



## CONGRESSIONAL BULLETIN

June 24, 2011

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Food Security Week:** [“Food Security Week”](#) began earlier this week, when **USAID Administrator Shah** joined **USDA Secretary Vilsack** in a ceremony hosted by **Secretary of State Clinton** [to announce the winners of the 2011 World Food Prize](#). **Administrator Shah** also announced Feed the Future's “Borlaug 21st Century Leadership” program and kicked off the [Feed the Future Research Forum](#). Leadership from USAID, State, and USDA participated in a Congressional reception hosted by the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, which featured university presidents, researchers, and scientists from across the United States. Click [here](#) to listen to **Dr. Shah’s** interview with *NPR* regarding the [Feed the Future](#) initiative, specifically the importance of supporting women in agriculture development programs and why investments in food security are important for national security and global stability. **Dr. Shah** will travel to Kansas City next week to deliver a keynote address at the 13<sup>th</sup> annual International Food Aid and Development Conference, where he will address the important role of food assistance in achieving food security.
- **GAVI:** **Administrator Shah** joined private and public donors from across the world at the [Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations \(GAVI\)](#) donor pledging conference June 13-14, where he announced a commitment, subject to Congressional approval, that will enable the Alliance to immunize an additional 243 million children in the poorest countries. GAVI, a public-private organization co-founded by the United States in 2000, is a dramatically effective example of public-private engagement to drive down the cost of vaccines and save lives at a lower cost. In addition to donor pledges, high quality vaccine manufacturers from both developed and developing countries announced major price reductions for new vaccines which will leverage the US contribution more than eight-fold. The United Kingdom, which hosted the conference, and the Gates Foundation were the largest single contributors. The GAVI pledge is an extension of the cost-efficient approach to global health programming that the **Administrator** laid out before the National Institutes of Health in February, which can be read [here](#).
- **USAID Hosts Landmark Democracy, Rights, and Governance Conference:** USAID was pleased to host a two-day conference focused on [“Democracy, Rights, and Governance: Today’s Challenges and Effective Responses.”](#) The conference brought together USAID democracy officers from around the world to share lessons learned and to hear from experts and practitioners in the field of democracy, human rights, and governance. **Senator Ben Cardin** (D-MD) and senior

bipartisan Congressional staff also participated. Click [here](#) to read **Administrator Shah's** remarks.

- **Policy, Planning, and Learning (PPL) Bureau One Year Anniversary:** June marks the one year anniversary of the re-establishment of a central policy, planning, and learning function at the Agency. Click [here](#) to read PPL Assistant to the Administrator **Susan Reichle's** account of what has been achieved over the past year.

#### TESTIMONY AND PUBLIC EVENTS:

- **House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC):** On June 16, the Bureau for Africa's Deputy Assistant Administrator **Raja Jandhyala** testified before HFAC's Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights regarding assistance to Southern Sudan, particularly in the conflict-heavy regions of Abyei, Southern Kordofan, and Blue Nile. You can read her testimony [here](#).
- **Development Forum with Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf:** On June 24, USAID will welcome **Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** to address our staff on "Consolidating Democracy and Development in Post-Conflict Liberia." As Africa's first elected female head of state, **President Sirleaf** has made significant strides for her country in the realm of economic growth and democracy. She will speak on the challenges Liberia faces as it continues this development as well as her hopes for the nation's future. You can find information [here](#) on USAID's work in Liberia.
- **Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD):** USAID Deputy Administrator **Donald Steinberg** is leading the U.S. Government delegation to the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Peer Review this week.
- **2011 AGOA Forum:** From June 8-10, USAID delegates attended the tenth annual forum of the [African Growth and Opportunity Act \(AGOA\)](#) in Lusaka, Zambia. **Dr. Julie Howard**, Deputy Coordinator for Development for the U.S. Government's Feed the Future initiative, and **Ricardo Michel**, a senior economic growth and trade advisor, represented USAID at this year's forum, which was entitled "Enhanced Trade Through Increased Competitiveness, Value Addition and Deeper Regional Integration."
- **Small Business Conference:** USAID was pleased to host its [fourth annual small business conference](#) June 9 to provide small business leaders an opportunity to learn how they can participate in development assistance programs. **Deputy Administrator Steinberg** welcomed more than 200 attendees to the daylong event. In his remarks, he described the critical role that small businesses are playing in the Agency's procurement reform strategy. He stated that USAID is "streamlining Agency policies and processes to reduce our dependence on large multi-year contracts and replacing them with smaller more flexible awards accessible to small businesses." These efforts are already showing major results as the Agency improved in FY 2010 in nine out of ten categories of small business prime and subcontract awards.

## PARTNERSHIPS:

- **USAID, DNA, and NetHope Inc. Partner on Anti-Trafficking:** USAID, the Demi and Ashton Foundation (DNA), and NetHope Inc. have partnered to launch the [Stop Human Trafficking App Challenge](#), a contest to develop the most effective mobile technology application to tackle human trafficking in Russia. Contestants from Russia, Eastern Europe, and the Commonwealth of Independent States are invited to enter the competition through August 8. For more information, click [here](#).
- **USAID – Unilever-Lifebuoy:** USAID and Unilever-Lifebuoy launched a global effort June 13 to improve handwashing practices among birth attendants and family members to reduce newborn infections. Every year an estimated 4 million newborn babies die in the first month of their lives, while simple, low-cost health interventions, including handwashing with soap, could reduce this figure by up to 70%. USAID and Unilever-Lifebuoy will work together to design a handwashing behavior-change program to help new mothers and health workers adopt the practice of handwashing with soap as an ingrained habit.

## NOMINEES:

- **AA/Middle East: Mara Rudman**, nominee for Assistant Administrator for the Middle East, has been placed on the Senate Executive Calendar. USAID is working with Senate leadership to bring her confirmation to the floor for a full Senate vote.
- **AA/Global Health: Dr. Ariel Pablos-Mendez**, nominee for Assistant Administrator for Global Health, has had his confirmation hearing, and USAID is currently working with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to add him to the agenda of the next business meeting.

## PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- We are pleased to announce that **Steve VanRoekel** joins USAID as Executive Director for Citizen and Organizational Engagement. He will be leading “USAID Connect,” an effort to review and reorganize the Agency’s online tools, operational platforms, programs, and USAID Forward reforms to increase engagement with the American public. On detail from his position as Managing Director of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), Steve brings over 18 years of information technology and management expertise as well as experience with improving citizen interaction.
- **David Barth** has joined the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA) as Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator. A career Foreign Service Officer, David has worked for USAID since 1995, most recently serving as the Director of USAID’s Office of Education, a post in which he oversaw the development of a new education strategy intended to bring increased focus and impact to the sector. He previously directed the Office of Middle East Programs, where he focused on regional initiatives to confront conflict and extremism, with special emphasis on youth, governance, and water security. A lawyer by training, David has also served as the Regional Legal Advisor for Egypt, Yemen, Jordan, Morocco, and Lebanon, and he has worked with Missions in Guatemala, Panama, and Nicaragua.

- The Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning (PPL) welcomes **Curt Reintsma** as its new Director of the Office of Donor Engagement. Curt joins the USAID/Washington office after five years as Mission Director for Malawi. Previously, he served as the first Director of the Sudan Office in the Africa Bureau, and he helped create the Global Development Alliance in an effort to institutionalize the idea of public-private partnerships in USAID. Curt has lived in Africa for a total of 18 years.

#### **HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE UPDATE:**

USAID provides life-saving humanitarian assistance throughout the world. Below are links to the latest fact sheets describing our work:

- Cote d'Ivoire Complex Emergency [fact sheet #10](#), dated June 10, 2011
- Haiti Earthquake and Cholera [fact sheet #7](#), dated June 13, 2011
- Japan Earthquake and Tsunami [fact sheet #18](#), dated June 15, 2011
- Libya Complex Emergency [fact sheet #30](#), dated June 9, 2011
- Sri Lanka Floods and Complex Emergency [fact sheet #3](#), dated June 15, 2011
- Yemen Complex Emergency [fact sheet #4](#), dated June 15, 2011

#### **DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (DLI) UPDATE:**

USAID has hired 720 new Foreign Service officers under the Development Leadership Initiative (DLI) — a multi-year effort launched under the Bush Administration with strong, bipartisan support from Congress - to enhance the Agency's capability to effectively deliver U.S. foreign assistance and to increase its overseas presence. USAID is currently seeking applicants in the following backstops: Contracting Officers (BS-93), Agriculture Officers (BS-10), Crisis Stabilization & Governance Officers (BS-76) and Program/Project Development Officers (BS-02/94). To learn more about the DLI, including opportunities for employment, click [here](#).

**We welcome your input and want to make sure that this newsletter is useful to you. Please reply to [USAIDCongressionalBulletin@usaid.gov](mailto:USAIDCongressionalBulletin@usaid.gov) to give us feedback on what you'd like to see more (or less) of in future editions.** Please find [here](#) contact information for our Legislative Affairs team. Please let us know how we can be of assistance to you in the future.

For more information about USAID's programs, please visit: [usaid.gov](http://usaid.gov).

To read our blog, see: [blog.usaid.gov](http://blog.usaid.gov).

