

# FACT SHEET

JULY 2011

## PARTNERING WITH MUSLIM COMMUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD

USAID has a long-standing commitment to, and enduring partnerships in, developing countries around the world. We have stood by Muslim communities to support long-term development and respond to crises.

USAID is also reaching out to, and partnering with, donors in Muslim communities around the world. These donors see this partnership as a part of their corporate social responsibility and as a reflection of their faith's directive to share their wealth with those in need. In addition, USAID is developing collaborative partnerships with multilateral organizations such as the Organization of the Islamic Conference to meet development challenges.

USAID aims to empower people with tools to shape a better life and to guide the course of development in their own countries. Our goal is to foster positive, community-driven responses to development challenges by working hand-in-hand with the people, governments, and private organizations in diverse communities throughout the world.

- The United States spent about \$28 billion in 2010 on international development assistance. About half of that funding went to predominantly Muslim countries.
- There are 49 countries in the world that have more than 50 percent Muslim population. USAID has missions in 27 of them.

## PARTNERSHIPS IN TIMES OF CRISIS

**PAKISTAN:** In response to the heavy floods in Pakistan in July 2010, USAID provided nearly \$50 million in emergency and early recovery shelter assistance, as well as 12,000 rolls of plastic sheeting, 120,000 plastic tarpaulins, and more than 400,000 wool blankets and other winterization assistance to help protect families during winter months.



**CENTRAL ASIA:** USAID's work halted the polio outbreak in 2010 and is currently trying to stem the spread of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. These are diseases that will have wider regional and possibly global ramifications if allowed to spread rampant. As of October 2010, Tajikistan had 705 cases of acute flaccid paralysis, a clinical condition that is the most common sign of polio.

**GAZA:** In partnership with several international organizations, USAID is providing food and other assistance to Gaza's most vulnerable families. In 2010, over 150,000 of Gaza's poorest received food supplies. Approximately \$40 million in food and non-food assistance has been provided since 2008. In addition, through an initiative to address longer-term food insecurity and generate income for families most at risk, USAID has built approximately 400 greenhouses and 600 family garden irrigation systems.

## PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

**AZERBAIJAN:** USAID, in collaboration with British Petroleum, is helping to expand the production of small-/medium-sized dairy farmers and promote linkages between regional collection centers and commercial processors. The program works with seven communities of small farmers, providing training to improve hygiene, nutrition, and health of dairy cattle, and integrating producers with support services, such as access to credit, veterinary resources, agriculture educational institutions, and regional associations.



**EGYPT:** In the wake of Egypt's revolution, USAID is providing direct support to non-governmental organizations and the private sector to support Egypt's economic and political transition. The economic support program provides up to \$100 million for immediate job creation, humanitarian assistance, and poverty alleviation. The democratic support program provides \$65 million for democratic development, including elections, civic activism, and human rights.

**PAKISTAN:** USAID's economic growth programs provide women with entrepreneurial opportunities while encouraging employers to incorporate women into their work force. The ENTREPRENEURS program helps women-run small businesses in remote and vulnerable areas (especially Khyber Paktunkhwa) by promoting improved production, better access to key support services, and stronger links with profitable markets.

**WEST BANK/GAZA:** USAID has been helping to create and support partnerships between Palestinian and multinational information technology firms. Companies like Google, Apple, Cisco, Microsoft, Intel, Hewlett Packard, and others have found areas in which to partner with Palestinian firms. In just the past few years, over \$12 million in investments and contracts with Palestinian counterparts, as well as training opportunities for more than 2,500 software engineers in advanced software development, have been fostered.

## PARTNERSHIPS TO BENEFIT YOUTH

**SENEGAL:** Over the past two years, USAID has greatly improved the learning conditions in religious community schools by including lessons on reading, mathematics, science, and other skills in their curricula. Additionally, USAID actively engages Senegal's Muslim youth by negotiating the placement of a trained community teacher in Koranic schools, as well as identifying community schools that deliver the official national curriculum and creating partnerships between them and Koranic schools.



**INDIA:** USAID's MEGA-SkY (Skills for Youth) program in India works to provide minority children with quality educational opportunities, helping them to integrate into the nation's education system. Youth volunteers are engaged to provide after-school tutoring support to Muslim children enrolled in schools and *madrassas*, and provide bridge courses to out-of-school children, to prepare them for school. USAID trains community support groups on the need for educating their children and on their rights under the country's Right to Education Act, in addition to training *madrassa* teachers to deliver more interactive and child-centered lessons in math, science, and English. So far, nearly 35,000 Muslim children have benefitted from the program, and nearly 6,150 out-of-school Muslim children are now enrolled in formal schools. Today, 204 *madrassa* teachers and 120 directors implement the new teaching practices.

**INDONESIA:** USAID provides training, mentoring, and technical consultation to schools, related technical offices, universities, and non-governmental organizations to improve the effectiveness of the

decentralized education system. Approximately 5,500 religious-based schools (mostly *madrassas*), which represents 2.5 percent of total schools in Indonesia, have benefitted under the USAID-assisted education program.

**LEBANON:** In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, USAID's Developing Rehabilitation Assistance to Schools and Teacher Improvement program will improve Lebanon's public schools. This five-year, \$75 million program will enhance student achievement through physical repairs and provision of equipment to schools, teacher training, and extracurricular activities, as well as increase stakeholder engagement in public schools.

**NIGERIA:** USAID began new education projects that address systems that support both public and *Islamiyyah* primary schools, and that provide learning centers for the provision of non-formal education to *Almajari* boys. During the four-year program, 600,000 students, 24,000 teachers, and 1,000 administrators will benefit from these interventions.

## PARTNERSHIPS WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND TRADITIONAL LEADERS

**SUDAN:** A growing scarcity of water resources and grazing land has led to increased conflict with communities living along the Misseriya's traditional migratory routes in Abyei and across Sudan's north-south border, and has brought with it pressures to diversify livelihoods and find new sources of income. USAID is creating opportunities for Muslim Misseriya to pursue alternatives to pastoralism by involving youth in marketable activities, such as soil block-making training, and providing Misseriya families with agricultural inputs. One thousand households recently received donkey ploughs that have the potential to double the amount of land each family is able to till.



**BANGLADESH:** USAID supports the work of Bangladeshi religious leaders to increase the levels of tolerance, pluralism, gender equity, and human rights in their communities. USAID has trained over 20,000 leaders. Working directly through/with community groups and in consultation with local government counterparts, these leaders are continuing to increase community representation and participation. USAID has provided over \$70 million to support this work in the last five years.

**INDONESIA:** The USAID-funded Strategies Against Flu Emergence project builds on the partnership formed with Muhammadiyah in mid-2006 to respond to the threat of H5N1 avian influenza (AI). Muhammadiyah is the second-largest Islamic organization in Indonesia, with 29 million members. This faith-based organization supports and implements social and educational initiatives across the country, including protecting and improving public health. USAID's support has trained Muhammadiyah master trainers and developed a community-based network of volunteer AI coordinators numbering more than 12,400 across seven provinces.

**JORDAN:** Since 2010, the USAID-funded Jordan Health Care Communications Project has trained over 900 religious leaders in two key governorates to use a family health training kit and a Friday sermons booklet to deliver family planning messages at the community level. A special *fatwa* has since been issued by the Grand Mufti of Jordan stating that modern contraception is allowed by Islam. Results to date are encouraging, as a study shows significant increases in target population knowledge and positive attitudes about family planning.

**MIDDLE EAST REGION:** Throughout the Middle East and North Africa, the Building a Digital Gateway to Better Lives program provides multimedia journalism training and digital project development for journalists, citizen journalists, and civil society actors. Over 250 journalists will receive training, helping

develop a more professional media that provides the region's citizens with accurate and balanced information while promoting discussions on critical issues.

**NIGERIA:** USAID supports the Interfaith Mediation Center and three Conflict Mitigation and Management Regional Councils, which are made up of 37 Muslim and 30 Christian clerics in Kano, Kaduna, and Plateau states, with the aim of working through interfaith activities to collect and disseminate early warnings about communal tensions and respond quickly.

**SOUTH SERBIA:** In southern Serbia, USAID is working with Muslim and other minority populations to enhance their political participation and to better represent their legitimate interests. The program helps the parties train trainers, educate party members, and promote youth participation. So far, a group of 10 party trainers from three parties have been trained in basic political skills including campaign organizing, polling, door-to-door activism, working with youth, and working with media.

## GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIPS

**TAJIKISTAN:** Many USAID programs in Tajikistan work at the local level to enable communities and their local governments to better provide basic services. USAID established over 30 water users associations that manage local irrigation systems. The national government wants to expand the concept to allow larger federations of users to manage larger irrigation systems. This sustainable model allows farmers to more than double their incomes while also practicing local democracy.



**PHILIPPINES:** Working with the Philippine House of Representatives and Mindanao State University, USAID has helped to provide a congressional internship program for young Mindanao leaders, a four-month internship program and introductory governance course to qualified young professionals from the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao and other conflict-affected areas. Since 2003, nearly 250 promising young people have had the opportunity to observe and gain first-hand experience in public policy formulation.

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