



## CONGRESSIONAL BULLETIN

August 5, 2011

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- **Horn of Africa:** The Horn of Africa is experiencing the worst drought in 60 years, and southern Somalia is facing the most serious food insecurity problem in the world today. More than 12.4 million people, primarily in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Djibouti, are in need of emergency assistance. The United States is one of the largest donors of such assistance, helping more than 4.6 million people and providing \$459 million this year to date (FY 2011). U.S. assistance provides food, treatment for the severely malnourished, health care, clean water, sanitation, and hygiene education and supplies. The United States also works to improve long-term opportunities for affected communities through the [Feed the Future initiative](#). On July 20, USAID Administrator **Dr. Rajiv Shah** [traveled to the Horn of Africa](#), where he visited the Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya and drought-affected Wajir County. On July 28, Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance **Nancy Lindborg** [hosted roundtables](#) with Somali Americans in Minneapolis, Minnesota and Columbus, Ohio to update them on the U.S. response to the famine. On August 3, Assistant Administrator **Lindborg** [testified](#) before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs on the response to the drought and famine in the Horn of Africa. On August 4, USAID Administrator **Rajiv Shah** briefed House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and other House Members on the crisis, and separately, USAID Deputy Administrator **Don Steinberg** briefed the Congressional Hunger Caucus on the U.S. response to the humanitarian crisis in the Horn. To read a statement by Leader Pelosi following this morning's meeting, click [here](#). To stay updated on USAID's continuing response to the drought, click [here](#). **Effective next week, USAID plans to begin organizing weekly conference calls for Congressional staff on the Horn response. To be added to our distribution list for these calls, please email Bette Cook at [bcook@usaid.gov](mailto:bcook@usaid.gov)**
- **Saving Lives at Birth:** From July 26-28, USAID hosted a "DevelopmentXChange" in association with the Agency's [Saving Lives at Birth](#) initiative. Through this Grand Challenge for Development, USAID has sought low-cost, far-reaching innovations for new technologies, new service delivery models, and new ways to stimulate demand for healthcare services at the time of birth. From a pool of more than 600 applicants, USAID chose 77 finalists from around the world—including NGOs, universities and university affiliates, and for-profit organizations—to present their projects to help save lives at birth to development experts, potential funders, and the general

public. Representatives **Nita Lowey** and **Rosa DeLauro** joined **Administrator Shah** and Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** to speak at the event. Click [here](#) to read Secretary Clinton's speech or [here](#) to watch video from the conference.

- **OECD Peer Review:** On July 28, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)'s Development Assistance Committee (DAC) issued an [assessment of U.S. programs and policies in international development](#), highlighting U.S. leadership in such areas as promoting public-private partnerships and applying strict standards of measurement and evaluation. To read Deputy Administrator **Donald Steinberg**'s statement regarding the results, click [here](#).
- **Sustainability Guidance for Afghanistan:** Consistent with the Agency's ongoing review of our assistance to Afghanistan and Pakistan, USAID has launched new [Sustainability Guidance for Afghanistan](#). This guidance captures USAID's strategy for achieving the conditions required for a successful, sustainable, Afghan-led transition, including achieving basic levels of security and stability, and building the confidence of the Afghan people so that there is positive movement toward capable, inclusive, and pluralistic governance. By committing itself to promote sustainable development in support of transition, USAID will be directly contributing to the United States' national interest to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al Qaeda in Afghanistan and Pakistan and to prevent its capacity to threaten America and our allies in the future. To read more, click [here](#).
- **FrontLines Magazine:** The newest edition of USAID's *FrontLines* magazine went live on July 25. This issue focuses on climate change and science and technology developments, highlighting the projects and partnerships USAID has implemented around the world. The issue features an interview with Sen. **Patrick Leahy**. To read the magazine, click [here](#).

## TESTIMONY / BRIEFINGS

- **House Foreign Affairs Committee:** On July 26, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa **Sharon Cromer** testified before the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights on "AFRICOM: Promoting Partnership for Global Security in Africa." Her testimony is available [here](#).
- **Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee:** On July 26, Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) Director **Mauricio Vera** testified in his capacity as Chair of the Federal OSDBU Council before the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight. The hearing was titled "Small Business Contracts: How Oversight Failures and Regulatory Loopholes Allow Large Businesses to Get and Keep Small Business Contracts." His testimony is available [here](#).
- **Senate Foreign Relations Committee:** **Nancy Lindborg**, Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance, testified on August 3 regarding the U.S. Government response to the drought and famine in the Horn of Africa before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on African Affairs. Her testimony is available [here](#).
- **Leader Pelosi Briefing on the Horn of Africa Drought:** **Administrator Shah** briefed House Members on the Horn of Africa drought and famine at a meeting organized by **House Minority**

**Leader Nancy Pelosi** on August 4. Click [here](#) to read Leader Pelosi's statement following that meeting.

- **House Hunger Caucus:** Also on August 4, Deputy Administrator **Donald Steinberg** addressed House Members, staff, and representatives of the NGO community at a Congressional House Hunger Caucus briefing on the Horn of Africa drought and famine.

## PUBLIC EVENTS

- **Brookings Blum Roundtable: Administrator Shah** will deliver remarks and speak on a panel about development and national security on August 5 at the 7th Annual Brookings Blum Roundtable, "From Aid to Global Development Cooperation." The Roundtable is an annual forum for international leaders to discuss ideas and initiatives to combat global poverty.
- **Transnational Organized Crime Roll Out:** On July 25, Deputy Administrator **Donald Steinberg** joined Assistant to the President for Counterterrorism **John Brennan**, Attorney General **Eric Holder**, Homeland Security Secretary **Janet Napolitano**, and other Administration officials in rolling out the U.S. government's new strategy to combat Transnational Organized Crime. USAID is playing a key role in the strategy to combat transnational crime through the Agency's programs to build or improve institutions, promote the rule of law and good governance, prevent human trafficking, provide economic opportunities, and otherwise reduce opportunities for such crime to flourish. The strategy can be found [here](#). To read the Deputy Administrator's speech from the event, click [here](#).
- **AmFAR Capitol Hill Summit:** On July 27, **Administrator Shah** joined House Minority Leader **Nancy Pelosi**, Sen. **Michael Enzi**, and government officials, organization leaders, and political commentators at the Foundation for AIDS Research's Capitol Hill Summit, "Making AIDS History: Ending the Epidemic." The event observed the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the discovery of AIDS, marking the progress in the fight against the disease as well as highlighting new research and policies. At the conference, **Dr. Shah** discussed a program to leverage private sector financing for health facilities in Ethiopia for people with HIV/AIDS. To learn more about the initiative, click [here](#).

## PARTNERSHIPS AND NOTABLE DEVELOPMENTS

- **LAUNCH:** Through a partnership with NASA, the Department of State, and NIKE, Inc., USAID has announced the third module of the LAUNCH initiative, a unique government and private-sector partnership to identify, support and take to market creative technologies and other solutions that address global sustainability problems—especially those related to international development. Announced on July 22, LAUNCH: Energy focuses on sustainable energy challenges in the developed and developing world. Selected on July 21 as a finalist for the Service to America medal, the LAUNCH partnership searches for entrepreneurs and innovators with proposals for large-scale impact development. Having previously engaged in water and health modules, LAUNCH is now seeking innovative products, services, and programs in the energy sector. Proposals in energy generation, storage, financing, education, and deployment as well as community applications will be evaluated for participation in the LAUNCH: Energy Forum at the Kennedy Space Center in November. For more information on the initiative and to share information on the application process with your constituents, click [here](#).

- **USAID – Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation:** On July 19, USAID announced WASH for Life (Water, Sanitation & Hygiene for Life), a partnership between USAID and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to use USAID’s Development Innovation Ventures program to identify, test, and help scale evidence-based approaches for cost-effective and sustained services in developing countries. WASH for Life focuses on interventions in Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Ghana, Haiti, India, Kenya, and Nigeria that address issues in the sanitation and hygiene sectors in particular and target beneficiaries earning less than \$2 a day. USAID Senior Counselor and Chief Innovation Officer **Dr. Maura O’Neill** made the announcement with colleagues from the Gates Foundation in Kigali, Rwanda. Click [here](#) to learn more about WASH for Life.
- **USAID – National Science Foundation:** USAID’s Office of Science and Technology has launched Partnership for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) with the National Science Foundation (NSF). The partnership improves access to scientific knowledge and higher education and training opportunities by establishing relationships between scientists in the United States and the developing world. PEER provides funding to developing country scientists to build labs, supports students and research, and empowers the use of science and technology to address local development problems such as food security, biodiversity conservation, water, and climate change. Click [here](#) to learn more.
- **2011 VolAg Report:** USAID has released the [2011 Report of Voluntary Agencies Engaged in Overseas Relief and Development](#). This detailed report lists all private voluntary organizations (PVOs) registered with the Agency, offering descriptions of each PVO’s mission, activities, and financial data. For more information on USAID’s work with PVOs, click [here](#).

## PERSONNEL

- **Wade Warren** has been appointed as USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator for Global Health. For the past three years, Wade has served as the Acting Chief Operating Officer of the State Department’s Office of the Director of U.S. Foreign Assistance, where he has been responsible for a range of processes relating to foreign assistance reform. Previously, he held leadership positions in the Africa Bureau and in Missions in Zimbabwe and Botswana.
- **Monica Stein-Olsen** has been appointed Deputy Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Management. Monica has worked with USAID for 22 years as a Foreign Service Officer, serving in Mali, the Philippines, Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Russia, and Morocco.
- **Douglass Arbuckle** was sworn in as Mission Director to Malawi on July 28. Doug previously served as Deputy Mission Director in Sudan and held executive officer positions in Iraq, Ethiopia, Tanzania, and Honduras.
- **Diana Putman** was sworn in as Mission Director to Democratic Republic of Congo on July 29. Diana has lived in Africa for over 20 years, working in Tunisia, Tanzania and Kenya.
- **Erin McKee** was sworn in as Mission Director to the Central Asian Republics on August 4. Previously the Deputy Director of the Central Asian Republics Mission, she has also served in Iraq, Peru, Bolivia, West Bank/Gaza, and Russia.
- The Policy Planning & Learning Bureau (PPL) now has a fully staffed Front Office. **Susan Reichle** continues to serve as the Assistant to the Administrator. **Larry Garber** recently returned to PPL, where he’ll serve as a Deputy Assistant Administrator (DAA). **Tony Pipa** now also takes on the role of a DAA. Larry and Tony join **Chris Milligan**, who continues to serve as a PPL DAA.

- USAID is working with Senate leadership to secure the confirmation of **Mara Rudman** to serve as Assistant Administrator for the Middle East.

## USAID IN THE NEWS

- At a special State Department briefing on the Horn of Africa on July 19, [CNN](#) reported that USAID Deputy Administrator **Donald Steinberg** stated that the Agency's Famine Early Relief Warning System predicted the crisis and, in August 2010, started pre-positioning supplies in South Africa and other areas near the crisis region. On a longer-term basis, the State Department and USAID are working with the international community to implement a long-term "Feed the Future" program aimed at increasing agricultural productivity.
- [The Guardian](#) reported on July 19 that USAID and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation are partnering together to invest in improving sanitation services in poor countries over the next few years. The goal is to encourage the development of relevant tools and technologies that will improve basic sanitation around the world. An estimated 2.6 billion people do not have access to safe sanitation. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation investment in the Development Innovation Ventures (DIV) model will help fund WASH for Life. For more information on the program, click [here](#).
- On July 20, [Voice of America](#) featured a multimedia story on USAID's response to the drought and food crisis in Somalia. During his trip to neighboring Kenya earlier this week, **Administrator Shah** visited refugee camps and announced the United States' pledge of an additional \$28 million to assist affected people in Somalia.
- On July 21, [CNN](#) interviewed **Administrator Shah** from the Dadaab refugee camp in the Horn of Africa. The Administrator discussed the crisis in the drought- and famine-affected region and highlighted the work of humanitarian aid organizations despite the presence of terrorist organization Al Shabaab.
- Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Food Security **Paul Weisenfeld** provided a live interview on [CNN](#) on July 21 to highlight an urgent plea by Somalia's president for aid, difficulties in access, and obstacles due to al-Shabaab. During the interview, Weisenfeld addressed the challenges in getting aid to Somalia and the region and emphasized the U.S.'s role as a global leader in providing emergency response and its work with international humanitarian organizations to provide assistance on the ground.
- [Voice of America](#) reported on July 23 that recent findings in a HIV/AIDS study found that taking HIV medication orally once a day was highly effective in preventing HIV in heterosexual men and women in Botswana, Kenya, and Uganda. **Administrator Shah** noted that the next step in the global effort to combat the disease "is to determine how the teams' research can be put to use in a real world setting."
- At the Saving Lives at Birth Development Exchange Forum, innovators gathered from across the world with proposals for new technologies, new service-delivery models, and new ways to stimulate demand for health care services at the time of birth. [AllAfrica.com](#) reported on July 28 that at the event, Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** and **Administrator Shah** praised the group for their hard work and innovative thinking.
- In an interview with [Foreign Policy](#) published July 29, **Administrator Shah** discussed his recent trip to the Horn of Africa to visit refugees affected by the drought and the provision of nearly \$460 million of U.S. support, which has reached nearly 4.5 million people, making the U.S. the largest responder.

- In an August 2 interview with [PBS NewsHour with Jim Lehrer](#), **Administrator Shah** spoke about humanitarian access in Somalia. "We are working hard to make sure that authorities in Somalia allow access for humanitarian organizations and NGOs and the United States has been supporting those organizations and will continue to support those organizations going forward," Shah said.
- Appearing on [NPR's The Diane Rehm Show](#) on August 4, **Administrator Shah** discussed the latest developments in Somalia and what can be done to help the region.

#### 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 #16](#), dated July 19, 2011
- Democratic Republic of Congo Complex Emergency [fact sheet #2](#), dated July 25, 2011
- Haiti Earthquake and Cholera [fact sheet #10](#), dated July 25, 2011
- Horn of Africa [fact sheet #5](#), dated August 4, 2011
- Iraq Complex Emergency [fact sheet #3](#), dated July 26, 2011
- Libya Complex Emergency [fact sheet #37](#), dated July 28, 2011
- Sudan Complex Emergency [fact sheet #5](#), dated July 18, 2011
- Yemen Complex Emergency [fact sheet #7](#), dated July 27, 2011

#### DEVELOPMENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE (DLI) UPDATE

USAID has hired 711 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 priority is in hiring applicants in the following backstops: Contracting Officers (BS-93), Agriculture Officers (BS-10), Crisis Stabilization & Governance Officers (BS-76), Program/Project Development Officers (BS-02/94), and Controllers (BS-04). 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](mailto: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](http://usaid.gov). To read our blog, see [blog.usaid.gov](http://blog.usaid.gov).*

