Lebanon, and the Congo. He said Kuwait, Liberia, Morocco, and Pakistan have also advanced democracy.

USAID and the State Department played a central role in these efforts through more than \$1 billion a year in support for elections, legislative training, the free press, civil society, and other elements vital for democracy.

Bush also looked to the future—beyond the final months of his second term—and called upon the next presidents to continue to support freedom around the world.

He said U.S. leaders since George Washington believed freedom was a universal cause

see BUSH on page 15 ▶

## Fore Dedicates USAID Mission in Vietnam

By *Hal Lippner*

Administrator Henrietta Fore dedicated USAID’s new Vietnam mission during a three-day visit in July to Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Fore told Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung that the United States was looking to deepen its relationship with Vietnam and supports its economic reforms and adoption of the rule of law.

This year, USAID will provide around \$70 million for Vietnam, about \$48 million of which is for HIV/AIDS.

In Hanoi, Fore visited USAID-funded information technology classes for the disabled and struck the gong that opens trading at the Hanoi Securities Trading Center. USAID has been helping Vietnam develop its securities laws and regulations.

see VIETNAM on page 14 ▶



Administrator Henrietta Fore and President Bush at July 24 event at Ronald Reagan Building observing Captive Nations Week.

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## HELPFUL TO

## Sustaining Grassroots Community-Based Programs: A Toolkit for Community- and Faith-Based Service Providers

### Sustainability Strategies: Fund Development and Fundraising, Part 1

Developing a sustainable funding base is a recurring issue facing small grassroots organizations. A solid financial base ensures that essential services will continue even if a major piece of funding is lost. An organization can start planning for sustainability by developing a funding plan and choosing the most appropriate funding sources for the work it does and the objectives it wants to achieve.



#### Upcoming Topics

- ✓ Results- Oriented Evaluations

Fund development planning is part of the strategic planning process. A fund development plan dictates a course of action for an organization and provides a systematic way to identify key stakeholders and donors who can help address community problems and are passionate about their work.

#### Planning for Fund Raising and Fund Development

Your organization should have a clear understanding of its funding needs, the specific projects to be funded, and the amount of money that is needed. To begin this process, your organization should:

- Select board members, staff, collaborative partners, and stakeholders to serve on a fund development committee or team.
- Set a funding goal. Be realistic.
- Develop procedures for the committee and assign tasks related to the mission and goals.
- Develop a strategic funding plan and select strategies to support the mission and programs.
- Outline action steps and timelines to accomplish goals.
- Implement plans and activities.
- Decide how many donors are needed to meet the goal.
- Use resources that already exist in your organization.
- Identify strengths and weaknesses of your organization.

#### Diversifying Funding Sources

Using a combination of funding sources will help to ensure long-term financial sustainability for vital programs. Diversifying funding sources provides your organization with a flexible funding base that accommodates multiple sources of funding support and taps into a wide array of funding options that are consistent with the mission, goals, and core services.

Two key elements of sustainability are knowing what income streams are available and being open to new approaches. The next step is to understand the kind of money that is available. Different funding streams are accessed and managed in different ways and involve different relationships with individuals and funders. Financial sustainability may involve all potential funding streams or a limited number of funding streams, depending on the needs of your organization.

#### Developing Sustainable Relationships and Partnerships

Finding the right funding source to support the organization's mission is important, but building sustainable relationships with funding sources is even more important. The need to meet you and talk with you, and this won't happen unless you take the steps necessary to introduce yourself to them and tell them about your vision, mission, and accomplishments.

Building sustainable relationships is the core of fundraising and fund development. Through these relationships, your organization's vision can be realized and its mission achieved. Community- and faith-based organizations use various types of partnerships and relationships to facilitate their ability to conduct their work.

Many grassroots community- and faith-based organizations depend on individual and corporate donors. Through donors, the public learns of your organization, helping it establish visibility and credibility. Knowing how to attract, nurture, and sustain relationships with donors may be the key to keeping your organization going.

## Attracting Donors

Donors give to your organization because they believe in your work, and they expect you will have the competencies to fulfill that work. Here are some points about getting donors to notice your organization:

- Get to know the donors first. Then express your appreciation in a way that speaks directly to them.
- Make an impression.
- Network with and get to know current donors. They are an example of the type of donors that are interested in your organization.
- Tell your organization's story as often as possible and highlight the number of clients that have benefited from your program.
- Discuss the benefits that a donor's contributions will have on the lives of consumers and the goals of the organization.
- Discuss potential donors with the board of directors, key leaders, and volunteers.
- Say it with numbers. Use statistics to show potential donors that services from your organization have the potential to improve the community.
- Build bridges. Look for opportunities to network with potential donors.

## Nurturing Relationships with Donors

Donors rarely give money at first contact. They are much more likely to give "out of a relationship." Here are some ways to solidify a personal relationship with donors:

- Appreciate donors. Donors have reasons as to why they give. Know why they are giving.
- Send donors a thank you note for their donations.
- Invite donors to lunch or to your program events.
- Find out if donors have friends who might be interested in supporting the organization.
- Understand a donor's commitment. Get to know why a donor is committed to the cause of your organization.
- Involve donors. Find ways to use donor's gifts and interests.
- Understand the roles of stakeholders. Understand the corporate sponsorship and fund-raising event.
- Tailor communications that speak directly to the donor.

## Benefiting from Donors

Your organization may benefit from donors in more ways than just receiving their donations:

- Professional coaching and mentoring
- Physical property and real estate
- In-kind contributions
- Direct sales
- Free advertising space

To be continued in next week's newsletter...

## "Amaizeing Grace"

### Coalition of Iowa Churches Sells Corn to Aid Poor

By JERRY PERKINS

The Des Moines Register



Foods Resource Bank (FRB) works on behalf of its member organizations - 15 of the mainline Christian denominations or their agencies - to mobilize and increase the resources needed to support smallholder, agricultural food security programs in some of the world's poorest villages. In the U.S., community "growing projects" raise a crop or other marketable resource, monetize it, and make the proceeds available to FRB. These financial resources are provided to the member organizations of FRB, who work with their in-country partners worldwide to help local communities to become self-sufficient and food-secure, producing enough to feed themselves and vulnerable individuals (AIDS orphans, the elderly, women and children), with extra to share, barter or sell to purchase basic medicines and staples, and send ALL their children to school.

For more information on FRB, [click here.](#)

CONRAD, Iowa- Twenty acres of corn growing northeast of Conrad stretches all the way from the flatlands of Grundy County to some of the poorest areas in the world. The cornfield is part of this year's Growing Project contribution from Amaizeing Grace, a coalition of area Christian churches, farmers and agribusinesses, to Foods Resource Bank, which uses the money to support agricultural development programs among the world's poorest people.

Amaizeing Grace will sell its 20 acres of corn and supplement the proceeds with donations from other cornfields and monetary contributions to help finance Food Resource Bank's self-help development programs in impoverished villages and rural areas around the globe. The aid is coming at a time when organizers of foreign assistance programs complain that high costs of grain, food and transportation are choking off aid to poor people in need.

Started in 1999, Foods Resource Bank is made up of 15 mainline Christian denominations or their agencies that support small farmers and agricultural food security programs in some of the world's poorest areas. Foods Resource Bank was started to help small farmers feed themselves and their families, boost their meager incomes and provide educational opportunities for their children.

Two-thirds of Foods Resource Bank's programs are in sub-Saharan Africa, but the organization also works in Asia, the Caribbean, Central America, Eastern Europe, the Middle East and South America. Projects funded the foods bank, and the other organizations it works with, supply seeds, livestock, tools, knowledge and other elements that help poor people help themselves.

Arlyn Schipper, a farmer from Conrad and a national director of Foods Resource Bank, said Amaizeing Grace hasn't decided where the money raised from this year's corn crop will go, but he knows the money will be well-spent. "The bank," he said, "doesn't ship grain or food overseas, because it is more cost-effective to sell the crops here, seek out donations and contribute money." Also, buying food and goods in poor countries helps promote local economies and employ the people there.

#### Projects

In 2007, the foods bank held projects similar to Amaizeing Grace in 20 states. The projects raised more than \$2.6 million to support 52 overseas programs in 32 countries. Foods Resource Bank said the programs benefited 395,000 people at an annual cost of \$5.25 per person. Corn and soybeans are the popular growing projects in the Midwest, but the foods bank also has sold pumpkins, ornamental gourds and shrubs, hay winter wheat, popcorn, beef and dairy cattle, hogs and honey.

#### Church Origin

Schipper said Amaizeing Grace is unique because it comprises nine congregations in 11 communities and rural areas in the Conrad, Eldora, Grundy Center and Marshalltown areas. Its first year was 2003, when Presbyterian churches in Conrad and Marshalltown got involved with the foods bank. Other area churches heard of the project, Schipper said, and joined forces.

Last year, Amaizeing Grace had 74 acres of corn in two plots farmed by Keith Sheller and Ron Saak. The plots yielded 189 bushels an acre and, with other donations of corn and

money, raised \$62,000 for the foods bank.

Kerry Carson, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Conrad, said most of the money came from grain sales, including corn that local farmers delivered to one of Mid-Iowa Cooperative's eight branches, where the corn was set aside for the project.

"One of the benefits of the project is that it has allowed us in the church community to work together," Carson said. "We really never did before, but (the foods bank) became the reason for us to talk and work together." Dorothy Sheller of rural Eldora said other combined church projects have been spun off from Amaizeing Grace.

### Harvest Festival

In past years, Amaizeing Grace harvested its donated cornfield as part of a harvest festival. As many as seven combines picked corn, 10 semi-trailer trucks hauled it to an elevator and school buses shuttled visitors to and from the field so they could ride in the combine. Lois Kruse of Conrad said this year's festival will probably be held in November because the corn's development has been delayed by cool, wet weather. Schipper said he thinks this year's corn yield will be 15 percent less than a year ago because of the adverse weather. "There's been too much rain and planting was too late," he said. "We're hoping for a late frost date. If not, it could be pretty sad, but we have faith."

### Examples of Help

Carolina Hernandez Canales of Christian Medical Action in Nicaragua is coordinator of the agricultural projects that Foods Resource Bank is helping. Hernandez recently visited Schipper's farm.

"I like to see how people get their funds to support the projects," Hernandez said in Spanish.

The foods bank project Hernandez coordinates is a demonstration farm for crops and animals in northern Nicaragua's autonomous region. The area is inhabited by Miskito Indians, and indigenous people who live on communal lands. Sixty Miskito producers there are receiving technical assistance for improving their handling of livestock and growing crops from improved seeds. They want to diversify food sources and sell commercially.

"The indigenous tribes have been abandoned for years, without assistance from the central (Nicaraguan) government," Hernandez said. "They have very little knowledge about how to grow and sell their crops. They all grow the same crops at the same time. So, when one has crops to sell they all do, and the price is low."

Soil conservation practices have begun and new crops like food beans that conserve soil are being introduced. The bean leaves also provide a nutritious feed for livestock, she said. No chemical fertilizers or pesticides are used in the programs because the Miskito can't afford them and because of the dangers of misapplication, Hernandez said. Another project funded by FRB covers 32 communities and is introducing improved and better cultivation practices for rice and beans.

## 2008 Global Corporate Citizenship Conference September 18-19, 2008



For more information on the GCLC and the Global Corporate Citizenship Conference, [click here.](#)

Don't miss this opportunity. To register, [click here.](#)

### Public-Private Partnerships for Emerging-Market Development

The accelerated pace of world trade has expanded the influence of business abroad and has brought significant social and economic challenges that require multi-stakeholder approaches and solutions.

BCLC's Global Corporate Citizenship Conference: Public Private Partnerships for Emerging Market Development will bring over 250 business, government and nonprofit leaders together to address these issues and to showcase the many ways that businesses are having a constructive impact on the communities in which they operate.

#### Participants will:

- Develop important contacts in the international aid community including with government agencies, NGOs, multilateral institutions, and other businesses;
- Learn about the trends and new strategies driving global corporate citizenship;
- Share best practices about the positive contributions businesses are making to society.

A Pre-Conference welcome reception will be held on September 17 at the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Washington, DC.

On September 18, conference sessions will focus on facilitating public-private partnerships, humanitarian issues, sustainability, micro-finance, global food crisis, post-earthquake recovery in China, farmer development, supply chain management, water shortage and much more.

On September 19 NGO and advocacy organizations representing a variety of viewpoints about globalization will make their arguments in a moderated debate to be held in the Chamber's Hall of Flags. The debate will be followed by a panel of corporate commentators who will respond to the questions raised in the debate.

## U.S. Diplomat: U.S.-Vietnam Cooperative Ties to Thrive

### China View

Hanoi, August 20 (Xinhua) – The United States and Vietnam are expanding and deepening cooperative relations not only on economic and trade spheres but on education, human rights, anti-corruption and legislation, U.S. ambassador to Vietnam Michael Michalak said Wednesday.

“This year we’ve seen Vietnam successfully take on its role as a member of the United Nations Security Council and, in July, as president of the council. As Vietnam’s role on the world stage expands, our relationship deepens and broadens,” Michalak said at a press briefing.

Regarding economic relation, the United States and Vietnam are finalizing the text for the first round of negotiations on a bilateral investment treaty, maybe in September or October, he said, noting that the future agreement will bring legal protection to the best international standard, helping draw stronger investments.

Besides, the United States is considering Vietnam’s proposal on granting it the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and market economy status, the ambassador said.

“Our economic relationship continues to mature. Halfway through 2008, two-way trade appears likely to once again break new ground and surpass the 12.53-billion U.S. dollar mark from 2007...U.S. investment is also poised to make a strong showing in 2008,” he said.

The United States and Vietnam are making progress in cooperation on many other fields, including education, healthcare, climate change, law construction, human rights and anti-corruption.

The two sides are selecting members of a bilateral task force on education to expand cooperation between the two governments and help more Vietnamese people study in the United States, he said, noting that Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung “signed an historic memorandum of understanding” (on the taskforce’s establishment) during his visit to the United States in June.

Regarding healthcare cooperation, the United States will expand the implementation of its President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to seven or eight Vietnamese provinces from current six ones, and keep on helping Vietnam detoxify its areas affected by Agent Orange and clear unexploded ordnances.

The United States and Vietnam have agreed to establish a working group on climate change, the ambassador said, adding that Vietnam’s southern Mekong Delta will be its first area to be affected by climate change.

The United States will be ready to offer technical assistance to the National Assembly of Vietnam, the country’s top legislature, and have continued open dialogues and consultations with Vietnam about ensuring freedom of expression, religion and press and improving transparency to better combat corruption in

country, he said.

The ambassador said four of his priorities during his term in Vietnam include expanding the bilateral economic and trade relationship, forging educational cooperation, seeing further progress on human rights, and settling a land issue. He also plans to build a new U.S. embassy in capital Hanoi.

## GRANT OPPORTUN

### USAID FUNDING

(check out [grants.gov](http://grants.gov) for the most up-to-date information on grant and funding opportunities as information does change)

**Hungary USAID-Budapest** seeks innovative proposals for the Kosovo Partnership for Sustainable Resettlement of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian (PSR-RAE) Communities Program. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is September 3, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

**Hungary USAID-Budapest** Kosovo Partnership for Sustainable Resettlement of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian (PSR-RAE) Communities Program. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is September 3, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

**El Salvador USAID-San Salvador** is seeking applications for the implementation of a Program Aimed at strengthening the capacity of the National Response for the prevention and provision of HIV/AIDS program in El Salvador. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is September 5, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

**East Africa USAID-Kenya** is seeking applications for the implementation of a program focused on sexual and gender- based violence. As of August 15, 2008 the closing date of this announcement is September 8, 2008. For more information [click here](#).

**Kosovo USAID** would like to make a special call for concept papers that relate to the health sector in Kosovo. Specifically, USAID is seeking to partner with qualified institutions willing to devote resources that will help improve the health of women and children in Kosovo. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is September 30, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

**Iraq USAID-Baghdad** is seeking applications from qualified organizations to implement the next phase of the Iraq Community Action Program (CAP III). CAP will promote direct and representative citizen participation throughout Iraq, will engage and assist local government in articulating and acting on needs identified by communities and will assist innocent victims of military operations. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date for the announcement is Sep 30, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

**USAID Office of Food for Peace (FFP)**- seeks information from potential grantees or participants as to their interest, priorities and capacities to participate in or undertake a Leader/Associates Award, i.e., cooperative agreement, to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of Title II food aid programs. The purpose of the cooperative agreement is to improve the FFP program technical and operational procedures and to promote best practices through coordination and delivery of capacity building and technical assistance for new and current Title II food aid cooperating sponsors, prospective cooperating sponsors and programs worldwide. As of August 26, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is October 4, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

**USAID, OFDA**- In order to address the impact of food price increases in the Sahel, OFDA is targeting five countries for funding: Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal. Key points related to program funding: • Programs can be short or medium term in length (up to three years). • Programs should address the issues related to food insecurity caused by increasing food prices. • Programs can be regional or country specific as appropriate, as long as partner capacity and assessed need are fully incorporated into the decision. • OFDA will prioritize interventions based on representative and methodologically sound assessment data. • OFDA will prioritize interventions that align with the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and that focus on Pillar III. • OFDA will prioritize interventions that link into Development Assistance funded initiatives where possible and practical. OFDA's primary objectives will be dual-fold: 1) to address high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition while 2) reducing the risk of increased food insecurity, malnutrition and further deterioration of livelihoods. OFDA realizes that the most affected households may not be located in the same geographic areas where potential partners are currently operating. Populations that are most vulnerable to market shocks and subsequent rising food prices will be prioritized for all interventions. Specifically, OFDA will aim to 1) improve the purchasing power of food insecure populations; 2) improve access to markets among rural, urban, and pastoralist populations; 3) increase productivity of subsistence farmers and pastoralists; 4) reduce current spikes in acute malnutrition; and 5) reduce the risk of increased acute malnutrition. As of August 22, 2008, the closing date for application is October 17, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

**Thailand USAID-Bangkok** is issuing this Request for Applications to implement an Alternative Development Program to increase licit and commercially viable agriculture based alternatives for rural Afghans with the goal of significantly reducing and ultimately eradicating poppy production throughout Afghanistan. Subject to the availability of funds, this competitively awarded five year Cooperative Agreement shall focus across those provinces within the north, east and west of Afghanistan where poppy eradication has been showing success, security issues are comparatively reduced and opportunities are most abundant. Examples of current priority provinces are Nangarhar, Nuristan, Kunar and Laghman, Badakhshan, and Takhar. The Agreement shall be outcomes based focused on results. Applicants shall compete with proposed solutions that meet the requirements of the RFA and are tailored to an optimal technical / business approach. The goal is to contribute to the creation of full and part-time and year-round and seasonal jobs,

increased sales, strengthened associations, increased exports and improved access to services to promote licit economic growth and positive alternatives to the illicit economy for farmers and non-farmers alike. As of August 14, 2008, the Question Submittal Deadline is August 27, 2008 and the closing date for applications is October 27, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

**Thailand USAID-Bangkok** is currently seeking concept papers from qualified non-governmental organizations capable of designing and implementing model projects that will provide support to people with disabilities in Danang and surrounding areas. Programs and activities could include, but are not limited to enhancing earlier intervention for those who are disabled, providing support to existing rehabilitation clinics and services, expanding access of people with disabilities to essential health and education services, initiating or strengthening community based rehabilitation services and support, improving income generation and employment opportunities, strengthening the capacity of local organizations to provide services, improved community-based information around reducing risk exposure, and surveillance and prevention of disabilities. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is Dec 04, 2008. For more information, [click here](#).

**Bangladesh USAID-Dhaka** is requesting applications to restore livelihoods and provide increased and sustained livelihood opportunities for the cyclone-affected population in southern Bangladesh. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is January 15, 2009. For more information, [click here](#).

**Nigeria USAID-Abuja** has posted a cooperative agreement for registered Nigerian indigenous organizations, U.S. and non-U.S. non-governmental organizations (NGO), community-based organizations (FBO), community-based organizations (CBO), foundations, private organizations affiliated with public academic institutions, parastatals, professional organizations, non-profit organizations, and for-profit organizations willing to forego profit. They are looking for proposals to strengthen civil society to combat HIV/AIDS in Nigeria. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is January 31, 2009. For more information as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#).

**Sudan USAID** seeks observation applications covering the entirety of the electoral process, from establishment of the National Election Commission through resolution of post-polling disputes. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date on this announcement is February 16, 2009. For more information, [click here](#).

**Kazakhstan USAID-Almaty** This USAID/Central Asian Republics (CAR) Annual Program Statement (APS) solicits applications from prospective partners to implement maternal and child health activities in Tajikistan. USAID expects that the total level of funding available under this APS for activities in Tajikistan would be up to \$3.5 million. Based on these figures, funding requests are expected to range from a minimum of \$200,000 up to a maximum of \$3.5 million (if activities are proposed to cover all program objectives) over a period of up to five years. Funding will not exceed \$700,000 per year. Awards for projects of more than one year will be funded incrementally. All awards are subject to the availability of funding. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date of this announcement is June 24, 2009. For more information, [click here](#).

**USAID** is seeking applications from eligible institutions as described in Section A.1.e., to promote democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in Iran. Applications should advance one or more of the following objectives: strengthening civil society organizations

and advocacy; increasing awareness of and strengthening the rule of law; and expanding freedom of information. USAID intends to make several awards under this APS for a total of up to \$20 million. Applicants can request \$100,000 to \$3,000,000 for expenditure over a maximum of two years. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis and all applications must be submitted by June 30, 2009. USAID reserves the right to fund all or none of the applications submitted. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is June 30, 2009. For more information, [click here](#).

## U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT FUNDING

(check out [grants.gov](http://grants.gov) for the most up-to-date information on grant and funding opportunities as information does change)

**International Religious Freedom Programs-** The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) announces a Request for Proposals from organizations interested in submitting proposals for projects that promote international religious freedom as part of overall good governance in the countries in: Near East, with a particular interest in Bahrain, Egypt, Israel and the Occupied Territories, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, and Yemen; South/Central Asia, with a particular interest in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan; East Asia and the Pacific, with a particular interest in Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, North Korea, and Vietnam; Africa, with a particular interest in Eritrea, Ethiopia, Nigeria, and Sudan; and Europe, with a particular interest in Azerbaijan, Kosovo, the Russian Federation, and Turkey. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is September 2, 2008. For more information about this grant opportunity as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#).

**Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor-** The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) announces a Request for Proposals from organizations interested in submitting proposals for projects that promote human rights, the rule of law, civil society, media freedom and freedom of information in North Korea. As of August 15, 2008, the closing date for this announcement is September 15, 2008. For more information about this grant opportunity, as well as contact information for the acquisition specialist, [click here](#).