



INVESTING IN WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Inside this issue

Gender and Disability in International Development

“Globally, women make up three-fourths of the disabled people in low- and middle-income countries” (USAID/WID). See page 2 to learn how USAID is addressing this cross-cutting theme, and how IWID Fellow, Anne Hayes is supporting this work .

The IWID Fellowship Program exists:

To assist USAID Missions, Bureaus, implementing partners and NGOs in **integrating gender considerations** into the Agency’s work and advance USAID’s policies and capacity to address critical gender issues.

To **promote full and equal participation of women and men** in developing countries’ economic and social transformation by making USAID programs gender-sensitive.

To continue the expansion of a **cadre of international field-experienced women and men** in development activities and working in the field of international development.

FIELD NOTES: COORDINATING TO COMBAT TRAFFICKING IN RUSSIA

Trafficking in persons is well-recognized as a problem of international scope and, as such, one that requires cooperative efforts across regions and among various actors. The trafficking problem in Russia is particularly complex, involving persons being trafficked from Russia to destinations in Europe, the Middle East and Asia, others who are trafficked to Russia, often from neighboring former Soviet states, and also people who are trafficked and exploited within the country without crossing a border. In response to the trafficking problem worldwide, the international community has recognized that action needs to be taken in three primary areas: **Prevention** (of the crime of human trafficking), **Prosecution** (of traffickers) and ensuring the **Protection** of trafficked persons (which includes the protection of their human rights as well as the provision of needed services).

USAID/Russia’s programs have primarily focused on



USAID/Russia staff learn about the issue of human trafficking in the Russian Far East; NGO roundtable, Vladivostok, September 2007
Photo courtesy of Alexei Trepikhain

prevention. This work has included such activities as improving public awareness of the problem, often by working with local media outlets; improving non-exploitive employment opportunities for women in Russia and demonstrating these alternatives to at-risk groups; enhancing the capacity of professionals to respond when they encounter risk factors among their clients; and addressing some of the “push factors” for trafficking, such as domestic violence.

USAID/Russia also works closely with the Law Enforcement Section (LES) of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, which implements criminal justice and law enforcement technical assistance programs. In the area of human trafficking, LES focuses on issues of prosecution and undertakes such activities as disseminating information about criminal legislation among law enforcement professionals, teaching best

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The Investing in Women in Development (IWID) Fellowship Program is sponsored by the U.S. Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Office of Women in Development (EGAT/WID) and administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE). IWID places mid-career professionals with dual expertise in gender and a technical sector in USAID Missions, Bureaus and with implementing partners.

For more information on hosting an IWID Fellow or becoming an IWID Fellow, please visit our website at www.iwid.org

FIELD NOTES GENDER & DISABILITY

THE “DISABILITY FUND”

In 2005, through the Consolidated Appropriations Act (HR 4818), \$2.5 million was appropriated to USAID to address the needs and to protect the rights of people with disabilities in developing countries. These funds were spearheaded by the leadership of Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa and marked the first time that USAID had dedicated separate funding solely to the issue of protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and building the capacity of Disabled Persons Organizations (DPOs). In 2006 and in 2007, the Disability Fund, as it is now informally called, received an additional \$3.96 million per year. Since its inception, the Disability Fund has helped engage DPOs to promote and build awareness of the rights of people with disabilities in more than 20 countries. It has offered grants to organizations such as Mobility International USA (MIUSA), American Institutes for Research (AIR), and the International Foundation for Election Systems (IFES) among others and generated the release of a

request for concept papers to all of the USAID Mission that provided funds to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities into the political process.

USAID is currently in the process of releasing a second request for concept papers to USAID Mission and Washington Operating Units to increase awareness of disability, to build capacity of DPOs and to support pilot projects on inclusive development. Similar to the process that was conducted in 2006, organizations of people with disabilities as well as organizations working on programs for people with disabilities are eligible to apply for funding. Final selection of concept papers will be made by a Washington based panel to ensure geographic and sectoral distribution.

The Disability Fund is managed by the USAID Office of Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA).

Contributed by Anne Hayes

Barriers exist that prevent women with disabilities from accessing any or all of the benefits of development projects intended to improve their communities.

Physical Barriers prevent women and girls with disabilities from receiving various services and participating in international development programs. For example, a recent survey in South Africa has found that the services for battered women, with a few exceptions, are generally not accessible or appropriate to the needs of women with disabilities.

Attitudinal Barriers: People with disabilities often face stigmas and exclusion resulting from limited knowledge and understanding of the causes of disability. For example, in India, women with physical disabilities are not eligible to receive reproductive health services because they are considered to have no marriage prospects.

Organizational Barriers: Projects are often implemented without adequate consultation from people with disabilities or the disabled community, which can result in programs that are not accessible or discriminate against people with disabilities.

The Disability Fund supports several initiatives to break down the barrier that women with disabilities face including: ensuring that all programs supported by the Disability Fund have a strong gender component; supporting the work of Mobility International USA (MIUSA) which supports and educates USAID Mission staff on the inclusion of men and women with disabilities; and through the cross-cutting work of **IWID Fellow Anne Hayes**, who trains and advocates for the inclusion of women with disabilities into all of

USAID/Women in Development
“Women with Disabilities in International Development”
http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/cross-cutting_programs/wid/gender/wwd.html

The Disability Fund has supported opportunities to build the capacity of multiple stakeholders working to promote the rights and inclusion of people with disabilities. **IWID Fellow Anne Hayes** will play a central role in one such opportunity, in addition to her continuing role assisting in the fund’s management. A new grant given to the American Institutes for Research (AIR) will allow them to work with three USAID Missions in different regions to conduct inclusive development pilot projects and provide training to USAID, partners and disability leaders in the field. Anne will work closely with the project’s CTO, Lloyd Feinberg, to liaise with DPOs and selected Missions and to help oversee some daily activities.

FIELD NOTES: TRAFFICKING CONTINUED

practices in investigation, participating in criminal law reform efforts and assisting in efforts to coordinate law enforcement and civil society responses to the problem.

USAID and LES have also worked jointly on several projects aimed at combating human trafficking in Russia, with **IWID Fellow Elisabeth Duban** serving as a liaison

between the two offices. In Fall 2007, USAID/Russia and LES joined an inter-agency assessment team from Washington which traveled to Russia to determine the impact of U.S. government funding in the area of anti-trafficking and to identify any gaps in assistance. The assessment team consisted of representatives of the State Department Office to

Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons (G/TIP) and of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (EUR/ACE) as well as LES, USAID/Washington, and **IWID Fellow Elisabeth Duban** from USAID/Russia. The team conducted a number of interviews, held round tables and conducted site visits in major cities across Russia.

Contributed by Elisabeth Duban

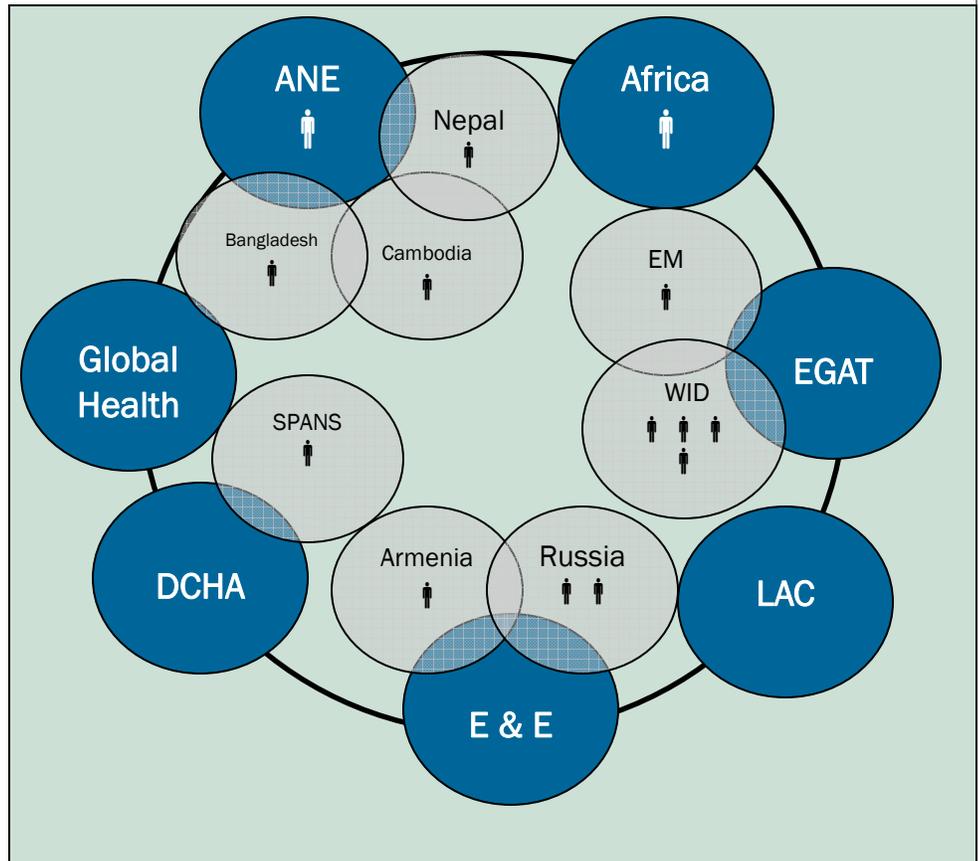
IWID Fellow Elisabeth Duban has worked on the issue of human trafficking for a number of years and in several capacities—conducting research, creating educational and training materials for women’s organizations and also working to improve NGO and law enforcement cooperation in Russia. With knowledge of both trafficking in the region and the work of USAID, Elisabeth has been well-suited to represent the mission in strategic planning and in future joint efforts.

PROGRAM NOTES: IWID FELLOWS' REALM OF IMPACT

Each ♀ in the accompanying graph represents one of the 14 IWID fellows placed in a USAID Mission or Bureau since 1999. 93% or 13 out of 14 Fellowships have been extended for 6 months or longer. In total person-years, IWID Fellows have contributed **nearly 3 decades** of technical support and gender expertise in a variety of sectors including girls' education, natural resource management, monitoring and evaluation, programming for persons with disabilities, economic growth, conflict prevention and trafficking-in-persons.

Over the last nine years, IWID Fellows have supported the work of each of USAID's Bureaus through direct placement in Bureau offices or field missions as well as through their contributions to cross-cutting issues and by providing direct technical support.

From Washington, the IWID Fellows Program has also provided capacity building and technical support to LAC field missions. IWID Fellow Anne Hayes traveled to Mexico to meet with the Mission Director and SO team leaders to discuss including gender and disability in USAID-Mexico development projects as part



of her assignment in the Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance Bureau (DCHA).

In the same way, IWID Fellow Elisabeth Duban has been able to promote the Global Health Bureau's strategic priorities around HIV/AIDS through her placement in the USAID-Russia Mission. Elisabeth is working with USAID-Russia's Health Office to incorporate gender and youth considerations in HIV/AIDS work under the President's

Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).

IWID Fellow Yamilee Bastein also supported this priorities around HIV/AIDS through her earlier placement in the Women in Development Office in USAID/Washington. She worked directly with the Global Health Bureau, serving as an expert on the gender dimensions of HIV for a study carried out by the Bureau on the same topic.

Visit us online at www.iwid.org to learn more



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The Investing in Women in Development Fellowship Program (IWID) is sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and managed by the Institute of International Education (IIE). The purpose of the IWID Fellowship is to make USAID programs and projects more effective by ensuring that gender issues are integrated in the design and implementation of all activities. This is accomplished by placing mid-career US professionals in USAID Missions and Bureaus in Washington, DC, as well as implementing partners in the field.



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