



**USAID**  
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# The Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives NEWSLETTER

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**By J. Mark Brinkmoeller**

*Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives*

Dear Friends,

As we move together into the new year I wanted to highlight an opportunity that is especially relevant to faith and community groups on the frontlines of addressing child mortality.

*Saving Lives at Birth: A Grand Challenge for Development* calls on the brightest minds across the globe to identify and scale up transformative prevention and treatment approaches for pregnant women and newborns around the time of birth.

In partnership with the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada, and UK's Department of International

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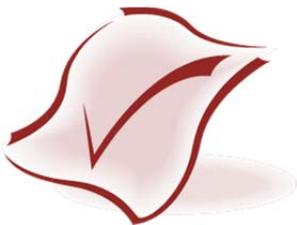
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## News and Events

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### African Leadership for Child Survival: A Promise Renewed



A health worker consults with a mother and baby at Mikawa Health Centre in Aleltu Woreda, Ethiopia. Photo Credit: UNICEF

The number of child deaths in sub-Saharan Africa has dropped by 39% since 1990. Many African countries are within reach of the Millennium Development Goal to reduce under-five mortality by two thirds. Yet even with the availability of proven interventions, adoption is often slow and high rates of childhood illness and death persist. In sub-Saharan Africa, 1-in-8 children die before reaching their fifth birthday.

In response to efforts this past summer to catalyze global action for child survival at the ‘Child Survival Call to Action’ in Washington, DC— a gathering that included a multi-faith pledge by more than 60 faith and community organizations, spanning more than 40 countries with an estimated reach of more than 250 million—the Government of Ethiopia convened an ‘African Leadership for Child Survival: A Promise Renewed’ meeting in Addis Ababa, the seat of the African Union, from January 16-18.

The gathering included representatives from 20 African nations who met with other global experts to ensure that child survival is at the forefront of the social development agenda across the continent. The meeting focused on evidence based approaches to accelerating progress in maternal, newborn, and child health, assessing progress in achieving Millennium Development Goals for child survival, and galvanizing momentum for country-led child survival action plans.

- WATCH: [USAID Administrator Raj Shah’s video remarks to African leadership at Child Survival Meeting](#)
- READ: [UNICEF Ethiopia Representative Dr. Peter Salama’s reflections on the gathering.](#)

### Jewish humanitarian leaders meet with Administrator to discuss global development

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) hosted USAID Administrator Dr. Rajiv Shah on November 15, 2012 at JDC’s Global Headquarters in New York City to meet with leaders from a number of Jewish organizations involved in global humanitarian efforts. The meeting focused on exploring ways that the U.S. Government and Jewish organizations can work together to help vulnerable people around the world, with a special focus on people-to-people partnerships across a range of sectors, including health services, volunteerism and agriculture.

The meeting included representatives from American Jewish World Service, Jewish Federations of North America, B’nai Brith, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Jewish Council on Public Affairs, Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, American Friends of Lubavitch, Mazon, Rabbinical Assembly, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and Chabad Lubavitch.

Underscoring the role faith-based groups play in addressing global need, Dr. Shah remarked, “When people go through their most vulnerable moments in life they turn to people they trust, and trust is often driven by faith and communities that come together around faith... I’m particularly honored to be here with faith leaders in addition to humanitarian leaders because I think the two have always gone hand in hand, and we hope to encourage even more partnership.



USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah meets with Jewish leaders at JDC gathering. From left to right: Administrator Shah; Susan Stern, Jewish Federation of North America; Darrell Friedman, Interim CEO, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; Ruth Messinger, American Jewish World Service; Herbert Block, Assistant Executive Vice President, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. Photo Credit: American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

## Saving Lives at Birth: A Grand Challenge for Development

USAID, the [Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation](#), the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), [Grand Challenges Canada](#), and [UK's Department of International Development](#) have joined together to launch the third round of [Saving Lives at Birth: A Grand Challenge for Development](#) Request for Applications (RFA). The purpose of this challenge is to find new approaches that integrate the latest scientific, technological, behavior change, and information and communication advances into radical solutions for impact on maternal and newborn health. Concept papers for this opportunity are due no later than **February 21, 2013** and the full announcement may be viewed [here](#).

Under this challenge, the partners expect to make multiple awards. Seed grants may be up to \$250,000 with a two year period to demonstrate proof of concept. Transition grants may be up to \$2 million with four years to transition

This is the third round of the Saving Lives at Birth Grand Challenge for Development - you may view the awarded solutions from previous rounds of this challenge [here](#). [Grand Challenges for Development](#) initiatives are launched to focus on defining problems, identifying constraints, and providing evidence-based analysis. You may find proposal development resources for presenting ideas and innovations to the Grand Challenges [here](#).

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## Select Grant Opportunities

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### USAID

**FY 2013 American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA) Program Worldwide-** The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Office of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad (ASHA), is accepting funding applications from U.S. Organizations that assist schools, libraries and medical centers outside the United States to serve as study and demonstration centers for American ideas and practices.

The closing date for this announcement is April 15, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).

**Cambodia— Annual Program Statement (APS) for MATERNAL&CHILD HEALTH, TUBERCULOSIS, HIV/AIDS, AND Malaria-** Annual Program Statement enables support to local civil society organizations to implement small and concrete activities in the areas of MCH, TB, HIV/AIDS and Malaria.

The closing date for this announcement is May 17, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).

### U.S. Department of State

**Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)—Request for Proposals for International Labor Programs-** The Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor (DRL) announces a Request for Proposals from organizations interested in submitting proposals for projects that promote democracy, human rights, and rule of law in the Lower Mekong, Vietnam, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Colombia, and South-South Cooperation.

The closing date for this announcement is February 15, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).

**Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL) and Secretary's Office on Global Women's Issues (S/GWI)—Request for Proposals for the Gender-Based Violence Emergency Response and Prevention Initiative-** DRL and S/GWI invite organizations to submit proposals to manage the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Emergency Response and Prevention Initiative to provide emergency response mechanisms for survivors of gender-based violence, as well as those under credible threat of imminent attack due to their gender. This Initiative would primarily provide emergency assistance and protection for survivors of gender-based violence, including harmful traditional practices. Please see Request for Proposals for more information.

The closing date for this announcement is February 15, 2013. For more information and a full description, click [here](#).