



**Alonzo L. Fulgham, Acting Administrator, USAID
Introduction of Keynote Speaker at the
USAID Anti-Trafficking Program:
Moving Forward with a Decade of Experience
Willard Intercontinental Hotel
Washington, DC**

September 16, 2009

- Good afternoon!
- It's wonderful to see all of you gathered here today.
- On behalf of the United States Agency for International Development, let me personally thank you for participating in today's symposium on USAID's anti-trafficking programs.
- I would especially like to acknowledge our government and private sector leaders for their active participation and insight during this morning's panel.
- Thank you as well to those participants on the afternoon panels and closing discussion.
- We are all here today to discuss human trafficking -- one of the most heinous, unforgivable crimes ever to plague our world.

- While it affects approximately 27 million people at any one time, in most cases, human trafficking is a crime hidden from view.
- All of you are at the forefront of the heroic battle against human trafficking.
- With your continued help, we can lift the veil of silence, shame, and discrimination, and increase the worldwide effort to wipe this scourge from the face of our planet.
- As we all know, among the root causes of this terrible trade are development issues such as poverty, corruption, and the low value placed in many societies on women and children.
- Greed, criminality, poor governance, porous borders, and the demand for cheap sex and labor fuel this scourge against our most basic human principles.
- The United States Government has been at the forefront of efforts to stop trafficking in persons throughout the world.
- Indeed, the Obama Administration views the fight against human trafficking as a critical part of our nation's foreign policy strategy.
- USAID is committed to strengthening our efforts to support that goal.
- Since 2001, our Agency has provided approximately \$134 million dollars in assistance to more than 70 countries.

- USAID works to prevent trafficking, protect and assist victims, and strengthen the capacity of governments to prosecute and convict traffickers.
- Our direct anti-trafficking assistance is reinforced by a platform of USAID programs that support economic development, good governance, education, health and human rights.
- These programs are implemented through partnerships which are key to successful anti-trafficking efforts.
- USAID's membership on the White House Council on Women and Girls underscores our commitment to the President's goal of ensuring that all U.S. Government programs take into account the concerns of women and girls.
- As reported to the President, USAID is currently strengthening our internal regulations to require gender integration throughout the Agency's work.
- Expanding gender integration means that women and girls will be more empowered through our development efforts – an important step in tackling the root causes of trafficking.
- This symposium will enable USAID to better prepare and plan with our U.S. government, NGO, and host country partners for the challenges that we face in the coming decade.

- I have directed the USAID Office of Women in Development to gather your thoughts, key points, and lessons learned for use in shaping our assistance activities.
- We will summarize what we have gathered today into a report, and distribute it on-line to everyone concerned.
- We have invited a range of experts today to share with you their experiences and thoughts.
- One of these, an ardent fighter against this cruel and malicious trade in humans, is renowned actress and UNICEF Ambassador Lucy Liu.
- She has played a prominent role in raising the public's awareness on combating human trafficking.
- Lucy Liu was a key spokeswoman for the MTV End Exploitation and Trafficking campaign – better known as the EXIT campaign -- , an MTV and USAID collaboration targeting a young media-savvy audience through a television special featuring well-known models, actors, and musicians that reached more than 560 million households throughout Asia.
- But MTV's EXIT campaign is a small part of what she has done worldwide.
- Ms. Liu earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Asian Languages and Culture from the University of Michigan.

- She then pursued an acting career, and is best known for her roles on the television series, *Ally McBeal*, and the blockbuster films *Charlie's Angels* and *Kill Bill*.
- Today, as both producer and narrator, Ms. Liu introduces us to her latest project, REDLIGHT, exposing and chronicling the tragedies and injustices of the international child-trafficking industry.
- Filmed over a four year period in Cambodia, REDLIGHT focuses on the personal stories of young victims, and on two remarkable advocates for change, who have since been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.
- Appointed UNICEF Ambassador in 2004, Ms. Liu has traveled the globe to meet children and see firsthand UNICEF's efforts to do whatever it takes to save a child. She has visited UNICEF programs in Lesotho, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Russia, Côte d'Ivoire, and most recently, Peru.
- Ms. Liu is a recipient of the 2006 Woman's World Award for her outstanding humanitarian work, given to her by former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, and sponsored by the World Award organization headed by former Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev.
- She is also the recipient of UNICEF'S 2008 Danny Kaye Humanitarian Award for advocating child survival.

- Before Ms. Liu speaks, please join me in watching a video from the REDLIGHT project.
- So, without further delay, please join me in welcoming one of the most poignant voices on this issue, Ms. Lucy Liu. Thank you.