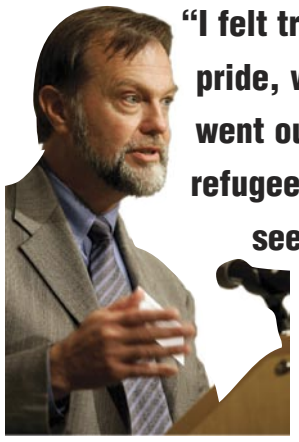
FRONT LINES

www.usaid.gov

U.S. Agency for International Development Employee News

SEPTEMBER 2004



"I felt tremendous pride, when I went out to the refugee camps, at seeing those thousands and thousands of bags of food from Food for Peace…the good will that generated among all the recipients is just phenomenal."

Tibor Nagy Jr., Former Ambassador to Guinea, Recipient of U.S. Food Aid in 1956

Speech July 21, 2004,

▼ SEE 50TH ANNIVERSARY ON PAGE 2

VOLUNTEERS AID AT HOME

Seeking to have some up-close contact with people in need has led many Agency staff to volunteer.

This issue includes two pages of stories about people who serve meals to AIDS patients, teach kids in youth groups, and otherwise escape from the computers and paperwork of a federal bureaucracy into the human side of helping others.

▼ SEE PAGES 8 AND 9

Iraqi Survivors Tell of Mass Graves

NEW YORK—A young Iraqi man who crawled out of a mass grave—the only known survivor of an estimated 182,000 Iraqi Kurds murdered in 1988 as part of Saddam Hussein's Anfal campaign—brought his story to America through a USAID-sponsored human rights visit in July.

"We were taken away in trucks—there was no air inside or water and some children died before we reached the end," said Taimour, whose last name was withheld because of security concerns.

"When we arrived, they opened the door and I managed to slip aside my blindfold. I could see the pit in the ground surrounded by soldiers. We sat in the pit and they fired bullets at us."

Taimour, who was 12 during the 1988 Anfal campaign that destroyed more than 1,000 Kurdish villages, was shot several times, but managed to escape into the desert where Bedouins and Shiite Arabs sheltered him for two years until he returned to the Kurdish northern area of Iraq.

When Saddam reportedly offered $1 million to anyone who would kill the only known survivor of these killings, Taimour was given asylum in the United States.

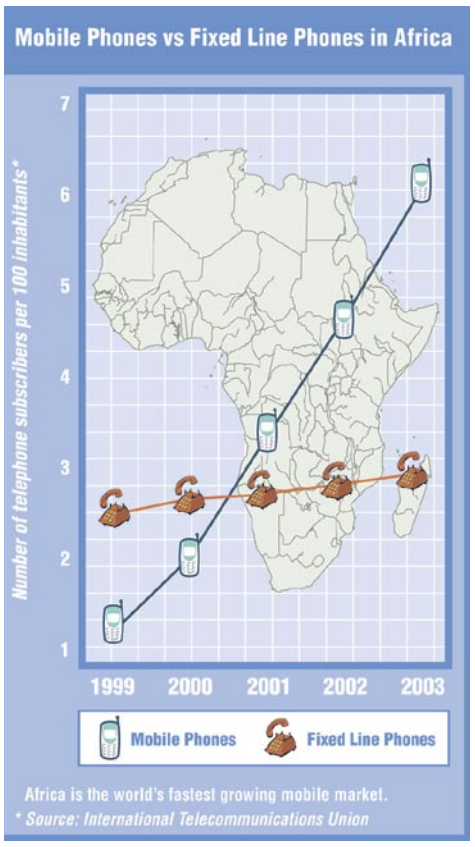
The Iraqis stopped in Washington, D.C., New York, Detroit, Los Angeles, and San Diego, and included Taimour, Iraqi-American Kurdish filmmaker

▼ SEE IRAQ MASS GRAVES ON PAGE 14

AFGHANISTAN

Three boys wait for the next shift to begin at the Naou Behar middle school in the northern Afghan city of Mazar-I-Sharif. The school was rehabilitated under a USAID program that provided carpenters, paint, roofing materials, and other aid. The school's enrollment has exploded since U.S.-led forces ousted the extremist Taliban theocracy two years ago—from 400 to 2,500 students today—according to Ghulam Yahiya, the head of the school. The increase came after 3.7 million Afghan refugees and displaced persons returned voluntarily to their homes, the Taliban ban on girl's education was removed, and Afghans showed a new interest in education. A detailed report on Afghanistan's progress, to appear in the October issue of FrontLines, *is being prepared by the* FrontLines *Editorial Director, who just spent three weeks traveling around the Asian country of 25 million. Stories will focus on the private building boom, the tripling of school enrollment, the first Afghan elections, improving health care and declining mortality among children and women, the restoration of women's rights, and improved roads and other services.*

Ben Barber/USAID



Sudan Crisis Worsens

Some 30,000 to 50,000 Sudanese have died so far, as Arab Sudanese militias continue to attack, rape, displace, and kill African Sudanese in the Darfur region, said Roger Winter, Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance.

"Ethnic cleansing is the term I would use," said Winter, who met with displaced people on recent visits to Sudan. He said the Sudan government is supporting the militias financially and militarily.

"When I talk to people in Sudan, they say planes came and bombed them and then the Jingaweit [Arab militias on camels and horses] came and attacked," Winter said.

U.S. efforts to persuade the Sudan government to halt the violence have proved futile. Although both houses of the U.S. Congress voted to declare the Sudan crisis "genocide," Arab and other U.N. nations have watered down a U.S. resolution threatening sanctions unless Sudan halts the attacks.

Rains that began in June turned Darfur's

▼ SEE SUDAN ON PAGE 14

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

ARMENIAN FARMERS LEASE TRACTORS

PAGE 6

Global Developments 2
In Focus: IT Speeds Development 4–5
Teachers Trained in Pakistan 11
Where in the World. 12–13
Faith-Based Groups Go to Bangkok. 15

JAMAICAN NGO FIGHTS AIDS

PAGE 10

SURVEYS CAPTURE TRENDS IN AFRICA

PAGE 16

PRSRT STD
Postage and Fees Paid USAID
Permit No. G-107

U.S. Agency for International Development
Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20523-6100

Penalty for Private Use $300
Official Business

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER