FRONTLINES

UNITED STATES AGENCY INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT — USAID

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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLEN

JUNE 2005

"We've got a very small [USAID] mission here, but they're taking care of an awful lot of work… [They] are risking lives and going through some very difficult circumstances to try to make sure that millions of people get the food, basic care that they need…"

AP/World Wide Photos

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF STATE ROBERT ZOELLICK
Khartoum, Sudan, April 14.

SEE **COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT: ETHIOPIA** ON PAGES 8–9 FOR RELATED STORIES

Facing Drought, Ethiopia Fights Back

A major drought has raised the threat of a food shortage in the Horn of Africa, where Ethiopia—already deeply engaged in efforts to improve agriculture—is working with USAID and others to deliver food and prevent famine.

The need to deal with the current rain shortage comes as the country's 74 million people continue to work on improving roads, crops, livestock, markets, trade, and other ways to produce enough food and income for its people.

With 83 ethnic groups, Ethiopia—an area

▼ SEE **FACING DROUGHT** ON PAGE 8

Rice, Natsios Urge Mission N Directors to Transform N World Through USAIDN

ROSSLYN, VA—Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told Agency mission directors May 18 that USAID "is the epitome of what I call transformative diplomacy…our job is to be a partner with young democracies and close the gap between capability and expectation."

At the third global conference of mission directors in the Agency's half-century, Rice said: "We have a chance to do what people did at the end of World War II." She compared support for democracy then with current USAID backing for democratic revolutions in Georgia, Ukraine, Lebanon, Iraq, and Afghanistan today.

"I am very proud of what you do," she said at the Key Bridge Marriott Hotel conference, "that you go to hard and dangerous places, that you lost colleagues. They did not die in vain."

Mission directors convened here May 17–20 to chart the direction of the Agency in its activities around the world.

Administrator Andrew S. Natsios said that 115 USAID contractors and grantees have died in Iraq and Afghanistan—more than U.S. military combat losses in Afghanistan.

Natsios also told the mission directors to prepare to make major changes in the way they carry out billions of dollars of foreign aid programs each year, calling for a return to the use of Agency experts to design and manage the programs rather than hiring contractors.

He called for spending more aid money overseas—to prime the pump of local economies and train local officials to carry on development—rather than spending so much on U.S.-based contractors and NGOs.

And he called for a return to the construction of visible, physical projects, such as an airport and dam in Afghanistan that he found still functioning after decades of warfare.

"We should not ignore the importance of building things," Natsios said.

▼ SEE **MISSION DIRECTORS** ON PAGE 13

MEMORIAL TO FALLEN USAID STAFF

USAID

Virginia Foley, widow of Laurence Foley, stands before memorial to USAID fallen at May 17 dedication ceremony at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C.

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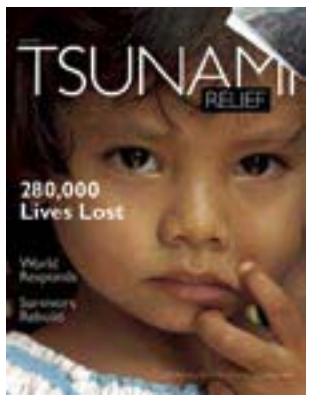
MOLDOVA VOTES PAGE 11

$907 Million for Tsunami Recovery Effort Approved

President Bush signed a supplemental budget bill May 11 providing $907 million for USAID's and other's tsunami reconstruction plans that range from road building to health clinic construction.

The funding was approved as the Agency published *Tsunami Relief*, a recounting of the natural disaster and U.S. government efforts to provide food, shelter, healthcare, and other assistance to survivors.



It has been nearly six months since the magnitude 9 earthquake struck off Sumatra, setting off a tsunami that pounded parts of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, the Maldives, and Somalia. More than 200,000 people died, and about 100,000 are missing and presumed dead.

The $907 million includes funding to reimburse USAID and the Department of Defense for relief efforts they already expended. The remainder will be for tsunami reconstruction, most of which will be administered by USAID.

As of April 28, individuals, corporations, and foundations in the United States had donated or pledged $1.2 billion in cash and $177.2 million in inkind support for tsunami

▼ SEE **TSUNAMI RECONSTRUCTION** ON PAGE 14

Memorial to Fallen USAID Staff Is Dedicated in D.C.

The names of 69 USAID employees who died in the line of duty over the past half century were inscribed on individual plaques and unveiled at a new memorial in the Agency lobby at the Ronald Reagan Building May 17, in a moving ceremony.

The families of the fallen as well as dozens of USAID employees packed the lobby as a military color guard stood to attention and the national anthem was sung by staffer Sylvia Lankford.

Virginia Foley, the widow of the most recent Agency official to die in the line of duty, attached the final plaque bearing his name: Laurence N. Foley, killed in 2002 by terrorists in Amman, Jordan.

▼ SEE **MEMORIAL TO FALLEN** ON PAGE 15

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Medical Aid Follows Bangladesh TornadoesN

On March 20, tornadoes raced through the Gaibandha and Rangpur districts in northwest Bangladesh, flattening close to 10,000 homes, cutting off electricity, and damaging crops. Thousands were injured and left homeless; at least 65 people died.

Most of the devastated areas coincided with the locations of the JiVitA project, which is funded by USAID and the government of Bangladesh's National Integrated Population and Health Program to assess the impact of vitamin supplements on pregnant women and their babies.

Alain Labrique

Dr. Shofiul Alam, research physician of the JiVitA project, removes embedded debris from an injured Naldanga resident, assisted by a nurse from a sister USAID-funded project, NGO Service Delivery Program.

In the storm's immediate aftermath, JiVitA staffers switched into emergency mode. Over the next five days, they established seven emergency medical camps and treated 2,150 people. Six doctors, six nurses, and others worked from early morning to nightfall dressing wounds, suturing lacerations, providing antibiotics, and referring and transporting emergency cases to hospitals.

"The sight of wet, dazed, injured villagers, wrapped in muddy blankets, stumbling out of the dark [was] haunting," said Alain Labrique, country representative with Johns Hopkins University. "Many of the injured had packed their wounds with grasses and herbs, sometimes earth, making cleaning the wounds extremely challenging. Women carried small babies in their blood- and mud-caked arms.

"Using only flashlights, water, liquid soap, and cotton and gauze, we stopped the bleeding and cleaned wounds as best as possible. Just when we thought the worst was over and we had handled the most critical patients, another wave would appear."

The group continued providing emergency medical support at the request of the district administration and the local health community for several days after the storms had passed.

Mahbubur Rashid

Dr. Barkat Ullah, senior research physician of the JiVitA project, is assisted by Alain Labrique, Johns Hopkins University project scientist, and Mohammad Akteruzzaman, chief administrative officer, in providing emergency first aid to an injured victim of the Naldanga tornado.

Today, most relief efforts in the area are focused on reconstructing and rebuilding homes, schools, and other institutions destroyed by the tornadoes. According to a recent field report, four teams of JiVitA workers are continuing to assess and evaluate the damage and human loss, as well as rebuild the project's infrastructure.

JiVitA, which means "alive" in Bengali, was designed to reduce the high incidence of maternal mortality in Bangladesh. Each year, approximately 20,000 women who give birth in Bangladesh die from pregnancy-related causes. JiVitA is running two community trials to determine if micronutrient deficiencies contribute to the high maternal mortality rate, and if taking certain supplements can improve maternal, fetal, and infant health and survival. ★

First Aid Team Travels to India CoastC

TAMIL NADU, India—Christian Medical College (CMC) was one of the first organizations to react when the December 26 tsunami flooded this Indian state. The group says it will stay and help coastal communities rebuild over the coming years.

USAID/India

Dr. K. R. John of the Christian Medical College, Vellore, examines a Thirumullaivasal woman who suffered physical and psychological trauma when pinned under a wall during the tsunami.

Dr. Suresh David, head of CMC emergency medicine, led the first aid team from the college's campus in Vellore to the hard-hit Nagapattinam coast. Dr. David and his colleagues are natives of southern India, familiar with the language and the customs of the coastal people.

That first-contact treatment team was quickly followed by more specialized teams making the seven-hour drive from Vellore, which is between Chennai and Bangalore. Local government coordinators asked CMC to identify and train local people in post-traumatic stress counseling.

Workshops were quickly arranged for church leaders, community volunteers, and local health personnel to establish basic procedures and techniques for addressing the mental health needs of a highly stressed population.

Over the next year, CMC will provide comprehensive health monitoring and psychological counseling, as well as help to restart the local economy along the Thirumullaivasal coastal area of Nagapattinam district, south of Pondicherry.

CMC's Community Health Department will work with local leadership of the fishing and fish-processing community to determine whether supplies and services match local needs.

A grant recipient of USAID's American Schools and Hospital Abroad Program, CMC has become one of the premier health providers in southern India. It serves over a million outpatients a year and maintains 2,000 beds. ★

Shelters Built for Displaced Sri LankansC

BALAPITIYA, Sri Lanka—Since the tsunami swept away his home and livelihood, Sri Lankan fisherman B. Disannayake and his wife, Mahalini, have heard a lot of promises. Few of them have been kept.

"None of us has had a full night's sleep for weeks," said Mahalini. "The heat in the tent has been unbearable for the children, so one of the babies was always fussing and waking up the others. The older children had a hard time making it to school in the mornings."

In early April, the family got a better place to live. Atop the foundation of their destroyed house, a transitional shelter of 200 square feet was built, complete with a zinc-aluminum alloy roof, canvas walls over a steel frame, and a door that locks. The family moved in at once.

"We will stay dry when the rains come," said Disannayake, bouncing his youngest, 2-year-old Nandan, on his knee. "We can lock up our things, and most of all our family can have some privacy. It's a real home."

"Thanks, America," he added.

Sparsely furnished with a donated bed, sleeping mats, garments, and some cartons containing a few recovered possessions, the shelter home keeps the family living together. With thousands of displaced people and the economy in disarray, this shelter will likely be this family's home for a year or two.

USAID is building several other shelter homes on the Dissanayakes' property, space that they have offered to share with neighbors who have lost everything.

Ben Barber, USAID

A boy works on a temporary housing project for Sri Lankans displaced by the tsunami.

These shelters are among more than 10,000 being built in south and east Sri Lanka by USAID. A new pump connected to the municipal water system is being built, as is a permanent latrine.

Each structure costs $400 to erect, a process that takes two days. But a scarcity of available land has slowed the pace of building the temporary homes. ★

amibiaN

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Challenge

Namibia is an arid country in southwestern Africa and is half the size of Alaska. It has a democratic government, good infrastructure, and abundant natural resources. Mining, fishing, and tourism fuel the economy, but most people eke out their living from subsistence agriculture.

Namibia was the world's first country to incorporate environmental protection in its constitution. Today, some 14 percent of the country is covered by protected areas that are full of wildlife. As more land is protected, it becomes increasingly important to help rural communities living within and near conservation areas to profit from protecting the land and its resources.

G. Holberman

Namibia is home to the world's largest population of cheetahs—about 2,500. Their numbers have been increasing with the help of conservancies.

USAID Innovative Approach

Since 1992, the Agency has supported the development of community structures to conserve but also profit from the biologically rich environment. Working through the Namibian government, the World Wildlife Fund, and a network of local NGOs, USAID helped to form communal conservancies that have the authority to manage wildlife.

Members from each conservancy elect a committee to oversee the development and management of communal resources. This process gives a voice to women and men who otherwise might have little impact on local governance decisions.

Conservancies earn significant income by entering into joint ventures with private investors to establish safari lodges or by negotiating trophy hunting concession agreements. Individuals also earn money from making and selling local arts and crafts. Except for such personal income, earnings at conservancies are pooled. A portion of the income goes toward community projects like schools, clinics, or roads. The rest may be distributed to the individual residents as a dividend of conservancy membership.

"Given their structural organization, conservancies are great avenues through which we can get out the word on HIV/AIDS awareness or civic education in rural areas," said Tina Dooley-Jones, USAID/Namibia's director of technical programs.

Under its 2004–2010 strategy for Namibia, USAID is expanding from conservancy wildlife management to community oversight of a broader set of natural resources, including forests, fisheries, and grazing land. The Agency is also emphasizing business development skills and training projects for income-earning activities.

Since 1992, USAID has invested $35.5 million in this program, which has been matched by a larger sum from private investors and other donors through 2004.

Results

The 31 registered conservancies earned $2.35 million last year. Four of them are now financially self-sustaining, while six more are expected to earn lofty profits by 2006.

Almost 100,000 Namibians reside in conservancies, and some 3,800 people are employed as game guards, hunters, artisans, or customer service personnel at lodges and campsites.

The registered conservancies protect some 20 million acres of communal land, which is in addition to 28 million acres already protected by the government.

USAID/Namibia Mission Director Gary Newton said that "by the end of our support to Namibia's conservancies in 2010, some 15,000,000 hectares, or 18 percent of Namibia's land mass, will be under a sustainable system of natural resource management, and biodiversity will have been greatly enhanced."

Torra Conservancy, the first to become self-sufficient, distributed about $75 to every conservancy member in 2003, an amount equal to half their annual incomes. The following year, the conservancy was one of six winners of an international prize from the United Nations Development Program. This year, the Damaraland Camp, a safari lodge located within the conservancy, won the Tourism for Tomorrow Conservation Award 2005 at a global tourism summit, an award recognizing the world's best practices in responsible tourism.

Wildlife, which suffered heavy losses from poaching until the mid 1990s, is coming back. There are now more elephants, oryx, buffalo, Hartmann's zebra, springbok, and lions than ever before. Namibia also has the world's largest free-roaming population of black rhinos, and their numbers have doubled in the northern Kunene region over the last 12 years. The country is also home to 2,500 cheetahs, the world's largest population of the big cats.

Game donations, primarily from private farms and government, have helped conservancies increase wildlife populations, reflecting a growing confidence in the ability of the conservancies to be good shepherds of the environment, said Dooley-Jones.

The project is successful, she said, because "it hits the governance aspect. We're working with rural people who politically could be extremely strong when it comes to their local governance and the use of their resources.

"It also touches upon biodiversity and conservation. People won't conserve or sustainably use natural resources unless they can see the benefit of conservation. And, of course, there's the livelihoods aspect. There, people may have absolutely no other source of income or very few other alternative sources of income. So this is a very tangible poverty alleviation program." ★

USAID/Namibia

Game guards on the job at Nyae Nyae Conservancy. The third man is holding a global positioning system, used to count and track wildlife.

Notes from Natsios

★★★★★★★★★★

FRAGILE STATES: FROM VISION TO ACTION

Fragile states pose a difficult development challenge. They are either in crisis or vulnerable to crisis. Many are beset by conflict and insecurity, governance and economic crisis, or famine. There are no quick fixes to strengthen governance or build a country's ability to improve the lives of its citizens.

But we have learned a great deal from working in these settings over the past two decades. From these lessons, USAID is developing a Fragile States Business Model. This model will set a course for working in fragile states to ensure a rapid and flexible response.

One of the central lessons is the need for such an approach, so that USAID can respond quickly to opportunities and challenges on the ground. The model will touch on all core functions of the Agency, including monitoring, planning, budget, program, personnel, and procurement.

I hope that it will translate the vision of our Fragile States Strategy into long-term action.

Accurate and timely information is key to an effective response to state fragility. USAID is developing an alert and tracking system managed in the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA), which will identify crises and feed into the State Department's Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilization. DCHA is also developing and pilot testing a tool for country-level analysis of fragility.

Streamlined strategic planning processes are vital to this business model. For severe crisis countries, operational plans of 12–18 months will be allowed instead of the standard three-year plan.

Budgetary flexibility is another important tool. When a country is identified as needing assistance to remedy fragility, regional bureaus and missions will assess whether current programs and resources are well suited to respond.

We need to improve how we identify our objectives and measures of success in fragile states. In many cases, USAID-supported programs cannot accomplish the same goals in fragile states as in more stable settings.

Procurement and implementation instruments also must become more flexible when dealing with fragile states.

We are considering a variety of steps to more effectively respond to crisis situations, including the development of scenarios and scopes of work to provide quickly on-the-ground resources and various implementing options—similar in some respects to what the Office of U.S.

▼ SEE **NOTES FROM NATSIOS** PAGE 15

Rice Visits Small Business Owners in C Mexico, Announces New Aid ProgramC

MEXICO CITY—On her first trip to Latin America as secretary of state, Condoleezza Rice visited a branch of FinComún, a microfinance institution that is bringing banking services to poor people here.

She also announced USAID's new $10 million program that is providing assistance to the Mexican microfinance sector and aims to reach 500,000 new clients. The Agency will provide business advisors to help Mexican microfinance institutions such as FinComún.

The lenders will offer remittance and rural finance services, improve regulation and supervision systems, deepen public dialogue, and expand to reach more clients.

The program is helping people like microentrepreneur Carolina Fuentes, who signed for a new loan through FinComún during Rice's visit. Fuentes will use the money to expand her stall at a Mexico City market where she sells ceramics, party favors, and keepsakes.

"I congratulate all these fine people for the hard work that they do and for the businesses that you are creating, which will benefit their families and their communities and their country," Rice said to Fuentes and other loan recipients on hand during the March 10 visit.

"This is a wonderful project…because it empowers people…[and] allows people like these fine people, who are willing to work hard and to take the opportunity afforded by these loans, to expand their businesses or to begin businesses," Rice said.

Fewer than 40 percent of Mexicans have bank accounts. To increase those numbers, USAID is working with Mexican microfinance institutions to provide credit, especially to microenterprises.

FinComún is a 10-year-old, regulated microfinance institution that provides savings, credit, and remittance services to customers from its 30 branch offices. It has expanded rapidly over the past four years, in large measure because of changes in Mexico's microfinance policies, advisory assistance, and a guarantee from USAID's Development Credit Authority.

Since 2000, FinComún's assets have doubled to $18 million; its outstanding loans tripled to $9.3 million; savings doubled to $13.7 million; and its clients grew 340 percent—to 43,000 small businesses, 80 percent of them owned by women. ★

Cristina Prado contributed to this article.

Cutberto Garcia, USAID/Mexico

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice visits USAID's microfinance project in Mexico. During the trip, she witnessed the signing of a loan that will benefit microentrepreneur Carolina Fuentes.

Jane Goodall Educates African C Villagers to Help ChimpanzeesC

Dr. Jane Goodall, who spent years studying Tanzania's chimpanzees, said on a recent visit to USAID headquarters that to protect mankind's closest animal cousin we must improve the lives and education of African villagers.

"I realized that to help the chimpanzees I needed to help the people," she said in a brief interview April 6.

Supported by USAID grants since the early 1990s, her Jane Goodall Institute (JGI) has tried to teach villagers living near the chimpanzee regions how to spare some of the forests and preserve the environment.

When she learned that many girls did not continue in school because of a lack of clean and private latrines, she began raising money to install toilets in schools.

"I now spend 300 days on the road and visit the chimpanzees in Gombi [Tanzania] only twice a year," she said. "The rest of my time I spend home in England to do my writing.

"I'm leaving the forest to save the chimpanzees."

In 1991, she started the Roots & Shoots program to teach students in Africa and abroad how to help chimpanzees through care and concern for the human community, animals, and the environment. More than 6,000 groups—ranging in size from two to 2,000—have registered in more than 87 countries.

The mission, according to the JGI website, is "to foster respect and compassion for all living things; to promote understanding of all cultures and beliefs; and to inspire each individual to take action to make the world a better place for people, animals, and the environment."

At a recent lecture to students at the University of Southern California, where she is an adjunct professor of anthropology, Goodall said "there can never be peace until we learn to live in harmony with the natural world."

"Every individual matters," she said. "And every day you live, you make an impact on the world around you." ★

© Paul E. George, WWICS

Primatologist Jane Goodall spoke about actions that are helping deplete Africa's wildlife at the April 11 Director's Forum at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington. Education, she said, is the first step toward "helping the people to understand that as the environment is destroyed, so their own life becomes increasingly hard and difficult."

Health Agencies Fight Outbreak Of Marburg Virus in Angola

LUANDA, Angola—To contain the spread of Marburg hemorrhagic fever, an Ebola-like virus that has killed 239 people in two months, USAID is sending masks and other protective equipment and has allocated $525,000 to help Angola set up a field laboratory that will increase the capacity to detect infections.

Some 337 cases of Marburg—of which 311 have been fatal—were recorded by May 17. Nearly all were in the northern province of Uige, with a handful of cases also registered in four other provinces.

Cultural traditions, such as bathing the dead, continue to spread the disease. As people believe they need to bathe the dead to properly put them to rest, they increase their exposure to bodily fluids, which is how the disease is spread.

Cultural traditions, such as bathing the dead, continue to spread the disease.

USAID on April 18 allocated $525,000 to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Angolan Ministry of Health to establish a field laboratory at the National Institute for Public Health. The lab can detect viral RNA and antigens in clinical specimens, and can test for evidence of recent or past infection in people who have recovered from Marburg virus infections.

USAID support will also mobilize additional epidemiologists and cover the costs of shipping laboratory and protective equipment, such as masks and gloves.

The CDC, World Health Organization, and Doctors Without Borders are coordinating logistics, epidemiology, laboratory diagnostics, and social mobilization to prevent the further spread of the virus. They are also directing the isolation and treatment of patients.

They have also been focused on training teachers and health workers, together with community education and involvement aimed at raising awareness of the disease among the local people. Community leaders—also known as *sobas*—have joined these efforts, and play an important role in helping people understand what needs to be done to stop the disease.

USAID bureaus—Global Health; Africa; and Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance—are funding the battle against Marburg. USAID/Luanda is also procuring supplies and facilitating logistics. A mission officer is an active member of the donor group that meets regularly to follow updates relating to the spread of Marburg and efforts to contain it.

Neighboring countries have placed their health services on high alert.

Angola is hampered in its ability to control the disease because of a weak healthcare system, lack of personnel and supplies, and inadequate information systems for finding cases. Such obstacles lead to cases not being detected, restricting the ability of health officials to stop the virus from spreading. ★

Indonesian Islamic Groups Are Moving C Toward Democracy and Tolerance, Study SaysC

A new study of USAID programs on Islam and civil society in Indonesia found that "democracy, pluralism, and tolerance" are being discussed with reference to Islamic precepts and practices as the country consolidates moves toward democracy.

The study focused on the Islam and Civil Society (ICS) program of the Asia Foundation, funded by USAID since 1997. ICS aims to strengthen democracy in Indonesia and encourage Muslim leaders and organizations to fight extremism and terrorism.

"The most important contribution of the program is probably that it has expanded a national dialogue on democracy, human rights, and gender equality," said the study, published in April by USAID's Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination and the Center for Development Information and Evaluation (CDIE). It was written by Robert W. Hefner, of the Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs at Boston University; and CDIE's Krishna Kumar.

"What is still more encouraging is that democracy, pluralism, and tolerance are being discussed with reference to Islamic theology, practices, and symbols, as well as the problems and challenges facing contemporary Indonesian society," the study said.

Since ICS was launched in 1997, longtime military ruler Gen. Suharto resigned, East Timor seceded, and Indonesia elected as its president opposition leader Abdurrahman Wahid. Parliament replaced him with Megawati Sukarnoputri, Indonesia's first female president, in 2001, and Susilo Bamban Yudhoyono defeated her in the most recent election.

"Suharto's Indonesia was not a free society," the study's two authors wrote, "but the regime did not prohibit public discussion of major policy issues." Hefner and Kumar deemed this point crucial to Indonesia's success in incorporating democratic reforms.

The two also named what they considered innovative elements of the ICS program:

- civic education courses reaching tens of thousands of students each year in universities, mosques, and pesantrens, or residential Islamic schools
- mass media programs promoting tolerance and pluralism, including the radio talk show *Islam and Tolerance* that airs on a network of 40 radio stations in 40 cities
- gender equality and nonviolence efforts, including a young women's corps that established 20 domestic violence counseling and advocacy centers
- activities to professionalize Muslim political parties, including an institute to focus party platforms on needs of the people ★

The Asia Foundation

Bus advertisements promote tolerance and active nonviolence to teenage youth in Indonesia.

Stops for African Truckers Fight AIDSC

MARIAKANI, Kenya—In March, this busy, truck-stop town became what supporters hope will be the first of several planned HIV/AIDS "SafeTStops" along the Northern Corridor, which stretches through six countries in East and Central Africa.

SafeTStop provides testing, preventative care, referrals, health education, and job training to drivers and others who make pit stops at this wayside.

The launch March 9 of the SafeTStop campaign included prayers led by the Rev. Paul Temu of the Catholic Archdiocese of Mariakani and the Imam Said Ali Ahmed, leader of Mariakani's Muslim community.

A major way in which AIDS has spread across dozens of countries as been truckers: on their long journeys far from home they have contracted the disease and then spread it to others.

Mariakani is the first stop along a 7,000-kilometer (4,350-mile) road that snakes from the port of Mombasa through Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, and around the great lakes to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi.

Of the 39.4 million people living with HIV in the world, 25.4 million live in sub-Saharan Africa, a region that includes all of the countries along the Northern Corridor. In 2004, an estimated 3.1 million people in the region became newly infected with HIV, the World Health Organization says.

Transit routes such as the Northern Corridor are both economic lifelines and networks for HIV infection.

The SafeTStop program hopes to draw truckers away from encounters that would spread AIDS. Instead, they are offered a safe place to stay, hot food, and information on preventing AIDS.

"Imagine you're tired; you're driving along and seeing signs like 'Health Clinic Open' or 'Hot Fresh Food Just Ahead.' Your eyes are going to light up," said Jeffrey Ashley, chief of HIV/AIDS programs at the Agency's Regional Economic Development Services Office for East and Southern Africa.

"We're offering the community something new: healthy interventions that will reduce the vulnerability of the population to diseases like HIV/AIDS by offering them an array of services."

The initiative eventually will target three main transport corridors in the region—Northern, Addis-Djibouti, and Tanzania-Zambia—and will offer a range of economic growth opportunities at key sites.

Future SafeTStops are planned for Malaba and Busia (Kenya/Uganda border), Djibouti, Rwanda, Sudan, and Uganda.

USAID offices in the region work with provincial AIDS committees, transport officials, and private sector companies on the SafeTStops. ★

Rob Ritzenthaler

A convoy that departed from the Kokotoni Medical Clinic, a short distance from Mariakani, arrives at the SafeTStop launch event March 9.

Afghan Midwives May Cut Death RateC

KABUL, Afghanistan—Hoping to reverse a long history of high infant and maternal mortality, a new generation of midwives has been given two-year professional training and is entering the Afghan work force.

One hundred and twenty-eight women were honored at a graduation ceremony in Kabul April 13. The first batch of graduates comes from 20 provinces. Trained in a curriculum adopted by the Ministry of Public Health and implemented by the Institute of Health Sciences, the students did clinical work at Kabul's Rabia Balkhi, Malalai, and Khair Khona hospitals.

The graduation of the 228 women means a 65 percent rise in the number of skilled birth attendants in Afghanistan. They are the first of the 830 new midwives expected to be trained by 2006 under a $6.7 million USAID grant.

The first congress of Afghan midwives took place May 3–5, during which the group drew up a constitution, elected officers, and launched the Afghan Midwives Association, the first of its kind in the country.

Under the Taliban, women in Afghanistan were denied the most basic human freedoms. When the Taliban fell, only 467 trained midwives remained in the country, and for every 100,000 live births, an estimated 1,700 babies died.

Some 40 percent of Afghanistan's health facilities still lack skilled women to deal with obstetric emergencies. The vast majority of Afghan women give birth at home, only 8 percent with help from a trained birth attendant.

Over the past two years, USAID has invested $67 million in improving overall health services in Afghanistan. ★

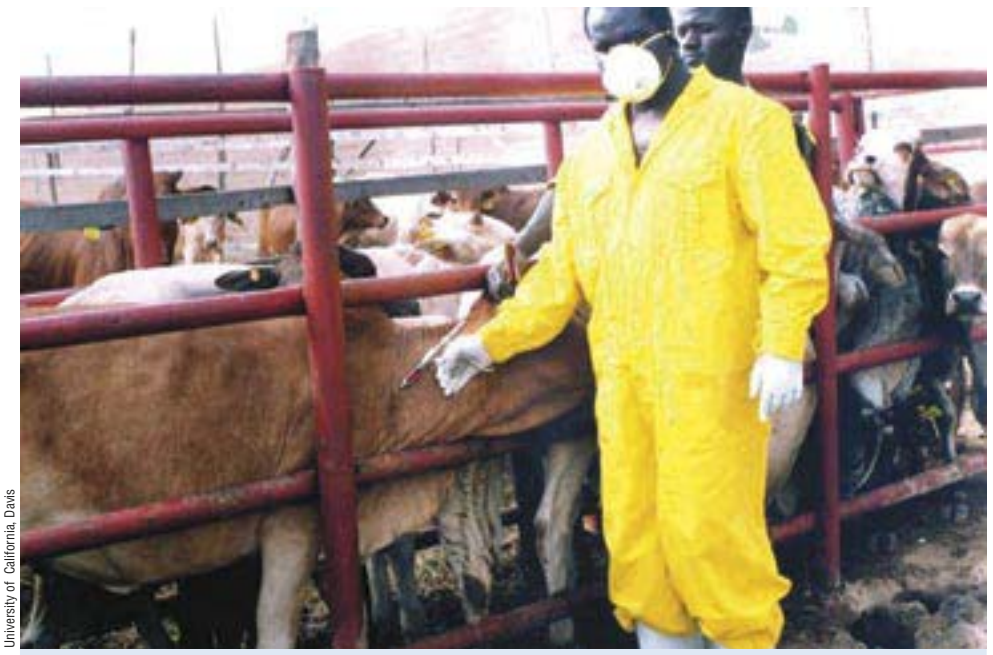
Rick Marshall contributed to this article.

USAID/Afghanistan

Women read their pledges as they complete a professional midwife training program.

ECONOMIC GROWTH, AGRICULTURE, AND TRADE

Vaccine Against Cattle Plague Passes Test in Kenya



University of California, Davis

Dr. Henry Wamwayi vaccinating cattle with the recombinant rinderpest vaccine.

A new vaccine against cattle disease, produced with U.S. assistance, has proved safe and effective in tests in Kenya earlier this year, paving the way for its widespread use across Africa and Asia.

The disease, rinderpest, which is German for "cattle plague," causes severe lesions in the mouth and intestines and causes bloody diarrhea, killing as many as 95 percent of the cattle and wildlife that contract it.

Farmers throughout Africa have lost hundreds of thousands of animals and millions in income they would have received from selling cattle and the milk they produce.

The new vaccine is the work of Ethiopian-American scientist T.D. Yilma of the University of California at Davis, to whom USAID granted $2 million over 17 years for vaccine research.

The new vaccine is generated by splicing two genes of the rinderpest virus in a smallpox vaccine, vaccinia virus.

Safety concerns about using vaccinia virus delayed field testing until a similar vaccine for rabies was distributed without incident over a million square miles in Europe and the United States.

University of California, Davis

Blood sample being taken from an animal for a serological test.

Safety studies were conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Veterinary Institute of Ethiopia, the National Biotechnology Safety Committee, and the Kenyan Agricultural Institute Biosafety Committee in Muguga, said Joyce Turk, who oversees the work for USAID as senior livestock advisor in the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade.

A simpler vaccine against rinderpest developed many years ago prevented the disease, but it was sensitive to heat and light. This made it expensive and cumbersome to use in the remote, hot desert regions of Africa.

In 1990, USAID funded a Tufts University scientist who improved the heat stability of the old vaccine by storing it in a powder form; however, once diluted for use it becomes heat-sensitive.

Yilma's vaccine is cheaper, heat-stable in both dry and liquid form, and easier to use because heat and light exposure do not harm it.

Since it is a recombinant vaccine, scientists could in the future splice genes from other viruses into it to provide protection against a range of diseases affecting cattle, sheep, and goats, Turk said.

Yilma worked closely with Senegalese, Kenyan, and Ethiopian researchers to develop not only the vaccine, but also a test for diagnosing rinderpest. The World Animal Health Organization (the former Office of International Epizootics) has approved the test for worldwide use. African laboratories can produce it for about one cent each.

Veterinarians administering the test can tell not only if an animal is immune to the disease, but if it is immune because it already had the disease or was vaccinated using the recombinant vaccine. This means vaccinated animals can be exported without fear of spreading rinderpest virus.

Humans are not affected by this disease. ★

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

Irrigation Pumps Lift Water so Farm Income Can Grow

ARUSHA, Tanzania—Abedinego Lession and his wife Monica started their business cultivating ornamental plants and flowers at their home here about seven years ago.

For the first five years, they watered the plants by toting buckets of water from the only source available: a communal irrigation stream that supplies each household for two hours per week. The work was tedious, and the Lessions were not able to irrigate all their flowers within the allotted time.

The couple saved for six months to purchase ApproTEC's Super MoneyMaker irrigation pump to expand their business and improve their income.

Today, they earn approximately $130 a month, just over twice the amount they brought in before they purchased the pump.

"We are now able to cover all our domestic needs, our children's school fees, and some maintenance of our houses," Abedinego Lession said.

ApproTEC is a nonprofit organization based in Kenya that develops and sells new technologies to help small entrepreneurs in Africa grow their businesses. The Super MoneyMaker irrigation pump sells for $90, and the smaller MoneyMaker Plus pump goes for $45. They are marketed as a way for families to expand beyond subsistence farming to a level that generates revenue.

The pumps transport water up to 70 feet from hand-dug wells, rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds to nearby fields. The pumps have a total lifting capacity of 43 feet. They can lift water from 20 feet below the surface, pump it 23 feet, and irrigate up to two acres of land.

After building its operations in Kenya, ApproTEC, with support from the Global Development Alliance (GDA) and the Tanzania mission, expanded south to Tanzania. The goal is to replicate the Kenyan model by creating a critical mass of pump users, suppliers, and distributors.

"We want to make the irrigation pumps as popular and well known as other common capital equipment, such as sewing machines and bicycles," said ApproTEC cofounder Nick Moon.

USAID's $650,000 investment in the effort was matched by private sector partners, such as the Case, Mulago, and Nike foundations.

In Kenya and Tanzania, the ApproTEC project has helped create some 34,000 new businesses, generating $36 million in revenues.

Steve Case, founder of the Case Foundation and the internet provider AOL, has taken a personal interest in ApproTEC, traveling to its headquarters in Nairobi to help its officers design a business plan.

ApproTEC has also developed other products, such as a press for producing cooking oil from sunflower and other hard-shelled oilseeds, and a manual hay baler.

"Here is a novel example of private sector experience and expertise adding value to what USAID does," said Dan Runde, acting director of the GDA Secretariat. ★

ApproTEC

Monica Lession is irrigating her nursery with an ApproTEC Super MoneyMaker irrigation pump.

GLOBAL HEALTH

Peru Improves C Medical Services for C Its Rural Poor C

TRUJILLO, Peru—Giovana* gave birth to a daughter at the Alto Trujillo Health Post here in late February, with medical supervision and no complications. Had she given birth a few years earlier, she would have had to do so at home, most likely unattended.

For poor people living in this urban slum in northwest Peru, it can be a difficult journey to the two regional hospitals. Patients also are not properly directed to medical care, and very sick patients might never make it to a hospital. Or people with minor infections might take up the regional hospitals' beds simply because they live closer to the facilities.

To get local residents access to vital medical care, USAID is working with public health officials to create an integrated network of health services. The network is helping regional hospitals and clinics share resources and refer patients back and forth. It is also increasing the coordination of investments to reduce wasteful duplication of services.

USAID is also trying to make it easier for poor people to access medical services by working with health officials to improve the targeting of publicly subsidized services to those most in need.

"Strengthening health systems in developing countries like Peru to be more effective, efficient, and equitable is essential for improving the health of the poor," said Bob Emrey, chief of the Health Systems Division of the Bureau for Global Health.

More than half of Peruvians live in poverty. Those living in remote areas have a particularly hard time accessing healthcare.

Ben Zinner, USAID

Giovana (last name unknown) rests with her newborn daughter at the Alto Trujillo Health Post, which is part of the USAID-supported network of health services.

Public clinics like Alto Trujillo Health Post offer basic services such as checkups, immunizations, treatment for minor respiratory illnesses, and initial care for minor trauma. More serious cases are now being referred systematically to regional hospitals.

USAID is also working with Peruvian health officials on a system that will identify how much people can pay for healthcare services. Poor people pay little or nothing, while those who can afford medical services are charged based on their ability to pay.

USAID provides technical assistance to hospital management to improve efficiency in referral networks and medical recordkeeping.

Health administrators at the local government level are also getting training. ★

*Last name unknown.

DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

Conflict Office Seeks C To Identify Sources of C Conflict, InstabilityC

The two-year-old Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) is offering an array of tools and activities to help staffers in missions and bureaus identify, analyze, and respond to sources of conflict and instability.

CMM has created toolkits focusing on land, youth unemployment, and natural resource management. Additional toolkits, slated for release throughout 2005, will focus on gender, livelihoods, human rights, water, forests, and local governance.

These toolkit focus areas are largely the product of mission requests for in-depth analyses of these sectors and their connections to violence, as well as CMM's own research while conducting conflict assessments and supporting projects in the field and at USAID/Washington.

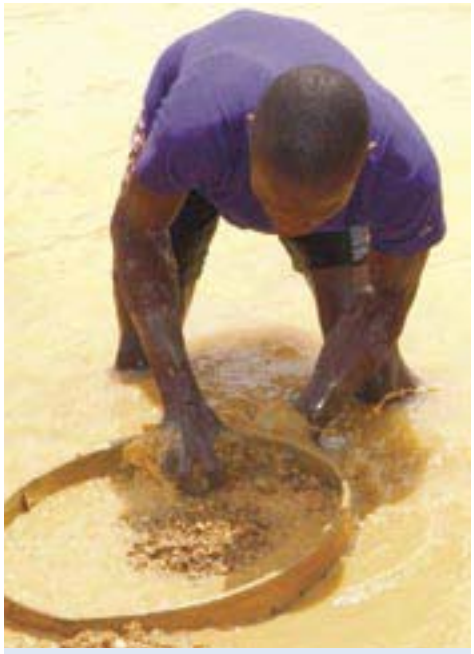
Since the toolkits were released, CMM says it has received requests for technical field support directly from missions and other USAID operating units.

Two recent CMM activities include those in northern Mali and Burundi.

At USAID/Mali's request, CMM funded an assessment of the northern part of the country, which has been the site of instability and Islamic extremism. The assessment team identified sources of tension and strain, including isolated extremist elements, widespread youth unemployment, and severely restricted access to social services. The assessment's recommendations became the basis for USAID/Mali, CMM, and others to develop a comprehensive approach to instability and extremism.

Administrator Andrew S. Natsios forwarded the recommendations to former Secretary of State Colin Powell, a move that resulted in additional funding for the mission's programming by the Bureau for Africa.

In addition, the findings led U.S. embassies throughout the Sahel—the semiarid region of Africa between the Sahara and the savannas to the south—to request similar assessments in Niger, Chad, and Mauritania.



Laura Lartigue, USAID

This miner from Sierra Leone's Kono district has benefited from the Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation's (CMM) toolkits. These toolkits produced by CMM highlight lessons learned and best practices from around the world, such as those from Sierra Leone's Peace Diamond Alliance. The alliance improved distribution of benefits from the diamond mining industry and restricted access to markets for people selling illegal "conflict diamonds" to fuel ongoing instability.

A team led by CMM recently completed a six-week mission to these countries.

CMM, which is within the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, also led a joint assessment team (which included staff from the Bureau for Africa and the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade) to Burundi to evaluate links between land access and conflict. The team's recommendations focused on two major themes:

- land and resettlement
- livelihood and food security opportunities that stimulate economic development and reduce dependence on land ★

DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE: NEWS

Training Courses Help Hone Way Agency Responds to CrisesC

A 10-day training course run by the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) in early April taught participants from around USAID how the Agency responds to countries in crisis or recovering from crisis.

"The course works from the beginning of a crisis through its aftermath," said Jenny Marion of DCHA. "It explains how to assess, respond, and manage complex situations that USAID staff face overseas."

As USAID increasingly works in fragile states, DCHA is being reorganized to build a more integrated team approach. The bureau aims to engage and collaborate more closely with other bureaus and offices inside and outside USAID, Marion said.

DCHA is also launching a new category of technical expertise: the crisis, stabilization, and governance officer.

The training course was designed to educate such officers—and other participants from outside DCHA—about operating in crisis and recovery scenarios.

Participants heard from more than 50 speakers with vast experience working in danger zones, such as USAID/Iraq Mission Director Spike Stephenson. They had to create scopes of work, analyze programs, figure out approaches, and discuss how to employ the various assessment tools USAID offers.

Modules also included issues such as protection and vulnerable populations, personal security, psychosocial issues, interagency operations, and donor and other partner coordination.

In one segment, Stephenson and Agency Counselor Carol Peasley talked about strengths and weaknesses of the trainees' proposed approaches to helping countries in the midst of crises.

The training wrapped up with a candid dialogue on USAID's role and effectiveness in fragile states between participants, Bill Garvelink, DCHA's acting assistant administrator, and Jim Kunder, assistant administrator for Asia and the Near East.

Plans are underway to offer a second course in December 2005. ★

Facing Drought, Ethiopia Fights Back

FROM PAGE 1

almost twice the size of Texas—is the second most populous country in Africa and one of the poorest in the world.

Unique among African countries, Ethiopia was ruled by an ancient monarchy that maintained its freedom from colonial rule. Emperor Haile Selassie ruled from 1930 until his overthrow in 1974, and the Communist Derg regime took over until 1991. It was deposed by the current government, which is moving towards democracy.

Ethiopia "represents an emergency situation—while it is one of the poorest countries in the world, it also faces the challenge of recurrent drought," said USAID Mission Director Bill Hammink.

As early as June, 10 to12 million people in Ethiopia and another 5 million in neighboring nations will face food shortages. USAID has mobilized additional staff, food and nonfood assistance, and disaster assistance relief personnel to assist with emergency needs.

In 2002–03, a severe drought left 13.2 million people hungry. The United States led the food aid effort with 1 million metric tons of food and other assistance totaling $550 million.

The persistence of drought has led the Ethiopian government and donors like USAID to think of new ways of addressing the problem. Agency Administrator Andrew S. Natsios noted that Ethiopia receives $500 million in aid relief and only $5 million in agricultural-development resources and asked the mission to come up with a new way of doing business.

Two years ago, USAID/Ethiopia began drafting a famine prevention strategy that would shift from relief to development aid. "Our new strategy links relief and development much more than in the past, with a focus on building the capacity to manage through shocks," Hammink said. "The strategy seeks to address both developmental and structural causes of famine vulnerability."

One year after the strategy is in place, Ethiopia still receives food aid. But the mission has increased funding for local health, education, agriculture, and livestock projects.

"Our new programs are focusing on the causes of humanitarian crisis, such as the chronic nature of food insecurity, and working to get a rural growth dynamic going to get out of the poverty spiral," Hammink said. ★

Capital: Addis Ababa
Population: 74 million
Population below national poverty line: 50%
GDP per capita (ppp): $700
GDP growth: 3.8%
Literacy: 43%
Infant mortality: 97 per 1,000 live births
Ethnic groups: Oromo 40%, Amhara and Tigre 32%, Sidamo 9%, Shankella 6%, Somali 6%, Afar 4%, Gurage 2%, other 1%

Source: *CIA World Fact Book* and USAID/Ethiopia

FrontLines *Acting Deputy Managing Editor Kristina Stefanova was recently in Ethiopia, researching and writing this series of articles.*

Small Farms Get Help Exporting Beans to Europe

ZIWAY, Ethiopia—A few dozen women and children pick fresh green beans in midafternoon, occasionally munching on them. They fill their baskets, weigh them, and pour the contents into plastic crates that are hauled away by tractor to a nearby farm.

There the beans are graded, packed, and shipped to the airport in Addis Ababa. In a few days, a shopper in a European grocery store will be able to pick up fresh Ethiopian green beans.

Until recently, farmers worked independently on small plots, selling their produce locally for about 12 cents per kilo. Meanwhile, an exporter, Ethioflora Horticulture Farm, was losing potential sales because it could not produce all the beans demanded for export.

That changed beginning three years ago, when a $1.1 million USAID project began helping farmers organize into cooperatives, improve irrigation, and produce high-quality beans to sell to Ethioflora at four times local market prices.

Now that the program is increasing production on small farms, Ethioflora has expanded sales in Europe and successfully lobbied the Ethiopian government to allow more cargo flights into Addis Ababa.

"We had a lot of problems before these linkages were made," said Ethioflora manager Mulugeta Abebe. "The farmers were not coordinating…they needed to learn how to cultivate and use irrigation. All of these things were not possible to do before, but have been done now through ACDI/VOCA."

Often when small-scale producers link to an international buyer, they are unable to meet production demands because of outdated technology, lack of skilled labor, or a shortage of transportation. ACDI/VOCA—a nonprofit group that promotes agricultural economic growth in developing countries—helps them overcome these obstacles.

Ayu Deme's life has changed since she joined the Dodicha Vegetable Cooperative four years ago. She is one of 155 members who together cultivate 68.5 hectares of tomatoes and onions for the local market.

Last year the cooperative began supplying green beans to Ethioflora, earning a significant profit. Ayu, 35, says she is now able to send her older children to school, buy clothes for the family, and purchase oxen.

Kristina Stefanova, USAID

Women and children pick green beans at the Dodicha Vegetable Cooperative. The beans will be sold to a local exporter, who will sell them to supermarkets in Europe. A USAID project has helped link the small farmers to overseas exporters.

Helping improve livelihoods for rural producers is a major aim of the agricultural cooperatives program and the horticulture market linkages program, which both emphasize linking farmers to markets.

Through the $10 million agricultural cooperatives effort that began in 1999, ACDI/VOCA has helped some 650 cooperatives with more than 673,000 members.

Cooperatives receive technical assistance to help understand and meet quality export standards, operate on sound business principles, and learn to be market driven. In five years, the value of food grains, coffee, and sugarcane sold through cooperatives has gone from $1 million to more than $20 million.

One component of the program is working with coffee growers. These cooperatives operate as private associations, providing services to their members. One coffee cooperative, for instance, helps its members access depulping and other specialized machines, which help create a better quality coffee bean. The cooperatives also help farmers fetch better market prices for their product.

Ethiopia produces some 270,000 tons of coffee per year, nearly half of which is consumed locally.

ACDI/VOCA is helping cooperatives tap into international markets, where coffee fetches a higher price. From an export base of just under a few hundred tons in late 2000, coffee cooperatives in 2004 sold almost 7,500 tons of high-quality coffee to specialty markets around the world. In the last four years, some $2.3 million in dividend payments have gone back to Ethiopian coffee farmers.

For Bekele Mantala, a member of the Wottona Bultuma Cooperative in Yirgalem, the additional income has brought several changes. Bekele, father of two young children, now leases additional land on which he grows coffee and maize. He bought land recently and built a new house, leaving the old one to his three younger brothers. And in July 2004, he opened a small shop where he sells coffee and maize.

Bekele is paying for his brothers' education and has big plans for the future. "I need to improve the shop and add products like grains and barley," he said. "And I can lease more land." ★

Aid Helps Farmers with Goats, Grain Banks, RoadsC

SEKOTA, Ethiopia—Birhane Melese, a 40-year-old widow, has struggled for years to feed her four children. But now, with six goats, she has milk, makes butter, and uses the manure to fertilize the potatoes, pumpkins, onions, and chilies in her backyard.

"If we have a problem now, we can just sell some of the goats," said Birhane, who received the animals and help with her farm through USAID's Relief to Development (R2D) project.

Along with the Ethiopian government's Productive Safety Nets program, R2D aims to improve food security by providing animals to the poorest Ethiopians, along with help setting up financial savings, proper harvest storage, and income-producing activities like beekeeping, so that they can survive times of food shortage.

USAID has committed $400 million over three years to the Safety Nets program, which aims to reach 1.5 million people. This program is a cornerstone of the mission's famine prevention strategy. USAID/Ethiopia also provides $16 million to NGOs for additional famine prevention programs.

In 1984, the hot, dry region around Sekota saw about a million people die of famine. Historically, crops barely grow in this isolated, drought-prone area of northern Ethiopia. There is little access to markets, leaving thousands of people hungry each year. Life expectancy is low, and treatable diseases kill many malnourished children.

Two years into R2D, Sekota's residents are seeing positive changes. They have constructed some 115 kilometers of feeder roads, making the district more accessible. Last year, thousands of fruit tree seedlings were produced and planted. Two grain banks were built, in which 291 farmers store sorghum, wheat, barley, and beans to avoid postharvest loss and conserve for use during lean periods. Six farmers' field schools were set up, where villagers learn about crop diversification and pest, soil, and moisture management.

Kristina Stefanova, USAID

Farmers in a village near Sekota build a grain bank. The Ethiopian government's Productive Safety Nets program, which USAID supports, is assisting farmers to build better storage for their grains, diversify their earnings by producing milk and cheese, and keep bees.

The Safety Nets program, started by the Ethiopian government in February, takes the pilot R2D nationwide. It introduces hillside terracing, watershed management, road construction, and irrigation to all regions deemed food insecure. Direct food and cash transfers are part of the program as well.

Wolde-Yohannes Allegue of Sekota, 47, says he and his wife fight less over food consumption now, and his seven children are eating a more varied diet. In the summer months, as food runs out, Wolde-Yohannes works on other people's farms or looks for work building feeder roads, often getting his pay in food and vegetable oil.

"People do the work for the food, but in the long term they appreciate how they and their families can benefit from the larger public works project," said USAID Safety Nets Adviser Judith Sandford. ★

Health Promoters Bring Care to Remote and Poor CommunitiesC

HOSSANA, Ethiopia—Masame Makebo teaches other mothers in villages about five miles away from this southern city how to keep their children healthy.

Makebo is one of 4,200 community health promoters trained through Essential Services for Health in Ethiopia (ESHE), an $18 million, five-year project operating in three regions. The health promoters are community-selected volunteers who work with health professionals to encourage basic healthcare and immunization. By the end of 2005, ESHE will have trained another 15,000 health promoters.

Ethiopia is one of six nations that account for 50 percent of under-5 child deaths worldwide. Every year, more than 450,000 children die from preventable diseases here. So Makebo's simple advice on immunizations, breastfeeding, and nutrition can be lifesaving. Anyone who comes to see her also learns about the importance of washing hands before touching food and about using latrines.

The current stage of ESHE, which began in November 2003, works simultaneously at local and federal levels, with a focus on strengthening routine health services—an effort that is part of USAID/Ethiopia's famine prevention strategy.

Results in the southern region of Ethiopia are already visible. The level of child immunizations increased from 54 percent in 2003 to 74 percent in 2004. Pit latrine coverage has increased, as has the use of contraception.

ESHE developed training modules for its health promoters based on findings from a household survey conducted in 2003–04. Now health promoters like Makebo are at the frontlines of healthcare, speaking at community health festivals and workshops.

Health promotion through ESHE is also being done over the radio. A four-day workshop with radio stations, local NGOs, and government officials last year developed radio spots on children's immunizations. Six spots have aired since, and more are being produced. ★

Dianne Zemichael, USAID/Ethiopia

Volunteer health promoters Bonse Hussein and Sitina Bedhaos travel to different villages in southern Ethiopia, speaking about the dangers of traditional practices that are harmful to girls. USAID supports various projects working with health volunteers throughout the country.

Ethiopian Women Candidates Overcome Obstacles to Enter Politics

ADDIS ABABA—When Ethiopians voted in general elections May 15, more than 100 of the candidates contesting seats were women, many of them trained with U.S. assistance.

USAID provided $300,000 to Women's Campaign International (WCI) to support Ethiopian women entering politics. The candidates received training in developing a campaign plan, public speaking, building confidence, use of media, and understanding laws and government procedures. U.S. funds also helped one women's group promote women candidates through radio, TV, and billboards.

Postelection training will be offered to the newly elected women to help them understand parliamentary operations.

The perception of women as housebound mothers and the lack of support for women's political groups hinder women from participating in politics in Ethiopia.

▼ SEE **ETHIOPIAN WOMEN CANDIDATES** PAGE 15

AFRICA

Senegal's Bus 'Coaxers' Learn to Fight HIV/AIDS C

GRAND YOFF, Senegal—Moustapha Diouf earns 40 cents for each minibus he helps fill by calling out its destination and coaxing riders onboard. But he has taken his job as a "coaxer" a step further, and has been trained to persuade people to avoid HIV/AIDS.

Diouf was one of the first people in Grand Yoff, a suburb of the capital city Dakar, to be trained by a local USAID-supported NGO.

He and others trained by ENDA-GRAF (Environmental and Development Action, Research, Action, and Training Group) are now leading more than 200 coaxers in group discussions about how to protect themselves against HIV infection and other issues.

The coaxers have also organized to help protect poor women from getting infected. The women are vendors and do other work near bus stations. Diouf and others have joined together to help them improve their earnings so they will not turn to prostitution, which can increase the spread of AIDS.

He organized the coaxers into eight teams, and they pooled their earnings and opened an account at the nearby savings and credit union. That, in turn, has helped bring women into what began as men-only discussions on avoiding AIDS.

Diouf said: "We have also been able to offer loans to the female vendors, increasing their economic power and making them less vulnerable.

"On Labor Day we organized a big rally with the Women's Credit Union, and we met with the local leaders to tell them our concerns about AIDS. We had a remarkable turnout and they listened to us. The women vendors and coaxers support each other, and we feel we are recognized and accepted by the community."

Diouf, 33, dropped out of school at age 9 and began hanging out at the bus station where he now works.

After meeting a representative of ENDA-GRAF at the bus station, Diouf was himself coaxed into joining the peer education program. "ENDA-GRAF's intervention shook me awake, and I began to understand that my life was in jeopardy," he said.

ENDA-GRAF has been running this project since 1998, and is now operating 36 sites in six regions.

"The strength of this activity is its comprehensive approach," said Jennifer Adams, USAID/Senegal's health team leader. "We are not only looking to raise awareness with individuals, but we take a closer look at needs around bus stations and other venues where people are at heightened risk of HIV/AIDS infection."

Richard Nyberg, USAID/Senegal

Moustapha Diouf, a 33-year-old Senegalese "coaxer" at an informal bus station in a suburb of Dakar, is educating his peers about safe sexual behaviors.

"We extend our activities to the wives and girlfriends of these transport workers," she added, "empowering them with information that will help curb the spread of HIV/AIDS."

The proportion of transport workers who said they changed their behavior to avoid HIV/AIDS grew from 61 percent in 2003 to 83.5 percent in 2004.

USAID has spent more than $25 million in Senegal since 1987 to keep HIV infections in the West African nation low. HIV infection is estimated at 1.5 percent in the country of 11 million. ★

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Paraguayan Indians Secure Ancestral Lands C

ASUNCIÓN, Paraguay—On an otherwise quiet night, an indigenous community known as Nembiara, 200 kilometers east of the capital, found itself suddenly and violently under attack.

Some 30 families of the ancient indigenous group Mbya Guarani were dislodged from their homes. Their crops were destroyed. Adults grabbed children and ran for cover in the bush, not knowing when—if ever—they would be able to return.

At the time of the attack, the Nembiara community, located in a rural area in the eastern region of Paraguay, had been desperately clinging to a mere 500 hectares, the last timber area of their once vast ancestral territory. Here, indigenous groups like the Mbya Guarani are facing threats to their claims on ancestral lands from drug traffickers, organized crime, and strong agricultural interest lobbies.

Daniel Piris, International Development Research Center

Mbya Guarani men symbolically defend their ancestral lands with rustic bows and arrows. In reality, their fight is being carried out within the legal system through land titling negotiations.

Displaced families are thrown into poverty, frequently in cities where they are marginalized and torn from their cultural practices and norms. Often they do not speak Spanish, but only their native tongue, Guarani, making it even more difficult for them to integrate into city life.

Through a Paraguayan nongovernmental organization called Oguasu, USAID is now assisting groups such as the Mbya Guarani to secure their land rights by helping indigenous leaders work with the government to formalize ownership of ancestral lands.

"The indigenous leaders mobilize based on the needs and priorities of their communities, and the results obtained by these leaders, once they are enabled with the necessary tools for action, are amazing," said Marilin Rehnfeldt of Oguasu.

Over the past two years, Oguasu aided eight Mbya communities—home to 1,278 people—to obtain legal titles for 4,133 hectares of land.

The group also backed the Mbya in lobbying for legislation and public policies in the areas of public health and education for indigenous populations.

Oguasu helps each indigenous community appoint public health promoters and midwives. The group trains these volunteers so they can improve health conditions in their communities.

"Now children get immunizations, pregnant women are no longer afraid to ask for neonatal care, and community members have even learned to bundle up to avoid catching colds during the winter," said Catalina Pelayo, coordinator for the public health promoters.

Oguasu is one of over 60 organizations that have received subgrants via the USAID/Paraguay civil society program implemented by the International Development Research Center, a Paraguayan NGO.

This program has invested $3 million over the past three years to strengthen democracy in Paraguay by supporting civil society organizations that promote citizen participation, advocacy, and oversight, particularly within traditionally disenfranchised groups such as the Mbya Guarani.

About 2 percent of Paraguay's population is indigenous, from some 17 different ethnic groups. ★

ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

Muppets Take to TV Screens in BangladeshC

DHAKA, Bangladesh—Halum, the vegetarian tiger, has kids laughing and learning on *Sisimpur*, the Bangladeshi version of *Sesame Street*.

On this program, don't look for Cookie Monster, Oscar, or Elmo. Instead, Halum is joined by Tuktuki and Ikri-Mikri, two spirited and inquisitive girls, and Shiku, a bespectacled golden jackal.

Under a three-year, $7.1 million cooperative agreement between USAID/Bangladesh and Sesame Workshop, *Sisimpur* is likely to be as popular as *Sesame Street* in America, and in countries such as South Africa and Egypt, where it has received U.S. aid.

Since its debut in April, *Sisimpur* has reached about 61 percent of the country's population via the Bangladesh Television network.

Mission Director Gene George said that from the beginning he knew that "Bangladesh would be an ideal candidate [for *Sisimpur*] because of its rich cultural heritage and utilization of song, drama, and art forms as a means of getting messages out."

The effort is a collaboration between USAID/Bangladesh, the New York-based Sesame Workshop, and Bangladeshi academics, actors, writers, puppeteers, and animators. The production embraces Bangladeshi art, storytelling, and song, using them to support and adapt the original program's format.

The *Sisimpur* coproduction is the first of its kind in South Asia.

To expand the reach of the children's show into regions lacking electricity or battery-powered televisions, USAID's mission is working with Save the Children USA to create a small fleet of human-powered rickshaw vans that carry a TV, DVD player, generator, and a teacher armed with books and child-friendly activities. The mobile teams will show *Sisimpur* once a week.

"The way those involved have taken to this program is impressive," George said. "I keep saying something about this effort not normally said about development activities in this country: 'We're ahead of schedule.'"

The first round of research showed that Bangladeshi kids were captivated by *Sisimpur*, their eyes almost never leaving the screen. When, for example, the gravelly-voiced Halum and the very purple Tuktuki tried to determine how many balloons they would need for their friends, they counted: *"Ek ta behloon. Dui ta behloon. Teen ta behloon."* Since the start of the show, millions of Bangladeshi children have been counting along with them. As in other countries, the furry inhabitants of *Sisimpur* sneak education into their merrymaking. ★

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Clockwise from top: Halum, Tuktuki, Shiku, and Ikri-Mikri are featured in Sisimpur, *the Bangladeshi version of* Sesame Street *that began airing in the country in April.*

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Voters Move Toward Reform in Moldova C

CHISINAU, Moldova—White House Associate Political Director Paul Dyke and aid officials from Washington traveled to Moldova in March to serve as election observers and make field visits to several development projects.

Voter turnout for the March 6 election reached nearly 70 percent. The ruling Communist Party won 56 of the 101 parliamentary seats—a 21 percent drop from the 2001 election.

Although Moldova's Communist President Vladimir Voronin retained the top job, political observers called this year's vote a signal that Moldova is now moving in the opposite direction, toward democratic and western reforms.

Opposition members of parliament joined with Voronin's party to give him 75 votes on April 5. The president is elected by a three-fifths majority of parliament and requires a minimum of 61 votes, 5 more than the Communists won in the election.

The vote also reflects efforts of Moldova's Communist Party to build closer ties with the European Union during the past year.

The election was generally considered fair and transparent, though some observers noted local administrative influence at the polls in the city of Balti.

The buildup to the races, however, was marred by candidate intimidation, limited media access, and manipulation of government resources by the ruling party.

Dyke and nine officials from USAID were among 500 election observers for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe , who visited about 80 percent of the country's 1,400 polling stations.

For Brock Bierman, chief of staff of the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia and leader of the USAID/Washington delegation, the visit was especially meaningful. His grandfather migrated from Moldova to the United States in 1905, during a tumultuous time in Eastern European history.

Bierman, who monitored an election station in his grandfather's hometown of Soroca, said the current residents "treated me royally and welcomed me 'home,' as they put it."

Moldova, a former Soviet republic that gained independence in 1991, is today the poorest country in Europe. The per capita income in 2004 was $760.

In the decade since it gained independence, Moldova has experienced political and social unrest on the road to democratic reforms. In 2001, Moldovans went to the polls and surprised observers by casting enough ballots to give the Communist Party a majority in parliament.

The U.S. election observers visited several aid projects. They traveled to Ceadir Lunga, where USAID's Local Government Reform Project helped build a natural gas pipeline. Prior to the project's completion just a few weeks earlier, wood and coal had been the only energy sources available for heating and cooking in the city's Sheftelik neighborhood.

Ceadir Lungua Mayor Mihal Formuzal told the delegation: "We are pleased that President Bush is supporting democracy in Moldova and hope he will continue these efforts—not only here, but all over the world."

In 2005, USAID will spend just under $15 million in Moldova, focusing the bulk of the funding on private enterprise development and democratic and social transition. ★

Shane MacCarthy, USAID

Polling Board #67 Chairperson Vitalie Comendant tallies ballots with an abacus to ensure an accurate count in Moldova's March 6 parliamentary elections.

WHERE IN THE WORLD...N

March 6 to April 30, 2005

REASSIGNED

Sandra Amin
M/HR/EM to AA/LAC

Sabinus F. Anaele
COMP/NE/OJT to Senegal/D

Douglas Balko
COMP/NE/OJT to Iraq/ODP

Kenneth L. Barberi
Ethiopia/D to Afghanistan/OD

P. Adriana Barel
COMP/NE/OJT to Namibia

Edward W. Birgells
COMP/FS/Reassign to Iraq/PO

Aleksandra Braginski
LAC/RSD to E&E/EA

John L. Brannaman
Caucasus to CA/DO

George H. Buzby
RIG/Pretoria to OIG/AIG/A

Anthony S. Chan
EGAT/EG to ANE/TS

Steven T. Cowper
Mali/MGT to Kenya/EXO

Thomas A. Dailey
M/HR/POD to USAID Rep/Cyprus

George Deikun
CA/DO to India/D

Victor De Leon Diaz
COMP/NE/OJT to Guatemala/EXO

Aman S. Djahanbani
Jordan/D to COMP/FS/Reassign

Elizabeth A. Drabant
Bolivia/HSOT to WB/Gaza

Matthew R. Drake
OIG/I/LAC-E&E to OIG/I/AFR-ANE

Maureen Dugan
Comp/Detail/Sup to E&E/EG

Christopher W. Edwards
Ukraine/PCS to USAID Rep/Sudan

Gardenia H. Franklin
RIG/Budapest to OIG/AIG/A

S. Elaine Grigsby Arnade
PPC/CDIE to Comp/Detail/Sup

G. Garrett Grigsby
AA/DCHA to A/AID

John P. Groarke
Egypt/D to Iraq/OD

James Gultry
COMP/NE/OJT to Ghana/FM

C.W.T. Hagelman III
AFR/SA to DCHA/CMM

Arnold J. Haiman
GC/EA to GC

William C. Hansen
COMP/NE/OJT to Indonesia/EXO

Peter W. Henderson
BHR/OFDA/OPS to DCHA/OFDA/OPS

Luis J. Hernandez
COMP/NE/OJT to Angola

Sean Huff
COMP/NE/OJT to Russia/PPD

Alan R. Hurdus
EGAT/NRM/W to COMP/LT TRNG

Deborah Ann Hymes
M/IRM/TSI to M/IRM/CPFM

Erik G. Janowsky
COMP/NE/OJT to Uganda/GD

Lee Jewell
RIG/Budapest to RIG/Dakar

Jeffery A. Lifur
COMP/NE/OJT to Afghanistan/OD

Drew W. Luten
GC to AA/E&E

Lisa Magno
COMP/NE/OJT to Guatemala/PDS

Emily Baldwin McPhie
DCHA/PVC ASHA/PPO to AFR/EA

Debra I. Mosel
Jordan/PM to Romania

Katherine Valdez Osborne
COMP/NE/OJT to Peru/PDP

Dana Ott
DCHA/PVC ASHA/PPO to AFR/SP

Anne Patterson
Indonesia/BHS to WB/Gaza

Glenn R. Rogers
EGAT/PAICO/PAMS to EGAT/EG

Michael G. Sampson
Nepal/EXO to USAID Rep/Sudan

Daniel Sanchez
COMP/NE/OJT to El Salv/SO3

David Schroder
ANE/EAA to WB/Gaza

Ivan J. Serpa
OIG/I/LAC-E&E to OIG/I/AFR-ANE

Robert M. Simmons
CA/DO to COMP/FSLT

Jason K. Singer
COMP/NE/OJT to Indonesia/EG

Susan M. Thomas
Phil/EXO to Iraq/EXO

Gene M. Villagran
COMP/NE/OJT to Caucasus

Pamela Wyville-Staples
COMP/LWOP to EGAT/WID

PROMOTED

James B. Ahn
Aurelia Stacie Albritton
Michelle A. Aldridge
Wanda Y. Andrews
David A. Atwood
Carol R. Becker
Jeffrey M. Borns
Robert Stephen Brent
Freda G. Brewton
Oliver C. Carduner
Sharon Lee Cromer
Leslie B. Curtin
Frances R. Davidson
Sonia L. Davis-Clemons
Francis A. Donovan
Dana P. Doo-Soghoian
Sukhminder Dosanjh
Beth P. Dunford
David E. Eckerson
Lennora D. Fendell
Vera M. Fields
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Earl W. Gast
Richard S. Greene
Awny A. Hakim
Parrie L. Henderson
Lavern Colletta Hollis
Walter M. Kindred Jr.
James R. Kirkland
Gary B. Linden
Dwayne A. Moore
Walter E. North
Deborah F. Oliver
Oludayo Onafowokan
Mary Catherine Ott
Carlos E. Pascual
Henderson M. Patrick
Carl Shakir Rahmaan
James H. Redder
Tim C. Riedler
Katrina R. Riley-Sawyer
Andrew B. Sisson
James T. Smith Jr.
Monica Stein Olson
Diana L. Swain
Shelia Jones Tolliver
Mai Tran T. Tran
Leon S. Waskin
Robert J. Wilson
Louise Berry Wise
Steven G. Wisecarver

MOVED ON

Jean Durette
Mark D. Ellis
LaVerne L. Horton
Suzanne H. Johnson
T. David Johnston
Lauren S. McLean
Carole S. Palma
Auburn Parker
Gia V.T. Parker
Kristine M. Rife
Charlotte S. Rupprecht
Douglas Sheldon
Linda E. Shovlain

RETIRED

Emmanuel Bruce Attah
Jeffory G. Boyer
Mary E. Brown
Paul R. Deuster
Richard M. Fraenkel
Thomas D. Hobgood
Joyce M. Holfeld
Roosevelt Holt Jr.
Patricia L. Jordan
Joseph F. Keady Jr.
Lowell E. Lynch
Paula S. Miller
Linda E. Morse
Emmy L. Simmons
Kiertisak Toh
Remedio M. Villanueva
Louise Berry Wise
Neil J. Woodruff
Roger Yochelson
Frank J. Young

IN MEMORIAM

John David Blumgart, 80, died April 9 in Rockville, Md. A retired economist, he started his career with the Agency in 1960, working primarily on infrastructure projects such as water purification plants and drainage systems. Blumgart was stationed in Bolivia from 1965–68, where he survived an airplane crash. He then served in Bangkok for two years. His final assignment was chief of the Special Development Projects Division in the Bureau for Africa's Office of Development Resources. After retiring from the Agency in 1982, Blumgart worked as a consultant with several African nations, assisting countries such as Rwanda and Zaire in their applications for U.S. assistance. Blumgart received a master's degree in International Economics from Columbia University. He served in the Army in World War II.

Zoe V. DeFonzo, 77, died April 24 in Olney, Md. A former civil service officer, DeFonzo retired as a management analyst with USAID's Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean in 1987, after more than 30 years with the Agency. She also worked in the Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination, the Office of Human Resources, and the Office of International Training.

George Dykes, 66, died April 2 in Alexandria, Va. He retired from USAID Jan. 31 as a senior business specialist in the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade. He had earlier worked in the Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, serving in Croatia on the Bosnia Disaster Assistance Response Team from 1992–95, followed by service in Bosnia with Mercy USA from 1996–99, and in Washington from 1999–2001. From 1989–1992, he was director of humanitarian assistance in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, working at the Pentagon on the Afghan Relief program, earthquake response in the Philippines, and other efforts.

Sadie Goodman, 88, died March 11 in West Bloomfield, Mich. She was a secretary with the USAID from 1960–80. In 1975, Goodman was evacuated from the U.S. Embassy in Saigon as the North Vietnamese moved on the southern end of the country. She received a Meritorious Honor Award for "outstanding performance and unusual devotion to duty" for assisting the evacuation of U.S. civilians and the embassy's Vietnamese employees. In 1980, she was again evacuated—this time from Afghanistan. After retirement, Goodman worked with the Afghan Relief Committee in Washington.

Jack Koteen, 85, died April 4 in Boca Raton, Fla. He helped develop government and economic programs in Liberia, Kenya, Nigeria, and several central African nations while with USAID in the 1960s . In the late 1960s and early 1970s, he helped develop health care and agricultural programs in Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Honduras. In 1974, he was appointed the director of USAID's former Office of Development Administration. After Koteen retired from the Agency in 1975, he worked as a government and private consultant, promoting economic development in Central America. He also taught graduate courses at the University of Maryland, Montgomery College, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Graduate School. Koteen also served in the Army during World War II, and worked at the State Department prior to joining USAID.

John Lowrie Malcolm, 84, died March 23, in McLean, Va. Malcolm joined USAID in 1959 and served as a foreign service officer in El Salvador and India, each for four years. In 1968 he joined the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization. He rejoined USAID in 1969 to work for the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade. He was an avid bicycle rider with a strong interest in Asia.

Marc Stratton Scott, 63, died April 2 in Huddleston, Va. Scott had worked with USAID since 1980, most recently as a senior field advisor with the Office of Transition Initiatives in the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance. Scott traveled to or lived in 45 countries while working for the Peace Corps. He also served as a dean at Texas Tech University and with the Credit Union National Association in Haiti.

Samuel Suber, 63, died March 14 in Takoma Park, Md. Suber served in the Army from 1962–65. He began his career with USAID in Washington in 1980 as a messenger, and moved up through the ranks to become a purchasing agent at the time of his retirement in 1998. An accomplished musician, Suber sung with the Joy Bells as a young man and was a director of choirs in the Washington area for decades.

Thurston Ferdinand "Tony" Teele, 70, died March 21 in Washington, D.C. Teele founded Chemonics International, USAID's biggest contractor, which has programs in 95 countries worldwide. He began his career as a foreign service officer and worked as an analyst with USAID in 1962. He later focused his career on economic development. In Afghanistan, he served as chief of party on the USAID mission's industrial development team. As agroindustrial advisor to the Agricultural Development Bank, he assisted in the creation of the Afghan Fertilizer Company and the design of a major USAID-funded project that resulted in privatization of fertilizer distribution. He served as chief of party and advisor to the Board of Investment in Thailand for USAID/Thailand. For USAID/Liberia, he served as an industrial economist for the Development Corporation. He also served as an economic analyst for USAID's Program and Planning Office in the Bureau for Asia and the Near East. ★

Rice, Natsios Urge Mission Directors to Transform World C

FROM PAGE 1

He noted that USAID funds now go mainly to technical assistance by U.S. experts, and the Agency has cut back on scholarships, infrastructure, and commodities.

"We need to put some of those tools back in the kit," he said.

Natsios also said that USAID could carry out development assistance more efficiently if less of its budget was "earmarked" by Congress to be spent on projects in specific sectors.

He called on the more than 80 mission directors to draw up new budget plans for 2007 as if there were no earmarks, so that he could assess how funds should be used to help aid effectiveness.

Natsios also said that the Agency should try to spend more funds locally in poor countries by using local contractors when possible.

Several speakers, including Natsios, recalled that in the past USAID staffers were more directly involved in carrying out aid programs, but in recent years contractors carry out the work, interact with local government officials, and even write the project proposals.

However, Natsios said, to be sure U.S. funds did not go to corrupt foreign rulers, USAID would continue to not give funds directly to foreign governments for budget support—a path increasingly taken by European and multilateral donors lacking the ability to carry out their own development programs.

The chief of the Bush administration's new foreign aid program—the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA)—told mission directors, "we could not have done our job in our first, startup year without you."

MCA CEO Paul Applegarth said, "We want to preserve and expand AID funding—you do things we cannot do that are essential to the fight against poverty."

He said the MCA is allocating $180 million to USAID to help several "threshold countries" become eligible for MCA assistance and 7 percent of that will go for the Agency's administrative costs.

"In all cases, our teams will rely on your teams" to provide knowledge of the countries and local officials, he said.

Rep. Jim Kolbe, Arizona Republican and chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, told the mission directors that foreign aid was never very popular in Congress but "since 2001, we do not get so many questions on why we spend money overseas."

However, Congress still needs "full and complete information on inputs and outcomes…we need to know with full candor…what works," he added.

Conference participants also heard a report on tsunami relief efforts from Indonesia Mission Director Bill Frej, who said the high visibility of USAID's new logo and slogan "from the American people" had "made an extraordinary difference—it changed minds."

"The Achinese saw the U.S. brand, and without that we could have been just one of 550 NGOs. It was an extraordinary foreign policy achievement."

The mission directors were told that the Agency is preparing its first U.S. National Development Strategy, which is to be sent to the National Security Council in August.

The last mission directors' conference was held in October 2003. ★

USAID

Mission directors from tsunami-hit countries, in Washington for the world wide conference of mission directors May 17–20, brief a congressional panel on USAID's relief and reconstruction activities. From left, George Deikun (India); Carol Becker (Sri Lanka); Mark Ward (deputy assistant administrator for Asia and the Near East); Bill Frej (Indonesia); Tim Beans (Thailand); and Dotty Rayburn (Legislative and Public Affairs).

John Streufert, Robert Lester Receive Presidential Rank Awards

John Streufert, USAID's director of information resources management, received the 2004 Distinguished Executive Presidential Rank Award for his supervision of the Agency's computer technology, which serves 8,000 employees worldwide.

Robert M. Lester, who retired as the Agency's assistant general counsel for legislation and policy, received the 2004 Meritorious Executive Presidential Rank Award.

The annual presidential rank awards recognize outstanding leadership among the government's 7,800 Senior Executive Service, Senior Level, and Scientific Professional career members. One percent of the designated employees may receive the Distinguished Executive or Senior Professional Rank Award; five percent may receive the Meritorious Executive or Senior Professional Presidential Award.

The 2004 award recipients were announced in April.

Streufert's technical team delivers technology support to the Agency's headquarters workforce and to 80 missions around the world. Before joining USAID in 1998, he worked for the Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Navy in various technology and budget positions.

Lester began his career with USAID in 1975 as a legal advisor in Saigon, South Vietnam. He subsequently served in eastern and southern Africa and, from 1979–2004, he worked in the Office of the General Counsel for Legislation and Policy. ★

Former Security Director Michael Flannery Succumbs to Cancer

Corbett Michael "Mike" Flannery was a hands-on boss who looked after his people, a dynamic leader who charted the reorganization of his office, and a walking encyclopedia when it came to rock and roll movies.

Those are just a few of the things colleagues recalled about USAID's former director of the Office of Security.

Flannery, 60, died April 1 in Paducah, Ky., where he moved after retiring from the Agency in August 2004. Flannery had been diagnosed with colon cancer about two years before his death.

"He was a true leader," said Harry Manchester, acting director for the Office of Security. "No matter who you were here, he had a way of making you feel that you were the most important person in the world. He was bigger than life."

Mike Flannery was director of USAID's Office of Security, 1987–2004, and popular with his colleagues.

He also had a keen sense of where the Agency was heading, Manchester said.

Flannery was responsible for the direction, management, and supervision of operational security programs that supported USAID missions worldwide. He was also the principal advisor to Administrator Andrew S. Natsios on security matters.

A retired U.S. Army officer and decorated Vietnam War veteran, Flannery served more than 20 years in military intelligence and special operations assignments throughout the world. That service probably helped account for his leadership skills, say Manchester and Randy Streufert, chief of the personnel information and domestic security division.

After arriving at the Agency in 1987, Flannery started weekly all-hands meetings for the security staff. He began programs to honor employees of the week, month, and year; and he was good at helping security officers move up the ranks.

"He definitely believed in investing in the employees," said Streufert. "He was big on recognition."

But Flannery also made room for light moments, including reporting his brushes with celebrity. He played a bit part in the pilot for the 1970s cop show *Hawaii Five-O,* and once sat in with the Beach Boys, playing the drums.

His fun streak and his people skills—he never forgot a name, Manchester said—had a lot to do with his popularity. Flannery's wife, Patricia, was overwhelmed with the number of condolences from her husband's friends and colleagues from around the world.

"There's a little absence in our hearts," noted Manchester, sitting in a security office conference room a stone's throw away from a photo of a smiling Flannery. ★

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Readers are encouraged to send in stories, feature articles, photos, nominations for "First Person" or "Mission of the Month" columns, and other ideas.

Letters to the editor, opinion pieces, obituaries, and requests to be added to the mailing list should be submitted by email to frontlines@usaid.gov; by fax to 202-216-3035, and by mail to Editor, *FrontLines*, USAID, Ronald Reagan Building, Suite 6.10, Washington, D.C. 20523-6100; tel. 202-712-4330.

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Earthquake Warning System to Provide Assistance Data

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is working with USAID on a system to give humanitarian and other organizations information to respond to earthquakes around the globe.

PAGER (Prompt Assessment of Global Earthquakes for Response) estimates the extent and severity of earthquakes and immediately helps to determine how many people may be in need of assistance.

The system does not predict tsunamis. A separate effort, headed by UNESCO's (United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization) International Oceanographic Commission, is pushing to roll out a tsunami early warning system for Indian Ocean countries by the end of 2006.

PAGER uses seismic waves, collected in real time at 350 strategic locations, to assess the potential impact of earthquakes, often before people on the scene can report what they see or feel.

After earthquakes are detected, USGS scientists based in Colorado crunch data and transmit critical information via pagers, cell phones, and the internet to emergency responders, media outlets, and government agencies such as USAID.

"The idea is to help groups mounting humanitarian assistance understand the scope of the disaster and where they should concentrate their resources," said Paul Earle, a USGS research geophysicist who is responsible for PAGER.

The system also helps government and rescue workers move quickly: it can take as little as 20 minutes from the time the earthquake occurs to the first impact estimate being issued.

USAID is spending $95,000 on PAGER, which is still in the research phase of development.

Though the Agency has taken a high profile in responding to the earthquake-spawned tsunami in the Indian Ocean, collaboration with USGS on PAGER had already been going on, said Gari Mayberry, USGS's geoscience advisor to USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance. Earthquakes in Iran in 2003 and Armenia in 1988 pointed to the need for such a system, he said.

USGS already uses a system on which PAGER is based—called ShakeMap—to compile maps of ground shaking and earthquakes in the United States.

About 30,000 earthquakes are detected worldwide annually, but only a handful cause significant damage.

Scientists can't rely solely on the magnitude and epicenter of a quake to predict its impact. This is where PAGER comes in. It creates maps of ground shaking, using specially designed software. These maps show where and how much the ground shook during an earthquake. By combining these maps with preexisting population and infrastructure databases, PAGER estimates the impact of an earthquake.

"It can be used for mitigation," said Mayberry. The USGS "can develop scenarios to show that if there was an earthquake of a specific magnitude in a specific place, how it will affect the people around it."

Early results show that PAGER is living up to expectations. It predicted, for instance, that 1.3 million people would face significant risks from collapsed buildings and other earthquake damage from the Dec. 26, 2004, earthquake in the Indian Ocean.

A PAGER prototype is expected to be rolled out in October. ★

Tsunami Reconstruction ▲ FROM PAGE 1

relief, according to the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University, which has tracked tsunami donations since January.

Former presidents Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush—named by the current president George W. Bush to lead private fundraising efforts in the United States—said during a visit to USAID headquarters May 12 that they raised between $10 million and $12 million.

Administrator Andrew S. Natsios added that the international relief community has "more money than we ever had in an emergency, thanks to their leadership internationally and domestically in this massive fundraising effort."

The former presidents, who toured the tsunami-ravaged areas together in February, also thanked USAID staffers.

"I've been very impressed with the aid workers that we encountered—the great spirit of these people lifting up the lives of…people who had nothing, absolutely nothing," Bush said.

Clinton, who called USAID his favorite government agency, encouraged staffers to continue their efforts.

"We really need your help because this is the toughest part of this relief effort," he said. "Right now is the worst time. Everybody was so great in the beginning, working together, saving lives. I thought there would be mass outbreaks of cholera and dysentery, which did not occur. I was convinced we'd have major public health problems, which didn't happen. And it's an enormous tribute to all of you.

"But now that the 'new' has worn off and it's not on the news every night, there are hundreds of thousands of people going to bed every night wondering if the rest of us have forgotten about them."

The money coming to USAID will pay for emergency relief efforts after the Dec 2004 tsunami and a smaller March 5 earthquake, also off Sumatra. This includes construction of houses for some of the 1.1 million people displaced in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and India; and restoration of fisheries, farms, and other businesses. USAID is providing grants, vouchers, and credit, and is continuing with its cash-for-work programs.

Agency funding will also be used to rebuild roads, schools, clinics, bridges, and public utilities in devastated areas; provide disaster preparedness education; and expand the international warning system that allows governments to alert citizens in advance of tsunamis and other disasters.

Tsunami Relief, available on line and in print, gives a timeline of the tsunami and the Agency's response to date. It also includes a pictorial history and individual stories of loss and survival from some of the hardest hit regions, including Banda Aceh in Indonesia. Go to www.usaid.gov to read or download the 26-page book. ★

USAID

Left: Administrator Andrew Natsios is flanked by George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton when the former presidents thanked USAID workers for their help with tsunami relief during a visit to Agency's headquarters May 12. At right, President Bush meets Marian Spivey-Estrada, a member of USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team, who was shot earlier this year while on an aid mission in Darfur, Sudan.

Memorial to Fallen USAID Staff Dedicated in D.C.C

▲ FROM PAGE 1

"Each one was doing what they wanted to do in the best way they knew how…to make the world a better place to live in," she said of the fallen.

Employees and visitors entering headquarters will see the names on the memorial each day so that "their sacrifice will not be forgotten," said Administrator Andrew S. Natsios.

The names of the fallen were read aloud; many died during the Vietnam War.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John O'Keefe, whose brother served with USAID in the Vietnam War, said: "I want to reach out to the families and say 'thank you.'"

After the wreaths were placed, the color guard retreated, the anthem sung, and speeches ended, Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs Ed Fox said: "We owe it to our fallen colleagues and to their loved ones that their work—our work—is carried on." ★

Ethiopian Women Candidates

▲ FROM PAGE 9

But things are slowly changing. In the latest election, the Ethiopian government committed 30 percent of parliamentary spots for women. In the early 1990s, a Women's Affairs Office was established in the Office of the Prime Minister to provide support for women. And in 1995, the Constitution of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia was written to guarantee gender equality.

U.S. Ambassador Aurelia Brazeal said of the U.S. government's role in Ethiopia's elections: "The United States wants to see Ethiopia prosper as a democracy, and we feel passionate about the importance of free, fair, and accountable elections. It is critically important that voters [and candidates] have the information and understanding they need to participate in the election."

In March 2005, WCI hosted a one-day conference where 175 men and women discussed strategies to overcome challenges women candidates face and increase their participation in the upcoming elections. The participants drafted and signed a five-point declaration to support women's political participation in Ethiopia.

In April, WCI returned to Ethiopia to offer two pre-election candidate training sessions for 60 women. WCI also provided a $20,000 subgrant for a media campaign through the Ethiopian Women's Media Association to highlight women candidates and the importance of voting for them.

The May 15 general elections were reported to be relatively peaceful and calm, with more than 90 percent of registered voters participating. Press reports indicate a stronger than expected showing for the opposition parties. Official election results will be announced June 8. ★

Sandra Kalscheur and Dianne Zemichael contributed to this article.

Notes from NatsiosC

▲ FROM PAGE 3

Foreign Disaster Assistance uses with humanitarian aid to provide immediate personnel and technical services.

The Office of Acquisition and Assistance has already begun training a cadre of specialists in the special authorities frequently used in crises situations in order for them to be readily called upon to implement and modify instruments as needed.

The ultimate resource of effective development assistance is the skilled, professional personnel of USAID and our partners. Our fragile states business model will establish new ways to deploy personnel support for missions in fragile states. We are hiring new foreign service officers to deal with crisis, stabilization, and governance. And we are expanding how we draw on the talents, insights, and skills of our talented foreign service national staff.

Finally, the business model calls for strong collaboration with the State Department and the military. USAID is also leading an effort at the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development to examine lessons from service delivery in fragile states, particularly postconflict settings.

Getting effective assistance to the citizens and institutions of fragile states is an appropriate challenge for USAID. Our ultimate success will depend upon each one of our talented staff working with local partners and adapting the model so we can better address fragility and advance transformational development worldwide. ★

YOUR VOICEC

Aceh Comes Back to LifeC

BY GENE WARD

Visitors to Aceh are reminded almost daily of what happened here Dec. 26 by frequent earthquakes and funerals for victims still being found in the rubble left from the tsunami.

One concrete slab amidst a pile of rubble in Banda Aceh read: "This property belongs to Haji Rusli Rahman, and he is still alive; please do not take anything from this site."

Signs and wooden stakes along the borders of properties dot the desolate landscape where the tsunami rolled as far as 5 kilometers inland and along 250 kilometers of coastland.

Yet, after one of the world's worst earthquakes and tsunamis, there are signs that Aceh is coming back to life. Beachfront homes are being rebuilt, albeit with scrap pieces of lumber and makeshift roofing. And even some of the smashed cars and motorcycles are at the panel beaters being brought back to life.

For those unable to return to their homes, the government of Indonesia has offered barracks-style temporary housing. For many of the 400,000 homeless Acehnese, their former homes are still under water or have been condemned.

Women in villages and cities were the hardest hit: early statistics indicate that more than 75 percent of the dead were female.

Though funerals are still held on a daily basis as new corpses are found, most of the estimated 200,000 dead were buried in mass graves. The remainder are suspected to have drifted out to sea or are buried under the mud and sludge left over from the tsunami flood waters.

As viewed from a helicopter tour of the coastline, Aceh was like a 100-mile long graveyard, about a half-mile wide. Ironwood trees lay broken on the ground like matchsticks, and fishing boats were strewn all over the urban areas. Even a 200-ton barge containing an electrical generating plant ended up in the downtown area.

Yet the people of Aceh are not maudlin or sullen. They want to take their destiny into their own hands, and this is where the reconstruction effort will be most important.

With an anticipated $450 million in supplemental reconstruction funds, the U.S. government is contemplating making a lasting impact through major highway and infrastructure development, including housing and small business development.

When Colin Powell visited Aceh, he said he had seen a lot in war but never destruction like this. Governor Jeb Bush said he had surveyed the damage of five hurricanes in Florida, but had never seen anything as destructive as what happened to Aceh.

Now, after a month in Aceh and twice shaken out of bed by earthquakes, I will never stop counting my blessings for the life that we live here in America. ★

Gene Ward was on TDY in Banda Aceh from February 23 to March 21, 2005, to assist the U.S. government representative for Aceh reconstruction.

USAID/Indonesia

Gene Ward (front row, right), with a group of workers cleaning and rebuilding Banda Aceh.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

Grant Aids Afghan Women

WASHINGTON—A $2.5 million USAID grant to the Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs announced in March will support advocacy and policy development while improving the status and lives of women. USAID will also assist in programs for the 17 Provincial Women's Resource Centers.

The Agency has provided more than $50 million to support women's issues in Afghanistan since the fall of the Taliban.

IG Office Secures Conviction

WASHINGTON—Khaled Bichara, president and chief executive officer of LINKdotNET, pled guilty in a Manhattan federal court to making false statements in an application to USAID, the Agency's Office of the Inspector General announced March 18. The USAID-conducted investigation was made in conjunction with the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

In its application, LINKdotNET, an internet company located in Egypt, requested approximately $2.1 million through USAID's Commodity Import Program to purchase communications equipment. As part of the application, Bichara included sham bids from two American suppliers.

Bichara is scheduled to be sentenced June 8 and faces a maximum sentence of five years in prison and $250,000 in fines.

AP/World Wide Photos

Laura Bush, left, and Egypt's first lady Suzanne Mubarak stand by the muppet Khokha while touring the set of Alam Simsim*, or Sesame World, the Egyptian version of the popular American children's show* Sesame Street*. Bush was in Cairo May 23 as part of a tour of the Middle East. See an article on page 11 on the Bangladeshi version of* Sesame Street*.*

Over $3 Million to TB Programs

WASHINGTON—The national tuberculosis (TB) programs in Mozambique, Namibia, Tanzania, and Zambia will receive nearly $3.2 million in new assistance, USAID announced March 24 to coincide with World TB Day 2005.

In these countries, USAID will support the Directly Observed Treatment, Short-Course (DOTS) strategy, which involves observing patients to ensure they take the full course of TB medicine, increasing treatment adherence.

Although a cure for TB has existed for more than half a century, the disease continues to infect and kill 2 million people every year, according to the World Health Organization (WHO). Nearly 9 million people will develop TB in 2005.

Dominican Republic Firefighters Get Aid

WASHINGTON—Firefighters in the Dominican Republic received $50,000 from USAID in March to help them battle devastating wildfires.

Three months of intensive drought caused wildfires to break out March 11 in and around the Jose del Carmen Ramirez National Park in the Dominican Republic's Central mountain range. Approximately 100,000 hectares were consumed in the fire's first three weeks, and 70 people were evacuated from the area when the wildfires began.

Radio Program Credited With Saving Lives

GHAZNI CITY, Afghanistan—A radio program aired over a U.S.-assisted radio station warned residents to flee after a dam collapsed March 29, saving many lives from the resulting flood.

A station manager at Radio Ghaznawiyaan in Ghazni called journalists from *Salaam Watandar*, a daily news program, to alert them to the situation. The journalists, in turn, reached the governor of Ghazni Province and had him issue a warning to listeners to evacuate the area before the dam broke.

The dam's collapse destroyed the village of Zamin Kola and hundreds of shops and houses in Ghazni Bazaar, but with minimal loss of life. "I was listening to the Radio Ghaznawiyaan, and when it started to talk about the Sultan water dam, I turned the volume up and I understood that we have to run," said one of Ghazni's residents.

Internews, an international nonprofit organization that supports open media worldwide, has provided training to journalists in Afghanistan with funding from USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives.

Handbook on Kids with HIV/AIDS

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania—A new handbook was launched in February to help African healthcare providers care for children with HIV/AIDS.

Handbook on Pediatric AIDS in Africa focuses on the needs of HIV-positive children on the continent and is geared to healthcare providers at all levels, including medical and nursing school faculty and students, researchers, and scientists. It will be distributed continent-wide.

The African Network of Children Affected by AIDS, a network of African pediatric AIDS experts supported by the Agency's Regional Economic Development Services Office, wrote and published the book, which is already in its second printing.

There are more than 2 million HIV-infected children worldwide, and 90 percent live in sub-Saharan Africa.

Tens of thousands of them have been dying unnecessarily on the continent because healthcare providers have not always known how to treat or care for their special needs. Backers of the new handbook say its guidance gives Africans an opportunity to break this cycle of unnecessary child deaths.

New Head for Iraq Mission

WASHINGTON—Dawn Liberi was sworn in April 1 as director of USAID/Iraq, which is carrying out the largest U.S. government reconstruction effort since the Marshall Plan, with more than $5 billion in resources. USAID is supporting efforts to revitalize Iraq's economy, improve education, develop civil society, and build democratic institutions. Liberi is a member of the senior foreign service and holds the rank of minister counselor. She has served for more than 20 years at USAID in five overseas posts, including Nigeria and Uganda.

Lebanon Voters Get Support from U.S.

BEIRUT—The U.S. government provided support to Lebanese voters ahead of their country's first elections after Syria withdrew its troops in late April. The elections began May 29, and will continue over several weekends.

USAID's partner, the Consortium for Elections and Political Process Strengthening, worked on an election mapping activity to improve the election process. The effort looked at the state of Lebanon's electoral framework, trends in changes to those laws, accuracy of electoral rolls, and security for elections, among several other issues.

The State Department conducted voter education projects and helped recruit election monitors.

Donors Pledge $4.5 Billion to Sudan

OSLO—Nations and international organizations on April 12 pledged $4.5 billion over three years to help southern Sudan build government institutions and alleviate poverty, as it recovers from 20 years of civil war.

The bulk of the money will come from the United States, which promised $853 million in 2005, and has requested over $900 million for 2006. This is in addition to the $630 million already provided in 2004.

The United Nations and the World Bank had estimated that Sudan needs $7.9 billion to build roads and schools, improve healthcare, and boost economic growth over the next three years.

African Strain of Polio Virus Hits Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia—Four cases of polio, a disease that had been previously eradicated, have been detected in Indonesia as of May 5, World Health Organization (WHO) said, indicating that an outbreak spreading from northern Nigeria since 2003 has crossed an ocean and reached the world's fourth most populous country.

The virus, found in a village on the island of Java, is most closely related to a strain found in Saudi Arabia in December, WHO officials said.

Indonesia's last case was in 1995, and it is now the 16th country to be reinfected by a strain of the virus that broke out in northern Nigeria when vaccinations stopped there.

USAID has contributed $500,000 to WHO and Indonesian government teams that discovered the polio outbreaks, and $200,000 to immunize children under 5 in West Java. Several million more children are also to be vaccinated. ★