



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Transforming Development through

# SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION



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# ICT is a critical infrastructure for Economic Growth

- Direct correlation between ICT infrastructure penetration and economic growth
- The largest companies and the largest tax payers in developing countries are telecom companies
- ICT infrastructure enables low cost, efficient information flow in support of beneficiaries
- Poor people are willing to pay for these services
- We must develop new ways to support the expansion of ICT infrastructure

# USAID Science and Technology Priorities

- Launching a Series of Grand Challenges for Development
- Making USAID a Center of Excellence for S&T
- Leveraging our Federal Science Agencies

# Grand Challenges for Development

## DEFINITION

- A large, yet focused, problem statement
- Solutions to GCDs will be sustainable and may leap frog 20<sup>th</sup> century infrastructure
- defines the problem not the solution – open approach
- Engages partners and other actors in the exploration for solutions

## EXPERIENCE

- Easy to visualize
- High profile launch event
- Maintain public engagement for years
- Backed by USAID resources
- Partner with other USG and external actors
- Inspire others and spread virally

# Maternal & Newborn Services Challenge

## CHALLENGE

To develop innovative approaches to ensure quality prevention and care to pregnant women and newborns in rural settings around the time of delivery

Tightly defined problem; strong set of partners with large resource commitments

# Education Challenge

## CHALLENGE

All kids with 3 years of formal education can read

Global Race to the Top and innovation grant program

# Open Innovation

A rocket is shown launching from the bottom right towards the top left, leaving a white smoke trail. The rocket's side is decorated with a stylized skull pattern in white and blue. The background is a clear blue sky.

- Expose and articulate the demand  
(e.g. problem statement)
- Bring new solvers into development
- Find new solutions that exist in other fields
- Capture and share experience
- Foster indigenous S&T Capacity