

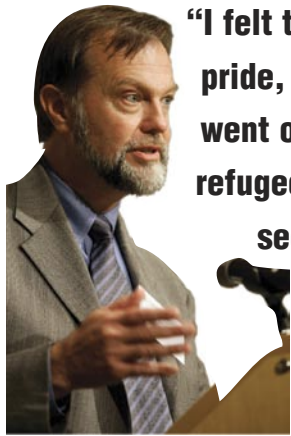
# FRONT LINES



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U.S. Agency for International Development Employee News

SEPTEMBER 2004



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

Tibor Nagy Jr., Former Ambassador to Guinea, Recipient of U.S. Food Aid in 1956  
Speech July 21, 2004

▼ SEE 50TH ANNIVERSARY ON PAGE 2

## VOLUNTEERS AID AT HOME

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

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

▼ SEE PAGES 8 AND 9

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## Iraqi Survivors Tell of Mass Graves

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

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

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

in the pit and they fired bullets at us.”

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

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

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

▼ SEE IRAQ MASS GRAVES ON PAGE 14

### Mobile Phones vs Fixed Line Phones in Africa



Africa is the world's fastest growing mobile market.  
\* Source: International Telecommunications Union

### AFGHANISTAN



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

Ben Barber/USAID



## Sudan Crisis Worsens

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

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

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

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

Rains that began in June turned Darfur's

▼ SEE SUDAN ON PAGE 14

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## Strategic Budgeting, Reforms Listed in New USAID Report

Rewarding good performance with more resources, an element of strategic budgeting, is one way the Agency is transforming the way it operates.

USAID is also recruiting a new generation of development officers, modernizing its financial management and contracting systems, and harnessing institutional knowledge in a more systematic way.

These operational reforms are described in a new Agency report, *USAID Business Transformation: People, Technology, Ideas, Results*. An intra-agency "business transformation executive" committee is responsible for overseeing these reforms.

The new strategic budgeting model, for instance, divvies up the Agency budget among countries against four criteria: need, country commitment, foreign policy importance, and program performance.

Income and child mortality are among several statistics used to measure need. Country commitment is captured by applying Millennium Challenge Corporation criteria, including economic freedom, just governance, and public investments in health and education.

The Business Transformation report can be found at <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/>

Data on how well USAID programs are performing comes from missions' annual reports, and are fed into the equation. Factoring performance into budget decisions is a priority of the President's Management Agenda.

Country totals generated by a computer model, however, are a guideline. Actual country budgets are based on factors outside of the model's scope.

Congressional directives, mission pipelines, and late-breaking developments in a country are factored in when regional bureaus draft their budgets, said Parrie Henderson, a program analyst in the Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination (PPC).

"A computer model can't do everything. You still need common sense. The data to measure country commitment, for instance, is historical. There's a time lag of several years, so if a government changed direction, you need to account for that," Henderson said.

The goal, said Barbara Turner, head of PPC and acting vice chair of the Business Transformation Committee, is to allocate Agency resources, including personnel, more strategically to accomplish the mission of the Agency—particularly the transformational development objectives where country performance and good governance matter. ★

## 50th Anniversary of U.S. Food Aid That Fed 3.8 Billion People

"I was one of these children who was malnourished; I was one of these children who could not move," said speaker Kimmie Weeks, in reference to video highlights shown at a conference marking the 50th anniversary of USAID Food for Peace (FFP). Weeks is a Liberian who survived civil war in his homeland by subsisting on U.S. food aid.

Now 22 and a child rights advocate, Weeks said that during the 1989 Liberian civil war people ate things they would never have imagined during times of peace: tree roots and leaves. "We drank dirty water just to get through the day," he said.

Since it was created in 1954, FFP has delivered 107 billion metric tons of food to about 3.3 billion people. Last year alone the program fed 133 million people, mostly in Africa.

But there are still many who could use American food aid.

Some 840 million people worldwide face



Child advocate and former food aid recipient Kimmie Weeks spoke at a conference marking the 50th anniversary of Food for Peace, the U.S. food assistance program.

food insecurity today, said Administrator Andrew Natsios, addressing more than 400 guests at the day-long celebration, which included retired senators Robert Dole and George McGovern among a series of speakers.

McGovern was director of the Food for Peace program in the early 1960s.

Secretary of State Colin L. Powell addressed the audience of food aid professionals during a luncheon.

"Your work is not done until every child goes to bed with a full stomach," Powell told USAID employees. ★



### Investigated Firm Agrees to Pay \$1.5M

**WASHINGTON**—As a result of a USAID Office of Inspector General investigation, FFIA of Cambridge, Mass., formerly known as Farallon Fixed Income Associates, LP, reached an agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office in Massachusetts July 30 to pay \$1.5 million to the U.S. government to resolve civil claims that stem from a misuse of resources in USAID's Russia program in the 1990s.

The United States alleges that FFIA improperly used USAID-funded resources and staff, diverting U.S. taxpayer funds for its own purposes and profit. FFIA was owned in part and operated by Nancy Zimmerman, wife of Andrei Shleifer, a Harvard professor who was the head of the Harvard Russia Project.

The Harvard Russia Project was terminated in 1997 after the USAID Office of Inspector General uncovered evidence that Shleifer and his second-in-command, Jonathan Hay, were investing and assisting their wives in establishing businesses in Russia. This included using their influence with Russian government officials to obtain favorable licensing, funding, and other benefits in violation of the terms of the agreement between USAID and Harvard.

A civil case filed by the U.S. Attorney against Shleifer, Hay, and Harvard University is still pending in the District of Massachusetts.

### Aid for Guinea Cashew Farmers

**WASHINGTON**—USAID and Kraft Foods

Inc. are teaming up to strengthen cashew production in Guinea and help lift local farmers out of poverty. The over \$1 million alliance will help local farmers to organize and effectively manage the growing cashew industry. Kraft is one of the largest cashew purchasers in the world. Guinea, a French-speaking West African country, is one of the poorest in the world.

### Haiti Donors Pledge \$1B

International donors pledged more than \$1 billion July 20 to help rebuild Haiti. The amount includes \$230 million of U.S. assistance over two years.

Gérard Latortue, Haiti's interim prime minister, said the money will be used to build up the country's infrastructure, including its roads and electricity network. "If we have electricity and roads, you will not have to come back here every 10 years to help Haiti," Latortue told donors.

U.S. assistance will boost spending on HIV/AIDS and jobs programs, announced Secretary of State Colin L. Powell. Powell said the pledges made were "a testament to the importance that the international community places on Haiti's return to the path of democracy, stability, and prosperity."

### African Brain Drain Imperils AIDS Fight

**BOSTON**—A brain drain of nurses, doctors, and pharmacists from Africa is crippling already fragile health systems as they try to care for millions of people dying of HIV/AIDS, according to a report released July 15 by Physicians for Human Rights, a Boston-based nonprofit advocacy group.

Lack of training and migration of health professionals to wealthier countries are leaving Africa bare of medical personnel. In its 121-page report, "An Action Plan to Prevent Brain Drain," the group proposes measures to slow down migration and bolster staffing in hospitals and clinics.

### Creative Wins Second Iraq Contract

USAID announced July 15 a \$56.4 million contract to Creative Associates International for a two-year education program in Iraq. The contract continues Agency work to develop primary and secondary education in Iraq.

New funds will promote community participation in early childhood education, train primary and secondary school teachers, and fund model schools.

### Kenya Asks For Food Aid In Drought

**NAIROBI, Kenya**—President Mwai Kibaki declared Kenya's food shortage a national disaster July 14, saying crops would fail because of a widespread drought. The World Food Program and the Kenyan government appealed for aid for about 2.3 million Kenyans.

USAID is responding with \$17.9 million in cornmeal, pinto beans, vegetable oil, and other assistance. An estimated 12 million people in eastern Africa will need food aid in the next six months, including 4.5 million in Ethiopia, 1.7 million in Uganda, and 1.1 million in Somalia, according to the USAID-supported Famine Early Warning System (FEWS Net).

### U.S. Cuts Aid to Uzbek Government

**TASHKENT, Uzbekistan**—The State Department froze aid to the Uzbek government July 13 due to lack of progress in democratic reforms. Of the \$55 million in U.S. assistance in 2004, about \$18 million, primarily security assistance, was affected by the sanctions.

U.S. aid to Uzbekistan rose dramatically after the September 11 terror attacks, when the government allowed U.S. forces to use a major airbase near the Afghan border.

Secretary of State Powell made an exception for assistance to the government for anti-torture, WTO, and health reform programs. U.S. programs in democracy, health, human rights, agribusiness, microcredit, and community development are expected to continue.

### Polio Epidemic in Africa Feared

**GENEVA**—A polio outbreak that originated in northern Nigeria is spreading, and could lead to a major epidemic across west and central Africa, said a World Health Organization report released August 24. On the same day, new cases of the disease were confirmed in Guinea, Mali, and the Darfur region of Sudan, said epidemiologists from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative.

International concerns over the spread of polio prompted a decision by African Union health ministers in May to conduct a series of synchronized mass polio campaigns in October and November in 22 countries, including Nigeria and Niger. The campaign aims to reach more than 74 million children under 5. ★



## First Person



**“I can now create learning aids for my class. I can type and then save or print my notes. I can search for information from the internet, download it, and print it to enrich my teaching content... No more running around to search for teaching resources. It is just a click away.”**

DENNIS AKWAR, SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS TEACHER,  
Canon Lawrence Demonstration School, Boroboro Lira, Uganda

Schoolteachers in some rural areas, including postconflict regions such as Lira and Gulu, have improved their ability to teach as a result of the USAID-funded Connectivity for Educator Development project. It provides interactive, self-guided learning, computer access, and training at eight primary teacher colleges. The Agency invested \$2 million to develop online curricula and hook up computer labs to internet access in Uganda. Another \$1.2 million will be invested in a followup program that will work also on information technology policy.

## Mission of the Month

## CONGO

## The Challenge

The Democratic Republic of Congo is emerging from years of civil war and regional conflict. A peace agreement was signed in 2003, foreign armies left, and now a transitional government is in place.

But poverty and despair persist. The country is economically devastated, with an estimated 55 million Congolese living on \$107 each a year, making it one of the world's poorest countries. One in five children dies before turning 5 years old. Life expectancy is 46 years for men and 51 for women, as infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis kill tens of thousands each year.

War has displaced 3.4 million people. Insecurity is high in the east, where renegade armed groups continue to fight among each other, and rape is widespread. Collapsed political and social institutions need to be rebuilt as a first step to addressing many of the country's problems.

## Innovative USAID Response

The Kinshasa mission is helping the country in its fragile transition from war to peace. Its programs promote democracy, health, education, livelihoods, demobilization, disarmament, and reintegration.

USAID is improving humanitarian and commercial access to isolated areas through road and railway rehabilitation and by reducing illegal taxation and corrupt government practices along the Congo River, a vital trading route.

The mission is leading the effort to meet the emergency needs of millions of war victims and isolated populations, particularly women and girls suffering from sexual violence, and children separated from their families by war.

The mission's health program, representing 60 percent of its budget, provides a package of basic commodities, including insecticide-treated bednets, vitamin supplements, and HIV/AIDS tests for all blood transfusions in 91 of 306 health zones.

The Agency is also providing technical assistance for the creation of new laws, such as the law on citizenship, and is aiding new institutions, such as the country's first independent election commission.

The election of a new government, due to take place by 2006, is the final step outlined in the peace accord.

## Results

In the past two years, USAID helped double vaccination coverage to 40 percent of the population. It also increased access to health care from 15 percent to 25 percent of the people in most of the health zones the mission supported. Thanks to



Jason Beaubien, National Public Radio

Workers completing the 490-kilometer railway. The first train took its trip on the renovated railway on June 29.

such efforts, the last case of polio was reported in 2000.

In January, the Independent Electoral Commission started its work, and a democratic political party law took effect.

Conferences bring civil society representatives from remote regions together to address problems such as criminal impunity and security.

USAID helped develop a national plan for disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of ex-combatants, and helped 30 local communities prepare for what are often tense homecomings.

The Agency also funded the rehabilitation of 490 kilometers of railway reconnecting two major food-producing provinces separated by the war's destruction. Despite poor roads and tracks, U.S. food aid reached about 2 million people in 2004.

In response to horrifying levels of sexual violence, more than 10,000 victims of sexual violence were assisted with medical, psychosocial, judicial, and community reintegration services.

“I believe USAID/Congo deserves recognition because they are doing innovative things in a harsh working environment,” said Michael Miklaucic, program officer of USAID's Office of Democracy and Governance. “They are helping to hold former belligerents together in a transition government, dramatically contributing to what could be an historical transition.” ★

## Notes from Natsios

★★★★★★★



## COMMUNICATION IS A TWO-WAY STREET

In my many management jobs, I have always found that good two-way communication is a key factor in being successful. Apparently, and thankfully, our staff here at USAID agrees. This year, more than half of our 8,000 employees responded to the annual employee survey, and many of the respondents suggested that I find ways to increase the two-way communication between the “rank and file” and the front office.

One of the key ways we have done this is by hosting “brown bag” lunches with staff from each of the various bureaus. Senior staff is not present at these meetings, which are meant as an opportunity for a mutual exchange of ideas and information. They are important for me in addressing problems here that might otherwise go unaddressed. Unattended, these problems can, of course, have a disastrous effect on morale.

Many questions deal with the nitty-gritty problems of working in a large and complex organization like USAID—matters of space, funding, etc. At one lunch, an attendee expressed concern about air quality in the RRB, particularly as it applies to inorganic matter. As a result, we are conducting air quality tests.

Other questions address the broader concerns of the Agency—State/USAID relations, our fragile states strategy, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, African development, microfinance, and Middle East outreach—to mention but a few of the topics raised at the last such brown-bag gathering.

I keep informed about what goes on around the Agency in various other ways, such as visiting the bureaus in their space to meet and chat with staff, keeping my ears open for what the rank and file is saying. I am very concerned that the trappings of office do not short-circuit communications.

To keep employees abreast of what is happening at senior levels of the Agency, I have instructed that minutes from the weekly Senior Staff Meeting be posted online. I also speak with mission directors from around the world, sometimes daily.

Last year's extraordinary mission directors conference in Washington brought together bureau personnel from missions worldwide with their Washington counterparts.

Other conferences take place periodically and give me the opportunity to address mission personnel and hear from them directly.

During my visits to missions, I make it a habit to meet with the entire mission staff, including office personnel and our foreign service nationals. This has proved invaluable in getting a read on our operations and the countries where we work.

When I address the public, I like to stress that “development” is now a centerpiece of this nation's foreign policy. ★



# New Technologies Are Helping Poor Countries Leapfrog into the 21st-Century Economy

From Guatemala to Nepal to Mali, remote corners of the world are leapfrogging into the modern world through high technology, and U.S. foreign aid is helping them bypass decades of old industrial development and speed into the 21st century.

Villagers in Brazil can now sell their goods—wallets and purses—on the world market through USAID-funded telecenters powered by solar energy.

And teachers in Guatemala's El Quiche province are using computer software to preserve local traditions by teaching K'iche and Ixil literacy of Mayan languages spoken by 95 percent of the region's inhabitants. The software won a prize at the World Summit on the Information Society in Geneva in December 2003.

These are some of the uses of information and communication technology (ICT) in development.

"There are really only two main elements to development: physical commodities like roads, condoms, or food, and there is technical assistance and capacity building," said Lane Smith of the Bureau for Africa. "In every one of those activities—besides the tangible stuff—what we are really doing is helping the flow of communications and information to people in developing countries.

"We've been doing that for 50 years: it's the heart and soul of the development process. That hasn't changed. What has changed is the ability of technology to deliver communications in much cheaper and more efficient ways."

In 2002, the Office of Energy and Information Technology (EIT) was created within the Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade. About one-third of the \$12.4 million EIT budget goes to ICT work. The office has 30 staff members; 10 specialize in information technology.

Most USAID programs today have an ICT component, ranging from teacher training centers in Namibia to courtroom automation software in Mongolia.

ICT can be used in agricultural production, democracy and good governance, economic growth, education, access to energy, environmental protection, public health, and poverty reduction.

The Leland Initiative, a USAID-managed effort to bring ICT to Africa since 1996, has helped 22 African nations formulate internet policies, liberalize existing ones, and spur competition among telephone companies and internet service providers.

The Agency has helped dozens of countries shape their ICT policies, exposed them to competitive markets, brought satellite and high-speed cable connections, and helped teach technicians and users to work with the new equipment.

Working with Cisco Systems, USAID has expanded workforce training for ICT technicians in 32 countries.

EIT has a "congressionally earmarked activity that provides free training for telecommunication and information technology, policy leaders, and professionals," said Stephen Tournas, a USAID education specialist. "Through another agreement with the



USAID/Bangladesh

Women assemble shoes at a factory in Bangladesh. The Jobs Opportunities and Business Support (JOBS) Program, funded by USAID, helped shoe factories such as this one boost shoe exports from Bangladesh to Japan using the internet, thus creating hundreds of new jobs.

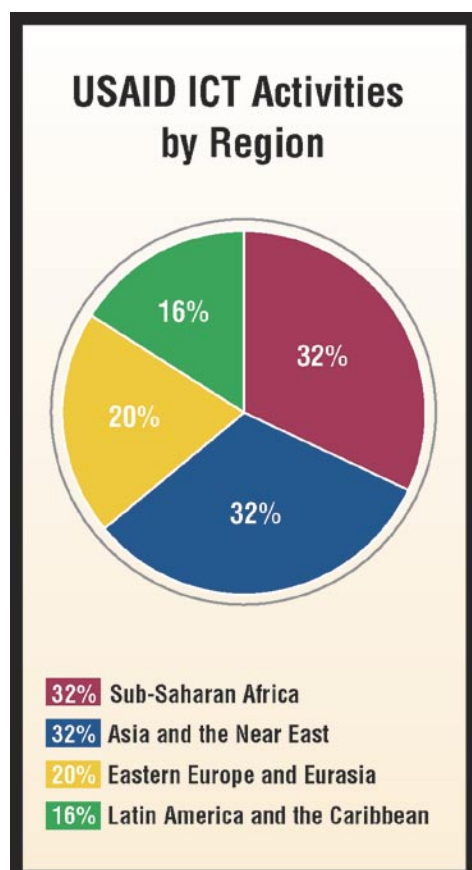
State Department, the office provides technical assistance to help developing countries create the optimal conditions for better and cheaper telecommunication services such as telephones and the internet."

One of the largest ICT efforts is the

Administrator's Last Mile Initiative, through which the Agency this year is investing \$3 million in six countries to help improve telecommunications and internet service. ★

[www.dec.org/partners/ict/ICTsearch.cfm](http://www.dec.org/partners/ict/ICTsearch.cfm)

## Digital Initiative Helps Senegal Spread and Speed up Internet Access



**DAKAR, Senegal**—After decades of poor telephone service delivered through an inefficient state-run monopoly, this West African country opened its doors to competition in the telecommunications industry at the end of July.

Startup phone companies and multinationals are expected to bring cheaper services, new technologies, and the birth of wireless broadband and internet service provider industries.

The move is the latest in a series of steps taken by the Senegalese government—with the help of USAID—to bring modern technologies such as the internet to its people.

"We try to work with countries with progressive ICT policies, and try to bring about changes," said Lane Smith of the Bureau for Africa. "Senegal is an excellent example of a place where the evolving policies look to be really good."

Senegalese internet users in cities mostly log on to the web at cybercafés and telephone shops; dialup prices are high and few people have computers at home. Rural residents rarely have access to the web.

The government has taken steps to bridge the country's digital divide by linking the

country to modern high-speed undersea cables, which allow for the fast transmission of large amounts of information. Progressive policies have encouraged a telephone shop industry that numbers more than 12,000 internet outlets.

Nevertheless, the existence of a national telephone monopoly means that the typical Senegalese has not benefited from the price reductions and increase in services that should have accompanied large leaps in infrastructure building, said Smith.

Through the Digital Freedom Initiative (DFI), USAID has been providing technical assistance to promote competition in the telecommunications sector. Nine volunteers—all IT experts from the technical and legal fields—have been working with the Senegalese government since last year. One is an international law expert who helped refine the draft of a legal framework to make the telecommunications sector more competitive.

"Here is a country that has recognized the need to modernize its approaches and strengthen the playing field for competitors, and we've been helping with the key elements," Smith said.

"The two absolutely critical elements of effective policy are transparency and a participatory regulatory process."

DFI helped Senegal's telecommunications regulatory agency create and launch a website that displays the country's laws regarding ICT, identifies industry players, and explains regulatory policies.

Agency-funded efforts are also helping the Senegalese government lay out an adequate IT infrastructure and pilot new wireless technology. Through various alliances, USAID is also bringing computers to schools and research centers and introducing IT applications that would be helpful to businesses.

As part of DFI, Hewlett-Packard is working with a Senegalese firm to introduce e-money applications. This would offer an option to rural entrepreneurs who have no access to banks and must carry their cash back and forth to banks in Dakar via crowded public buses in order to make deposits.

To help maintain an ICT infrastructure, Cisco Systems launched 12 centers to train Senegalese computer specialists in installing, managing, and maintaining modern networks. ★



## Computer-Generated 'Mishko' Interests Macedonians in Technology

**SKOPJE, Macedonia**—"Mishko," who greeted guests at a May 28 presentation, is a fictitious, three-dimensional, animated character created by high school information technology teachers during computer training in Skopje.

Faced with a youth unemployment rate of 50 percent, the animation industry is emerging as one of the rare sources for jobs in the former Yugoslav Republic.

U.S. foreign aid programs have created the 3D@E-schools program to steer creative youths to the global entertainment industry.

High school juniors and seniors are the focus of the program. They receive basic training, and the most talented go on to learn advanced animation skills. They then are considered for employment at companies such as 3X, which recently said it plans to hire 100 program graduates.

Another program, Macedonia Connects, is outfitting Macedonian high schools with broadband access with funds from USAID's Last Mile Initiative, which is also paying for satellite dishes, base stations, and technical assistance. The initiative is providing support to six countries to help bring ICT services to rural areas.

"Broadband connectivity is essential in accessing the global entertainment market, since large files must be rapidly sent between Macedonia and other countries," said Leigh Shamblin, director of the Social Transition Office for USAID/Macedonia.

Once all high schools are linked, training through 3D@E-schools will roll out nation-



USAID/Macedonia  
An advertising poster for the 3D@E-schools program urges students to enroll in technology courses. "Become an animator," it says.

wide. And as more youth enter the business, international companies will tap into Macedonia's youth talent, Shamblin said.

Macedonia is one of the first countries to receive Last Mile Initiative funding, she said.

Total Agency funding for ICT in Macedonia has exceeded \$18 million over the past three years, coming from the mission, the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia, the Global Development Alliance, and the Last Mile Initiative. Through public-private partnerships, the Agency is leveraging \$7 million over three years to provide broadband access throughout the country.

The 3D@E-schools program constitutes three USAID projects—EDC E-school, Community Self-Help Initiative, and Macedonia Competitiveness Activity—as well as a Macedonian NGO, Digital Media training center. ★

## U.S.-Backed Group Wins Petersburg Prize for Development Projects



John Staatz, Michigan State University

This market in Kati, Mali, is monitored regularly by Observatoire du marché agricole (Agricultural Market Watch), a market information system set up with help from Michigan State University under a USAID grant. The organization reports on prices and supplies of agricultural products.

The winner of this year's prestigious Petersburg Prize for the best development project related to ICT is the Grameen Bank-Village Phone program, which is receiving some USAID funding as it expands from Bangladesh to Uganda.

In fact, some 30 of 220 projects that competed for the prize this year and four of eight finalists received Agency support.

The Petersburg Prize, which carries a 100,000 euro cash award, is given out by the Development Gateway Foundation. Winners are encouraged to use at least half the money to train prospective leaders in ICT.

Aside from Grameen's program (see page 6), the other three USAID-funded finalists are

- The Mali Agricultural Market Information Support Team. Known by its French

acronym PASIDMA, it helped set up a system of market watchers who use email, solar-powered computers, and radio broadcasts to help farmers find the best prices for their produce and supplies.

- Radio News Agency 68H, a project in Indonesia that created the nation's only nationwide independent radio news agency. It uses a mix of satellite and internet technologies to provide news and public service programming by radio, with 20 million listeners tuned into 340 radio stations.

- Marco Cáceres's Project Honduras.com. It brings together organizations and individuals to form alliances, publicize needs, and better coordinate aid and relief resources for one of the poorest countries in Latin America. ★

## Satellite Radio Sends Health Talk over Nepalese Peaks to Remote Villages

**KATHMANDU, Nepal**—Radio programs broadcast by satellite are reaching people in hundreds of remote villages that dot much of the country's mountainous landscape, educating them about prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other crucial subjects. For many villagers, it is their first time hearing the radio.

Radio has long been used to deliver health, agricultural, and governmental information to rural people, who are often illiterate. But only half of Nepalese are reached by FM or shortwave radio, which cannot transmit a signal over mountains.

New satellite radio technology, which transmits its signal from space, can reach even the most remote regions.

"Satellite radio technology presents an opportunity to bridge the geographic barriers that isolate so many rural communities in Nepal, promising an information link that could become a useful tool for mission programs," said Jonathan Metzger, internet development advisor at the Bureau for Asia and Near East, which invested \$110,000 in the program.

The Digital Broadcast Initiative (DBI) is an 18-month pilot project bringing radio programming about HIV/AIDS prevention, antitrafficking, and women's empowerment to some 400 listening groups in 19 Nepalese regions.

Each listening group—one per village—received a digital radio and a tape cassette recorder. Residents meet daily or weekly to listen to and discuss the broadcasts, which are often built around drama programs.

Early interviews with listening groups showed a robust appetite for information. Satellite radio has been especially successful in reaching women because many of the listening groups were previously part of a USAID-funded women's program.

After listening to the programming, a girl in the 7th grade asked, "Please talk more and talk directly about HIV/AIDS. Talk about it in a way that I can listen with my family. Then I will feel more comfortable to discuss it in my home."

HIV/AIDS is nowhere near as prevalent in Nepal as in African counties. But the epidemic has been spreading quickly throughout Asia.

Satellite radio can be enhanced if receivers are attached to computers, allowing programming to be stored and replayed at any time.

Home to the world's tallest peak, Mount Everest, Nepal is one of the poorest countries in South Asia. Its population is 24 million. There are few roads, and much travel is done on foot or by ox cart. Agriculture and tourism are mainstays of the economy.

DBI has leveraged \$12 for every \$1 that



Michael Bosse, Equal Access

A women's listening group in a village outside of Hetauda in the Terai region. The village is near a highway that traverses Nepal and is a priority for women's empowerment and HIV/AIDS prevention programs. Many women are married to or interact with truck drivers, and many young women fall prey to traffickers and promises of opportunity in India.

the Agency has invested.

Satellite access for the project is provided by World Space, a company that has satellites covering Asia and Africa.

Equal Access, a nongovernmental organization, designed and is implementing the

program with funding several organizations such as the United Nations.

DBI won one of this year's top five awards for technological innovations benefiting humanity from the Tech Museum in California. ★



## ECONOMIC GROWTH, AGRICULTURE, AND TRADE

## Microloans Are Helping Uganda Villagers Get Mobile Phone Service



Grameen Foundation USA

*Fatima Serwoni, in the village of Namunsi in Mbale district, is one of 700 "village phone" operators throughout Uganda. Serwoni owns a small store, and has taken out 11 microcredit loans, some of which helped pay for the education of her four children.*

**KAMPALA, Uganda**—About 135 miles from this capital, Fatima Serwoni lives in the village of Namunsi, where she owns a small convenience shop and the village's only mobile phone. She lets customers use her cell phone for the same fee they would pay for a pay phone—if Namunsi had one.

Because the closest public pay phone is over two miles away, villagers use Serwoni's phone. In a village with no electricity, she uses an automobile battery to recharge her phone.

Serwoni is one of 700 "village phone" operators—mostly women—throughout Uganda. Each owns a small business and has at least one loan with one of seven microcredit institutions that lend to the poor.

Each new village phone owner borrows enough money to buy a kit with a mobile phone, antenna, connection cables, and a roadside advertising sign.

MTN Uganda, the country's largest phone operator, sells prepaid minutes to the village phone operators at a discounted rate. This allows the women to make enough to repay their loans and earn a profit.

Serwoni has taken out 11 loans from a local microlending institution. She used the first loans to stock up the shelves of her store. Then she borrowed to send four of her children to school.

"We thought that the village phone model was a great way to enable microcredit borrowers to use a technology tool to both establish a viable business for themselves and help people in their communities to have better access to communication," said Tim Woods, the program manager with the Grameen Technology Center, a distant cousin of the Grameen Bank, the pioneering

microcredit institution that has loaned some \$4 billion in South Asia since 1976.

Grameen Telecom, another cousin in the Grameen family, has run a village phone program in Bangladesh since 1997. That program recently won the Petersburg Prize, a prestigious technology-in-development award, in recognition of its power as a model of telecommunications innovation.

The first phones were shipped to Ugandan village operators in March 2003. By 2008, the program aims to reach 5,000 small business owners and serve 5 million people.

USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Agriculture, and Trade (EGAT) invested \$25,000 in the program in its early days. The funds helped pay for an expert from Grameen Bank to help replicate the Bangladesh program in Uganda.

There is a major difference in the Uganda model versus the program in Bangladesh, which relied on substantial labor to produce and process monthly statements and bills. This was found to be uneconomical in Uganda, and was replaced with a precard card billing system.

"Grameen requested EGAT's assistance at a critical, early stage," said Jeff Cochrane, EGAT team leader for information technology. "We are particularly intrigued by the business model for village phones as one of many innovations in our basket of solutions under the Administrator's Last Mile Initiative. We see great potential to replicate this model worldwide."

The Last Mile Initiative seeks to expand voice and internet services to underserved populations in developing countries. It focuses on rural areas, especially seeking to benefit small business owners. ★

## GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

## Leasing Company Helps Armenian Firms Get Equipment

**YEREVAN, Armenia**—Farmers, dentists, and businessmen in Armenia can lease equipment and pay for it over time instead of raising money upfront to buy it, thanks to a public-private partnership of local and international financial companies.

Originally meant to help farmers obtain tractors and other equipment, the first leasing company in Armenia has also helped a dentist starting his own practice acquire dental equipment.

It also helped a yeast company get packaging equipment to compete against imports.

Loans are hard to come by in post-Soviet Armenia. The lack of credit is a major brake on small and medium-sized companies struggling to take the place of failed, state-owned enterprises.

In a leasing arrangement, a lender retains ownership of the asset. The leasing company can take back its property, should a client stop paying. But once a client pays off a lease, the equipment is his to keep.

A leasing company earns a profit by charging clients to use its property. Clients need to show they can generate enough cash to pay every month. If the leased equipment raises a client's productivity and earnings, the arrangement is a win-win proposition.

More than 80 separate leases—involving \$1 million worth of equipment—had been signed as of July 2004 by the Agricultural Cooperative Bank of Armenia Leasing Company. The revenues generated from leasing equipment should eventually allow the business to run without donor subsidies.

"This public-private investment shows that it's possible to create private enterprises that

serve the needs of developing economies," said John Caracciolo, who manages the project for USAID.

USAID helped Armenia revise legislation and establish a system for registering movable property, contributing \$1.2 million in technical assistance and seed capital.

The Agency leveraged an additional \$1 million in shareholder equity and \$3 million in line-of-credit financing from the French bank, Credit Agricole, the Lebanese Leasing Company, and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), which is the market-based lending arm of the World Bank.

"Bank loans usually require collateral and extensive paperwork—leasing doesn't," said Carraciolo. "Leasing is a good alternative for startup businesses that don't have a credit history or collateral. And it increases capital investment in an economy and competes with bank lending."

The leasing company is a subsidiary of the Agricultural Cooperative Bank of Armenia, and works out of its branches throughout the country.

Since the company buys equipment at a client's request, increased market demand—for tractors in particular—is reshaping the market. The first set of farmers who wanted to lease tractors preferred a Chinese tractor over the Belarusian model available on the local market.

A devastating earthquake in 1988, the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, and the collapse of the Russian ruble in 1993 left the Armenian economy in shambles and spelled an end to the large-scale, state-owned agricultural and industrial enterprises of the Soviet-era economy. ★



Development Alternatives, Inc.

*Farmers of Lori Marz, Armenia, inspect new tractors and other mechanized agricultural equipment available through lease contracts.*



## DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

## Schools and Shelter Provided to Filipinos Who Fled Fighting



Save the Children

A teacher helps a preschooler with her letters in a learning center for internally displaced people in Papalungan Maguidanao. The center was established by the Filipino NGO Community and Family Services International, a member of the Mindanao Emergency Response Network.

**MANILA, Philippines**—Tens of thousands of people displaced from their homes in Mindanao by fighting between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the Philippine government have been offered shelter and their children offered schooling through a new U.S. humanitarian aid program.

Although a ceasefire was declared in 2001, about 400,000 people fled their homes after a resurgence of the conflict in 2003. Many have returned since a ceasefire was reestablished, but insecurity and extreme poverty continue to burden the region.

A network of 40 local and international NGOs came together in 2003 to provide assistance to the displaced. More than 50,000 displaced residents have benefited from their aid.

The Mindanao Emergency Response Network (MERN), set up through Save the Children, “symbolizes a Mindanao where diverse people live in harmony,” said Cynthia Guerra, the program manager.

USAID invested \$550,000 in the project, which began in March 2003 and runs for two years. The network set up two stockpiles of emergency supplies such as blankets, shelter materials, and mosquito nets in Cotabato City and Zamboanga City.

Save the Children also provides grants for humanitarian assistance projects of up to \$5,000 to local NGOs such as Community and Family Services International, which fixed four emergency shelters.

The shelters are also being used as emergency learning centers for children in the displaced persons camp. Volunteers serve as teachers.

Grants have also been given to groups assisting children and adults with disabilities, providing psychosocial assistance, building and repairing water systems, and

establishing emergency medical and dental programs.

Other small grants trained local NGO staff on how best to deliver humanitarian assistance. Training sessions addressed topics such as emergency assessments and return or reintegration of internally displaced persons. The NGO members also adopted joint performance standards and a code of conduct.

The project has had its challenges. Organizing MERN members to cooperate on the emergency response network took time and effort. Last August, Save the Children staff member Theresa Marquez drowned when her boat capsized while she was delivering emergency supplies.

As a followup to the network, USAID plans a new project to assist people who have returned to their home communities in the Liguasan Marsh area of Central Mindanao. It will offer emergency water and sanitation services—such as repairing wells—and will provide fishing nets, agricultural seeds and tools, and other items so that families can restart their lives and livelihoods.

Although the government reached a peace agreement with the MNLF in 1996, the MILF—a splinter group—continues the decades-long conflict with the Philippine government.

The MILF publicly condemned terrorism in 2003, but the death of its leader, Salamat Hashim, left negotiations with President Gloria Arroyo’s government in limbo.

The ceasefire has generally held in the past year and, with the May election of a new Arroyo administration, it is hoped that formal peace negotiations will resume soon. ★

Sarah McNiece contributed to this article.

## GLOBAL HEALTH

## Nigerian Journalists Monitor, Counter HIV/AIDS Stigma

**ABUJA, Nigeria**—A year ago, Journalists Against AIDS, a nongovernmental organization (NGO) more commonly known as JAAIDS, became Africa’s leading NGO delegate to the board of the United Nations’ Program on HIV/AIDS.

A year later, at the 15th International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, the group presented several papers discussing lessons learned and ways to fight stigma and discrimination against people living with the disease.

JAAIDS, which educates Nigerian journalists about HIV/AIDS, has received some \$195,000 in funding from USAID to train reporters, provide them with various tools and resources, and monitor and analyze media coverage of HIV-positive persons.

About 4 million of Nigeria’s 137 million people live with HIV/AIDS. But with some 170,000 new cases annually of the disease, fighting discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS and raising awareness for the need for affordable treatment in Nigeria are issues that USAID wants to support, said Sandra Jordan of the Bureau for Global Health.

“The media forms a critical component in informing, shaping, and influencing societal values, perceptions, and attitudes towards literally any subject,” she said. “The need for the media to be comprehensively involved in the fight against the [HIV/AIDS] pandemic is crucial.”

Over the past two years, JAAIDS trained some 200 reporters on how to look for accurate data regarding HIV/AIDS and write in ways that do not stigmatize people with AIDS.

The group also holds 11 media roundtables a year. At July’s roundtable, the topic of discussion was the spread of HIV/AIDS in Nigerian prisons. Among the speakers

was the medical director of the Nigerian Prisons Service. Participating journalists learned about the growing problem, and later organized a prison tour to see the problem first-hand.

JAAIDS organizes similar policy roundtable discussions and workshops to bring together journalists with healthcare providers and people living with AIDS.

Aside from training and discussion, the group offers information tools and some oversight for Nigerian media.

JAAIDS publishes a monthly analysis of HIV/AIDS print media coverage, which is distributed to media editors and reporters and posted online. JAAIDS staff sift through Nigeria’s major daily newspapers and eight weekly magazines, examining the use of language, presentation, prominence of usage, topics covered, use of pictures and illustrations, and sources of information.

The group annually hands out an award to reporters and news organizations in recognition of coverage focused on prevention and care of HIV/AIDS.

To help reporters stay abreast of HIV/AIDS news, JAAIDS runs several websites and newsletters. An example is AIDS News Service, a 16-page monthly bulletin about HIV/AIDS and reproductive health problems that goes out to some 4,000 reporters, editors, and media managers free of charge.

JAAIDS also runs a website that features policy documents, research reports, studies, and news relevant to the HIV/AIDS situation in Nigeria and statistics on the epidemic for 16 countries in West Africa.

Although based in Nigeria, JAAIDS has lent a helping hand to reporters in neighboring countries such as Kenya and Ethiopia. ★



Omololu Falobi, Journalists Against AIDS

Examples of HIV/AIDS reporting in Nigerian newspapers are collected by Journalists Against AIDS.



# Volunteers Find Personal Ways to Deliver Help

Although the 8,000 Agency employees around the world are all helping to deliver America's humanitarian and development assistance, many staffers in Washington, D.C., have found volunteering is a way to feel a personal involvement in what otherwise can be a remote bureaucracy.

People who serve food to patients with AIDS or serve on a school board give of their time in a direct way that they say feels rewarding and satisfying.

Writing contracts, auditing shipments of grain, and handling the program funds or policies for billions of dollars in U.S. foreign aid often ends up as an office-bound occupation that never touches the people who benefit from aid.

This month, *FrontLines* interviewed a few of the many Agency staffers who give of themselves in volunteering for tasks that give that more personal touch. Their stories are featured on these two pages. ★

## Chopping and Cooking for Charity is Hands-On Aid



Nick Swedberg, USAID

Left to right: Barbara Mascarenas, Beata Czajkowska, and Shamila Chaudhary work in the Office of Democracy and Governance and volunteer their free time at a Food and Friends kitchen.

Chopping for charity: that is how the three volunteers jokingly refer to their once-a-week stint helping out at the Food and Friends kitchen, which makes and delivers meals and groceries for people living with AIDS and other life-challenging diseases.

"It's something different from the office: it's a lot more tangible than being a bureaucrat," said Beata Czajkowska, who has volunteered since November. "We mostly deal with papers and directives. We're far removed from the field."

"Right," added Barbara Mascarenas, who started at Food and Friends six months earlier. "With this you know that a few days after you've made the meal it's going to be served to someone."

The two women—along with Shamila Chaudhary—work at the Information Unit within USAID's Office of Democracy and Governance.

"We had been talking about doing something like tutoring—there are so many things one can do," said Chaudhary. "And this organization turned out to be very viable and dynamic. They are very organized."

During their first few weeks, Chaudhary

and Czajkowska packed meals. When they showed commitment to coming in every Monday night, they were reassigned to chopping vegetables.

"It's fascinating to see how a big commercial kitchen works," Czajkowska said. "In your own kitchen, you get three peppers to chop for dinner. Here, you get 20 pounds of peppers! But you get used to it."

While her coworkers volunteer on Monday nights, Mascarenas helps out with the cooking at Food and Friends on early Wednesday mornings.

"If I miss a day I feel bad, because I know my friends have to stay later preparing meals," she said. "And it's a little self-serving too, because I love to cook."

Mascarenas and Chaudhary have volunteered before—at tutoring—working with immigrant youth and the Peace Corps. They said Food and Friends is far more satisfying.

"We are like an army of people who are chopping and portioning meals," said Chaudhary. "We go, see what needs to be done, and get it done." ★

<http://www.foodandfriends.org/>

## Wallin's Gospel Piano Cheers Metro Center Homeless



Kathryn Stratos, USAID

Ukraine desk officer Bob Wallin plays for 8 a.m. services at Epiphany Episcopal Church.

The 8 a.m. congregation at Washington's Epiphany Episcopal Church sways to gospel standards such as "Amazing Grace" and "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms," thanks to Ukraine desk officer Bob Wallin.

Drawing on his Baptist upbringing, Wallin shares his piano-playing skills and gospel repertoire with about 200 worshippers, most of them homeless.

The 1844 stucco church in the shadows of Metro Center office buildings welcomes the area's homeless with an early morning service and a hot breakfast every Sunday.

"I've met a whole group of people I wouldn't have met otherwise," said Wallin, who helped transform the church's poorly attended 8 a.m. service into a way to reach out to the homeless nine years ago.

He calls it "an unvarnished experience, no pretenses."

"What I discovered personally is that the homeless are nameless and faceless

all week, and the one thing that turns the conversation positive is if you call a person by name. So people wear name tags," he added.

Volunteers arrive at 6:30 a.m. to cook a meal of grits, bacon, sausage, biscuits, and eggs. Recovering alcoholics and drug addicts come at 7:15 a.m. for a 12-step meeting. A social worker who "got hooked" offers counseling and referrals.

The rector often will put his sermon aside and invite the congregation to a discussion instead. Worshippers participate by doing the Bible readings or helping set up for breakfast.

"While this is not developmental in nature, it serves a real need—and not just to eat," said Wallin. "Some regulars have been coming as long as I've been doing this. A sense of community is growing, where they can feel safe and can relate in a different way than they do the rest of the week." ★



## Gregory Helps Fix Homes through Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Work



Courtesy of Celeste Gregory

Celeste Gregory, third from right in top row, and Habitat for Humanity volunteers.

Celeste Gregory is not afraid to get her hands dirty.

For years, she has helped poor people rebuild their ceilings or retile their bathrooms and kitchens through Habitat for Humanity, a nonprofit group that helps people living in substandard housing around the world.

"I spend my week working with the developing world, with individuals who don't have as many opportunities as we do," said Gregory, 25, who is regional assistant for Africa within the Bureau for Global Health. "But I also recognize that there are needs

here in the United States as well, and so I want to help here at home."

Gregory first volunteered where she grew up, on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. When she moved to the Washington, D.C., region two years ago, she became more involved with her church parish, the Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Georgetown.

She is now the head of the young adult group, a set of 20- and 30-somethings who volunteer with various nonprofit groups, usually on Saturdays.

"We participate in various volunteer activities, like Hands on Housing, which is parish-based activity similar to Habitat for Humanity," she said. "Right now the parish is renovating and rehabilitating three houses in Columbia Heights."

Gregory said she volunteers because her parents taught their two daughters to always help those in need. She was further drawn to volunteering after she attended a Jesuit university.

"Jesuits are very focused on social justice, so through that experience I learned even more about the importance of giving my time to help others," Gregory said.

As if her plate were not full enough, she is now thinking about volunteering with the Red Cross or with the International Rescue Committee, an organization that helps refugees resettle in the United States. ★

## Kaufman Promotes Democracy Abroad but Practices It in Maryland



Kathryn Stratos, USAID

Joshua Kaufman, democracy officer, is active on the county school board.

When Joshua Kaufman and his wife moved to Howard County a decade ago, Kaufman decided to get involved with the local community.

A democracy and governance officer covering Asia and the Near East, Kaufman's interest in governance first led him to volunteer on Howard County's ethics commission, which supervises public officials and county employees. He chaired the commission for three of the four years he sat on it.

Then last year a member of the Board of Education resigned, and Kaufman found himself appointed to the post.

"It's mornings and evenings and weekends—it's at least 40 hours a week," he said. "It's like a second full-time job, which is pretty difficult when you take into account that I commute an hour and a half each way."

As a member of the Board of Education, Kaufman, 33, attends at least two unofficial

weekly meetings as well as two nearly day-long official monthly meetings.

"Prior to joining the board I rarely used my annual leave," he said. "But since joining the board I've been dipping into that time."

Maryland's Howard County is half way between Washington and Baltimore. It is home to 270,000 citizens—50,000 of them are school children.

"One reason I became interested in development is the notion of helping people, and that's what education is about, too," Kaufman said. "Beyond that, the two are very different."

The board works in three areas. Through its executive function, it manages the school superintendent, overseeing student performance and the financial integrity of the school system.

Through its legislative function, the board sets policies.

And through its judicial arm, it hears appeals by employees alleging to have been wrongly fired by the school system or by parents who feel suspension is too strong a punishment for their child's misbehavior.

"Eventually I'll get burned out," said Kaufman, who is a father of two.

When his term runs out in November 2006, Kaufman will have to decide whether to run for reelection. Either way, with one child in the school system and another on the way, he will remain a volunteer, in whatever capacity. ★

## Tucker Is Church Youth Advisor

Cynthia Tucker and her daughter are youth advisers at their church.

Tucker got involved when she encouraged her shy, younger daughter to get more involved in the church youth group. "It didn't seem right to me to just drop her off," Tucker said.

Tucker, who works in the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs, sat in on the youth Bible study, meetings, and choir practice, so "it was easy for them to draft me!"

Today, as one of her church's youth advisers, Tucker helps with youth activities and leads the youth ushers who serve at services twice a month.

At a yearly youth revival, participants sing, usher, read scriptures, and hear sermons by the church's youth minister.

Tucker and her fellow youth advisers organize other events, as well. For a weekend in July, seven of them took 30 children and teenagers to the Six Flags amusement park in New Jersey. As Tucker said, "It was a real trip."

Asked whether she is in tune with today's youth, Tucker said she might be "somewhat



Nick Swedberg, USAID

Cynthia Tucker of Legislative and Public Affairs, who is a church volunteer.

more up-to-date" than other adults, but that "kids always seem to be two steps ahead of you—they only let you know what they want to let you know." ★

## Gray Involved with Boy Scouts



Courtesy of Hal Gray

Harold Gray works with Boy Scouts.

Nineteen years ago Harold Gray's sons decided to follow in their father's footsteps and join the Boy Scouts. Gray was thrilled.

So thrilled that today—while his sons, 25 and 27, have moved well beyond their scouting days—Gray still shows troops in Bethesda how to tie knots.

"I continue to derive pleasure from working with other adults in scouting and from supporting a program that I believe is a real benefit to young people in an age as complex as ours, when families may not always have sufficient quality time together," said Gray, who is known to his coworkers in the Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination as "Hal."

Having been a cubmaster and scoutmaster, Gray has done his share of scouting outings, taking troops of boys hiking, canoeing, and

caving.

In recent years, he has become more involved with the local administration of the Boy Scouts, an organization that last year worked with some 3.2 million boys throughout the United States.

Recently, Gray helped his local troop organize for a community 4th of July parade. Otherwise, he has been preparing to take on a position as assistant council commissioner, through which he will work at the council level to help local districts of the Boy Scouts improve programming.

"It's about character building, physical development, and community and civil participation," Gray said of the Boy Scouts. "And I've always enjoyed the outdoors, the camaraderie, and working with young people." ★



## AFRICA

## Tanzania Pushes Internet to Countryside

**DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania**—Last July, the government began carrying out a new strategy to extend the use of computers to all corners of Tanzania in order to educate people and further development.

Since then, hardware import taxes were lifted, creating a boom in computer sales. Competition among startup service providers has increased, and cybercafés are abundant.

Information communication technology (ICT) is mainly used in Tanzania's major cities and remains rare in rural areas—a situation the government has been trying to change.

"ICT provides a channel for incoming and outgoing information, and in doing so empowers people to do any number of things, from improving health or agricultural practices to improving performance in schools to holding leaders accountable," said Daniel Moore, ICT coordinator at USAID/Tanzania. "In other words, the internet can bring the benefits of the global information revolution to the people of Tanzania."

The USAID mission has been integrating ICT into its own development goals for the past two years, receiving funding from the Leland Initiative, an Agency initiative spreading the use of ICT in Africa.

Last year, the mission health team set up internet service in Iringa, in the southwest highlands, serving 400 users at a telecenter in the Primary Health Care Institute.

The \$150,000 telecenter includes a multimedia computer lab, internet access, and a starter website. It connects users that are within a 10 kilometer radius, and is mostly used by local university campuses, government agencies, and international organizations.

Local residents and businesses also want to hook up to the telecenter's wireless technology, but the site does not yet have the capacity for so many users. That capacity will be increased if USAID uses the Iringa site as one of its pilots under the Last Mile Initiative (see pages 4–5).

The mission is also using ICT to protect the environment by supporting a local NGO, the Institute for Environmental Innovation. The NGO uses Palm Pilots and the Global Positioning System to audit tree planting and collect data on carbon storage. When it sees that trees are well cared for, it awards small cash stipends to the program participants.

Trees help remove carbon, a greenhouse gas that contributes to global climate change, from the air.

Future ICT programs planned by the mission will be built around a toolkit that will support ICT integration across all of the mission's programs and provide strategic policy and regulatory assistance to the Tanzanian government to help give rural and urban areas greater access to ICT. ★



USAID/Tanzania

The Primary Health Care Institute telecenter in Iringa is available to members of local university campuses, government agencies, and international organizations.

## LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

## Jamaican NGO Fights AIDS Among High-Risk Groups Through Voluntary Counseling and Testing

**KINGSTON, Jamaica**—The oldest local group fighting AIDS in this island nation was given a significant boost through U.S. assistance to offer voluntary counseling and testing services to sex workers and homosexuals in three regions.

Confidential one-on-one and group counseling will also be offered by Jamaica AIDS Support (JAS), founded in 1991, which is expanding its service with the help of \$200,000 from a partnership between USAID and giant drugmaker Merck & Co., Inc.

JAS was awarded the new funds after a January visit by U.S. public and private sector officials to several health facilities working with HIV/AIDS patients.

The group's focus on prevention education among marginalized groups and its wide reach to affected population were among the reasons it was selected for the grant, according to Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean Adolfo Franco, who led the visit.

"I know of a young Jamaican AIDS victim, Joseph, a 5-year-old boy in rural St. Catherine, whose parents died of AIDS," he said. "And I am familiar with how much he suffered in trying to overcome the stigma of the disease at school."

JAS, based in Kingston, employs 33 staff members and more than 300 volunteers.

The funding will allow the group to work with hospitals and hospices in Kingston, Ocho Rios, and Montego Bay to provide psychosocial, medical, and nutritional support to HIV/AIDS patients. JAS will also expand and improve its financial management systems and reporting capabilities, while also increasing outreach.

HIV/AIDS is the second leading cause of death in children under 4 in Jamaica, and is the second leading cause of death for women aged 20–29.

The Caribbean Basin has the second highest adult prevalence rate of AIDS in the world after Africa. The disease is the leading cause of death among 15–44 year-olds in the Caribbean.

Merck granted \$40,000 to JAS, and USAID plans to invest some \$160,000 over the next five years in the organization to ensure its sustainability and support its services.

"The public sector must be aware of the impact of these partnerships in helping to address this epidemic, particularly within marginalized groups, which are unfairly stigmatized and discriminated against," said Ramon Riancho of Merck.

"The role that private companies such as Merck can play in turning the fight against HIV/AIDS in Jamaica is through the establishment and support of public-private partnerships," Riancho said.

Merck has a foundation and three charitable committees that provide funds to NGOs worldwide; one of the committees focuses on HIV/AIDS.

The company's profit-making efforts related to the disease include discovering and producing medications to fight AIDS. Merck already produces two antiretroviral drugs, which are sold in 60 countries at cost of manufacture. ★



Jamaica AIDS Support

Nurse Tonya Clarke of the JAS Kingston Chapter tries to get boys who are HIV/AIDS-positive to concentrate on their reading.



## ASIA AND THE NEAR EAST

# Aid to Pakistan's Government Schools Gives Poor Parents an Alternative to Madrassas

**ISLAMABAD, Pakistan**—Improving primary and secondary education and enrolling more children in school—especially girls—is perhaps the biggest goal for the major U.S. aid program that in 2002 resumed operations in this important U.S. ally in the war against terror.

Thousands of children here attend madrassas—Muslim religious schools—because parents lack confidence in the public education system and are too poor to afford other means of education.

Some madrassas teach students to hate non-Muslims and fight holy wars in places such as Afghanistan. USAID's efforts to improve education aim to give parents alternatives.

U.S. aid to Pakistan was cut over nuclear proliferation concerns in the mid-1990s, but it was resumed when the country became an important U.S. ally in the war against terrorism.

Since the USAID mission reopened, it has spent \$25 million a year on education. Congress is considering a substantial increase for next year, which would double the amount.

The program is training 55,000 teachers how to keep students' attention and encourage them to think analytically rather than memo-

rizing lessons.

By 2005, about 150 teachers will have completed four-month training programs in mathematics, science, and English at three U.S. universities.

These teachers will train other Pakistani educators and assist NGOs in the provinces of Balochistan, on the border with Afghanistan, and Sindh, in south-central Pakistan.

"We are here because these areas have historically received few education resources," said Mission Director Lisa Chiles. "The second reason is because we are helping to contribute to the war on terror, in that if parents feel their children are getting a valuable education, then they are much more likely to keep them in school and out of trouble."

Only two-thirds of some 21 million primary school-aged children have access to schooling. Only 50 percent remain in school past the 5th grade.

The mission is also working in the tribal areas bordering Afghanistan, where only 29 percent of men and 3 percent of women are literate. In collaboration with the Embassy of Japan, USAID is refurbishing and rehabilitating 130 schools.

"You find a one-room structure, with three walls and no fourth or four walls and no roof,

or you see kids sitting under a tree because the building has been condemned," Chiles said. "We are buying desks, blackboards, and other classroom materials in order to give these kids a proper school environment."

Latrines are provided, too, since research showed that one reason parents do not send girls to school is the lack of separate latrines. "By paying attention to small details like that, we are having a very positive impact on the number of students that go to school," said Chiles.

The Agency helped open 120 adult literacy centers for similar reasons. Illiterate parents are less interested in their children's school performance or are embarrassed about their own lack of knowledge. Providing them with access to education directly influences their interest in ensuring that their children go to and stay in school.

Other USAID-funded education efforts in Pakistan include working with the government to decentralize education planning and allowing districts to allocate resources as they see fit; helping the Ministry of Education carry out an early childhood education program, which prepares children for entering primary school; and encouraging public-private partnerships to invest in the education sector. ★



USAID/Pakistan

*A 5th-grade student reviews a lesson with her classmates in an urban school.*

## EUROPE AND EURASIA

# Business Advice, Loans Help Ukraine Artists

**CHERNIHIV, Ukraine**—Engineers by education and artists by nature, Tetyana and Oleksandr Zhohalko worked most of their lives at the state-run artisans' association, where they were stifled by a system that did not reward ingenuity. For years they dreamt of having their own gallery.

Five years ago, their lives reached a

point of desperation that led them to follow through on their dream. Husband and wife both lost their jobs; she underwent cancer surgery, and could go on a meager pension.

That is when they heard of the USAID-supported Women's Business Support Center, which offers entrepreneurship training and access to loans through the

Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) project.

Tetyana Zhohalko signed up and completed entrepreneurship training. She got a loan from the credit union and opened a workshop with her husband.

Two loans later, they run a gallery—"Steep Staircase"—and sell a variety of glass, ceramics, and wooden knickknacks such as candleholders, carved wall decorations, paintings, and kitchenware. They employ six artisans.

Zhohalko is one of 7,000 Ukrainian women who have trained at the Women's Business Support Center, a partnership between USAID and local NGOs that supports business-skill training in six Ukrainian cities.

Workshops through the project teach marketing, accounting, finance, logistics, human resource management, strategic management, and business planning.

More than 1,000 women have started or expanded a business with the help of nearly \$1 million worth of loans that the WEE project has awarded through credit unions. Most are cafés, food stores, dressmaking shops, hairdressing salons, second-hand clothes shops, bakeries, or cosmetic salons.

These new, women-run businesses have created nearly 2,500 jobs.

"In underdeveloped market economies, women do not have equal rights with men.

Sexual stereotypes persist. There are very few women in Ukraine with high managerial positions," said Tatiana Rastrigina, who manages the WEE project for USAID.

Eighty percent of unemployed workers in Ukraine are women. The average woman's salary is 30 percent lower than a man's.

The Zhohalkos were lucky they both found work through the wife's training. Their gallery is thriving, and they are members of the Public Creative Association, a group of artisans that puts on exhibitions and organizes excursions and lectures for kids and students of folk art in Chernihiv and other cities.

The association also organizes charity exhibitions and lectures raising funds to support children affected by the Chernobyl disaster and fellow craftsmen who are without work.

"Our business is seasonal; it is easier to earn money in summer. That's why we will soon go to Kyiv and other cities around Ukraine to present Chernihiv-style woodwork, ceramics, and glass, and teach people about its specific unique characteristics," said Zhohalko.

The \$3.3 million WEE project started in February 1999 and ended in July. A new WEE project is designed and expected to be awarded during the fall. ★



Larissa Piskunova, USAID/Ukraine

*Tetyana Zhohalko displays a carved wooden piece at the gallery she runs with her husband, Oleksandr.*

*Larissa Piskunova contributed to this article.*



## WHERE IN THE WORLD...

May 30, 2004–July 10, 2004

## PROMOTED

Kimberly J. Ball  
Milton Bruce Baltas  
Sylvia Bryant-Moten  
Sheila H. Bumpass  
Juan E. Calvo  
Elizabeth L. Franklin  
Osvaldo L. Gratacos  
Franklin F. Gunn  
Jean A. Jackson  
Cynita V. Knight  
Beverly J. McDonald  
Anthony M. Mira  
Cecilia D. Pitas  
Kristine M. Rife  
Brant A. Silvers  
Sharonne C. Williams  
Edith M. Wilson

## MOVED ON

Larry K. Crandall  
Larry A. Garber  
John Gunning  
Mark A. Kneidinger  
Mary Frances Likar  
George C. Meray  
Constance Berry Newman  
Nadia Shamari  
Todd M. Sorenson  
George S. Stewart

## RETIRED

Rose Marie Depp  
Ana R. Klenicki  
Peter F. Kranstover  
Anthony J. Meyer  
Rebecca J. Niec  
Karen J. Nurick  
Rita L. Owen  
Sanath Kumar Reddy  
Michael T. Smokovich  
Robert A. Van Horn

## REASSIGNED

**Donald J. Brady**  
Nigeria to Afghanistan/EXO

**Arthur W. Brown**  
Guinea/CONT to Nigeria

**Jayne Carbone**  
O/S LANG TRNG to Egypt/PROC

## REASSIGNED

**Brian S. Conklin**  
Ukraine/RCONT to RS/Africa/RFMO

**Peter Duffy**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Pakistan/PDO

**Polly C. Dunford Zahar**  
Haiti/PHN to Nigeria

**William K. Elderbaum**  
Peru/EXO to Guatemala/EXO

**Stephanie A. Funk**  
Zimbabwe/PDIS to USAID REP/Sudan

**Richard J. Gold**  
PPC/SPP to Egypt/HDD

**Terry L. Hardt**  
Afghanistan/PDO to COMP/FS/Reassign

**Margaret M. Harritt**  
Pakistan/PDO to CA/EW

**Stephen F. Herbaly**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Nigeria

**Stephanie A. Hunter**  
RIG/San Salvador to OIG/A/PA

**Marcus A. Johnson Jr.**  
Mali/D to India/RCO

**Michael S. Karbeling**  
AFR/WA to LAC/SA

**Charles G. Knight**  
Bosnia-Herzegovina to Senegal/EXO

**Ellen Leddy**  
LAC/SA to LAC/SPO

**Laura W. Libanati**  
LAC/SA to LAC/CAM

**LaTanya S. Mapp**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Mali/PROG

**Lawrence A. Meserve**  
DCHA/OTI to Indonesia/PROG

**Timothy J. Miller**  
Peru/OFA to EGAT/AG/ATGO

**Kitts Michele Moloney**  
RS Africa/S03 HEA to COMP/Detail/SUP

**Aleathea P. Musah**  
COMP/FS/Reassign to DROC

**Alfred Nakatsuma**  
EGAT/PR/UP to DCHA/OTI

**Catherine N. Niarchos**  
Honduras/MDI to DCHA/DG/SAR

**John P. Nicholson**  
RIG/Budapest to Egypt/FM

**Karla A. Robinson**  
OIG/A/PA to RIG/Cairo

**Brian D. Rudert**  
Guatemala/RD to Romania

## REASSIGNED

**Kevin C. Sharp**  
COMP/NE/OJT to Ukraine/PRIV

**Timothy R. Shortley**  
DCHA/FFP/DP to DCHA/CMM

**Scott A. Stofel**  
Senegal/D to COMP/Detail/SUP

**Michael F. Walsh**  
COMP/LT TRNG to DCHA/FFP

## IN MEMORIAM

**John H. Austin**, 75, died August 17, 2004, at his home in Arlington, Va. A sanitary engineer, Austin worked to improve water supply, sanitation, and public health internationally. Many in the Agency identified him with the Water and Sanitation for Health (WASH) project. Austin retired as Global Health's senior water and sanitation advisor in March 2004. He started with USAID as an environmental engineer in 1981. Previously, Austin had worked for the U.S. Public Health Service, served in Vietnam with the U.S. Operations Mission in 1957–59, received a Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley in 1963, and taught at the University of Illinois and Clemson University. At the time of his death, Austin was a part-time advisor for USAID. He was recognized with a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Bureau for Global Health in May 2004.

**Roberto Leon de Vivero**, 61, passed away January 9, 2004, in his home in South Easton, Mass. A native of Peru, de Vivero joined USAID after serving as Vista volunteer in Texas. De Vivero served as a foreign service officer in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Bolivia, El Salvador, and Washington, D.C. He retired in 1993. An expert mountain climber, de Vivero was one of only three called upon in 1985 to search for an Eastern Airlines plane at 20,000 feet after it crashed into Mt. Illimani, the peak overlooking La Paz, Bolivia.

**Peter B. Kresge**, 58, died August 9, 2004, in Washington, D.C., surrounded by family and friends. Joining USAID in 1987, Kresge served in Egypt, Ghana, Morocco, Nepal, and Washington. The son of a USAID foreign service officer, Kresge started his own development career as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tunisia in the 1970s.

## REASSIGNED

**Crystal N. Weathersby**  
OIG/A/IT&SA to RIG/Dakar

**Sandra S. Williams**  
RS/Africa/EXO to Malawi/MS

**Laura K. Wilson**  
PPC/SPP/SPA to LPA/CL

He was known for his passion for music, theatre, and his acting and singing talents. He spoke of his love for the theatre in an interview published in the July–August 2003 issue of *FrontLines*.

**Frank J. Moore**, 82, passed away April 27, 2004, in Tucson, Ariz. Moore was a foreign service officer with USAID until his retirement in 1985. He worked primarily on issues of agriculture, rural development, and education. He was fluent in many languages and lived and worked in many countries, including, Iran, Nepal, Nigeria, Thailand, Algeria, Egypt, Cameroon, Afghanistan, Israel, Jordan, Australia, Hungary, and Yugoslavia.

**Kevin C. Rafferty**, 53, of Kensington, Md., died August 19 of cancer. Rafferty served as the commodity freight specialist in the Office of Private Voluntary Cooperation, and was the Agency's principal advisor to private voluntary organizations (PVOs) on commodity freight programs. Rafferty joined USAID's Office of Financial Management in 1977, and began working with PVO programs in 1990. He was chair of the Ocean Freight Review Committee, and managed the Ocean Freight Reimbursement and Denton programs. Rafferty helped develop policy guidelines and operating procedures for the Denton Program, which provides free transportation overseas of humanitarian goods donated by private individuals and organizations. He also worked closely with the departments of State and Defense, with which USAID jointly administers the program, to make it successful. When his illness no longer permitted him to leave the house, Rafferty worked from home. His staff commended his way of leading by example, never asking anyone to do something he would not do himself. ★



# WHERE IN THE WORLD...

## Inspector General Mosley Retires



Inspector General Everett Mosley.

Inspector General Everett Mosley retires in September after 10 years at USAID's Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and 25 years with the OIG at the U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA).

During the 1970s and 80s, Mosley worked for USDA in Columbus, Ohio; Chicago; and Hyattsville, Md; before being posted to headquarters in Washington, D.C.

He first worked on international programs auditing USDA's food aid programs and meat inspection and grading sites overseas.

Overseas you sometimes find "bribes and other corruption is a way of life," Mosley said. But he found "most people are honest." Problems crop up when "people get lax or the system is lax and entices people to do wrong," he said.

Helping the Agency strengthen its accounting and finance systems has been a big part of Mosley's work.

Key to the Agency getting its first clean audit opinion in 2003 was "building in controls upfront."

OIG staff worked closely with Agency staff to put Phoenix, the new Agency finan-

cial management system, into operation in Washington and now overseas.

Emphasizing to management as well as to OIG staff that the office is part of the Agency rather than in opposition to it was crucial, said Mosley.

"We went from no cooperation and not being listened to in the development of the previous computer system to working hand-in-hand to make things better with the Phoenix system."

Moving around the United States, traveling around the world, and meeting people of different backgrounds was probably the best thing about his 35-year career, Mosley said, considering that he was "a boy from a small town in Mississippi."

Initially, Mosley plans to take some time off: to "really retire"—in contrast to retirees who immediately start new jobs and careers—before thinking about what he might want to do next. ★

## Hill Wins Award

Kent R. Hill, Assistant Administrator for Europe and Eurasia, was honored by the National Albanian American Council (NAAC) June 18 with the Mother Teresa Award for Contributions to Peace and Development in the Balkans.

Former Secretary of State James A. Baker also was honored, receiving special recognition for supporting Albania's efforts to embrace democracy.

"I am honored by this recognition," said Hill, who was president of Eastern Nazarene College in Quincy, Mass., before joining USAID.

"I want to give particular credit to hundreds of my USAID colleagues, both U.S. citizens and citizens of the region, and our partners like the NAAC, who are working hard to rebuild this troubled part of the world." ★

## Mike Flannery Retires



Michael Flannery, director of USAID's Office of Security, at his retirement party August 17.

Corbett Michael Flannery, director of USAID's Office of Security for 17 years, drew a large crowd to his retirement party Aug. 17, not long after an equally emotional farewell took place during the senior staff meeting at which Flannery first announced his retirement.

Known as Mike to his colleagues, Flannery was responsible for the direction, management, and supervision of operational security programs supporting USAID missions worldwide and was the principal advisor to the Administrator on security matters.

Flannery is a retired U.S. Army officer—a

highly decorated veteran of the Vietnam War who served for more than 20 years in military intelligence and special operations assignments throughout the world. Among his military awards are the Legion of Merit and four bronze stars.

An eloquent orator, when Flannery spoke to Agency employees on the eve of Veteran's Day in 2003, Tim Beans of the Office of Procurement said the speech was one of the "most moving moments he ever experienced."

Flannery joined USAID in 1987. He was a career member of the Senior Executive Service. ★

### COSTA RICA: A LOOK BACK

Did you or someone you know work with the USAID mission in Costa Rica? FrontLines would like to run a feature on that now-closed program.

Please email [FrontLines@usaid.gov](mailto:FrontLines@usaid.gov), or call us (202-712-4330) if you have memories you would like to share of any of the mission's programs, officers, or foreign service nationals.

## 'Tish' Butler Retires



"Tish" Butler and Administrator Natsios.

Former bosses and colleagues spoke of Leticia "Tish" Butler's ability to get tough jobs done, one even leading attendees in a "Send Tish" refrain at her retirement party July 29.

Most recently, Butler was director of the Office of Policy Planning in the Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination, where she led the effort to draft a white paper on the Agency's evolving mission. Prior to that, Butler served as deputy director of the Afghanistan task force.

Butler, who joined USAID after finishing graduate school in 1977, said: "I grew up at AID, my life was shaped by AID. I married an AID guy, I almost died with AID. I realized my dream of having a family, thanks to AID."

In retirement, Butler will be working part-time, "still engaged in development work and international affairs." ★

**Suzanne H. Chase**, 56, of Arlington, Va., died August 20 in Mt. Vernon, Va. From 1987 until her retirement in 2003, Chase served as editor of *FrontLines* and edited countless Agency publications, including *Expanding Freedom's Frontier: Foreign Aid in the 1980s*, *USAID Developments*, and the 1989 Woods report, *Development and the National Interest*.

Chase joined USAID as an executive assistant in the Bureau of Food and Voluntary Assistance in 1984 before moving to the Office of External Affairs. She won recognition for the Agency's development accomplishments through the production of numerous publications and videos. She also reviewed and edited all major USAID-funded communications efforts.

Colleagues and clients valued her skills, responsiveness, good cheer and kindness. Diagnosed with cancer October 2002, Chase was unfailingly upbeat; she spent her last days enjoying the company of family and friends.



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**J. Edward Fox**, Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs

**Jeffrey Grieco**, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs and Chief, Strategic Communications and Publications Division

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

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

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## Iraq Mass Graves

### ▲ FROM PAGE 1

Rosebani, and Ibrahim (last name withheld), the head of the Iraqi Free Prisoners Association and himself a torture victim of Saddam.

Rosebani previewed his film, *Saddam's Mass Graves*, at many of the appearances. It was produced earlier this year with a grant from USAID.

Ibrahim, whose group was funded by USAID, has collected 164,000 names of Iraqis who were killed or were arrested and disappeared, mainly during the 1991 repression of the Shiites after the Gulf War.

"I spent several years in Saddam's prison," Ibrahim said, speaking through an interpreter. "They pulled out my toenails, gave me electric shock on my body, and hung me in painful ways."

In New York, the three Iraqis addressed Human Rights Watch, which first reported on the vast scale of killings by Saddam Hussein's regime; U.N. diplomats and NGO officials; and foreign journalists at State Department-sponsored Foreign Press Center briefings.

The Agency's abuse prevention officers

have helped Iraqis protect and excavate mass graves and collect lists of the estimated 300,000 people in the mass graves to help heal Iraqi society, Administrator Andrew S. Natsios told the U.N. diplomats and NGOs.

"I wish them all the best of luck as they continue to tell the story of this regime, and what this regime did to its own people," said Secretary of State Colin L. Powell in a private meeting with the three Iraqis at the State Department, "and as they now not only tell about the past, but as they look to the future—as they build a new Iraq founded on respect for the dignity of human beings." ★



Thomas Hartwell, USAID

*Iraqis look at lists of names of victims unearthed from a mass grave in Musayib.*

## Ladies First Premiers

Recovering from genocide and war, Rwanda is finally getting some positive attention. A documentary film featuring efforts of Rwandan women to achieve success was sponsored by USAID and shown to a crowded room at the Ronald Reagan building July 30.

*Ladies First* is the story of three Rwandan women—a city mayor, a coffee entrepreneur, and a parliamentarian—who are at the forefront of reconstruction and development in their country a decade after a bloody genocide that killed an estimated 800,000 people within 100 days.

One of the women profiled is Epiphane Mukashyaka. She lost her husband in the genocide, but kept the family coffee farm going. With USAID assistance, she was even able to build a mill to clean coffee beans.

Mukashyaka's coffee was recently judged by one of the world's top coffee tasters, Ken Davids, as the most exceptional coffee among new coffee varieties.

"We are keenly aware of the effect of conflict on women," said Katherine Blakeslee, director of USAID's Office of Women in Development. "Yet today, women in Rwanda



Colette Kunkel, Thirteen WNET New York

*Women in Rwanda celebrate an engagement.*

are building, governing, and healing their country," she added.

Women now hold 48 percent of seats in Rwanda's lower house of parliament—the highest percentage in a parliament anywhere in the world.

Women also constitute 90 percent of the country's agricultural workforce.

*Ladies First* aired on PBS July 22, and will be repeated several times through October 9. ★

## Sudan Deaths Climb

### ▲ FROM PAGE 1

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

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

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

Rains that began in June turned Darfur's "black cotton soil" into a sticky mess that clings to one's shoes and to truck tires, making movement of relief supplies overland all but impossible, Winter said.

The Agency's Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) has placed two aid workers in each capital of Darfur's three states and ten other staffers in the capital, Khartoum. The Khartoum-based DART members travel regularly throughout Darfur. One more is in Chad, where about 100,000 Sudanese have fled to refugee camps.

More than 2 million people have been affected. Some 700,000 of them have received USAID-supplied plastic shelter materials, but people are falling victim to exposure and loss of strength due to their poor living conditions and lack of adequate food and water, Winter said.

U.S. aid to the Darfur crisis totaled \$192 million as of August 13. The United Nations is asking for about \$600 million in relief aid.

Costs will escalate rapidly as relief groups shift to moving supplies by air to escape

the impassible roads. An official with the Darfur Response Management Team at the Agency headquarters in Washington, D.C., which communicates daily with the DART team in Sudan, said the Swiss were planning to ship food from Libya to Chad using trucks equipped to cross the Sahara desert.

Although the Swiss food was expected to arrive in Chad August 5, there was no way to reach the main body of displaced and needy people in camps inside Sudan, since the Chad-Sudan border remained closed to aid by both countries.

U.S. food aid lands at Port Sudan, but distribution is hampered by the rains, poor roads, and lack of security. Some of the increasingly isolated camps had already been stocked with several months of food supplies by USAID before the rains hit.

"People continue to deteriorate," said Winter. "To do this right, we need access and security. There have been some improvements in both, but they are still not good."

Administrator Andrew Natsios has said that 300,000 people will die unless there is an end to the attacks and a huge change in the ability of relief workers to care for the displaced.

"Although we have not got a government survey, this is still a reliable figure and a likely projection," said Winter pessimistically.

Recent reports tell of massive rape against young girls by the Jingaweit militias, mass killings of men who try to resist expulsions, destruction of nearly all the African Sudanese villages, poisoning of wells, and even burning alive of people who have been chained together.

The United Nations estimates from 10,000 to 30,000 people have been killed directly—aside from thousands who have died from hunger or disease. ★



# U.S. Highlights Abstinence at HIV/AIDS Conference

**BANGKOK, Thailand**—Some 20,000 government officials, doctors, and activists at the 15th International AIDS Conference July 11–16 debated the benefits of abstinence, urging people not to have sex outside of marriage, which helped slash Uganda's HIV rate.

In other countries such as Thailand, public education, antidiscrimination campaigns, and condom use also successfully cut infection rates.

“Preventing AIDS is not a multiple-choice test—there is no one right answer to preventing the spread of this pandemic,” said Randall Tobias, the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, who led delegates from USAID, the State Department, National Institutes of Health, and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“Abstinence works. Being faithful works. Condoms work. Each has its place,” he said. “Those who want to simplify the solution to just one method—any one method—do not understand the complexity of the problem.”

The number of people living with HIV/AIDS grew from 35 million in 2001 to 38 million in 2003. Asia is home to more than one-third of the world's population, and today one of every four new HIV infections worldwide occurs in this region.

But sub-Saharan Africa remains most heavily hit by the disease—more than 30 million Africans are living with HIV/AIDS. Every day, 5,000 Africans die of the disease, 11,000 are infected by it, and 6,000 children lose a parent.

The conference discussed prevention and treatment methods and new drugs. It also saw new funding pledges from some large donors.

Much attention went to the growing number of AIDS orphans, which rose in the past two years worldwide from 11.5 million to 15 million, according to the latest biennial report on global orphaning released by

USAID, UNAIDS, and UNICEF.

In Africa alone, 3.8 million children have lost one or both parents to AIDS since 2000.

“Parts of sub-Saharan Africa are undergoing a tidal wave of orphaning, in varying degrees due to AIDS,” UNICEF Executive Director Carol Bellamy said. “The report clearly spells out what's best for children: keeping their parents alive and healthy, ensuring that they get good educations, and strengthening the laws, policies, and norms that protect children from exploitation and abuse.”

In 11 of the 43 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, more than one in seven children is an orphan, the report said.

“This report underscores the critical importance of caring for children affected by AIDS,” said Dr. Anne Peterson, Assistant Administrator for Global Health at USAID. “That's why President Bush made caring for these children an essential component of his \$15-billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.”

The United States this year is spending \$2.4 billion on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, with \$865 million going for HIV/AIDS prevention, care, and treatment in 15 severely affected nations, most of them in Africa.

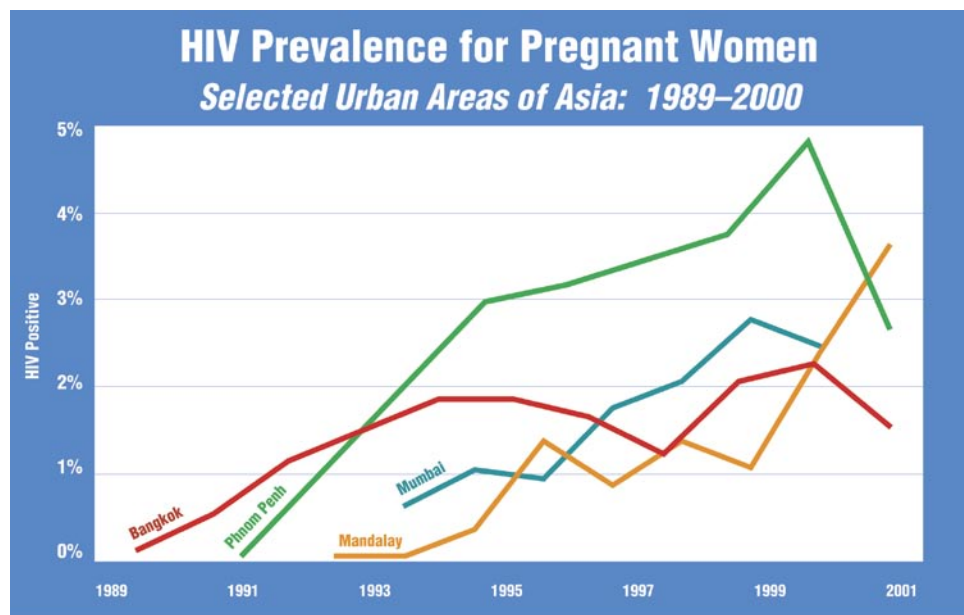
USAID is helping carry out \$15 billion worth of prevention and treatment initiatives over five years under the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

At the conference, the British government boosted its commitment to the Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to \$270 million. The European Commission announced an additional payment of some \$51 million to the Global Fund, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation gave \$45 million to study strategies to control tuberculosis in areas with high HIV infection. ★



Roslyn Matthews, USAID

A booth displays information about the U.S. government's HIV/AIDS initiatives worldwide at the 2004 International AIDS Conference, held in Bangkok in July.



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, HIV/AIDS Surveillance Data Base, 2000. Cambodia data: married women of reproductive age

## Religious Aid Groups Find Acceptance at Global Aids Meeting

Faith-based organizations that play a large role caring for AIDS patients played a more visible role at the 2004 International AIDS Conference, held in Bangkok in July. The organizations presented abstracts, manned a booth, and met for a preconference before the official proceedings started.

“Faith-based organizations are on the frontlines of human tragedy and needs around the globe. The AIDS epidemic is no exception,” said Linda Shovlain, who represented USAID's Faith-Based Initiatives Office at the conference.

USAID allows NGOs to identify themselves as “religiously affiliated” when they register with the Agency as a private voluntary organization.

The faith-based community set up a

booth funded by USAID through Catholic Relief Services to distribute information about their HIV/AIDS programs that tend to the sick, care for orphans, and advocate for the weak.

At earlier international AIDS conferences, including the gathering in Barcelona two years ago, faith-based groups often felt marginalized, said Rev. Robert Vitillo, a special advisor to Caritas International.

“Many people from faith-based organizations felt they weren't really welcome in Barcelona,” he said.

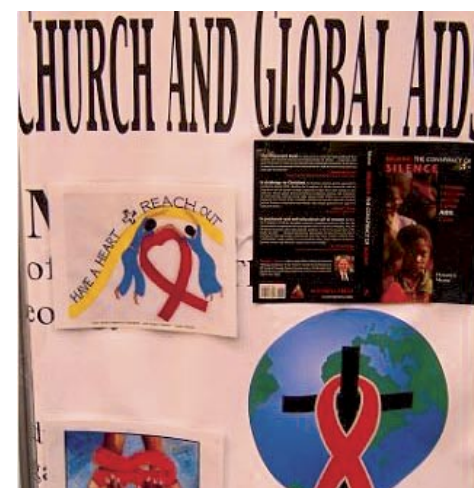
“Our applications to present abstracts or present posters or participate in workshops were not accepted. It was very hard to get space to hold a meeting at the conference. Yet it's been very different here. Right after

Barcelona, we started meeting with the organizers of this conference, and we've had a very different reception.”

Many religious leaders “didn't realize it was in their hands to create an opening,” said Anne Smith of the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development.

At a two-day meeting before the Bangkok conference, faith-based groups held panel discussions on theological issues of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and discussed best practices in fighting the disease.

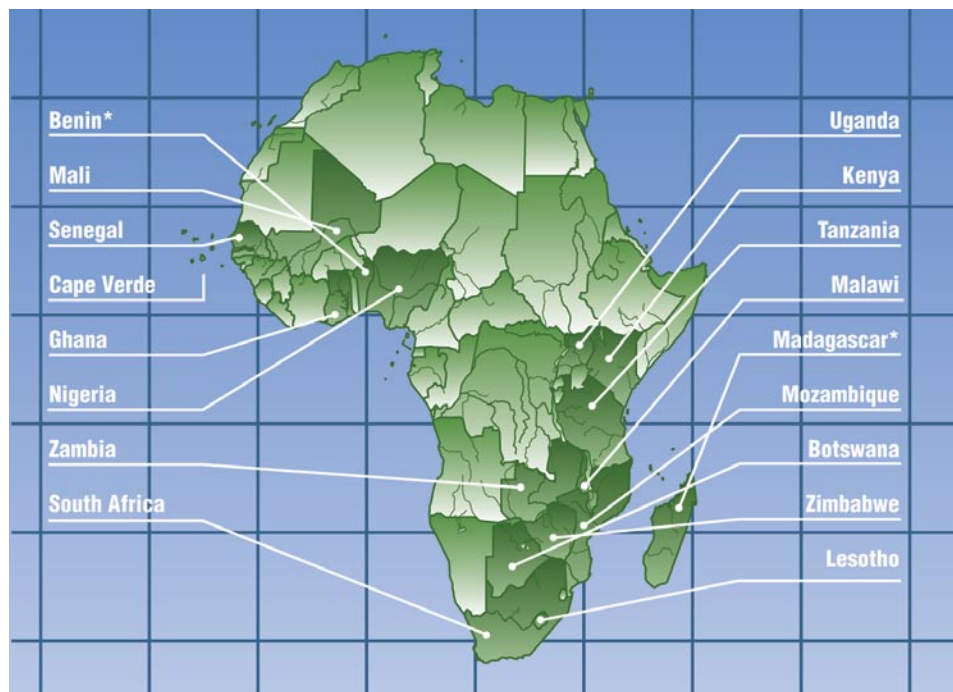
Faith-based groups came to Bangkok “prepared to share the invaluable work they are carrying out,” said Linda Hartke of the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, the lead organizer of the preconference. ★



Linda Shovlain, USAID

Faith-based organizations decorated their booth with banners at the HIV/AIDS conference.





map shows countries where Afrobarometer surveys have been conducted or are planned(\*).

## Afrobarometer Surveys Chart African Views on Democracy

Afrobarometer is the first polling service to use surveys of attitudes and opinions to gauge Africans' sentiments about democracy and economic growth.

In South Africa, for instance, Afrobarometer surveys typically include about 2,500 people who represent members of the country's 10 provinces and come from various backgrounds: white, black, Indian, indigenous, urban, and rural.

Afrobarometer is a recurring survey in 15 African countries—none of them are war zones. It asks questions about politics, economics, and major issues such as corruption and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Most Africans interviewed in 2002–03 said they consider themselves better off than they were under previous non-democratic regimes. Two-thirds of adults say they support democracy and larger proportions reject military rule and personal dictatorship.

Three-quarters of respondents said that violence used for political ends was never justified, even if those ends are just. Some 77 percent said they disapprove of coups, 76 percent reject dictatorship, and 67 percent object to one-party rule. Three-quarters also said they favor term limits for presidents.

Defining poverty as a lack of food rather than a lack of cash, Africans in 13 of the 15 surveyed countries consider themselves poorer today than their parents were a decade ago. But the survey has some bright spots, including a belief held by most respondents that their children will lead better lives than they do.

Last year, almost half of the Africans interviewed said the condition of their national economy was bad. More than 40 percent said unemployment was one of the priorities government should address.

The AIDS epidemic is touching nearly every life in Africa, the survey found. In countries such as Uganda and Kenya, more than two-thirds of respondents said they had lost at least one close friend or relative to HIV/AIDS. And in Malawi, a quarter of those surveyed said they spend at least five

hours each day caring for children whose parents died of the disease.

Started in 1999 and supported by various USAID missions, the Afrobarometer network includes the University of Michigan, the Institute for Democracy in South Africa, Ghana's Center for Democratic Development, and several local research organizations.

Referred to as "pioneering work" in the arena of comparative politics, Afrobarometer this year won a prestigious award from the American Political Science Association.

"There are no comparable democratic governance surveys like this in Africa, and we want to support Afrobarometer...so that they can monitor and evaluate the evolution of democracy and governance over time," said Carla Komich, a governance specialist with the Bureau for Africa.

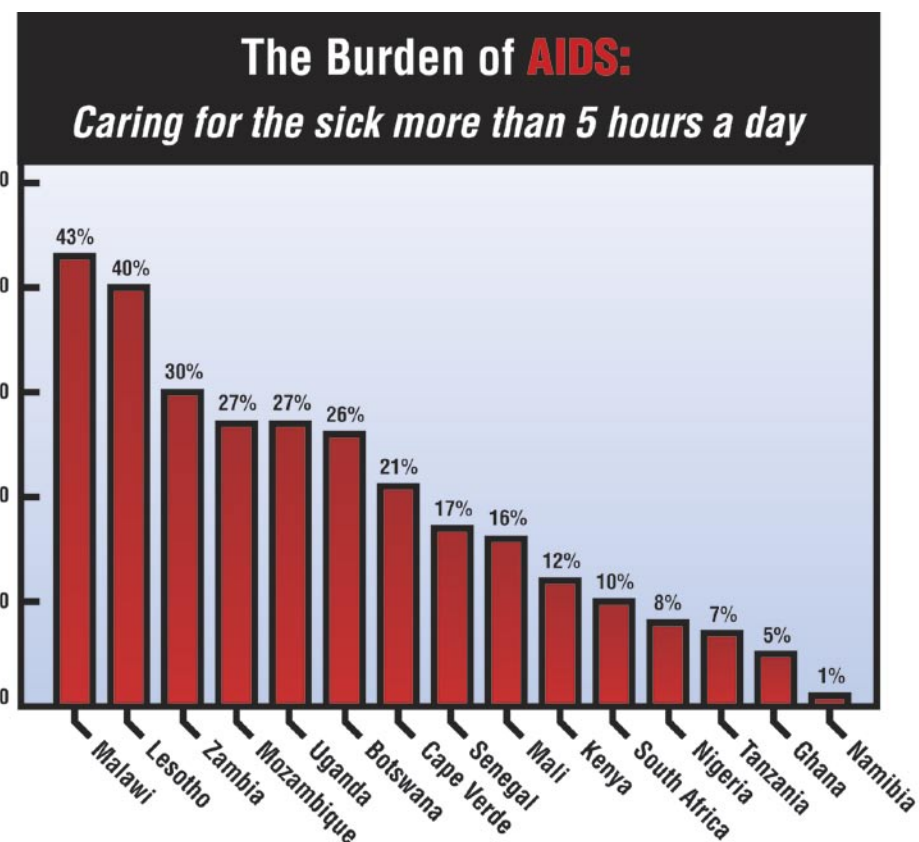
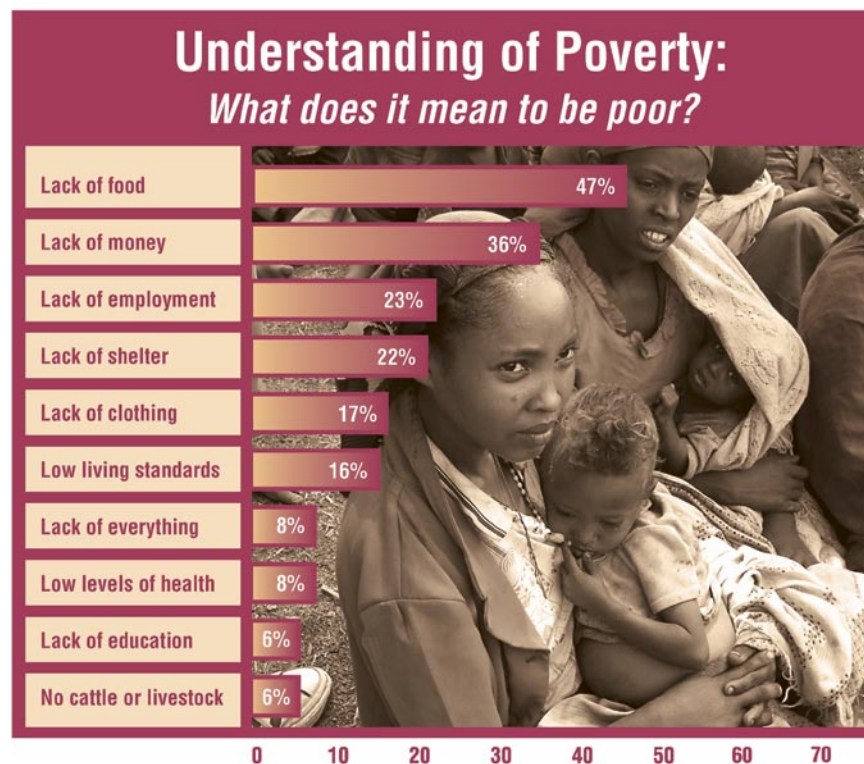
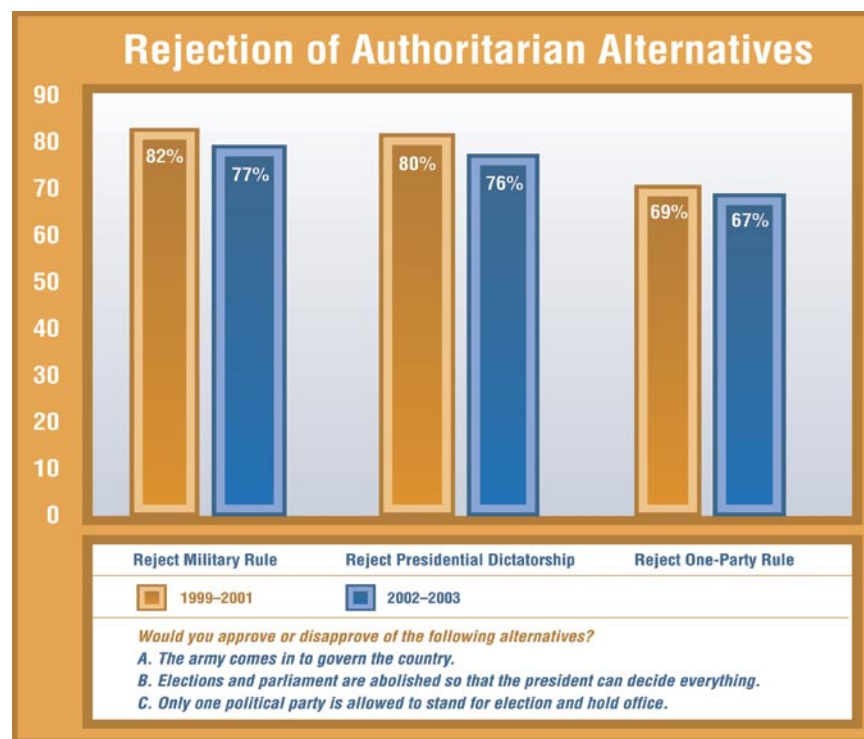
The barometer has inherent value, but it also helps USAID planning, program design, and evaluation, she said.

Since 1999, several missions have funded Afrobarometer surveys in their countries for as little as \$10,000 each. But in August, the Bureau for Africa and the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance added another \$436,000 to fund future polls. The funds will help extend the surveys into new countries, mainly in Francophone Africa.

The South Africa mission, which has funded three Afrobarometer surveys, often uses the survey's findings in its annual reports, said Stephen Snook, the local democracy and governance (DG) officer.

"It is very helpful, as we use the question on support for democracy over other political systems as our DG program's 'context indicator,'" said Snook. "It also provides a wealth of information on attitudes toward issues of the day as well as economic issues."

The 15 surveyed countries are Botswana, Cape Verde, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Benin and Madagascar will soon start surveys too. ★



The graphs illustrate three topics covered in a recent Afrobarometer survey and respondents' replies.