



CONGRESSIONAL BULLETIN

November 23, 2011

Happy Thanksgiving and thank you for reading USAID's *Congressional Bulletin*! Click [here](#) to access previous editions. As always, to subscribe or unsubscribe, please email us at USAIDCongressionalBulletin@usaid.gov. Thank you.

HIGHLIGHTS

- **White House Event and Presidential Proclamation on USAID's 50th Anniversary: USAID Administrator Shah, Peace Corps Director Aaron Williams,** senior career staff and alumni of the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Peace Corps were thrilled and honored to join **President Obama** and senior White House officials for an event at the White House today marking USAID's and the Peace Corps' 50th Anniversary. In addition, **President Obama signed a [proclamation](#)** this week **commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the United States Agency for International Development.** He noted that "In the past five decades, USAID has helped developing countries across the globe transform into stable and prosperous nations, vibrant trading partners, and foreign assistance donors themselves. These countries stand as beacons of hope for people striving toward democracy, free economies, and respect for human rights. The critical work of USAID enables these transitions forward, helping prevent and end conflict around the world."
- **Horn of Africa/ Famine, War, Drought (FWD) Campaign:** The Horn of Africa is experiencing the worst drought in 60 years, the worst famine in 20 years, and relentless violence and conflict. On November 9, USAID hosted FWD Day (Forward Day), an effort to promote the FWD ([Famine War Drought](#)) campaign, which asked Americans to "forward the facts" - at least 13.3 million times - via social media about the 13.3 million people affected by the crisis in the Horn of Africa. The goal of 13.3 million messages sent was exceeded by a huge margin -- more than 117 million messages were forwarded on FWD Day. Nearly 18 million people were reached on Twitter. Nearly 50 million Facebook fans across more than 70 public pages read about the campaign. More than 40 videos were made garnering over 650,000 video views in just the first few hours of FWD Day. There were more than 30 blog posts with a reach of over 1.1 million people. USAID, Ad Council and GOOD have partnered to launch a [challenge](#) that encourages Americans to submit ideas for raising awareness of the crisis in the Horn of Africa; the winning entry will be awarded \$5,000 from GOOD to implement the proposal. **Proposals can be submitted between now and November 28th at 12noon PST at <http://fwd.maker.good.is>.** To learn more about U.S. Government efforts in the Horn, please visit www.usaid.gov/fwd and/or join us **for our next monthly humanitarian assistance update for congressional staff on the drought and famine crisis in the Horn on December 6, at 10:30 a.m. Dial-in: 1-877-848-9316, password "Horn."**

- Capitol Hill Day for USAID Mission Directors:** On November 10, USAID Mission Directors from approximately 80 countries around the world met in Washington to operationalize reforms set forth by Administrator Shah, which we have called [USAID Forward](#). These reforms, which are rooted in recommendations put forth by Mission Directors when they last gathered to evaluate USAID's mission, programs, and management, are already improving the effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance programs. Mission Directors were welcomed by **USAID Administrator Shah**, as well as **Senators Lugar, Cardin, and Menendez**, during a reception in the Capitol Visitors Center. The directors, in small groups, also met with more than 50 Congressional offices to share their field insights and to discuss new agency initiatives and existing programs.
- All Children Reading, A Grand Challenge for Development:** Building on the success of USAID's first Grand Challenge for Development, [Saving Lives at Birth](#), highlighted in a five-minute video [here](#), on November 18 USAID launched its second Grand Challenge for Development, [All Children Reading](#), which is funded in partnership with World Vision International and our Australian counterpart, AusAID. The Grand Challenge Model is designed to leverage external funding and focus attention on specific and narrowly defined development challenges. The initiative focuses on solutions that are grounded in science and technology, and are robust, cost-effective, and scalable. USAID Administrator **Rajiv Shah** launched the challenge alongside guest speakers including Secretary of Education **Arne Duncan**, U.S. Representative **Nita Lowey** (D-NY), U.S. Chief Technology Officer **Aneesh Chopra**, NASA Associate Administrator for Education **Leland Melvin**, Jeopardy! Host **Alex Trebek** (as Master of Ceremonies) and **Elmo** of Sesame Street. Through its innovation grants program, *All Children Reading* issued a global call to innovators of all backgrounds for technologies, programs, and methodologies that address two critical barriers to early grade reading: (1) access to appropriate teaching and learning materials, and (2) improved quality and accessibility of education data.
- Administrator Shah's Travel to South Korea and Taiwan:** The U.S. Government will send a delegation led by **Secretary Clinton** and **Administrator Shah** to the fourth [High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness](#) (HLF4), which will be hosted by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Busan, South Korea from November 29 to December 1. The HLF4 is the final review of implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, which was agreed at the second High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness held in Paris in March 2005.
- USAID Administrator Shah discusses Global Hunger, Innovation, and University Partnerships** in San Francisco. **Dr. Shah** delivered a keynote [address](#) at the annual meeting of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) - the premier event for public university leaders to share opinions on emerging topics, gain valuable professional development, and meet colleagues from across the nation. **Dr. Shah** highlighted USAID's partnership with U.S. universities, and challenged them to push the envelope on science, technology, and innovation to reduce poverty, hunger, and disease in developing countries. **Dr. Shah** also met with leaders in the Bay Area technical community who are amplifying USAID's first-ever public awareness campaign to engage citizens about the Horn of Africa drought crisis and to spur relief efforts for those affected.
- USAID launches GeoCenter:** As an integral element of USAID's ambitious reform agenda, [USAID Forward](#), the Office of Science and Technology launched the new [GeoCenter](#), an Agency-wide resource to expand and institutionalize the use of geospatial tools and analysis in support of development goals. The GeoCenter will enhance USAID's capacity in strategic planning and

programming, evaluation, and research with the use of the powerful tools of geospatial analysis. By improving the availability of data, the GeoCenter contributes to **Administrator Shah's** efforts to enhance aid transparency, and to the Obama Administration's commitment to the Open Government Initiative.

NOTABLE DEVELOPMENTS

- **Clean Independent Audit of USAID's Annual Financial Report:** USAID is pleased to announce the publication of the [FY 2011 Agency Financial Report \(AFR\)](#). The FY 2011 AFR reflects that, for the ninth year in a row, the Agency received an unqualified, or "clean," audit opinion on the four principal financial statements from the independent auditors (Office of Inspector General), attesting to our stewardship of the public funds entrusted to us.
- **Clinton calls for evidence-based efforts to defeat AIDS:** In a [speech](#) at the National Institutes of Health, marking 30 years of the fight against HIV/AIDS, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on November 9, called for a renewed push for an "AIDS-free generation" by the United States and other countries. We need to let science guide our efforts," she told the capacity crowd. Using a variety of tools in a "combination prevention" strategy is the most effective way to combat HIV/AIDS, she asserted. NIH-funded research shows that early treatment with antiretrovirals can reduce transmission of the HIV virus by 96 percent. In addition to relying on science, Clinton urged more emphasis of country ownerships of AIDS prevention programs and called on other donor nations "to do their part," by supporting and strengthening the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.
- **U.S.-Turkey Partnership in Earthquake Response.** On November 9, Turkey suffered another earthquake of 5.7 magnitude following the devastating 7.2 magnitude quake on October 23. The latest earthquake resulted in 40 deaths and approximately 25 collapsed buildings in addition to over 600 deaths, 4,100 injured, and over 7,000 damaged or destroyed buildings during the earlier earthquake and aftershocks. Both [USAID and the Department of Defense responded](#) to specific needs outlined by the Government of Turkey. This included funding for the relief effort and deployment of a disaster expert to the affected areas by USAID and the provision of relief commodities through a series of airlifts by the Department of Defense. Turkey's rapid and robust emergency response to these disasters, and Turkey's role as an international leader in global disaster response, reflect significant investments in disaster preparedness capacity since the United States partnered with Turkey following two devastating earthquakes in 1999 with 18,000 lost lives. Through the U.S.-Turkey partnership, urban search and rescue teams, including those responding to the most recent crisis, were trained and equipped. Community seismic training, including first responders, was increased, reaching 4.7 million children, 190,000 teachers, 110,000 staff, and more than 560,000 adults.
- **Building a Market Economy in Afghanistan:** On November 15, **Eric Postel**, Assistant Administrator in the Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade Bureau (EGAT) addressed the 7th Annual Afghan-American Chamber of Commerce (AACC) Matchmaking Conference. Mr. Postel delivered the morning keynote titled, *USAID Support for Building the Private Sector and Market Economy in Afghanistan*. Read his remarks [here](#).
- **Partnership for Growth Joint Country Action Plans – El Salvador and the Philippines:** The U.S. Government recently signed Joint Country Action Plans (JCAP) under the Partnership for Growth

(PFG) effort with [El Salvador](#) (on November 3) and the [Philippines](#) (on November 16). The JCAPs represents significant partnerships and commitments by the governments to address binding constraints to growth in each country. The PFG effort is an innovative approach to accelerate and sustain broad-based economic growth, with the goal of creating the next generation of emerging markets in a select set of top-performing low-income countries. **President Obama** and **President Funes** announced the U.S.-El Salvador Partnership for Growth during President Obama's March 2011 visit to El Salvador. In addition to the success of El Salvador and the Philippines in reaching this critical milestone, other Partnership countries are making considerable progress. Tanzania and Ghana are expected to finalize their plans in the near future. The interagency and inter-government efforts on the Partnership for Growth will also be highlighted at December's High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan with senior officials from each of the Partnership countries, as well as State, USAID and the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

TESTIMONY / BRIEFINGS

- On November 15, Assistant Administrator for Asia **Nisha Biswal** [testified](#) before the Asia and Pacific Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on USAID assistance to China.

PUBLIC EVENTS

- **HIV/AIDS Treatment as Prevention Debate:** USAID's Office of HIV/AIDS and the World Bank co-hosted a debate in the [HIV Response Debate Series entitled, "The Ethics of Material Incentives for HIV Prevention."](#) The event featured expert panelists arguing for and against the proposition that providing material incentives is an ethical and effective tool for HIV prevention and should be implemented.
- **Symposium on Future Development Challenges:** Thank you to those of you who joined us on November 4, when USAID, along with the State Department, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and the National Defense University, held a symposium in Washington to address the question of how USAID should be programming today to respond to future challenges. The Symposium examined worldwide changes in demography and urbanization, politics and economies, including emerging donors, climate and environment and new developments in science, technology and connectivity. Participants explored three themes: Evolution (gradual, evolutionary changes), Revolution (unexpected, punctuated changes) and 2025 Vision (envisioned aid landscape in 2025 based on evolutionary and revolutionary trends).

PERSONNEL

- **Veterans Outreach Efforts:** Thanks to the President's Executive Order 13518, **Employment of Veterans in the Federal Government**, USAID is proud to have brought on board 65 veterans in FY2011 with the assistance of our Veterans Employment Program Manager. Dennis Hicklin, who served in the Navy, serves as an advocate to promote veterans' recruitment, hiring, and retention within the Agency. Externally he serves as a counselor to veterans and transitioning military service personnel seeking career opportunities. Click [here](#) to read about EGAT Assistant Administrator **Eric Postel**'s experiences as a U.S. Navy Officer and learn more about veteran recruitment efforts at USAID. Click [here](#) to read Administrator **Rajiv Shah**'s statement recognizing veterans on Veterans Day.

- USAID is working with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to schedule a confirmation hearing for **Earl Gast**, who is nominated to serve as Assistant Administrator for Africa. Gast has a 21-year history working at USAID and leading meaningful development programming, especially in post-conflict and transitioning societies, including service as USAID's Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa from 2008-2010.
- We are pleased to announce that **Ann DeFabio Doyle** has been appointed as Deputy Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs in the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs. Doyle most recently served as Director of Strategic Initiatives in the Office of International Affairs at the Department of the Treasury, capping 15 years of public affairs and strategic communications experience in both the public and private sectors.
- USAID is pleased to welcome **Steve Feldstein**, who has recently been appointed as the Director of the Office of Policy in the Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning. His responsibilities include setting strategic direction and overall priorities for the office, as well as empowering a talented and performance-driven staff. Steve comes to USAID from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, where he worked on foreign aid reform and oversight of the U.S. foreign assistance budget, among other issues.

USAID IN THE NEWS

- [CNN's Security Clearance blog](#) reported on a joint letter to Congress from five former U.S. Secretaries of State addressing the importance of foreign aid. In the letter, former Secretaries Madeleine Albright, Colin Powell, Condoleezza Rice, George Schultz and Henry Kissinger write that, "now is not the time for America to retreat from the world...this is one area where leaders of both parties can find common ground and come together to ensure a better, safer world and a more prosperous future."
- [The Washington Post's Checkpoint Washington blog](#) reported on USAID's deepening relationship with the U.S. military and the Agency's role in blunting the spread of Islamic extremism. "Over the past two years, [USAID] has quadrupled the size of its staff in Afghanistan to about 450 people, most of who work outside of Kabul. The aid agency also has reoriented itself so that it can push development money more quickly into areas that have been stabilized by U.S. military forces. The number of children in Afghan schools has grown by more than 6 million over the past decade, and the number of Afghans with access to basic health clinics has increased sixfold. With the war coming to a close in Iraq and winding down in Afghanistan, USAID is focusing on its role in providing aid in Somalia, where a drought has killed thousands and displaced millions. The agency currently has about 450 aid workers operating in the Horn of Africa, which has become ripe territory for Islamic militants allied with al-Qaeda. **Administrator Rajiv Shah**, when [addressing the audience at West Point](#) recently, emphasized that USAID's efforts to provide assistance are not just about American goodwill. "Food and water availability in places like the Horn of Africa is a national security priority," he said.
- A [Huffington Post](#) (11/10) blog highlights USAID investments in compelling low-cost development solutions. USAID's Chief Innovation Officer **Maura O'Neill** says, "Worldwide, a woman dies from an uncontrollable postpartum hemorrhage every four minutes," and "it should

be no surprise that most cases occur in the developing world" considering that "many new mothers" there "do not have access to...skilled, live-saving medical support." A "balloon tamponade...can help save a mother from excessive blood loss," but "with costs ranging from \$77 to \$312 for a single-use tamponade, they are prohibitively expensive for widespread use in developing countries." But thanks to USAID's "Development Innovation Ventures program," O'Neil explains that "smart and clever researchers at the Program for Appropriate Technology in Health" were able to "design a safe, simple balloon tamponade that, at less than \$10 per device, would be affordable in the developing world.

- The online [Financial Express](#) featured two video clips demonstrating how USAID is assisting the government by partnering with NGOs to help Bangladesh reach its goal to become a food secure nation. The [1st clip](#) talked about Selina, one of the beneficiaries from USAID's Accelerating Agriculture Productivity Improvement (AAPI) program. The [2nd clip](#) showed USAID-supported farmers talking about their agricultural benefits with visitors from Washington. By the end of AAPI program, an estimated 3.5 million farmers are to benefit from the program and 1,800 private entrepreneur supply points are to be established to help farmers access fertilizer products. The estimated savings to the Government of Bangladesh due to improved nutrient use efficiency is \$84 million.
- The University of Wisconsin-Madison's [Alumni magazine](#) published a story recently on USAID Foreign Service Officer **Michael Eddy**, who served in South Sudan and worked during the historic referendum and voting process. His service helped promote democracy and governance in the world's newest country.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE UPDATE

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

- Central America floods [fact sheet](#) #4, dated November 16, 2011
- Haiti earthquake and cholera [fact sheet](#) #2, dated November 14, 2011
- Horn of Africa humanitarian [fact sheet](#) #7 dated November 18, 2011
- Sudan complex emergency [fact sheet](#) #1, dated November 18, 2011
- Southeast Asia flooding [fact sheet](#) #3 dated November 8, 2011
- Pakistan complex emergency [fact sheet](#) #1 dated November 15, 2011
- Pakistan floods [fact sheet](#) #5, dated November 17, 2011
- Turkey earthquake [fact sheet](#) #1, dated November 2, 2011
- Yemen complex emergency [fact sheet](#) #1, dated November 3, 2011

DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (DLI)

USAID has hired 744 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's DLI priority in the coming year is in hiring applicants for contracting officers and controller positions. Opportunities in other specialties will continue to be available in the future as USAID replaces retiring and separating Foreign Service officers but in more limited numbers. To learn

more about the DLI, including opportunities for employment, click [here](#). Check for the currently advertised positions.

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.

A listing of our Legislative Affairs team members is available [here](#). 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.



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