



USAID/U.S. Embassy Beijing Newsletter December 2013

The mission of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is to support the people of developing and transitional countries in their efforts to achieve enduring economic and social progress.

We Wish You A Happy New Year!

Recent activities in USAID

USAID Immediate Response to Typhoon Yolanda (Haiyan)

As of November 29, international donors had pledged nearly \$393 million to address the needs of populations affected by Typhoon Yolanda/Haiyan. The total amount pledged exceeds the \$348 million requested by the revised U.N. Haiyan Action Plan for the Philippines typhoon response. The United States is fully committed to helping the Philippines recover from one of the most powerful typhoons on record, and is providing \$20 million in immediate aid. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is providing emergency shelter, food, relief commodities, and water and sanitation.

According to Jeremy M. Konyndyk, Director of Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, preparedness and rapid response was critical to the disaster relief in the Philippines. USAID/OFDA's hydro-meteorological expert had sounded the alarm about the storm well in advance, and so USAID were able to pre-position a disaster response advance team in Manila ahead of the typhoon. That team reached Leyte Island, the epicenter of the crisis, within 24 hours of the typhoon's passage. That team was on the first commercial vessel to reach the affected area and rapidly began to assess the areas hit by the storm and pinpoint the major priority needs. In the days since, USAID have distributed enough shelter materials and hygiene kits for 20,000 families and food aid to nourish 20,000 children and 15,000 adults for roughly four to five days. Less than ten days after the storm made landfall, USAID had the water system up and running in hardest-hit Tacloban, supplying 200,000 people with clean water.

USAID, Sida, and the Volvo Group Announce Partnerships

November 19, 2013, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah announced partnerships with the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Volvo Group in Sweden. The partnership between USAID and Volvo will promote sustainable development in Africa through workforce development, including vocational training, traffic and road safety, and workplace health and wellness including HIV/AIDS prevention.

The \$400 million development partnership between USAID and Sida will focus on science, technology, innovation, and partnership. Under the new agreement, USAID and Sida will each provide \$200 million over four years that will be jointly programmed by the two organizations. The partnership grew

out of a history of successful collaboration between USAID and Sida on innovative projects, such as Securing Water for Food, Making All Voices Count, Powering Agriculture, and the LGBT Global Partnership.

USAID Grant Winners Focus on Getting Kenyans Clean Cookstoves

On November 21, 2013, USAID announced three awards made through the \$1 million Fuel-efficient Cookstove Distribution in Kenya Grants Competition, a major component of USAID's Developing a Sustainable Cookstove Sector project. This project supports the development of private sector-driven markets that will promote the widespread adoption of clean, efficient cooking solutions among the 2.8 billion people worldwide who lack modern cooking stoves and fuels. The three competition winners are:

- Kenya Union of Savings & Credit Co-operatives (KUSCCO) Ltd. will develop a cookstove-specific credit facility to be accessed by 1,350 savings and credit cooperative (SACCO) societies that will lend to individual members seeking to purchase cookstoves.
- Boma Safi Ltd., a Kenyan woman-owned business, will expand and strengthen its distribution network, which includes KUSCCO member SACCOs, as well as other sales agents.
- BURN Manufacturing Co. and the Micro Enterprises Support Programme Trust (MESPT) will create a Revolving Fund that will provide financing to cookstove distributors in Kenya.

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

On November 25, 2013, USAID commemorated International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women—a day to emphasize that gender-based violence is a violation of human rights, a public health challenge, and a barrier to civic, social, political, and economic participation.

Also on that day, USAID launched the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, culminating on International Human Rights Day on December 10, a time when USAID dedicated to raising awareness about the unacceptably high rates of violence against women.

Around the world, USAID's programs are making a tangible difference in the lives of women, and USAID has taken a number of steps to ensure we are working as effectively as possible to end gender-based violence. In August 2012, USAID joined other government agencies to launch the first-ever U.S. Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally. President Obama signed the accompanying Executive Order, which directs all relevant agencies to implement the Strategy. The Strategy also created an interagency working group that Administrator Shah co-chairs with the Secretary of State. In October 2012, USAID released Ending Child Marriage and Meeting the Needs of Married Children: The USAID Vision for Action.

In recognition of 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence, USAID is raising awareness in Washington and in missions around the world. A USAID co-sponsored event was held on December 9, to explore how innovative technologies can help reduce gender-based violence. In addition, there was an exhibit which featured photos taken by Ethiopian child brides. The exhibit was a reminder of why we continue to work to combat gender-based violence and promote a bright future for every girl.

You can learn more at www.usaid.gov/16-days.

World AIDS Day

The theme for World AIDS Day 2013, the 25th annual observance of the day is "Shared Responsibility: Strengthening Results for an AIDS-free Generation." This year, as the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) marks its 10-year anniversary, and all that are dedicated to reaching an AIDS-free generation have a lot to celebrate. Being the leading organization of PEPFAR, USAID released a

report in advance of World AIDS Day on December 1 and noted some of the progress that USAID and other PEPFAR partners have made over the last 10 years.

With global efforts, new HIV infections have declined nearly 33 percent and deaths related to AIDS have decreased by 30 percent since its peak in 2005. In sub-Saharan Africa, the progress has been even more marked. This past June, Secretary Kerry announced that PEPFAR programs have saved one million babies from being born with HIV, thanks in large part to political commitment and leadership and to advances in science behind preventing mother-to-child transmission and antiretroviral treatments.

However, there are more than 34 million people continue to live with or are affected by HIV and AIDS and more than 2 million people are infected with the virus each year. While rates of new infections have fallen, AIDS remains the leading cause of death of women of reproductive age around the world. As Secretary Kerry said, "Achieving an AIDS-free generation is a shared responsibility, and it is going to be a shared accomplishment."

You can learn more about PEPFAR and the progress at: <http://blog.usaid.gov/category/health/global-health-health/>

What's new in Beijing USAID

Ms. Maria Rendon, Senior Development Counselor of USAID in Beijing, participated in the workshop on trilateral cooperation organized in USAID headquarters in Washington. During the workshop, Ms. Rendon shared the experience of collaborating with China in promoting food security in a third country, and discussed challenges and opportunities of trilateral cooperation among the US, emerging economics and a third developing country. USAID missions from other countries, including Brazil, Indonesia and South Africa also introduced the successful pilots in this new type of development cooperation.