



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

*The Administrator*

The Honorable Mark Steven Kirk  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Kirk:

Thank you for your letter of March 15, 2010, concerning implementation of the Partner Vetting System (PVS).

Both Secretary Clinton and I share your concerns about the risk that U.S. Government foreign assistance funds might be diverted by individuals associated with terrorism. As we made clear in our briefing to your staff on March 19, the U.S. Agency for International Development strongly supports a vetting system to minimize this risk.

In accordance with the FY 2010 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, which authorizes the use of appropriated funds to implement a PVS pilot program that applies equally to State and USAID, we have been working together to develop key objectives and design parameters for a vetting system and to identify and resolve all issues related to development of this system.

Our plan is to provide a general design framework for the pilot to House and Senate Appropriations Committees in about one month. Following discussion with the Committees on the details of the design, we will begin the administrative rulemaking process, which we expect to be completed this summer. We should be ready to launch the pilot by the end of the summer and hope to be able to evaluate the utility, feasibility, and resource implications of the pilot vetting system within 6 to 12 months after it has been implemented.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Rajiv Shah