



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

The Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives NEWSLETTER

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By Zeenat Rahman

Acting Director, Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives

Dear Friends,

The season of giving thanks is upon us, and we at CFBCI have much for which to be thankful. We are especially grateful for each of you and the critical work you are doing.

This past month we have had several opportunities to interact with many of our partners. USAID officially launched the FWD campaign, a campaign to raise public awareness on the crisis in the Horn of Africa. Through Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, videos, blog posts and listservs, we were able to reach 117 million forwards. We also received a piece of good news regarding the crisis. Thanks to all of our efforts, the number of famine areas in the Horn of Africa has gone down from six to three. However, the work continues. There are still more than 250,000 people at imminent risk of starvation. Let's not forget them this season. Please visit our website to learn more on what you can do.

Warmest Regards,
Zeenat

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If you would like to sign up to receive this newsletter from the USAID Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, please click [here](#).

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provides this newsletter service to further engage and enhance cooperation with the international development community. The listing of events, meetings or organizations in this newsletter do not constitute support or endorsement of any specific ideas, concepts or organizations by the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

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News and Events

FWD Campaign updates – On November 3, 2011 CFBCI convened a conference call highlighting the FWD campaign around the crisis in the Horn of Africa. Speakers included Joshua DuBois, Zeenat Rahman, Ruth Messinger from American Jewish World Service, Rachel Wolff from World Vision, and Abed Ayoub from Islamic Relief. Thank you to the many of you that participated! To learn the most updated information on the crisis in the horn of Africa, you can read USAID’s blog by clicking [here](#).

All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development - Reading skills build the foundation for all future learning. Yet, in sub-Saharan Africa, a child with five years of education has a 40% chance of being illiterate. In Mali, Pakistan, and Peru, more than 70% of children at primary grade levels cannot read at their grade level. A leading international assessment indicates that low-income countries are performing in the bottom 5th percentile in the world in learning outcomes. USAID, World Vision and AusAID are partnering to launch a multi-year initiative that seeks to improve early grade reading outcomes in low-resource settings called All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development. This Grand Challenge for Development calls for ground-breaking solutions that offer scalable, cost-effective innovations to address two critical and unmet needs in developing world contexts. To learn more about this Grand Challenge, visit the website at <http://www.allchildrenreading.org/>

16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence - It is estimated that 1 in 3 women will experience gender-based violence in their lifetime, most often at the hands of an intimate partner. Females aged 15-44 are more at risk from rape and domestic violence than from cancer, motor accidents, war and malaria. Gender-Based Violence is a global pandemic that cuts across all borders - ethnicity, race, socio-economic status, and religion. In response, USAID has launched our observance of [16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence](#) (November 25th-December 10th). We aspire to create broader understanding that GBV has a significant economic cost in developed and developing countries alike. Started in 1991 by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership, the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is a world-wide campaign to raise awareness about gender-based violence and to encourage others to help eliminate GBV. The first day, November 25th, is International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the last day, December 10th, is International Human Rights Day, the 16 days highlights that gender based violence violates human rights. To learn more, click [here](#).

Celebrating Interfaith Collaboration with the Rumi Forum – At this year’s Rumi Peace and Dialogue Awards Joshua Dubois, Special Assistant to the President and Executive Director of the Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships was honored with the “Extraordinary Commitment to Public Service Award”. The Rumi Forum, a Turkish American organization, works to foster interreligious and intercultural understanding at a pivotal time in our human history. In his remarks, Joshua highlighted that the Office of Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships “looks forward to working with the Rumi Forum to advance intercultural understanding in our government, in our country, and around the world, motivated by the President’s belief as stated in his inaugural address that, ‘our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness. We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus - and non-believers. We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this earth.’” To read the full blog, click [here](#).

Acting Director Zeenat Rahman speaks at Advocacy Summit with Accord – At this years Accord conference held in Baltimore, MD Acting Director Zeenat Rahman spoke with a group in the Advocacy summit. Her focus was to shed light on the public sector and the range of possible partnership opportunities. Rahman was part of a panel that included Adam Taylor, VP of Advocacy at World Vision and Tim Glenn, Director of Advocacy at Compassion International.

In Your Words

An opportunity to share the work you are doing

We want to hear your accomplishments, trials, campaigns, and difficulties. Sharing our collective knowledge and experiences is one of the easiest ways we can work together to help the most vulnerable.

American Jewish World Service and Islamic Relief USA and several other faith-based groups partnered with USAID to raise awareness on the crisis in the Horn of Africa. Below are some examples of the work they are doing:

American Jewish World Service is working diligently to support those being impacted by the drought in the Horn of Africa by supporting several projects on the ground. For example, a project in Kenya is working with local herders, buying up their livestock that would otherwise die in the drought. The meat is then distributed to women-led households. Another project is focusing on providing emergency water. However, the project could only afford 2-3 liters/day in contrast to the internationally recognized minimum amount of 15 liters/day. Through AJWS support the program has been able to increase the daily water amount to reach international standards. To learn more about the work of American Jewish World Service, visit their website by clicking [here](#).

Islamic Relief USA is also working to alleviate suffering in the Horn of Africa. Already, as part of its relief effort in the Horn of Africa, Islamic Relief USA has built wells, established a supplementary feeding program for malnourished mothers and children, and delivered food packs to more than 200,000 people and water to more than 160,000. On their blog they write “Three-quarters of a million people are on the brink of starvation and death in the Horn of Africa, and more than half of Americans have not even heard of the problem. So Alexandria, Va.-based Islamic Relief USA heeded an urgent call to action by the U.S. Agency for International Development by supporting the FWD (Famine, War, Drought) Campaign—an initiative to educate Americans about the crisis and to encourage more people to donate to provide relief.” To read the full blog, click [here](#).

Please share with us your stories! Email us at fbc@usaid.gov.

Select Grant Opportunities

USAID

New! USAID/Hungary - Anti-Corruption Civic Organizations' Unified Network (ACCOUNT) - The purpose of this three-year \$1.05 million program is to strengthen and streamline the voice of civil society in order to put pressure on the BiH government to enforce and sustain anti-corruption reforms required for the BiH European integration process. The Cooperative Agreement for ACCOUNT will be awarded to a competitively selected local Bosnian non-governmental organization (NGO) who is expected to serve as a coordinator and/or a secretariat among local NGOs already involved and committed to anti-corruption work in BiH and promote the development of larger informal NGO networks or a consortium assembled around specific thematic issues. ACCOUNT will provide technical assistance and capacity building support for networking of local NGOs. The closing date for this announcement is December 12, 2011. For more information, click [here](#).

New! USAID/Uganda - Literacy and Health Education Program – The Literacy Program is a 5-year program to improve the quality of education in Uganda, with an emphasis on addressing early grade reading, health and HIV/AIDS education, and the availability and use of high-quality EMIS data for education sector decision-making. The closing date

for this announcement is December 16, 2011. For more information, click [here](#).

New! USAID/Guatemala - Community Nutrition and Health Care Project - The goal of the CNHC Project is to improve the nutrition and health status of women and children in underserved rural communities of the Guatemalan Western Highlands while also strengthening local GOG structures and systems to provide quality nutrition, family planning and health care services in hard-to reach communities. The closing date for this announcement is December 9, 2011. For more information, click [here](#).

New! USAID/Ukraine - Improved HIV/AIDS Services among Most-at-Risk Populations (MARPs)- USAID/Ukraine is supporting the Improved HIV/AIDS Services among Most-at-Risk Populations project to reduce HIV transmission among most-at-risk populations (MARPs) through state of the art HIV/AIDS services delivered by Ukrainian organizations. These services include a range of behavioral, biomedical, and structural HIV/AIDS activities, community- and facility-based services, and communications. The project will provide technical assistance to national and local Ukrainian organizations to improve MARP's access to and use of HIV/AIDS services, with a focus on HIV prevention. The closing date for this announcement is January 11, 2012. For more information, click [here](#).

New! USAID/Russia - Resilient Civil Society Project - The purpose of the Resilient Civil Society Project (RCSP) in Russia is to increase citizen engagement on issues of public interest at the national and regional levels. Qualified applicants must be Russian non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In support of the Agency's interest in fostering a larger assistance base and expanding the number and sustainability of development partners, USAID encourages applications from potential new partners, particularly if they are joined with a more experienced organization. The closing date for this announcement is January 23, 2012. For more information, click [here](#).

USAID/Democratic Republic of the Congo – Developing and Strengthening Services and Systems that Support Family Cohesion and Respond to the Separation of Children in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) - USAID/EA is seeking applications from qualified U.S. and non U.S. organizations and institutions, in the form of partnerships or consortia that include DRC organizations, interested in providing the services described in this solicitation. This is full and open competition, under which any type of organization, large or small, commercial (for profit) firms, faith-based, and non-profit organizations in partnerships or consortia from geographical code 935, are eligible to compete. In accordance with the Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreement Act, USAID encourages competition in order to identify and fund the best possible applications to achieve program objectives. The closing date for this announcement is November 30, 2011. For more information, click [here](#).

USAID - Building a Better Response - The scope and objectives of the program(s) to be funded under this APS includes strengthening NGO engagement in the humanitarian assistance architecture by providing training and instruction to national and international NGOs on policies and practice. USAID/OFDA is working in close partnership with UN OCHA on this program. USAID/OFDA's primary objective will be to improve humanitarian response to disasters by fostering understanding of and securing expanded commitment to the internationally-recognized humanitarian assistance architecture, improving coordinating and enhancing its performance. The closing date for this announcement is December 12, 2011. For more information, click [here](#).

USAID/Ethiopia - Innovation Fund for Ethiopian Agriculture - USAID/Ethiopia seeks to develop innovative projects and investment opportunities that diversify the agriculture sector production and markets, promote enterprise development along entire value-chains, and increase the livelihoods of Ethiopians involved in the agriculture sector. Additionally, USAID/Ethiopia is seeking innovative approaches that address nutrition and/or climate change issues as they relate to our target population and geography. The closing date for this announcement is March 30, 2012. For more information, click [here](#).

USAID/Tanzania – Girls empowerment and innovations in youth, reproductive health, and family planning, and service outreach - USAID/Tanzania recognizes the importance of a country-led platform to foster an enabling environment for sustainable impact. The goal of this APS is to support the conditions that will enable girls and women to achieve positive social and economic outcomes. This will be achieved through four focus areas that support systemic cross-cutting approaches and strengthen catalytic change agents. (1) Adolescent, youth and girls' empowerment; (2) Innovations in reproductive health and family planning; (3) Outreach services to increase access to and use of family planning services; and (4) Capacity building for networks, coalitions, and advocacy groups supporting

youth, girls' and women's empowerment. The closing date for this announcement is March 31, 2012. For more information, click [here](#).

USAID/Zambia Economic Resilience Program for Improved Food Security (ZERS)- USAID/Zambia invites applications for implementation of Zambia Economic Resilience Program for Improved Food Security (ZERS). ZERS will implement innovative strategies and approaches to enable vulnerable and poor rural households, the “vulnerable yet viable,” as well as the very poor, to improve food security through strengthened economic resilience. Special attention will be given to enabling poor and very poor women to meet food needs, and ultimately to participate in expanding opportunities as producers, service providers and entrepreneurs. The ZERS activity will contribute to the achievement of the USG Zambia Feed the Future strategy. The closing date for this announcement is August 23, 2012. For more information, click [here](#).

USAID/Tanzania - Comprehensive, Integrated, and Sustainable HIV/AIDS Services - USAID/Tanzania welcomes concept papers that describe approaches that will strengthen the capability of Tanzanian entities/institutions to: ensure quality service delivery using existing platforms to the extent possible; build linkages between clinic and community based services and activities; integrate basic health and HIV/AIDS services within facilities; and help move HIV/AIDS services towards increased sustainability. The closing date for this announcement is August 25, 2012. For more information, click [here](#).

U.S. Department of State

New! Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor - Promoting democracy and human rights in East Asia and the Pacific - Community Participation to Improve Government Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) (approximately \$300,000 available). Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor's objective is to increase the organizational capacities of disabled persons' organizations (DPOs) to broaden civil society participation in, and support to, government efforts to implement the CRPD. DRL seeks proposals to increase the ability of DPOs to play a greater role in advocating for their rights. The closing date for this announcement is December 13, 2011. For more information, click [here](#).

New! Bureau Of Educational and Cultural Affairs - Youth Leadership Program: TechGirls - The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Youth Programs Division, of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA) announces an open competition for the new Youth Leadership Program “TechGirls.” Public and private non-profit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 USC 501(c)(3) may submit proposals to conduct a three- to five-week exchange program in the United States in Summer 2012 focused on promoting high-level study of technology for high school girls from the Middle East and North Africa. U.S. Embassies in the participating countries and territories will recruit, screen, and select the teenage girls. The program will provide an exchange of academic study of applied technology for girls who already have a demonstrated aptitude and strong interest in the subject, will empower girls to pursue higher education and careers in technology, and will support activities in the participants; home countries that are designed to reinforce and support the skills and linkages acquired during the U.S. program. The closing date for this announcement is December 15, 2011. For more information, click [here](#).

New! Office to Monitor/Combat Trafficking in Persons - Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) for Anti-Trafficking Projects in Thailand

Due to the extensive flooding in recent weeks in Thailand, the Department of State's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (the Office) is announcing a special limited solicitation for applications for fiscal year 2012 funding of projects to combat trafficking in persons in Thailand. The first stage of competition for projects in Thailand begins with this solicitation for two-page Statements of Interest (SOI) from organizations interested in submitting proposals for projects that address recommendations for Thailand published in the 2011 Trafficking in Persons Report. In the second stage, the Office will invite applicants whose Statements of Interest are reviewed favorably to submit proposals that expand on their SOI. Statements of Interest and proposals will be reviewed by a panel for consideration of funding. U.S.-based and foreign non-profit and non-governmental organizations (NGO), public international organizations (PIO), and institutions of higher education are encouraged to apply by submitting a Statement of Interest. Pending fiscal year 2012 appropriations, the Office anticipates awarding grants of up to \$750,000 per project. The closing date for this announcement is December 16, 2011. For more information, click [here](#).

New! Bureau Of Educational and Cultural Affairs - Youth Leadership Program with Algeria

The Office of Citizen Exchanges, Youth Programs Division, of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs announces an open competition for the Youth Leadership Program with Algeria. Public and private nonprofit organizations meeting the provisions described in Internal Revenue Code section 26 USC 501(c)(3) may submit proposals to provide youth and adult participants from Algeria with an approximately four-week U.S.-based exchange program in summer 2012 focused on civic education, youth leadership development, respect for diversity, and community engagement, and to support follow-on community service projects in their home communities. The U.S. Embassy in Algiers will recruit, screen, and select Algerian participants. The award recipient will be required to recruit, screen, and select American participants, and collaborate with an in-country partner on logistical arrangements and follow-on activities. The closing date for this announcement is January 4, 2012. For more information, click [here](#).

Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs - U.S. - Afghan National Museum Partnership

As part of the U. S. Government's policy to support Afghanistan's people and government as they establish a more secure, moderate, just, and lasting civil society and to demonstrate American commitment and support for Afghan culture and heritage, the U.S. Embassy Kabul Public Affairs Section is soliciting proposals from highly-qualified and experienced major U.S. non-profit/non-governmental cultural organizations, such as museums or universities, or consortia of organizations and individuals, to enter into a cooperative agreement to develop and carry out the U.S.- Afghan National Museum Partnership. This three-year effort includes; * the establishment of a new museum electronic catalogue and collections management system, * the complete cataloguing and archival rehousing of the Museum's collections in preparation for their future relocation to a new Museum building, * practical, sustainable, capacity-building training in museum management, museum practice and operations for the National Museum of Afghanistan staff in Kabul, Afghanistan. The closing date for this announcement is December 14, 2011. For more information, click [here](#).