USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# FRONTLINES

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Photo by Programme for Belize

Jeff Ashley is the USAID representative on the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kirkuk, Iraq.

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## FOOD CRISIS

Photo by Kimberly Flowers, USAID

**USAID dispatched nearly 24,000 metric tons of food in late August to feed more than 18 million people in the Horn of Africa. Pictured: A dried out field of maize near Arba Minch, Ethiopia. See story on page 5.**

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# U.S. Relief Reaches Georgia

Since fighting began Aug. 8 between Georgia and Russia, U.S. planes and ships have delivered $21 million worth of humanitarian aid—medical kits, blankets, cots, food, and other supplies—through USAID and the Departments of State and Defense.

The United Nations reports that as many as 128,000 Georgians were displaced at the height of the crisis by fighting that began over control of the breakaway Georgian region of South Ossetia.

When the crisis first started, the U.S. Embassy in the Georgian capital Tbilisi released pre-positioned disaster packages that included basic medical supplies, tents, blankets, bedding, hygiene items, clothing, and cots.

On Aug. 13, President Bush assigned the U.S. military to airlift relief supplies and to oversee the humanitarian relief operation, signaling U.S. resolve to support Georgia's territorial integrity. By late August, the U.S. European Command (EUCOM) had flown to Tbilisi more than 50 missions containing relief and medical supplies.

The USS McFaul and the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Dallas also arrived on Aug. 24 and Aug. 27, respectively, in Batumi port on the Black Sea coast of Georgia with additional relief supplies.

Much of the humanitarian aid and the distribution mechanism came through USAID, which

**Administrator Henrietta Fore and Gen. Bantz John Craddock, supreme allied commander, Europe, inspect humanitarian supplies outside a former Georgia Forestry Services building housing internally displaced persons from the Gori area. Craig Hart of USAID is pictured in center background.**

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# Bush Honors Human Rights Activists at USAID

*By Ashtar Analeed Marcus*

Photo by Kristina Ferris

**Olga Kozulina**

When Belarus political activist Olga Kozulina met President Bush at a USAID human rights event in Washington this summer, her father was a political prisoner in their native Belarus. He would be released a few weeks later.

Despite her father's incarceration for the apparent crime of running for president, Kozulina, 28, is running for the Belarusian parliament.

"I lived inside nightmares for two and a half years," Kozulina said, speaking of her father's arrest and the cloud it threw over her life.

She was among about a dozen human rights advocates from repressive nations honored by Bush July 24 during observance of Captive Nations Week at the Ronald Reagan Building. The activists later attended a luncheon at USAID.

During the Cold War, the term "captive nations" referred to countries occupied by the Soviet Union. President Eisenhower began a practice of setting aside a week each year to remember those nations.

After the collapse of the Soviet empire, the captive nations were freed. But the term "captive nation" is now being applied to repressive nations whose peoples are held captive

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## Public Diplomacy Chief Says Terrorists Losing War of Ideas

James K. Glassman, the new undersecretary of state for public diplomacy and public affairs, said he is fighting a "war of ideas" in which terrorism is exposed "for what it is, which is an excuse for violence and the acquisition of power."

Glassman, a former business journalist who replaced Karen Hughes as head of U.S. efforts to communicate with publics around the world, said in an interview that "populations are quite sympathetic or growing more sympathetic with the view that the al Qaeda ideology is pernicious, destructive."

"We're beginning to see this. We're certainly seeing it in Iraq. We're seeing it in places like Morocco and Jordan."

Glassman's complete interview with *FrontLines* editorial director Ben Barber appears on page 5. ★

# INSIDE DEVELOPMENT

## WHAT THEY ARE SAYING . . .

**A column devoted to what our partners and others in the field of foreign assistance are saying about development.**

*The following op-ed appeared in the Aug. 21, 2008, edition of the* Los Angeles Times.

### A Risky New World For Aid Workers

*By Michael Kleinman*

Last week, the Taliban slaughtered three aid workers and their driver in Logar province in Afghanistan, just south of Kabul. The fact that the aid workers were there trying to help disabled Afghan children was, from the Taliban's perspective, irrelevant. In a statement issued soon after the attack, the Taliban said, "We don't value their aid projects, and we don't think they are working for the progress of the country."

This was no isolated event. Around the world, humanitarian workers are being targeted as never before. This, in turn, is forcing aid agencies to reevaluate how they deliver assistance and, in some instances, pull back, with devastating consequences for millions of people who rely on humanitarian aid to survive.

The effect of the latest attack is already being felt in Afghanistan. When I worked there in 2004 and 2005, Logar province was considered relatively safe. Now, it's quickly becoming a no-go zone. Aid agencies have restricted staff movements in the area where the four workers were killed, and some are considering suspending operations in the province entirely.

Providing assistance in places like Afghanistan has always been dangerous, yet this risk was traditionally mitigated by the fact that aid workers were rarely direct targets. Humanitarian staff worked closely with communities, building the acceptance and trust necessary to ensure their protection. Aid agencies based their security on the assumption that as long as they remained neutral, no one would see them as a threat.

In many conflicts, this assumption no longer holds true. Since January, 23 aid workers have been killed in Afghanistan, 20 in Somalia, and 10 in Darfur. Over the last three years, aid workers also have been killed in the Central African Republic, Iraq, Lebanon, South Sudan, and Sri Lanka.

Overall, attacks against aid workers almost doubled between 1997 and 2005. The vast majority of the victims were national staff working in their own countries.

Part of the reason for the increase has to do with the fragmented nature of many conflicts since the end of the Cold War. In places such as Afghanistan, the Darfur region of Sudan, and Somalia, there are a bewildering array of warlords and armed groups, and community acceptance isn't much of a security guarantee if bandits control the surrounding roads.

There also has been a rise in politically motivated attacks. Many rebel and insurgent groups no longer see humanitarian workers as neutral or independent. Aid agencies have long criticized Western troops in Afghanistan and Iraq for carrying out small development projects, "blurring the lines" between military and humanitarian actors.

The problem is much deeper and more widespread, however. Many Western aid agencies have agendas, such as support for women's rights, that put them directly at odds with religiously motivated insurgents like the Taliban—who, for instance, go to great lengths to attack girls' schools.

There's also no denying the effect of Iraq. Attacks against humanitarian workers there shattered whatever remained of the taboo against such acts, and did so in a way that captured massive media attention.

As humanitarian agencies continue reevaluating how they provide assistance in dangerous conflicts, Iraq offers a possible glimpse of the future. The lack of security forced most aid agencies there to leave. Instead, they now try to provide services through remote programming, putting projects into effect through local partners. This method tends to be less efficient, however, and it also increases the potential for corruption.

The organizations that stayed have adopted precautions: Some dramatically limit the extent to which staff can travel, or even leave their compounds, which makes it difficult to deliver aid effectively. Other agencies have partnered with the military for protection, an approach that has been criticized within the humanitarian community for further eroding the line between the aid agencies and the military.

The stakes are high. In many conflicts, humanitarian assistance can be the difference between life and death. In Afghanistan, for instance, 45 percent of the population struggles to find enough to eat, while one in five children die before the age of 5. Increasingly, aid workers face an agonizing choice between their own safety and their sense of commitment to those most in need.

*Michael Kleinman is a Truman National Security Fellow who has worked for humanitarian agencies in Afghanistan, Africa, and Iraq.* ★

*Reprinted with the permission of the* Los Angeles Times.

## PRESIDENT AND FIRST LADY VIEW THAI, BURMESE AID SITES

*By Hal Lipper*

First Lady Laura Bush meets a Karen youth at the Mae La Refugee Camp, one of nine camps housing 140,000 people around Mae Sot, Thailand, near the Thai-Burma border.

During an eight-day trip to Asia in August, President Bush and First Lady Laura Bush visited an AIDS hospice and clinic in Thailand supported by USAID, and were briefed on Agency efforts to help survivors of Burma's (also known as Myanmar) Cyclone Nargis.

The President visited Mercy Center in a Bangkok slum to lend support to its USAID-subsidized hospice, orphanages, and home for mothers and children with HIV/AIDS. Mercy Center has provided outreach education and home care to people living with HIV/AIDS and their families in low-income communities since 2004.

While there, the President met some of the 450 children who attend the center's pre-school and commended the founder, Father Joseph Maier, for providing shelter for street children and combating HIV/AIDS.

At briefings, the President and Mrs. Bush were told that USAID ensures survivors of Cyclone Nargis have food, revitalized fields, and help in re-establishing their livelihoods and recovering from trauma. The cyclone struck Burma's Irrawaddy Delta in May and left at least 130,000 people dead or missing. The country's military rulers initially ruled out any foreign aid, but eventually relented and accepted assistance from the United States and other countries.

The Agency aid package includes seeds, farm tools, microcredits, debris removal, infrastructure repairs, and other job support, said Olivier Carduner, mission director for the USAID Regional Development Mission for Asia.

USAID's Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance and its Food for Peace program provided $40.5 million of the U.S. government's $50 million in humanitarian assistance to Burma following Cyclone Nargis. More than 20 NGOs and international organizations have received U.S. funding to deliver this assistance, which has reached more than 1 million Burmese.

Carduner told the Bushes that long-term USAID programs in Burma include prevention and control of infectious diseases, including HIV/AIDS and avian influenza.

The trip also included a visit by Mrs. Bush—a vocal supporter for human rights in Burma—to Mae Sot, near the Thai-Burma border, where 140,000 Burmese refugees are living.

She met some of them at the U.S. government-assisted Mae La Refugee Camp, the largest of nine camps along the border, and later toured the USAID-supported Mae Tao Clinic, which provides free medical care to Burmese refugees and migrant workers. There she met with clinic founder and director Dr. Cynthia Maung to discuss health issues affecting Burmese migrants and displaced people. The two had conferred on Burma's repressive regime in a teleconference in December.

USAID has helped the Mae Tao Clinic reach 150,000 migrants and displaced Burmese annually since 1998. In addition, USAID provides cross-border support to the Burmese Medical Association and to Burmese health workers who treat internally displaced people living in the conflict-affected eastern areas of the country.

In addition to stops in Thailand, the Bushes' Asian trip included visits to South Korea and China. ★

## Mission of the Month

Photo by USAID

**Modern post-harvest handling technologies and new types of packaging allowed Georgian fresh herb companies to expand from existing markets in Ukraine and enter into higher-end European markets.**

# Georgian Farmers Create Alternative Markets after Russian Embargo

*By Stephanie Hilborn*

*Note to our readers: Georgia was selected as the Mission of the Month prior to the mid-August Russian incursion.*

### Challenge

In early 2006, the Russian government launched a trade embargo against Georgia and closed its border to agricultural products originating in Georgia after that country arrested and deported four Russian military officers accused of spying. Some analysts said the embargo was also aimed at punishing Georgia for its efforts to become a NATO member.

Alleging product contamination, Russian authorities halted all imports of herbs, mandarins, hazelnuts, wine, and mineral water. The embargo had the potential to devastate the Georgian economy and the livelihood of thousands of rural producers.

Of Georgia's 4.6 million people, an estimated 400,000 are commercial farmers, although only about 1 percent own more than 4 hectares. Many earn less than $200 a month. Traditionally, small-scale farmers would load produce in their cars, drive across the Russian border, and sell goods at roadside stands. With Russia typically receiving up to 80 percent of Georgia's agricultural exports, potential losses due to the embargo were estimated at more than $200 million.

The embargo also meant that farmers and agribusiness were burdened with a surplus of crops. The vast majority struggled to find new customers. However, small-scale farmers lacked access to consolidators, and agribusiness owners had little knowledge of the modern production requirements (sorting, storing, packaging, and shipping) needed to meet stringent European market standards. They also had no connections to international wholesalers or any experience with marketing at trade exhibitions.

"Although we had a very large obstacle, we also had a great opportunity to assist in rapidly modernizing segments of the agricultural sector since businesses were now forced to change," said David Gosney, director of USAID/Georgia's Office of Economic Growth. "We just needed to deepen and focus our efforts."

### Innovative Response

Through its AgVANTAGE program, USAID helped identify agricultural products with the greatest potential for export to other markets, including mandarins, hazelnuts, wine, bay leaves, and other fresh herbs.

"Most of these products also have a very significant social impact as they involve small-scale farmers," said Nika Grdzelidze, AgVANTAGE's chief of party for USAID. "We chose strategic and competitive crops demonstrating positive impacts on farmer employment and incomes."

USAID then focused on identifying farmers, consolidators, processors, and exporters willing to allocate the time and resources required to modernize their practices. The project developed a complete value chain assistance program for these export sectors, which provided opportunities for new market penetration. It also emphasized communication between buyers and sellers, especially in dealing with the agriculture and commercial obstacles each faced.

"Creating participatory approaches," said Grdzelidze,

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"was completely new for Georgia. The project design helped us to create the trust and commitment from industry representatives to set up the mechanisms for sustainable agricultural partnerships."

### Results

Since the Russian embargo, USAID programs have facilitated more than $15 million in agricultural sales and have opened opportunities for expanded sales in the future. Georgian agribusinesses have established new markets in the United States, UK, Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Sweden, Poland, Turkey, Ukraine, Latvia, and Belarus.

Today modern processing and consolidating centers exist for key markets, and their operators are actively developing relationships throughout the value chain. For example, Herbia, a Georgian fresh herbs consolidator that received assistance to design and construct a modern consolidation and packaging center, helped 150 small-scale growers obtain credit to build greenhouses that will boost production by up to 25 percent and supply 300 tons of herbs valued at more that $1.3 million. Participating farmers' average income increased by over 20 percent. Herbia will then export its product to new international markets developed though participation in international trade expositions with assistance from USAID.

Other value chains are exhibiting similar successes. Georgian bay leaf is now sold to U.S.-based McCormick & Company through a contract expected to generate $5 million in sales annually and result in 200 new jobs.

"Every day, in every way, I think that this activity must be one of the most tangibly successful USAID programs we have had in Georgia," said John Tefft, the U.S. Ambassador to Georgia. ★

## INSIGHTS

### FROM HENRIETTA H. FORE

USAID is committed to transforming its business model to better exploit the Internet as a way to share development knowledge among our many partners and stakeholders. Simply put, the number of players and the complexity of the issues that face development officers today demand that we build a more comprehensive and efficient network of resources, skills, and information exchange. I have called this vision of greater information sharing and closer collaboration the Global Development Commons.

A Global Development Commons relies on the interconnections, information exchange, mutual interest, and coordinated action we generate between institutions, organizations, governments, sectors, and individuals – within a country, within a region, and around the world.

A concrete step toward advancing this vision is taking place on the African continent. In Zambia, we are working with public and private sector partners and African education leaders to launch an Education Commons. USAID was one of the early supporters of an education portal for Zambian teachers, which provides them with online and in-service training, electronic library access, and peer-to-peer best practice sharing. This portal also connects Ministry of Education officials with teachers and their counterparts in the provinces. Our goal in this endeavor is to help reinforce the Zambian government's own strong commitment to universal primary education by 2015.

The partnership pursuing this goal is remarkably diverse. It involves a range of in-country and international government agencies like UNESCO, leading private sector companies and foundations like Sun Microsystems and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and InterAction members like the International Reading Association and the Academy for Educational Development.

In Rwanda, a pilot program called "The Rwanda Education Commons" has created a portal that operates as a site for public and private education officials internationally and locally. This is envisioned as a platform for information exchange that addresses a broader range of development concerns and other topical issues.

These initiatives in Zambia and Rwanda are introducing the kind of technology that will become part of a larger Global Development Commons, a community of continuous and real-time information exchange, coordination, partnership, and action. In linking donors in Rwanda with their counterparts in Zambia, Rwanda's pilot site has already taken a small, but significant step in this direction.

As the Global Development Commons expands, I am confident that it will help maintain USAID as the world's leading development Agency by showcasing its expertise and helping disseminate the lessons it has learned in more than four decades of development experience. ★

# GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS

## BRIEFS

### 5 Sudanese Charged in USAID Slayings

KHARTOUM, Sudan—Five bearded Sudanese men appeared in court Aug. 17 charged with the New Year's Day killing in Khartoum of USAID staffer John Granville and his driver Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama.

Wearing traditional skull caps and white robes, the five were greeted outside the court by supporters who raised fists in the air and flashed V-for-victory signs. Journalists were barred from the court, apart from a reporter for Sudan's state controlled SUNA news agency.

Shortly after the killings, an unknown group calling itself Ansar al-Tawhid claimed responsibility.

The judge reportedly adjourned the hearing because there were no lawyers present representing the prosecution or the families of the victims. FBI and U.S.Diplomatic Security officers attended the hearing, according to the U.S. Embassy.

Defense lawyer Adil Abdel Ghani said the defendants were Mohamed Osman Yusuf Mohamed, a 29-year-old former officer in the Sudanese army; Mohamed Makkawi Ibrahim Mohamed, a 23-year-old civil engineering student; Abdel Basit al-Hajj Hassan, a 29-year-old trader; Abdel Raouf Abu Zaid Mohamed, a 23-year-old merchant; and Morad Abdel Rahman, 35, who described himself as a driver.

### U.S. Offers Aid to Pakistanis

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan—The U.S. Embassy said Aug. 20 it would offer aid to some of the estimated 200,000 Pakistanis fleeing army-militant fighting in a tribal area west of Peshawar—the Bajur region.

A two-week long offensive has sent people fleeing from Bajur and possibly Mohmand—two of the tribal areas largely outside government control that have become bases for Taliban and Al Qaeda Islamist militants attacking Pakistan as well as Afghanistan.

"We stand ready to offer humanitarian assistance to the government of Pakistan, if requested, in regards to the situation in the tribal regions," said U.S. Embassy spokesman Lou Fintor.

About 480 people have been killed in the fighting as Pakistani army helicopter gunships and jets hit militant positions since Aug. 6, when scores of insurgents attacked a military outpost. Many of the displaced were headed to the Lower Dir region just north of Bajur, where government officials say several relief camps have been set up.

### Thousands Flee Sri Lanka Fighting

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka—Tens of thousands of civilians fled their homes in northern Sri Lanka in recent weeks as the military ramped up its offensive against the Tamil Tiger rebels' heartland, international aid groups said Aug. 15.

After months of relative stalemate, the military broke through in early August, capturing a series of rebel bases and large chunks of territory as it moved on the rebel stronghold of Kilinochchi.

Between 55,000 and 75,000 people were displaced by the fighting over the past two and a half months and many were living under trees and tarps, Neil Buhne, the U.N. representative for Sri Lanka, told reporters.

Aid groups were able to get food and needed supplies to the displaced, but spreading fighting imperiled such efforts.

Amnesty International accused the rebel Tamil Tigers of forcing civilians to remain in rebel-held territory in an apparent plan to use them as a buffer against the military's offensive. Government restrictions on the movement of goods into rebel-controlled areas also has increased their hardship, it said.

### Gunmen Kill Four Aid Workers in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan—Gunmen on Aug. 13 attacked a marked vehicle of the International Rescue Committee, killing three women aid workers—a British-Canadian, a Canadian, and a Trinidadian-American—and their Afghan driver.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the murders that took place about 30 miles south of Kabul, in Logar province. In a statement issued soon after the attack, the Taliban said, "We don't value their aid projects, and we don't think they are working for the progress of the country."

It was the deadliest attack on aid workers in years. Some 19 workers have been killed in Afghanistan in the first seven months of the year—more than the whole of 2007.

"For anti-government elements we are soft targets," Anja de Beer, director of the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief, the umbrella group of NGOs, told reporters.

On Aug. 27, the bullet-riddled body of an abducted Japanese aid worker was recovered. Afghan and Japanese authorities identified the slain man as Kazuya Ito, an engineer who was seized by gunmen a day earlier in Nangarhar province, east of Kabul.

### Peace Corps Returns to Liberia After Two Decades

MONROVIA, Liberia—U.S. Peace Corps volunteers will return to Liberia for the first time since civil war broke out in this West African nation nearly two decades ago, U.S. and Liberian officials said Aug. 18.

Liberia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement the two nations signed an agreement to resume the program because of improving security. The volunteer program in Liberia was suspended just after fighting broke in the final days of 1989.

The war caused an estimated 250,000 deaths in a population of 3 million for a country that was founded by freed American slaves in the 19th century.

Since the Peace Corps was founded in 1961, it has sent more than 180,000 volunteers around the world to help people in developing nations.

### 12,000 Iraqi Refugees Arrive in U.S.

Thousands of Iraqi refugees have arrived in the United States as part of a nationwide resettlement program to bring 12,000 Iraqis to the United States by the end of September, officials said in August.

About a quarter of the 9,000 Iraqi refugees already here arrived over the past month, according to a spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Most come from secondary countries including Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey.

The U.S. government has agreed to accept 12,000 Iraqi refugees by the end of its fiscal year on Sept. 30. An additional 5,000 are being sent here under a special visa program for Iraqis who have worked with the U.S. military, according to a spokesman for the U.S. Department of State.

An estimated 2 million Iraqis have fled their homeland since the conflict began. And the United Nations' refugee organization estimates more than 2 million people also are displaced within Iraq. ★

*From news reports and other sources.*

# Billboards Tell Lebanese About Aid Programs

USAID ran into a roadblock in Lebanon last year when it tried to rent billboards to inform the Lebanese people about U.S. support for water, agriculture, education, and government services.

The Lebanese government initially denied permission to display outdoor images bearing the familiar clasped hands of the USAID logo with Lebanese and American flags—an image that had already permeated the country's TV, radio, and newspapers.

"This was strange because the television ads were running, the print media ads were running, but suddenly the billboards were not permitted," former U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Jeffrey Feltman said. "And they were not permitted because of basically how good the message was, how effective the campaign was."

The month-long USAID advertising campaign cost $500,000 and increased favorable opinions of the Agency from 44 to 53 percent.

But billboards, although privately owned in the country, require government approval for the message.

During the country's 2005 Cedar Revolution—which forced the withdrawal of the nearly 30-year Syrian occupation—billboards were an important political marketing tool and used to "great dramatic effect," Feltman told *FrontLines* in an interview.

Billboards have become part of an advertising war. Images mirror the country's political divide following the Cedar Revolution: Hezbollah, the ruling coalition and other factions plaster images of slain and current leaders across the cities and towns of Lebanon.

"The Lebanese really use their billboards," Feltman said. "So we wanted to play in the same field. When in Rome, do as the Romans do. In Lebanon, people use billboards. We wanted to use billboards."

But the Lebanese ministry holding the power to permit USAID advertising was influenced by the militant group Hezbollah.

The rest of the campaign continued to run through other media. But the billboard design was rejected until a new image was created, just for the billboards.

The new image showed the nation's symbolic cedar tree, an old man, and an infant child. The words at the bottom read in Arabic, "From the American

see **BILLBOARDS** on page 15 ▶

# DEPT. OF STATE OFFICE OF PUBLIC DIPLOMACY AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS: AN INTERVIEW WITH UNDERSECRETARY JAMES GLASSMAN

### Glassman's Public Diplomacy Aims to End Ideas of Violence

James K. Glassman, the new undersecretary of state for public diplomacy and public affairs, aims to engage people around the world in a war of ideas—hoping to persuade millions that there are better ways to improve their lives than through violence and extremism.

In an interview with *FrontLines* July 10, Glassman discussed how he intends to tell America's story to the world. The former editor of the Harvard *Crimson* student newspaper, Glassman became undersecretary of state in June, replacing Karen Hughes.

He now heads Department of State efforts to communicate with foreign publics as well as cultural programming, academic grants, educational exchanges, and international visitor programs.

A former *Washington Post* columnist, Glassman also served as chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors which oversees the Voice of America (VOA), Alhurra, Radio Sawa, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Radio Free Asia (RFA), and Radio and TV Martí. He also was a senior fellow at the American Enterprise Institute.

He was interviewed by *FrontLines* Editorial Director Ben Barber.

James K. Glassman

**Q:** *How do you fight terrorists without alienating the rest of the population?*

**GLASSMAN:** Our approach to fighting terrorism is two-fold. One is that we directly push back against the terrorist ideology and expose it for what it is, which is an excuse for violence and the acquisition of power. And I think that populations are quite sympathetic or growing more sympathetic with the view that the al Qaeda ideology is pernicious, destructive. We're beginning to see this. We're certainly seeing it in Iraq. We're seeing it in places like Morocco and Jordan.

The second part of our strategy is to divert, young people especially, from the path that leads to terrorism through more productive pursuits, providing them with the opportunity to engage in more productive pursuits. Surveys show that there is some sympathy for some of the things that terrorists are saying, but more and more the terrorists' own actions are driving away local support. The thing that we need to be wary of is that Americans themselves are suspect and our motives are suspect. I think that's wrong but that happens to be the truth. And so it's much better for us to encourage other people to be doing these two things: pushing back against the ideology on the one hand and facilitating diversion on the other hand.

**Q:** *USAID helps create jobs. It tries to promote economic development, agricultural development. Do you see closer links between public diplomacy and USAID in the future to use the things that USAID does to demonstrate to the world U.S. values?*

**GLASSMAN:** Absolutely. USAID has a tremendously important role to play in public diplomacy and also in the war of ideas.

Public diplomacy, in general, is helping to achieve the national interest by understanding and forming and engaging and influencing foreign publics.

The war of ideas is part of public diplomacy in that it's also engaging, influencing, and so forth, but it has a specific goal, which is to create an environment that is hostile to violent extremism.

And the kind of work that USAID does fits into this absolutely perfectly through economic development, through education, through social programs of all kinds. This is what helps to divert young people especially from the paths that lead to violent extremism. So I don't know whether there's a direct correlation between, let's say, poverty and violent extremism. I'm not sure if that's true, but I do know that in many of these countries, for whatever reason, young people feel that excitement and the allure of violent extremism is very, very enticing. And we need to find ways to pull them away from that. So I think you're doing that.

**Q:** *Do you have any specific campaign plans for some of the countries where these issues are coming up?*

**GLASSMAN:** We do, but we don't want to talk about them yet. I think there's a general feeling, not just throughout the government, but I think among people who pay attention to these things, that the war of ideas is every bit as important as the kinetic war. It may be more important. And one of the biggest supporters of the war of ideas, in fact, is the secretary of defense.

**Q:** *How do you use foreign aid as a diplomacy tool without getting the pushback from other countries that say you're only doing it to improve your own image?*

**GLASSMAN:** My own view is that we should be confident that when we spend money on foreign aid, when we do the kind of important work that foreign aid entails, that we shouldn't be shy about telling people about it. Frankly, I would like to see more promotion of the work that we do. I was struck when I was in Cairo five years ago when I was a member of the derision group which looked into public diplomacy, U.S. public diplomacy for the Arab and Muslim world. When we were in Cairo, we just were told innumerable times that the Japanese had donated the opera house.

**Q:** *But USAID built the sewers?*

**GLASSMAN:** Yes. And I just think that when we do these kinds of good works, we ought to talk about them. We ought to aggressively publicize them. People can argue, well, the

see **GLASSMAN** on page 10 ▶

# Food Ship Sent to Help 18 Million in Horn of Africa

In a USAID effort to feed more than 18 million people in the Horn of Africa, nearly 24,000 metric tons of food departed from the Port of Houston in late August to reach its destination in mid-September.

USAID's Office of Food for Peace expedited the process to move the food, from procurement to arrival in the Horn, cutting more than one month off the average time to deliver U.S. food aid to beneficiaries.

In fiscal year 2008, USAID has provided more than $900 million in combined humanitarian assistance to the Horn of Africa countries—Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia.

"We give birth to the children," Urmale Kasaso of Ethiopia told *USA Today*, "but we can't grow them."

Kasaso has a 4-year-old son whose cheeks are puffed up from malnutrition, *USA Today* reported.

"USAID is committed to helping the people in the Horn of Africa who have been so greatly affected by drought, civil insecurity, and rising local and global food prices," Administrator Henrietta Fore said. "Our team in the region is working tirelessly to get aid to those in need as soon as possible."

The emergency in these countries has been caused by a severe drought and political strife.

In Djibouti, the population in need of emergency assistance is more than half the country, 54 percent of the total population. USAID's complex emergency data states that 43 percent of Somalis are in dire need.

Urmale, 30, known as most Ethiopians by his first name, told *USA Today* his sons have a question he can't answer: "Why did you bring us into the world if you can't feed us?"

"It is sad, but I try to calm them," he said. "I say, 'Let me go and search for some food.'" ★ —*A.A.M.*

# THE REGIONS

## EUROPE & EURASIA

Photo by MDI

Workers link plastic pipes in Alchevsk. More than 800 meters of old steel pipes were replaced with modern plastic pipes as part of the city's infrastructure improvement campaign.

# Ukraine City Tackles Poor Lighting, Water, Sewage

*By Olha Myrtsalo*

**ALCHEVSK, Ukraine**—Poor street lighting, water and heating failures, and antiquated sewage systems plagued Alchevsk and many other Ukrainian cities until USAID began helping them improve things a year ago.

"I live on the main street, but even here, in the heart of the city, there were almost no working street lamps," said Lidiya Pikalova of Alchevsk.

"If I needed to go to buy something in a store in the evening, I would rather wait until the next day. With new street lighting, now I can visit my friends for a cup of coffee even in the evenings."

Economic development, communal and municipal budget reforms, and other improvements that could touch on the daily lives of local residents were the goal of programs started by USAID. The Agency worked with the Industrial Union of Donbas's Alchevsk Development Fund and the city of Alchevsk to combine public and private resources.

The Partnership for the Future of Alchevsk initiative, formed through the Agency's Global Development Alliance, was established after the city's water and heating system suffered several catastrophic failures. The partnership has racked up a number of infrastructure improvements.

Rather than starting a new activity, USAID brought in a number of its current partners to work on improving communication between NGOs, businesses, and city officials. USAID's Local Economic Development project helped the city to complete a five-year economic strategy that is working to attract new business to Alchevsk.

One priority of the plan is to develop energy-efficient technologies. This is being addressed by the Municipal Development Institute, a USAID partner that has developed a plan for the Alchevsk Water Company to reduce water losses by improving management in housing and utilities, reconstruction of infrastructure, and introducing energy-efficient technologies.

Since July, MDI has replaced more than 800 meters of steel pipes with modern plastic ones. MDI specialists have also provided training in the new hydraulic modeling software. They also helped draft a new billing procedure for residents who do not have individual meters.

Another USAID project, the Municipal Budget Program, has helped the city develop 100 budget programs to resolve local issues, including improved street lighting. Residents immediately saw results when budget resources helped purchase 5,449 energy-efficient sodium lamps to light up the town. ★

## AFRICA

# Women Win as Sierra Leone Elections Transcend Violence, Fraud

*By Abdulai Khanja Jalloh*

**FREETOWN, Sierra Leone**—After this West African country in July successfully carried out its third democratic election since its brutal civil war ended in 2002, one of the biggest groups of winners were women—those who have long been excluded from the country's political life.

Women's participation in politics and governance has been a major achievement of the presidential and parliamentary elections of 2007 and the local government elections of 2004 and 2008.

This year on July 5, Sierra Leone held its second local government election in 40 years. At stake were 475 seats in the country's 19 local councils, which had been abolished 36 years ago.

Of the 1,324 candidates who participated, 224 were women—this 17 percent participation was a significant increase compared to previous elections. Sierra Leone recently ranked last on the 2008 U.N. Development Program's Gender Development Index. Official results indicate that 86 women won their races—18 percent of the elected councilors.

That stands in stark contrast to previous elections in Sierra Leone which had been marred by more than disregard for the role of women: they also included violence and serious electoral fraud.

Following the first post-conflict election in 2002, USAID joined other donors and Sierra Leone officials to reform the National Electoral Commission (NEC) and also supported the creation of the Political Parties Registration Commission (PPRC) to register and monitor the conduct of political parties. A restructured electoral commission proved to be the key, along with technical support from the National Democratic Institute, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, and the United Nations.

U.S. funding supported elections management, civic and voter education, conflict resolution, campaign skills development for women candidates, and multimedia initiatives.

The presidential and parliamentary elections in August and September 2007 were the first to be organized by indigenous Sierra Leoneans without U.N. supervision.

These elections indicate that Sierra Leone is prepared to embrace democratic values and processes and follow the rule of law, said June Carter Perry, the U.S. ambassador to Sierra Leone, who also noted the significant levels of participation by women as candidates and voters.

The NEC and PPRC, both supported by USAID, earned high levels of public confidence. Local and international observation missions said the 2007 elections were peaceful, transparent, and democratic. Civil society groups helped produce a voter turnout of close to 75 percent and reinforced nonviolent campaign messages during the electoral process.

In Koinadugu in the North, dismal district statistics on women's welfare inspired 14 women to run for office, three of whom had to withdraw for the same reasons they got involved in the first place—male domination in politics. USAID has supported the work of these women, and the large but remote Koinadugu district now has six female councilors. Women also now make up two-thirds of councilors on the Bonthe Municipal Council, and about half of the local legislators will be women on the Makeni City Council. ★

Photo by National Democratic Institute

As a part of the "Ep Bil Salone Wit Uman Dem" campaign (Help Build Sierra Leone with Women), the National Democratic Institute and the 50/50 Group held a march and rally in Freetown, Sierra Leone, June 7 to encourage women's participation in local government elections as candidates, activists, and voters.

## LATIN AMERICA

# Hondurans Are Glad to Pay Taxes When Services Improve

**TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras**—Cities and towns in Honduras have significantly boosted their ability to collect taxes from citizens following improvements to local services and increased transparency in the use of public funds.

"In Las Vegas, being a politician is no longer equivalent to being corrupt—people pay their taxes because they know what we do with their money," said Carlos Fuentes, the mayor of Las Vegas, in the department of Santa Bárbara. He said his constituents' views of politicians have dramatically changed.

In Tegucigalpa and other municipalities that initiated tax reforms, residents said they had refused to pay some or all of their taxes because they didn't trust local officials to spend the money wisely.

Funds weren't used in a transparent way and they saw few, if any, benefits in their communities. In some municipalities, there were no mechanisms in place for people to even pay taxes, much less to hold officials accountable for the use of public funds.

All that changed when the USAID-funded Greater Accountability and Transparency in Governments (GTAG) supported municipal efforts to increase tax collections.

GTAG has helped increase tax collection in a number of municipalities between 50 percent and 85 percent in a single year, and is currently working with 24 of Honduras's 298 municipalities.

Photo by Management Systems International

A community income auditor reads agreements reached in a municipality meeting in Potrerillos, Cortes, a department in northwest Honduras.

Program participants learn about holding public municipal council meetings, publicly awarding contracts and acquisitions, establishing transparency committees, participating in social audits (a review of how a municipality's actions affects its people), and publishing all information related to budget and planning.

Melvin Paredes, mayor of San Agustin, Copan, said that his municipality "has changed, but so have our constituents. We have trained them to hold their public officials accountable. People will no longer tolerate municipal decisions taken behind closed doors."

With the increased taxes, residents and local officials in Naranjito, Santa Bárbara, for example, decided to hire their first municipal police officer to help improve security.

In San Agustin, the issue was water. Residents were not paying water fees, forcing the municipality to subsidize the system. After an open forum, residents agreed to pay higher water fees so long as the municipality improved water services and formed a community-based commission to look at water-related issues, such as repairing the system and collecting back payments from residents.

Municipal leaders say the changes have created a marked increase in constituent participation and cooperation in city activities.

Though some of their constituents were slow to accept the tax hikes, many changed their minds when they realized it was a revenues committee—whose members include local residents and lawmakers—and not just the municipality that suggested the changes. The committees also make public quarterly expense reports so anyone can see where tax money is being spent.

see **HONDURAS** on page 15 ▶

## ASIA

# Emergency Assistance Keeps Families Warm in Tajikistan

Photo by Mercy Corps

Saodat Sharipova and her six children, who received emergency heating assistance from a USAID-backed effort last winter, know they will be better prepared for the next cold snap.

**KHUJAND CITY, Tajikistan**—The people of Tajikistan shivered in the terrible cold last winter as severe winter weather combined with a countrywide energy crisis.

Fearing that they might freeze to death at night, the Sharipova family wore all their warm clothes and even coats when they went to sleep.

"I knew that people used gas [tanks] and stoves to keep homes warm and prepare food, but could not afford to buy such items," said Saodat Sharipova, watching her children enjoy the spring warmth several months after her heating crisis had ended.

"Today I am happy and my children are glad to know that we are better prepared for the upcoming winter with the gas balloon and stove donated for my family. It is a big support for us."

The situation was especially dire for urban residents who rely on a centralized supply of electricity and gas. Many Tajiks struggled to keep their homes warm and to prepare even one meal a day.

To alleviate the situation, USAID provided more than $830,000 worth of emergency assistance, which was delivered through Save the Children, CARE, and Mercy Corps.

Together with city administrators, USAID and its partners identified the most vulnerable populations and provided them with desperately needed items, such as gas stoves and gas tanks, coal for wood stoves, and wool blankets.

see **TAJIKISTAN** on page 15 ▶

## MIDDLE EAST

# In Egypt, Girls Get a Second Chance at Education

**KOMOMBO, Egypt**—Shaymaa Abd Rabou Ibrahim's shy smile grows into a grin when she shows her father the artwork she brought home from school. Her scrapbook is a collection of brightly colored images from her 8-year-old world—her school, her teacher, her best friend, and the family portrait.

Shaymaa is one of 182 girls in Komombo who attend school in Egypt's Aswan Governorate and receive scholarships through the local Community Education Committee, which covers annual tuition, two uniforms, shoes, stationery, and a school bag—worth about 500 Egyptian pounds (LE), or $94, per year.

One local development agency went door-to-door throughout five villages in Komombo to inform parents of the program and convince them of the worth of educating their daughters.

"They need us to come and knock on their door," said Samira Khalifa of Mother Village, the agency that conducted the outreach. "Many see past their circumstances and want their children to have a better life, so they are happy to enroll their children in the scholarship program."

Such committees are set up in nearly every community to administer the scholarships and follow up with each girl and her

see **EGYPT** on page 15 ▶

Photo by USAID/Education Reform Program

At this primary school in Komombo, Egypt, scholarships as well as community outreach enable girls like Shaymaa Abd Rabou Ibrahim (front, left) to join the classroom once again.

# FOCUS ON TSUNAMI

Photo by Ben Barber, USAID

Seen from a helicopter flying over western Sumatra after the tsunami hit in 2004, the Indian Ocean has swept inland, knocking down trees and carving salty inland lakes while it also cut the only road running through the coastal region.

Photo by International Resources Group

Inspectors monitor construction of Kalla Bridge.

# USAID REBUILDING ACEH ROAD DESTROYED BY TSUNAMI

Photo by Ben Barber, USAID

With the total destruction of the town of Calang, Indonesia, in the background, a girl takes a shower from a water tank supplied by an aid group, a few weeks after the tsunami of 2004.

*By Ben Barber*

The giant Indian Ocean tsunami of December 2004 swept away the coastal road from Banda Aceh to Meulaboh, killed 240,000 people, and left survivors isolated, desperate, and unable to rebuild their lives—until the new road began to take shape.

The road bore the brunt of the world's largest natural disaster in decades. The tsunami was produced by a historic 9.2 magnitude earthquake just offshore.

Most tsunami deaths took place in the city of Banda Aceh, where a 35-foot wall of water devastated the port, city center, and areas three miles inland.

But on the less-populated western coastline—a narrow ledge of flat land between the shore and the wooded mountains—the waves were even more destructive, rising up to 80 feet high as they smashed against the hills. Asphalt roads and bridges disappeared into the sea, and part of the shoreline and hillsides were washed away.

USAID committed $254 million to reconstruct 105 miles of the Banda Aceh-Calang road, which was the economic lifeline for the west coast of Aceh. USAID is working with the Indonesian government to rebuild the road and improve the lives of thousands of people by providing easier access to basic services and markets.

Photo by International Resources Group

Marzuki's restaurant is located in Cot Jeumpa village, Lhoong sub-district, 40 kilometers to the west of Banda Aceh. Pak Marzuki is grateful for the reconstruction of the new road. "This road is vital for us because this road is the only access to Banda Aceh," he said. He hopes that the people's mobility will increase as the road construction along the west coast area is completed. "Hopefully it will also boost the economy," he added.

In early 2005, the contractors working for USAID began rehabilitating the road and bridges, upgrading unstable segments, and connecting communities not previously linked to the original road. Currently, a large bridge closest to Banda Aceh is nearing completion and a number of newly built road sections and bridges are open to public use.

The road project, however, presented several challenges: Before the tsunami, Aceh was torn by civil conflict that only concluded in August 2005. The legacy of that conflict affects operating conditions for construction in Aceh.

Moreover, the massive loss of life in the tsunami complicated the process for making reparations and acquiring the land for the new road; the mountainous terrain made construction of a flat grade road more challenging; increased prices for fuel and other supplies inflated the project costs; and there was a shortage of skilled labor. The local, provincial, and national governments, working in partnership with USAID and its contractors, are addressing these issues, although significant challenges remain.

Once completed, the road is expected to greatly improve the lives of the local communities.

"This road is vital for us because this road is the only access to Banda Aceh," stated Pak Marzuki, owner of a small restaurant 25 miles along the road from Banda Aceh that is patronized by road construction crews.

He said he hopes that ease and frequency of transportation will improve as the road construction along the west coast area progresses. ★

*International Resources Group helped prepare this story.*

"That one-lane temporary bridge you see downstream means traffic piles up, especially on the weekends, and merchants, tourists, everyone is constantly delayed," said Herlisandrasah, an official working on the Raba Bridge. "Right after the tsunami hit, it was much worse, of course."

Photo by International Resources Group

# Construction Completed on Sri Lanka Bridge Destroyed by Tsunami

**ARUGAM BAY, Sri Lanka**—The USAID-financed, $10 million bridge across Arugam Bay is now complete—linking a popular vacationer beach to the mainland for the first time since the old bridge was destroyed by the December 2004 tsunami. The worst natural disaster in Sri Lanka's history, the tsunami killed 35,000 people along the island nation's shores.

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse attended the July 1 opening ceremony of USAID's key tsunami reconstruction project in the island nation off India's South Eastern coast.

Since the mid 1980s, thousands of Australian and other tourists turned Arugam Bay into a mecca known worldwide for a perfect wave offshore. A visitor could see surfers etched in black by the sun as they waited on their surfboards for the next wave. The tourists poured money into the local economy, which was previously a simple fishing region. The loss of access to surfing due to the tsunami's destruction had cut into tourism in eastern and southern Sri Lanka.

The 185-meter long, state-of-the-art bridge was financed by USAID and constructed in partnership with the Sri Lankan Road Development Authority with the support of the Ministry of Highways.

The design is a combination of steel and concrete, which made the bridge less expensive, faster to build, and more durable. This technology is often used in the United States, but has not previously been used in Sri Lanka, USAID officials said. Replacing the old structure with a bridge of superior quality increased Sri Lanka's capacity to use similar construction in the future.

"For decades to come, this bridge over Arugam Bay will symbolize the commitment of the American people to help Sri Lanka rebuild and grow economically after the tsunami," U.S. Charged' Affairs James R. Moore said at the opening ceremony. "It will bear witness to our support for stability, democratic governance, economic growth, and development in Sri Lanka's Eastern Province."

The new 185-meter long bridge across Arugam Bay links three ethnically diverse communities on the coast of eastern Sri Lanka, in a region well known for its beautiful beaches.

Photo by Daniel Garbely, CH2M HILL

Mission Director Rebecca Cohn said community involvement played a big part in completing the project. Eighty percent of the workforce was recruited from the local communities of Pottuvil, Arugam Bay, and Panama. In addition, meetings with residents and community leaders in Pottuvil and Ulla were organized to discuss the bridge construction.

"We are proud of the level of community involvement, which showed all of us that by working together, we could complete this very ambitious project," Cohn said.

The new bridge will provide easier access for tourists to the 64 hotels in the Arugam Bay area, and help to rebuild tourism as a major source of income in the region. ★

Five formerly unemployed and unskilled local young men on the bridge where they worked placing steel works, handrails, and concrete deck panels. They now have the skills to pursue future jobs in construction.

Photo by Vibeke Greni, USAID/Sri Lanka

# WHERE IN THE WORLD. . .

## JUNE 29, 2008 – AUGUST 2, 2008

### PROMOTED

**Judith G. Aranas**
Accountant

**Yohannes A. Araya**
Auditor

**Penny M. Bennett**
Budget Analyst

**David M. Boyce**
Supervisory Auditor

**Marvin Burgos**
Criminal Investigator

**Connor Cherer**
Criminal Investigator

**Beatrice Marie Conde**
Contract Specialist

**Amanda G. Downing**
Lead Contract Specialist

**Joe S. Duncan**
Supervisory IT Specialist

**Alisa J. Dunn**
Contract Specialist

**Kathleen M. Frascella**
Lead Contract Specialist

**Joshua M. Kaufman**
Supervisory Democracy Specialist

**Ismail Kenessy**
Auditor

**Cristal M. King**
Administrative Officer

**Robert W. Mason**
Auditor

**Margaret R. Nightengale**
Accountant

**Jessica C. Pearch**
Auditor

**Jeremiah Joseph Perry Jr.**
Human Resources Specialist

**Portia R. Persley**
Lead Contract Specialist

**Gwendolyn Ruffin**
Lead Contract Specialist

**Trisa L. Savoy**
Supervisory Program Analyst

**Anne V. Shaw**
Program Specialist

**Teresa Spikes**
Human Resources Specialist

**Jason P. Taylor**
Program Specialist

**Richard J. Taylor**
Supervisory Auditor

**Larry D. Twyman**
Transportation Specialist

**Saiming T. Wan**
Auditor

### REASSIGNED

**Timothy G. Alexander**
E&E/PO/SPA to COMP/FS

**Vathani Amirthanayagam**
East Africa/PH to COMP/LWOP

**Yohannes A. Araya**
RIG/Pretoria to OIG/A/IT&SA

**Douglas Hillary Ball**
Namibia to LAC/RSD

**Zac T. Bao**
OIG/A/IT&SA to RIG/Pretoria

**Jeffery D. Bell**
Mexico to O/S LANG TRNG

**James A. Berscheit**
SA/REXO to Afghanistan/JOPA

**Stephanie N. Budzina**
West Bank/Gaza to COMP/LWOP

**Sherry F. Carlin**
COMP/LT TRNG to E&E/PO

**Clint M. Cavanaugh**
COMP/NE/OJT to SA/HO

**Roberta M. Cavitt**
LAC/SPO to Mexico

**James C. Charlifue**
RIG/Pretoria to OIG/A/PA

**Laura E. Coughlin**
Philippines/PRM to Guinea

**Jeri LeeAnn Dible**
COMP/NE/OJT to Mozambique/JOPA

**David E. Eckerson**
COMP/FS to Uganda/D

**Margot Biegelson Ellis**
Uganda/D to AA/Asia

**Mervyn I. Ellis**
Uganda/GD to Iraq/EGA

**Karla Fossand**
COMP/NE/OJT to Nigeria

**Melissa M. Francis**
RDMA/PDO to O/S LANG TRNG

**Jose M. Garzon**
Guatemala/ODDT to Afghanistan/ODG

**David E. Gosney**
COMP/LWOP to Caucasus

**Carol A. Grigsby**
COMP/LT TRNG to FA/COO/Africa

**James Gultry**
West Africa/RFMO to COMP/FSLT

**Rockfeler P. Herisse**
Africa/WA to ODP/PSA

**Edith I. Houston**
Ecuador/GD to COMP/LWOP

**Michael Hutchinson**
OIG/A/IT&SA to RIG/Cairo

**Joshua Karnes**
COMP/NE/OJT to Senegal

**Jill D. Kelley**
Guatemala/RD to Afghanistan/OPPD

**James R. Kirkland**
RSC/OD to COMP/FS/OS/DS

**Margaret S. Kline**
Iraq/OAA to RSC/OD

**Patrick J. Kollars**
West Africa/RAAO to Sudan/CO

**Ronald JR Kryk**
CA/FM to DROC

**Susan K. Kutor**
COMP/NE/OJT to Ukraine/JOPA

**Philip D. Lamade**
O/S LANG TRNG to Ukraine/D

**Rebecca Latorraca**
Croatia/Slovenia to Bolivia/SOS

**Nadereh Chahmirzadi Lee**
LAC/SA to COMP/FSLT

**Andrew Levin**
DCHA/OFDA/DRM to COMP/FS

**Kurt P. Low**
Haiti/PCPS to Sudan/PROG

**Sarah Ann Lynch**
LAC/SPO to Afghanistan/OPPD

**Lisa Magno**
Guatemala/PDS to Afghanistan/OPPD

**Joseph T. McGee**
Bangladesh/RAA to East Africa/CON

**Andrew McKim**
Bosnia-Herzegovina/JOPA to West Bank/Gaza/JOPA

**Martin G. McLaughlin**
Guatemala/OH&E to Peru/OFA

**Mikaela S. Meredith**
USAID REP/Yemen to Nigeria

**Thomas C. Milligan**
COMP/DFA to FA/COO/NEA

**Debra I. Mosel**
Romania to Southern Africa

**Ronald E. Olsen**
India/RASO to O/S LANG TRNG

**Tammy L. Palmer**
COMP/NE/OJT to COMP/FSLT

**Leslie K. Reed**
GC/Africa to SA/MDO

**Maria Rendon Labadan**
COMP/Detail/SUP to Philippines/OGP

**Lauren K. Russell**
COMP/FS to E&E/ECA

**Michele Russell**
Afghanistan/OSSD to COMP/FSLT

**Susan C. Thollaug**
Peru/OHR to Pakistan/OD

**Tracy C. Thoman**
COMP/LWOP to COMP/FS

**Penelope A. Thomas**
Mali/MGT to Bangladesh/EXO

**Annette E. Tuebner**
Haiti/D to COMP/FS

**Jorge E. Velasco**
Dominican Republic/JOPA to O/S LANG TRNG

### RETIRED

**Susan M. Parks**

**Julia B. Simpson**

**David Allen Soroko**

### MOVED ON

**Christopher Becker**

**Harry Bottenberg**

**Daniel A. Corle**

**Joyce M. Douglas**

**Marc R. Ellingstad**

**Antoinette Ferrara**

**Helen Grant Glaze**

**Jeffrey Kaufman**

**Steven A. Marma**

**Laura S. Skolnik**

**Christine Kolars Sow**

**Nicole Ann Uzzle**

## IN MEMORIAM

**Robert E. Layton**, 91, died April 30 in Virginia Beach, Va. In 1972, Layton served with USAID's Global Bureau in the Office of Population. He was assigned to Afghanistan from 1967 to 1969, where he assisted the Office of the Prime Minister and the Ministry of Finance with administrative and fiscal reforms. Layton retired from USAID in 1986 and continued to support population and family planning issues in his community.

**Henry Carvel "Carv" Wiggin,** 84, died July 1, in Palm Coast, Fla. Wiggin was a career Foreign Service Officer who joined USAID's predecessor agency in 1954. He served in Ecuador, Bolivia, Liberia, Tanzania, Nigeria, and Afghanistan. He was an internationally known research scientist and developed the first commercial variety of high lysine corn in Africa while in Nigeria. Wiggin retired from the Agency in 1975 and continued to work as a contractor in the Africa Bureau serving in Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Zaire. He served with the U.S. Army in Europe during World War II. ★

**GLASSMAN** from page 5

money and the effort that goes into publicizing these kinds of good works, gee, that could go into doing more good works. But we also want people to know that America is a good and compassionate country. So we need to say it. Other countries are doing it, and they're doing it much better than we are. So I would not shy away from that, even if we do get some pushback as a result.

**Q:** *You are going to focus on grassroots level, on film and video and even psychological operations. Can you give us an idea of what kind of programs you're going to do, and how you're going to do this?*

**GLASSMAN:** One of the ideas is a follow-on to the publication "Problems of Communism," which was put out during the Cold War. It would be an electronic

see **GLASSMAN** on page 11 ▶

# After Summer Work at Agency, Interns View Possible Careers

USAID officials, including Administrator Henrietta Fore and Acting Deputy Administrator James Kunder, held a recruitment luncheon July 31 for 55 USAID summer interns spanning 10 bureaus.

Acting Deputy Administrator James Kunder addresses interns at July 31 luncheon.

"It's a great opportunity to get the message out of what USAID is," Human Resources Director Gene George said. "People get that not from reading…but from experience. That's the value of [the internship]. It's on people's minds now for the future."

The interns, undergraduate and graduate students from 32 colleges and universities, represented diverse studies that included history, epidemiology, reproductive health, conflict resolution, graphic design, Russian, Spanish, political science, and creative writing.

"I always wanted to intern for USAID. I'm interested in development work and to see if I'd like to pursue a career in this field," said Khiet Nguyen, who interned in the office for West Bank/Gaza. "I wanted the experience of being here and meeting people and talking to people. This summer has helped me to understand the functions of USAID."

"The people here are amazing, not only so educated and experienced, but incredibly open and interested in supporting people around them and also under them," said intern Ann Jensby, an American studying at the University of Austria.

George and eight other speakers addressed the interns' questions and discussed the Civil Service and Foreign Service Officers programs.

"I spent most of my career, 19 years, overseas," said Earl Gast, the Africa bureau's senior deputy assistant administrator. "The constant change, learning new languages, learning new cultures—when we move from one country to another, we're essentially earning a master's degree without the certificate at the end."

Speakers included Mark Ward, senior deputy assistant administrator of the Asia bureau; Deborah Kennedy-Iraheta, senior deputy assistant administrator of the Latin America and Caribbean bureau; Junior Officer Ami Morgan; former Presidential Management Fellow Ken Seifert of the Middle East bureau; Human Resources Specialist Tom Davis, and Foreign Service Career Development Officer Susan Riley.

Photo by Analeed Marcus

Administrator Henrietta Fore greets intern Khiet Nguyen of Dartmouth College.

"The frontlines of this war on terror…is the Foreign Service," Ward told the interns.

USAID officials told the interns that many Agency employees are fluent in a foreign language—many of the speakers themselves were fluent in three or four languages. The selection process for FSOs is very competitive, presenters said; only about 200 out of 500 applicants are selected.

Following a five-week intensive rotation orientation that includes language fluency, many officers begin work overseas—sometimes in critical countries like Iraq and Afghanistan.

"When you walk into work, you don't really know what you'll be doing that day," Morgan said. "You're never bored."

Several interns said they were excited about the opportunity and were considering a career in the Foreign Service.

"A lot of funding is going [to Pakistan]," said Asia bureau intern Ebad Khad, who is originally from Pakistan. "It's interesting to be working for the agency that's helping my home country."

"In practical terms, [the internship program] provides important contributions to doing the work of the Agency," Kunder said. "But I think the real value is the sense of energy and perspective they bring." ★ *—A.A.M.*

**GLASSMAN** from page 10

publication and a platform for conferences and revolve around that the violent extremist ideology and probably be called "Problems of Extremism."

The second category is developing ways to channel people, young people especially, away from recruitment. We'll be recruiting private-sector expertise, and have what we call a marketing college—a three-day seminar with people from eBay, Novartis, some of the best marketers in the country, volunteering their time to train our public diplomacy staff.

We're also setting up a new strategic advisory council of 10 high-level private-sector people, who then will radiate out and recruit other people. It's part of the reorganization we set up, this thing called the Global Strategic and Engagement Center.

**Q:** *How important to the war of ideas is media training such as USAID supports around the world?*

**GLASSMAN:** I think this is just enormously important. We do a little bit of media training at the Broadcasting Board of Governors—and I realize you're not going to be able to control the people that you train.

In the war of ideas, we're trying to give people tools. We want to be the facilitator; we want to be the convener preaching to people. It doesn't work. Freedom can't be imposed; it has to be chosen, and this is our overall philosophy as well. We need to have the confidence that, if we give people the tools to engage in free dialogue, that they will end up choosing the kinds of values—that are really universal values, but that certainly that we prize in America.

You train journalists and some of them may go off and do anti-American things, but in the long run it's better for people to understand and practice professional journalism than to practice the kind of journalism that, unfortunately, is practiced in much of the world. We just have to have the confidence to believe that people are going to do the right thing and that we can't control them, even if we wanted to.

**Q:** *The Internet is used a lot these days in the war of ideas. Is there anything that could be done about this?*

**GLASSMAN:** We are very much pushing what are called Web 2.0 approaches: social networking, ideas, using YouTube, Facebook, and ideas like that to generate a conversation, to bring people into a global conversation, and again, with the hope and belief that they're going to end up choosing freedom and nonviolence.

Now here is where I think we have an advantage over the terrorists because, yes, they are using the Internet, but they're using it in very conventional ways. They're using it as a disseminator of information. That's fine, but they can't participate in the new generation of Internet techniques because if they do, their ideology is going to be under attack. And you saw this when [Ayman] Zawahiri said: "OK, I'd like to hear questions about what do you think about al Qaeda." Well, he got hundreds of questions and most of them were negative.

**Q:** *Is there any particular message that you have for USAID staff?*

**GLASSMAN:** I just think that USAID is absolutely on the front lines of public diplomacy. And you know, anything that I can do to enhance their efforts, I want to do. I certainly want to learn about what they're doing. And I just think that the world ought to know more about what USAID is doing. I think that helps in the public diplomacy effort. And I know that some of this is a question of resources. But I want to help in that.

**Q:** *Why is public diplomacy so vital?*

**GLASSMAN:** We practically dismantled our whole public diplomacy apparatus after the Berlin Wall came down. So we've had to rebuild it and it's taken a lot of time.

I don't think that we need to resurrect the U.S. Information Agency in order to have a robust public diplomacy and war of ideas effort. The deficiency USIA had, in my view, is that it didn't integrate policy and outreach, that under the current structure we can do that integration here with the State Department. What it really had going for it was an esprit de corps, which I think we're developing here, but they certainly had it. ★

## IN KIRKUK, USAID'S ASHLEY BRINGS SENSE OF ADVENTURE TO PRT

**KIRKUK, Iraq**—When he was 5, Jeff Ashley ran away from home only to be picked up and brought back a few hours later. Fast-forward several years and Ashley would retain his sense of wanderlust—flying to some mountaintop as the sun rose or diving into deep waters off the Indian shore.

All told, in 20 years Ashley has traveled to 105 countries and almost every continent on the globe to work on humanitarian assistance and development projects for NGOs and USAID.

Today he is working as the USAID representative on the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Kirkuk, an oil-rich area north of Baghdad. Ashley and his PRT colleagues from the Departments of State and Defense have formed alliances to help Iraqis reopen schools, set up market centers and women's cooperatives, provide entrepreneurs access to loans, share technical know-how with farmers, and train public officials in the rule of law and local governance. Nearly 65 people work at the PRT site in Kirkuk, a city of about 1 million people with significant numbers of Arabs, Kurds, and Turkmens.

Ashley says USAID and the U.S. military operate in strikingly similar ways—they both have strategic objectives, expected timeframes, phased implementation processes, lessons learned, and indicators to measure successes. Everything is done with hardheaded calculations based on local knowledge and conditions.

To see the progress of USAID projects, Ashley is whooshed in and out of the PRT site to meet government officials, tribal sheikhs, implementing partners, and business owners. Slowly and with determination, PRT members have racked up gains through a direct, inclusive approach with the Iraqis.

The recent uptick in loans at the Al Aman microfinance center in Kirkuk is a sign that private-sector development efforts are paying off. Set up by the PRT in 2006 to woo local entrepreneurs, the center has doled out 1,095 loans to small- and medium-size businesses, estimated to total $2.1 million.

The value of the Al Aman center's outstanding portfolio is $1 million, with a repayment rate of 99.7 percent. Four such centers have been created within two years, contributing to the creation of more than 2,600 jobs.

Photo by Michael Rothe, USAID

Jeff Ashley

Ashley says new self-confidence in Iraq is here to stay. The reopened markets and businesses are potent symbols of achievement. And, the Iraqi men, women, and children whose lives have changed for the better are a tribute to the fallen soldiers.

"Working with the men and women of the 1/10th Mountain Brigade in Kirkuk is one of the greatest privileges and honors of my life and career," said Ashley. ★

## Ex-Agency Chiefs Call for Aid Reform

Former USAID Administrators Peter McPherson and Brian Atwood told the House Foreign Affairs Committee recently that they support the creation of a Cabinet-level U.S. foreign assistance department.

McPherson said that projects such as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief should report to USAID.

"We've moved from an implementation agency to a large contract agency," McPherson said of USAID during the June 25 hearing.

McPherson, who served under former President Ronald Reagan, criticized former staff cuts that left the agency with only two engineers, 16 agriculture experts, and 17 education experts.

At a July 8 Oxfam America development briefing, Tony Gambino, former mission director to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, said that this problem "is recognized by the current Administrator Henrietta Fore and her very welcome development leadership initiative."

Fore launched the initiative to increase the Agency's total Foreign Service staff at a rate of 300 people per year for four years. The plan would more than double the number of Foreign Service officers.

The former administrators said a Cabinet-level department would resolve additional challenges beyond staff expertise. McPherson said that USAID should have a role in the UN Security Council and be a player in the World Bank.

Critics of foreign assistance reform argue that the current system of earmarks in the legislation process would inhibit progress, regardless of changes such as creating a Cabinet-level aid position.

But Rep. Howard Berman (D-Calif.) said an "overhaul" of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1964 is necessary.

"The [Department of Defense] budget increased by the same amount as the entire budget for foreign affairs development and diplomacy," Berman said.

At the Oxfam presentation, Gambino said the reforms should include greater emphasis on presence in-country and less on Washington, particularly the State Department's F Bureau (Office of the Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance).

He said aid workers are inexperienced in the culture of the country to which they are assigned.

"Ask [Washington aid representatives] when was the last time they were there and how long they were there for," he said, "and you can pierce the instant expertise that passes for knowledge often."

Gambino said in-country language fluency and greater interaction with aid recipients should be a requirement.

"Development is overrated," Atwood said. "It is essentially ingrained in poverty reduction but not sufficient [by itself]."

Atwood, who served under former President Bill Clinton, said that Foreign Service members often don't understand the culture they are in, which prohibits taking a strategic approach in development.

"We have problems, but often the other donors are worse," Gambino said. "For other donors, they weren't even based in the country." ★ *—A.A.M.*

## Rwanda Education Goes Online

The Rwanda Education Commons is a Web site that will connect and provide a file-sharing network of public and private education officials, internationally and locally.

"It's a virtual conversation taking place amongst teachers, parents, stakeholders, anyone interested in learning about the [education] initiative," said Sarah Moten, the chief of the education division of USAID's Africa bureau.

As Microsoft Corp., Intel Corp., Advanced Micro Devices, and Cisco Systems, Inc. have plans to invest in Rwanda as part of the World Economic Forum, USAID officials said more Rwandans will gain computer and internet access.

"Telecommunication is not what you want it to be in Rwanda, but that situation is going to improve over time," said Wesley Wilson, the USAID Administrator's senior policy advisor. "As accessibility expands, we're going to be there to meet that demand."

Technical experts said they hope to formally launch the site in October, including online courses, chat groups, and topical materials on AIDS, gender, water, and sanitation.

"[It] helps to achieve the objectives of Global Development Commons, but also helps achieve the education goals for Rwanda," said Steven Ehrenberg, the Academy for Educational Development's (AED) program manager. "We're starting to load up information that helps do these things."

The information sharing site was launched with the USAID contribution of $2.4 million dollars and another $2 million from public-private partnerships, said Robert Schware, managing director of AED's Global Learning Portal.

The Global Learning Portal connects 5,500 members in more than 130 countries, allowing them to post educational materials and curricula through online libraries. Members may include donors, teachers, ministry officials, and educational organizations.

A preliminary view of the site can be accessed at www.glp.net/web/rwanda/education. ★ *—A.A.M.*

### Alumni Reunion Rescheduled

USAID's alumni reunion, originally scheduled for Sept. 12, has been rescheduled for Sept. 18. For information, call 202-712-4707.

# Agency Honors Vietnamese Staff Held in Reeducation Camps

Administrator Henrietta Fore, center, is flanked by Petrus Lai Nguyen, left, and Gull R'Com, and their wives.

Photo by Ben Barber, USAID

Two Vietnamese men who worked for USAID during the Vietnam War, and who served eight years in re-education camps after the communist victory in 1975, recently received certificates honoring their loyalty and sacrifice.

In 1983, both men applied for resettlement in the United States and, a decade later, came to the United States under the Orderly Departure Program.

On July 14, 2008—some 33 years after the chaotic North Vietnamese conquest of the South in 1975—Petrus Lai Nguyen and Gull R'Com traveled to Washington from their respective homes in Fort Smith, Ark., and Charlotte, N.C., to be recognized for their contributions to the Agency.

Lai and Gull had not met since they worked on development projects for USAID in the 1960s and 1970s in Kon Tum Province in Vietnam's Central Highlands.

"I never expected to be here today, almost 40 years later, and meet my friends from USAID," said Lai at a ceremony conducted by Administrator Henrietta Fore and Acting Deputy Administrator Jim Kunder.

"These people helped me so much when I came here," he said.

He referred to three former colleagues who had pressed to arrange the belated recognition: retiree William "Bill" Egan, who headed USAID's Civil Operations and Revolutionary Development Support (CORDS) team in Kon Tum; retired Army Lt. David Stanley; and Domenic D'Antonio, former senior USAID representative in Kon Tum.

Lai was an interpreter for the U.S. Army and then joined USAID in 1968 as an office manager. In 1975, he moved with his wife and children to Saigon, but said "finally we got stuck" and missed the evacuation flights.

Lai tried to leave Vietnam by boat several times, but the boats failed to reach neighboring countries. Lai now works for Tyson Chicken Corporation in Fort Smith.

Gull served with U.S. Special Forces in 1965 during fighting that led up to the biggest initial battle of the war in Ia Drang Valley, before working with USAID. After he was jailed for eight years, he was not allowed to hold a job in Vietnam, despite his university education, and had to work on his wife's small farm until he was brought to the United States in 1993. He now works for Catholic Social Services in Charlotte on resettling refugees—mainly from Southeast Asia—such as Burmese and Hmong.

USAID invited both families to Washington for the ceremony and a long-awaited reunion with former colleagues.

"Better late than never," Kunder said. "We offer our deep gratitude as an Agency and recognize their commitment and sacrifice." ★ *—B.B.*

# USAID Wins Softball Championship Again

Bob Schmidt is ready to swing for the fences.

Andy Rajec screams in exhilaration after winning the end of season tournament championship.

The USAID softball team won the President's Cup in the U.S. federal government Interagency Softball League Aug. 23—it was the second championship in three years.

In the finals, USAID beat the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Prior to beating DHS, USAID beat the Department of Agriculture and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which was led by former USAID official Brock Bierman, who is also commissioner of the softball league.

"We led in all 21 innings of the three games," Co-captain James Brackin said. The softball rules call for seven inning games.

In the championship game with DHS, "we started great early," Brackin said. "The game was 10 to 8 at the end of the fourth inning, and that was the final score. It never happens that both teams have three scoreless innings in a softball game."

The team won 14 games this season and only lost one, "to the team we beat in the championship," Co-captain Andy Rajec said. In the sixth inning of that game, third baseman Jeff Denale "snagged two line drives in a row."

For the first out of the last inning, Brackin threw out a runner on a relay to home. The ball was "hit over the center fielder [Dan Corle] so Dan had to run back and throw it to Brackin at shortstop," Rajec said. "James then threw a strike to me at home to get the runner."

Catcher Shannon Darcy caught the second out of the last inning.

"We had—over the course of the year—30 players play," Rajec said. "We had a core group that usually showed up but we were also able to take interchanging players and win. It truly was a team effort."

Formerly the Masters of Disaster, USAID's team changed its name to F-TAP, after the Agency's tagline "From the American People." Team names are part of the fun, such as the Department of Interior Buffalos, USDA Prime, and the FEMA Dukes of All Hazards.

USAID won the regular season as well as the 3-D cup—besting State and Defense, which along with USAID form the agencies responsible for Diplomacy, Development, and Defense.

The team used "a superior aerial and ground assault to overwhelm the Department of Defense, 26-7," Brackin said in an e-mail to the team.

"We beat State 18 to nothing in the shadows of the Washington Monument," on the National Mall, Rajec added.

"It was complete domination," Co-captain Brackin said of the State win. "It wasn't that they couldn't hit the ball. It was just that we had great defense."

Administrator Henrietta Fore commended the team's success.

"It was great to hear of your recent all-star game," she wrote in an e-mail to the team after the State victory. "Very impressive score at 18 to zero. I felt I was there with you."

Membership on the team is open to anyone working at USAID, including interns.

"USAID has so many [people traveling overseas]…it was just impossible," Brackin said. "We had to find a lot of people. The interns were really good this year."

"I don't know if we exceeded expectations. We've had a pretty good team in the past," Rajec said. "We had an overall commitment to winning while having fun."

*FrontLines* editor Ben Barber played on the team for several seasons and played short centerfield in two games this season.

"We'd play softball in sultry evenings, sometimes until darkness fell," Barber said. "The better hitters would sometimes smack the ball over the wall into the river, sometimes the Anacostia side, sometimes the Potomac side. And we'd watch the planes land at the airport directly across the river." ★ *—A.A.M.*

# CONTINUED. . .

**GEORGIA** from page 1

deployed a Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) to Tbilisi on Aug. 14. The 18-person team is coordinating the U.S. response, and paving the way for recovery and reconstruction activities.

U.S. supplies assisted people who sought refuge in and around Tbilisi.

By late August, some people had begun returning to homes in and around Gori, a city near the contested South Ossetia region, and the majority of people displaced by the recent conflict were expected to return over the next months.

In Gori, the DART reported that most homes remained undamaged by fighting and had functioning water and electricity. However, some displaced persons may not wish to return home because of damage to their houses, fear of unexploded munitions, and potential harassment from armed militias in South Ossetia.

The Georgian government is seeking between $1 billion and $2 billion to repair and develop infrastructure, USAID Administrator Henrietta Fore told reporters Aug. 22 in Tbilisi, where she visited a hospital and center for displaced people supported by USAID.

"That's really reconstruction, it's for infrastructure. It's not just because of hostilities. It's for development," she told reporters on a plane returning from her visit. "Georgia has given us a rather long list of things they would like to see—communications is certainly part of it, hydro-electric dams." She said the request also covered assistance for housing for Georgians forced from their homes by the conflict.

Fighting erupted on Aug. 8 between Georgian forces and Russian Federation soldiers over the breakaway South Ossetia region. Russian tanks, troops, and aircraft rolled across the internationally recognized border in an overwhelming show of force that left Russia in control of Gori, Stalin's birthplace.

About 30,000 South Ossetians—who speak a language related to Farsi—fled the fighting into Russia.

Most of the displaced 128,000 Georgians, who speak a language related to Basque, took refuge in Tbilisi, many of them with relatives and friends.

By Aug. 22, Russia had moved most of its forces out of Georgia, except for troops left in the breakaway regions South Ossetia and Abkhazia, the port Poti, and a security belt along South Ossetia.

Russian bombing raids and ground offensives targeted mainly military infrastructure.

USAID has long provided development assistance to Georgia, focusing on such areas as the rule of law, economic growth, energy security, health, and education. Since 1992, USAID assistance to Georgia has totaled approximately $1 billion. Specific projects have ranged from technical training to help reform the Georgian parliament and judiciary to rural economic development programs and improvements in the country's energy sector. ★ *—B.B.*

**On Sept. 3, as *FrontLines* was going to press, President Bush pledged $1 billion in aid for Georgia's humanitarian needs and economic recovery. The announcement followed an assessment mission to Georgia by Douglas Menarchik, USAID assistant administrator for Europe and Eurasia, and Reuben Jeffrey, undersecretary of state for economic, energy and agricultural affairs.**

Photo by Stephanie Hilborn, USAID

Internally displaced children outside a former medical center in Tbilisi look on as USAID hygiene kits are distributed to families.

Photo by Stephan Hilborn, USAID

Six-month-old Nodariko and his grandmother, Dali, await the opportunity to return to their village near Gori.

Photo by Lt. Cmdr. John Gay, U.S. Navy

The USS McFaul awaits unloading of its cargo in Batumi as part of the U.S. humanitarian assistance to Georgia.

Photo by Stephan Hilborn, USAID

Mari, from Avnevi in South Ossetia, pauses outside the former Forestry Services building, currently housing more than 230 internally displaced persons from South Ossetia and Gori in Georgia.

# CONTINUED. . .

**BUSH** from page 1

by their governments. Activists from the following repressive countries attended the USAID meeting: Belarus, Burma, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Sudan, Syria, and Zimbabwe.

Iranian activist Manouchehr Mohammadi said he planned to walk from Washington to New York to draw attention to Iran's lack of human rights. All his family members were killed or lost their jobs under the Islamic Republic of Iran. He started a student group to defend political prisoners and was himself jailed for several years.

"The Islamic Republic can't be changed," he said in an interview. "It won't tolerate change."

"We know you have been yearning to be free," Administrator Fore told the activists.

She noted that 50 of the Agency's 300 new hires this year will be specializing in democracy promotion.

A nurse from Zimbabwe who asked that his name not be published said his group had treated thousands of people injured by pro-government forces because they supported the opposition. A Burmese monk and other guests also told of their struggles against repression.

Kozulina told the story of her father, Belarus political prisoner Alyaksandr Kozulina, 52. He was a university director and opposition candidate for president who fought for electoral transparency. He publicly asked

Photo by Kristina Ferris

Manouchehr Mohammadi

where the money had gone from alleged weapons sales by the government and he led a demonstration against the government.

He was arrested after Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko was re-elected in 2006. After threats of U.S. and U.N. sanctions, Lukashenko's regime released five of its six jailed political activists but held Alyaksandr until late August.

Since her father's arrest, Kozulina, an attorney, has been unable to find work and was fired from her last job, she said, due to government pressure. Her 22-year-old sister, a recent graduate in law, is also unable to find work.

"I can't find a job now because these enterprises that take us for a job will be liquidated if they pick us," Kozulina said.

The university also had a case against her father, alleging he stole 35 kilograms of gold. The case was closed due to lack of evidence but her father never got his job back at the university.

Kozulina wants to continue her father's political cause and work for transparent and fair elections. She calls herself his representative.

"Now my surname guarantees I will be fine," she said, "because if something [happens to] me, there will be an international scandal."

She returned to Belarus in July to begin her political campaign for a seat in the Belarusian parliament. The election was to take place Sept. 28.

"If I am put in prison, then that means that is my fate," she said. "I am not afraid." ★

**HONDURAS** from page 7

"In the past, we could not do certain projects because we lacked funding. Today, people from the private sector are willing to pitch in and help us get things done," said Lisandro Ramirez, the mayor of Potrerillos, Cortes. ★

**BILLBOARDS** from page 4

people to the Lebanese people."

Creating a new billboard ad "was not a significant concession on our part," Feltman said. "It was a face-saving concession on the part of the Lebanese…We sort of made a deal."

Some 700 billboards were then posted throughout Lebanon, including Hezbollah strongholds in the south and periphery of Beirut.

"I would go to a dinner party with ministers and bankers," Feltman said. "And people would talk to me and tell me how much they love the ads. Bankers would come up and say, 'I had no idea that you were reaching the fisherman in Tripoli.' It was really popular." ★ *—A.A.M.*

**TAJIKISTAN** from page 7

According to the chief of the Khujand City Social Protection Department, Sabohatkhon Rustamova: "There were 7,000 poor families, disabled, and old people without care registered in Khujand in 2007. All of them needed support, and we have selected the most vulnerable among them to receive the assistance."

Sharipova, a mother of six, was one of those who received aid. Her husband went to Russia in search of employment two years ago, but she has not heard from him since.

"These days, my family does not live but barely survives," said Sharipova, whose apartment had no heating or electricity for months. She found it extremely difficult to keep her children warm and fed.

Like Sharipova, USAID is looking ahead to preparations for the upcoming winter, which is likely to be even worse due to expected power outages, a degraded infrastructure, and serious financial problems stemming from an enormous cotton debt.

Last winter was the first energy-related emergency assistance that USAID provided to Tajikistan. The Agency, which has provided emergency aid to the country in the past for natural disasters, food shortages, and persons displaced from civil war, is currently providing $2.5 million to support agricultural productivity in Tajikistan to help alleviate expected food shortages during the coming winter. ★

**EGYPT** from page 7

family to ensure the education program is effective. USAID is spending 75 million LE, approximately $14.12 million, to provide such scholarships in Egypt.

Shaymaa likely would not have been able to attend school without assistance. Her father was injured at work and had to turn to relatives for financial support to pay school fees for his four children. The expense to educate all the children, however, was still too great and Shaymaa had to leave first grade for a time so that her older siblings could continue their education.

Her situation is not atypical. Girls and boys in Egypt start out almost even in school enrollment—with 91 percent of girls and 96 percent of boys enrolled in primary school. However, at the secondary level, those percentages are 79 percent and 85 percent, respectively. And the numbers continue to drop as the children grow to adulthood.

"These scholarships and other investments in girls' education have helped narrow the gender gap in education dramatically," said USAID/Cairo Education Officer Robert Burch. "However, girls still face social and family obstacles in getting an education, so programs that expand girls' access to education continue to be important."

Research indicates that girls in particular must surmount a number of hurdles to enter and stay in school, including inability to pay school expenses, family preference for educating sons over daughters, mistreatment of girls by their teachers, and poor conditions in schools—especially the lack of adequate bathrooms for girls.

Twenty-eight schools now offer educational opportunities to more than 500 older girls who either dropped out or never enrolled.

"Now, I have a chance to teach my mom. We are learning the alphabet together. But I'm a strict teacher—she has to learn a letter a day!" said Sabreen, another beneficiary of the girls scholarship program. ★


## FRONTLINES

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# SPOTLIGHT

## SUDAN GALLERY USES ART TO REINFORCE PEACE

Sudanese children display artwork from a peace workshop in Khartoum. The children and the artists who taught them came from different ethnic and religious backgrounds, and created paintings and sculptures for an exhibit on Sudan's diversity.

**Art is being used in Sudan to support the peace plan that ended a North-South civil war that lasted more than 20 years.**

At the Together Art Center, Wisal Dia el Din, a young, female artist has created a permanent space to support Sudanese art and culture while promoting peace.

USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) funded the program to encourage children and adults living in Khartoum to create messages of peace through artistic media.

After participating in a workshop to broaden their understanding of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA)—the document signed in 2005 by the government and the opposition Sudan People's Liberation Movement to officially end the North-South civil war—19 professional artists worked with 60 school-age children to use art as a tool for promoting peace.

Dia el Din, the center's director, pulled off a significant feat in a country where men dominate most aspects of public life and where women face social and cultural constraints that limit their freedom of expression. More than three years after the signing of the CPA, women and youth have limited access to the public forums where the agreement is discussed.

The art gallery is helping to level the playing field. Since March 2007, the center has hosted dozens of events, including workshops, exhibits, cultural activities, and dance performances. Occasional film screenings at the center provide an opportunity for dialogue on contemporary social and political issues affecting Sudan.

Artists are able to use the center's gallery free of charge, and the work of female and young artists is frequently featured in rotating exhibits. The center is also helping internally displaced women in Khartoum's squatter settlements by providing a market outlet for their traditional handicrafts.

OTI says the center not only gives some of Sudan's creative citizens an outlet for their talents, but supports the freedoms embodied in the CPA and gives marginalized groups a voice in the political process. ★

*All paintings by Wisal Dia el Din; Photos by Together Art Center*