



CONGRESSIONAL BULLETIN

July 7, 2011

Happy 4th of July week and thank you for reading USAID's *Congressional Bulletin*. It has come to our attention that an email glitch may have resulted in some recipients being dropped from our distribution list in recent weeks. Click [here](#) to access previous editions of the Congressional Bulletin. As always, to subscribe or unsubscribe, please email us at USAIDCongressionalBulletin@usaid.gov. Thank you.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Presidential Delegation to South Sudan: Deputy Administrator Donald Steinberg** will travel to South Sudan as part of a presidential delegation to attend the ceremony marking the Declaration of Independence of the Republic of South Sudan on July 9. United States Ambassador to the United Nations **Susan Rice** will lead the delegation, which will include **U.S. Rep. Donald Payne** (D-NJ), former Secretary of State **Colin Powell**, Assistant Secretary of State **Johnnie Carson**, U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan **Princeton Lyman**, Deputy National Security Advisor **Brooke Anderson**, AFRICOM Commander **General Carter Ham**, U.S. Consul General for Juba **Barrie Walkley**, and **Ken Hackett**, President of Catholic Relief Services.
- **White House Web Chat: Administrator Shah and Kalpen Modi**, Associate Director of the White House's Office of Public Engagement, will participate in a live web chat **today** (July 7) to discuss youth participation in international development. They will be joined by 20 young Americans working in the field who will share their opinions about the role of USAID. Tune in at **1:30PM today** to watch the chat live [here](#); questions can be submitted [here](#). To read a blog post by Kalpen Modi discussing the event, click [here](#).
- **Development Seminar Series:** Please join us as USAID kicks off our summer Development Seminar Series. Each of the five sessions, beginning this week, will address a different aspect of the United States' involvement in international development, with topics ranging from food security to science and technology to geospatial mapping, business and human rights. For more information, and to RSVP, click [here](#).
- **USAID's 50th Anniversary:** As many of you know, USAID turns 50 this year. As part of the commemoration, the Agency has launched a 50th [microsite](#) - an interactive platform of stories, photos and video from the field; created a *50 Weeks to 50 Years* countdown series on [IMPACTblog](#) to highlight historic photos and personal stories from USAID staff; designed an [infographics](#) series that relays critical information on foreign aid spending and investment in a digestible way; and posted a video message from [Secretary Clinton](#) congratulating USAID on 50 years of progress. On June 23, USAID invited the Vermont-based Institute for Sustainable Communities (ISC) to visit the Agency for an ice cream social, where ISC Board Treasurer **Jerry**

Greenfield (co-founder of Ben and Jerry's) joined Agency leadership in scooping ice cream for our staff. Stay tuned for more information on USAID's 50th anniversary.

- **Call for Development Innovation Ventures Proposals:** The second [Annual Program Statement](#) (APS) for USAID's **Development Innovation Ventures** (DIV) program was released last week. DIV is a mechanism for working with partners to identify, test, and bring to scale potential development solutions. It encourages entrepreneurs, academics, NGOs, and others to submit proposals for innovations that address development challenges more effectively and may improve development outcomes in substantial rather than incremental changes. **We invite you to share this announcement with your district or state offices.** Past winners have come from all over the United States. For more information on applying for a DIV grant, click [here](#).
- **FLOTUS Visit to South Africa:** First Lady **Michelle Obama** traveled to South Africa and Botswana during an official visit to Africa from June 20 to 26 focused on youth leadership, education, health and wellness. USAID was honored to play a role in facilitating a discussion between Mrs. Obama and Young African Women Leaders to discuss the challenges and opportunities they face. You can read more about this discussion [here](#).

BRIEFINGS AND TESTIMONY:

- **Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee: Alex Thier**, Assistant to the Administrator and Director of the Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs (OAPA), testified on June 30 before the Senate's Homeland Security and Government Affairs Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight regarding contracting in Afghanistan. A copy of his prepared testimony can be found [here](#).
- **House Foreign Affairs Committee:** On July 7, **Nancy Lindborg**, Assistant Administrator for the Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance Bureau, will testify before a joint hearing of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights and the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade titled "Assessing the Consequences of the Failed State of Somalia."
- **House Foreign Affairs Committee:** On July 12, **George Laudato**, the head of USAID's Middle East Bureau, will testify before the HFAC Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia on assistance to the Palestinian Authority.
- **House Agricultural Committee:** On July 13, **Nancy Lindborg**, Assistant Administrator for the Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance Bureau, will testify before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Rural Development, Research, Biotechnology, and Foreign Agriculture on Title III (Trade) of the Farm Bill that includes international food aid.

PUBLIC EVENTS:

- **USAID – National Science Foundation:** On July 7, USAID and the National Science Foundation will host an event to launch the joint ["Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research" \(PEER\) initiative](#). PEER combines NSF scientific investments and USAID's support for scientists in the developing world to support and build scientific and technical capacity. **Administrator Shah**, NSF director **Dr. Subra Suresh**, and President Obama's science advisor **Dr. John Holdren** will participate in the event.

- **Focus on Food Aid and Food Security:** As a follow-up to Food Security Week (see the [June 24 Congressional Bulletin](#) for more details), several senior Administration officials traveled to Kansas City, Missouri last week for the [International Food Aid and Development Conference](#), which was co-sponsored by USAID and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The annual forum provides a venue to discuss policy and operational issues related to food aid and development, as well as ways to improve collaboration between the government, private, voluntary and non-government organizations, and agricultural and transportation industry representatives. Click [here](#) to read Administrator Shah's remarks.
- **U.S. Global Leadership Coalition: Administrator Shah** will speak on a panel entitled "Investing in the Future: A Town Hall with Administration Leadership" at the 2011 U.S. Global Leadership Coalition Washington Conference on July 12. Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** and World Bank president **Robert Zoellick** will also participate.
- **Partnerships for Global Health Forum:** On June 27, **Administrator Shah** spoke at the Partnerships for Global Health Forum. The forum, sponsored by BIO and BioVentures for Global Health, encourages discussion among industry and global health leaders to identify ways to create new market-based solutions that speed the development of drugs, vaccines and diagnostics for diseases of the developing world.
- **Food Security:** Assistant to the Administrator of the Bureau for Food Security **Paul Weisenfeld** and Tanzania Mission Director **Robert Cunnane** spoke at the Center for Strategic and International Studies on June 27 to discuss the Feed the Future Initiative and its impact in Tanzania. They discussed its operation and the importance of partnerships with local and international private sector companies.
- **Citizen Security Conference:** With the State Department and the Organization of American States, USAID hosted a conference on June 28 entitled "Successful Models and Approaches on Youth Development and Crime Prevention." OAS Secretary General **José Miguel Insulza**, Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs **Arturo Valenzuela**, and USAID Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean **Mark Feierstein** discussed the need for programs that target youth and tackle social and economic influences on crime and violence in the Americas. For more information on the conference, click [here](#).
- **Uganda and Somalia:** Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa **Raja Jandhyala** traveled to northern Somalia on June 21 to meet with local government officials and private sector businesses and to review the progress of USAID programs in the area. She then visited Kampala, Uganda, from June 22 to June 24, meeting with members of the Ugandan government to discuss the new nation of South Sudan.

PARTNERSHIPS:

- **USAID – Coca-Cola Company:** Through a public-private partnership between USAID and The Coca-Cola Company, the two organizations are investing nearly a million dollars each over the next three years to protect watersheds, improve access to safe water and sanitation, and encourage productive water use in Senegal. On June 25, USAID/Senegal Acting Mission Director

Alfreda Brewer inaugurated 20 modern water access points in the rural region of Tambacounda. To learn more about the ongoing partnership between USAID and Coca-Cola, click [here](#).

- **Feed the Future – Wal-Mart:** USAID/Honduras Mission Director **William Brands** signed an MOA with Wal-Mart on July 5 at the Wal-Mart store in Tegucigalpa. The partnership with Wal-Mart is designed to increase agricultural production among small-scale farmer through technical assistance, enable small-scale farmers and women-owned businesses to sell directly to Wal-Mart Mexico and Central America, expand access to commercial credit for these groups, and promote sound nutrition and household health practices.

NOMINEES:

- USAID is thrilled to report that the Senate has confirmed **Dr. Ariel Pablos-Mendez** as Assistant Administrator for USAID’s Bureau for Global Health.
- USAID is working with Senate leadership to secure the confirmation of **Mara Rudman** to serve as Assistant Administrator for the Middle East.

PERSONNEL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Senior Advisor for the Middle East:** USAID welcomes **Alina Romanowski** as a Senior Advisor in the Middle East Bureau. Currently serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Academic Programs in the Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Alina will lead the Middle East Transition Response team and take on budget, personnel and human resource management issues within the Bureau.
- **Deputy Chief of Staff: David Barth** has been appointed Deputy Chief of Staff in the Office of the 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 will continue to serve as **Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs** until a replacement is identified.

USAID IN THE NEWS:

- In an interview with [NPR’s “Tell Me More”](#) on June 22, **Administrator Shah** discussed food shortages, security and prices with host **Michel Martin**.
- [Harvest Public Media](#) reported on the International Food Aid and Development Conference, including **Administrator Shah’s** comments on humanitarian aid and the Feed the Future Initiative.
- On July 1, Nicholas Kristof wrote for [The New York Times](#) on humanitarian aid to Africa in health, technology, and nutrition. He focused on the importance of food security and recognized the Feed the Future Initiative for its contributions to fighting hunger.
- In a June 27 editorial on U.S. leadership in global agricultural development, [Voice of America](#) reported that the U.S. is leading global efforts on food security.

- In an interview with Renee Montagne on [NPR's "Morning edition"](#) on June 23, **Administrator Shah** addressed the future of U.S. assistance to Afghanistan.

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 #12](#), dated June 27, 2011
- Haiti Earthquake and Cholera [fact sheet #8](#), dated June 27, 2011
- Kenya Drought [fact sheet #2](#), dated June 23, 2011
- Libya Complex Emergency [fact sheet #32](#), dated June 23, 2011
- Somalia Complex Emergency [fact sheet #2](#), dated June 20, 2011
- Yemen Complex Emergency [fact sheet #5](#), dated June 29, 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 to give us feedback on what you'd like to see more (or less) of in future editions.

Attached please find an updated [list](#) of 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. To read our blog, see blog.usaid.gov.

The American people, through the U.S. Agency for International Development, have provided economic and humanitarian assistance worldwide for nearly 50 years.

