



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# USAID OPEN GOVERNMENT PLAN

*“Our objective each day is to seek out best practices, learn from them, and adapt them to everything we do. We are committed to transparency in both our successes and our failures—viewing both as opportunities to learn and improve.”*

--Dr. Rajiv Shah, USAID Administrator

USAID Open Government Plan v2.0  
[www.usaid.gov/open](http://www.usaid.gov/open)  
04/09/2012

# Introduction

For over five decades, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has saved lives and improved human welfare around the world. As a leader in global development, our Agency has amassed a wealth of knowledge that we believe is important to share publicly. By making our data, programs and evaluations easily accessible, we are helping to create a global commons that grounds development practice in evidence and shares knowledge to inform significantly new approaches in development. We take transparency and accountability in foreign aid seriously, and we are working hard to ensure that we effectively communicate our efforts to the American people, our stakeholders and our partners at home and abroad.

USAID is embracing President Obama's Open Government Initiative and is increasingly sharing more information with the general public, broader U.S. government, international donors, implementing partners, host countries, and beneficiaries—all with the objective of addressing development needs. This is being done on a regular basis across the worldwide USAID organization. USAID works in over 100 countries around the world. We must also be able to learn from each other as well as from our partners and stakeholders, so we can increase our development impact. The learning experience requires the full extent of the Agency's own knowledge be made available in a way it can easily be shared without borders, across countries and development sectors.

In the following sections of USAID's second version of our Open Government Plan (Plan v2), USAID outlines initiatives that have been completed since the publication of the first Plan, as well as status updates, new activities, and planned Flagship Initiatives related to the key principles of the Open Government Initiative -- transparency, participation and collaboration.

USAID's staff and partners are demonstrating the principles of open government on a daily basis in support of our strategic goal areas:

- Peace and Security
- Governing Justly and Democratically
- Investing in People
- Promoting Economic Growth and Prosperity
- Providing Humanitarian Assistance
- Strengthening Management Capabilities

USAID and its Administrator, Dr. Rajiv Shah, have demonstrated strong support for the Initiative and key principles of Open Government. In a speech before the National Press Club, Administrator Shah pledged that "our Agency will embrace the concept of extreme transparency." The Agency will continue to support Dr. Shah's vision by instilling a culture of open government throughout USAID.

Our Agency recognizes that Open Government is about more than just tools and technology. Culture and policy are also key components of our strategy to ensure the full benefits of Open Government are realized. Many operational areas within the Agency will be required to engage in tangible ways to support these objectives. Operational areas supporting Open Government at USAID include:

- Strategic Planning
- Internal Directives and Policy
- Legal
- Performance
- Evaluation
- Employee Relations
- Public Affairs
- Agency Operations
- Partnerships
- Security and Privacy
- Infrastructure
- Enterprise Architecture
- Program Management

The requirement to develop an Open Government Plan initially gave USAID the opportunity to present a comprehensive view of programmatic and operational activities already underway that supported the Open Government Directive. This second version of our Plan captures the Agency's initiated, completed and planned projects in one place. The Plan also demonstrates USAID's commitment to the Directive's principles and illustrates the Agency-wide effort taking place to bring about transparency, participation and collaboration throughout our work.

# 1.0 Transparency

*“Transparency promotes accountability by providing the public with information about what the Government is doing.” – Open Government Directive*

USAID has a strong history, and numerous examples, of programs and projects promoting transparency. In 1975, USAID established the [Development Experience Clearinghouse \(DEC\)](#) in order to strengthen development activities by making development experience documents available to a wide variety of audiences. Since the early 1990s, USAID has maintained a [public Web presence](#) to enable openness by publishing information online for sharing with the general public, broader U.S. government, international donors, implementing partners, host countries, and beneficiaries. To further our transparency efforts, in June 2012 the Agency will launch a new public Web site that will incorporate cutting-edge tools to provide accessible, real-time information about our work, the results we deliver for the American people and our partners, the partnerships we forge, and the lives we touch around the world.

Under the Open Government Initiative, USAID has been moving beyond information contained in published documents and reports, to information created on demand in the process of performing the Agency’s work. Based on the directive, the presumption will be in favor of openness to the extent permitted by law and subject to valid privacy, confidentiality, security, or other restrictions. USAID will strive towards publishing more information online in an open format that can be retrieved, downloaded, indexed, and searched by commonly used web search applications.

The transparency projects and commitments outlined in this section build on the steady progress made over the past two years. USAID recognizes that transparency by publishing “high-value information” online and in open formats where available, can be very valuable to staff and partners alike. The Open Government Directive defines “high-value information” as information that can be used to:

- Increase agency accountability and responsiveness;
- Improve public knowledge of the agency and its operations;
- Further the core mission of the agency;
- Create economic opportunity;
- Respond to need and demand as identified through public consultations.

Updating internal USAID data policy and procedures and using new technologies will contribute to improving transparency efforts already underway. By using new technologies for organizing, aggregating, and publishing data and information, it will be much easier to quickly share information and data sets, map them, visualize them, and otherwise add value to use the data more effectively. An

additional benefit is that the updated guidance and policy governing the release of data and information to the public improves the process and contributes to improved business and change management processes in the Agency.

### **USAID's Transparency Objectives**

By making our information accessible to the public, we are:

- Contributing to greater understanding on the part of the **tax-paying public** of the depth and breadth of USAID's work in international development;
- More actively engaging **stakeholders** in the foreign assistance dialogue as both successes and failures are appropriately noted and analyzed;
- Making our data available to **implementing partners** as they work side by side with us to address development challenges; and
- Putting information in the hands of **people who benefit from our assistance** -- thus empowering them with information that could lead to their own solutions.

## Transparency Commitments and Status: Open Government Plan v1.0

USAID has completed 10 of the 12 Transparency projects outlined in the Agency's first plan. The two initiatives that have not been started – updating USAID's policy and contract language - have commitment dates in 2012. Details on the status of activities and projects outlined in Plan v1.0 are included in the chart below.

<b>U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Open Government Implementation Tracker April 2010 Plan Commitments, Citations and Status</b>			
<b>Commitment</b>	<b>Commitment Date</b>	<b>Citation in Plan v1.0</b>	<b>Status</b>
<b>Transparency</b>			
<b>Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC)</b> - Collect and post underlying data	Date Not Specified	1.2	<b>Complete</b> (DEC documents available through to Data.gov)
<b>Transparency Initiatives</b> - Establish more extensive foreign assistance data standards with inter-agency working group.	December 15, 2010	1.3	<b>Complete</b> (The Foreign Assistance Dashboard Version 1 is Live; Adding additional data is Ongoing)
<b>USAID's Automated Directives System (ADS) Policy Updates</b> - Incorporate new standards of data dissemination contained in the OGD	October 1, 2012	1.3.1	<b>Not started</b> (New commitment date defined in Plan v2.0)
<b>Update USAID Contract Language</b> - To publish underlying data from implementing partners	December 1, 2012	1.3.1	<b>Not started</b> (New commitment date defined n Plan v2.0)
<b>Data.gov</b> - Populate Data.gov with data supporting the Agency's development mission	N/A - Ongoing	1.3.1	<b>Complete</b> (Added four new USAID data sets and updated existing USAID data sets to data.gov in FY2010. USAID's Greenbook continues to be among the top 3 downloaded of all time.)
<b>IT Dashboard Reporting Requirements</b> - Ensure USAID remains compliant with reporting requirements	N/A - Ongoing	1.3.3	<b>Complete</b> (compliance will be ongoing)
<b>Recovery.gov Reporting Requirements</b> - Ensure USAID remains compliant with reporting requirements	N/A - Ongoing	1.3.4	<b>Complete</b> (compliance will be ongoing)
<b>USAspending.gov Reporting Requirements</b> - Ensure USAID remains compliant with reporting requirements	N/A - Ongoing	1.3.5	<b>Complete</b> (compliance will be ongoing)
<b>Records Management Training</b> - Launch of new online training course	Date Not Specified	1.5	<b>Complete</b> ("USAID Online Records Management Course" available in the USAID University)
<b>Records Management Tool</b> - Launch new e-records tools	Date Not Specified	1.5	<b>Complete</b> (Phase I Complete. An e-records management tool was procured on September 30, 2011. The tool will be piloted in 2012 and new commitments are defined in Plan v2.0.)
<b>Conduct Record Management Workshops, Presentations and Forums</b> - To teach records management to USAID/W and Mission Staff	Date Not Specified	1.5	<b>Complete</b> (On November 15, USAID hosted its first "FOIA Forum" with experts from across government as well as USAID FOIA professionals, to discuss EO 13392, How to Improve Agency Disclosure of Information)
<b>FOIA Backlog</b> - Backlog reduced by 10% each fiscal year	October 1, 2011	1.6	<b>Complete</b> (Prior year's FOIA backlog was reduced by 63%)

## **1.1 Launch Re-Designed Internal and Public Websites (A Flagship Initiative)**

The USAID external Web site (<http://www.usaid.gov>) is a critical resource for individuals seeking information on USAID. The Web site attracts approximately 400,000 unique users with more 1.5 million page views per month. The public Web site also provides the public with a conduit for finding opportunities to work for or to do business with USAID. In order to communicate effectively online, USAID recognizes that we must continually update our communications channels, and as one major element of this strategy, the Agency is launching redesigned site in June 2012. The Agency will also continue to assess and strengthen its online communications tools, including social media, to ensure that we are effectively reaching diverse and global audiences.

## **1.2 The USAID Administrator's Annual Letter**

Administrator Shah launched USAID's first annual letter in March 2011, starting an annual information-sharing tradition at the Agency. Since arriving at USAID, it has been the Administrator's priority to share the great work of the Agency's staff with the American people in a more, direct, transparent and accessible way. Dr. Shah wrote his 2011 annual letter to more directly communicate USAID's work to the millions of Americans who care about its mission of overcoming global poverty, hunger, illness and injustice while enabling the Agency's work around the world. From detailing USAID reforms, to explaining Agency efforts in Haiti, Afghanistan and Sudan, to describing the new approaches presented by Feed the Future and the Global Health Initiative, the letter offered an accessible account of USAID's work. Dr. Shaw wants Americans to know that, "by doing good, we do well. Our assistance depends on generosity from the American people. But it also derives benefits for the American people: it keeps our country safe and strengthens our economy." You can download the 2011 USAID Annual Letter here: <http://50.usaid.gov/2011-annual-letter/introduction/>.

The tradition continued in 2012. On March 9, USAID released its second annual letter. This year's letter shares the thinking behind some of the strategic choices the Agency has made to advance America's key diplomatic and national security priorities, focusing on the elevated role of development in America's foreign policy efforts.

The 2012 annual letter offers a progress report on major initiatives and events that have developed and shaped USAID since its establishment 50 years ago, and the Administrator highlights how the agency's recent efforts and reforms serve to integrate international development into America's key diplomatic and national security priorities, as outlined by President Obama and Secretary Clinton. You can print and download a copy of the 2012 annual letter here: <http://www.usaid.gov/annualletter>.

### 1.3 USAID Data Initiatives and the Foreign Assistance Dashboard (A Flagship Initiative)

USAID continues to make data available to data.gov and is working with the Office of the Director of Foreign Assistance at the Department of State (State/F) to make USAID data available, and easily accessible, in the Foreign Assistance Dashboard ([www.foreignassistance.gov](http://www.foreignassistance.gov)). The table in Appendix A lists USAID's high-value information currently available to the public including new and updated data sets published to data.gov since the launch of USAID Open Government Plan v1.0. USAID will continue to identify data and information not yet available online and strive to post it in an open format in data.gov and on the Dashboard where required.



The Dashboard - <http://www.foreignassistance.gov>

In addition to posting raw data and tools on data.gov, USAID, working with the U.S. Department of State, launched an easy-to-use dashboard at <http://foreignassistance.gov/> that anyone in the world can use to track how American foreign aid dollars are spent. The dashboard includes more than just USAID data. Soon, every U.S. Government agency that distributes foreign aid will be incorporated into the Dashboard. The goal of the Foreign Assistance Dashboard is to enable a wide variety of stakeholders, including U.S. citizens, civil society organizations, the Congress, U.S. Government (USG) agencies, donors, partner country governments, and beneficiaries, the ability to examine, research, and track U.S. Government foreign assistance investments in an



accessible and easy-to-understand format. All of the USAID data sets on the Dashboard will also be available on data.gov.

With the mandates of the U.S. Government's Open Government Initiative and the U.S. National Action Plan for the Open Government Partnership, the U.S. Government is meeting its commitments under the Paris Declaration and the Accra Agenda for Action to make information on foreign assistance programs more transparent. Together, these initiatives will:

- Contribute to greater understanding on the part of the tax-paying public of the depth and breadth of the U.S. Government's work in international development;
- More actively engage stakeholders in the foreign assistance dialogue as both successes and failures are appropriately noted and analyzed;
- Make U.S. Government foreign assistance data available to implementing partners to inform their efforts as they work side by side with us to address development challenges;
- Help donor countries coordinate, simplify procedures and share information to avoid duplication;
- Assist host country governments so they are in a better position to manage their own country systems and aid flows; and,
- Put foreign assistance information in the hands of people who benefit from U.S. Government assistance – thus empowering them with information that could lead to viable solutions.

The first release of USAID data on the Dashboard consisted of budget and appropriation data from Fiscal Years 2006 - 2011 from State Department and USAID, as available in the Congressional Budget Justification. In 2012, USAID will publish obligation and spending data along with planning for the release of additional data types such as procurement and project data that will be mandated under a forthcoming OMB Bulletin.

### 1.3.1 The Greenbook

The U.S. Overseas Loans and Grants website (<http://gbk.eads.usaidallnet.gov/>) provides a complete historical record of all foreign assistance provided by the United States to the rest of the world. It is a companion to the annual report to Congress, *U.S. Overseas Loans and Grants, Obligations and Loan Authorizations*—commonly known as the Greenbook. The Greenbook has been published by USAID for nearly fifty years and its companion website was launched a decade ago.



The Greenbook print publication details U.S. economic and military foreign-assistance obligations from 1946 to the present in historical dollars. Data are organized by country and are broken down by major funding agencies and accounts. In addition, the data are shown by U.S. foreign assistance legislative authorities: Post-War Relief (1946–1948), Marshall Plan (1949–1952), Mutual Security Act (1953–1961), and Foreign Assistance Act (1962–present). The website expands on this data by also presenting constant-dollar data to allow for the comparison of assistance levels in different time periods.

### 1.3.2 International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI)

In addition to the Dashboard commitments, Administrator Shah and Secretary of State Clinton attended the Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Busan, South Korea, in November 2011 where Secretary Clinton announced that the U.S. had become a signatory to the International Aid Transparency Initiative. This commits USAID, along with all other U.S. government agencies that make foreign assistance available, to publish up-to-date data in a common format so that partner countries have comparable sets of data for assistance received from different donors and citizens can better track the aid dollars that flow in and out of their countries. U.S. Government foreign assistance data published in the IATI standard format will be available through the Foreign Assistance Dashboard. On behalf of the U.S. government, USAID is taking the lead on developing an implementation schedule to fulfill the commitment to IATI, building upon the data being submitted by different agencies to the Dashboard.

### 1.3.3 Foster Public Use of Agency Data and Information (A Flagship Initiative)

The success of USAID’s development effort lies precisely in the degree to which the Agency can leverage its accumulated knowledge through strategic facilitation

of global learning to spread innovation and opportunity far beyond the particular programs it funds. Success comes from taking the learning generated through implementing Agency programs and facilitating its widespread adaptation, replication and scaling up by governments, civil society organizations and the private sector.

Throughout its history, USAID has had great success in leveraging its knowledge to achieve impact across entire global sectors. An early and celebrated example was the Green Revolution, which leveraged innovations in plant breeding and crop management to dramatically increase agricultural yields through improved technology and sharing best practices. A more current example is the [microLINKS knowledge sharing program](#), which combines traditional face-to-face forums with collaboration and social media technologies to spread learning about innovations in sustainable microfinance, enterprise development and market access far beyond the reach of USAID's own programs.

Most recently, in partnership with mobile operators, foundations, and companies USAID has pioneered mobile money in Afghanistan and Haiti, and now is working to bring other countries on board. Most of the 1.8 billion people globally, without access to formal financial services now have a mobile phone. Enabling these mobile phone users to use their phones to send and receive money, purchase goods, pay bills, or run businesses, will be a major driver in transforming developing countries' economies.

This year, USAID will attempt to use the public's help to crowd source a data clean-up effort of a global USAID dataset of over 100,000 records from USAID's Development Credit Authority (DCA), in order to map the data and make them open to the public. The data are the locations of loans made by private banks in developing countries thanks to a USAID risk-sharing guarantee program. Geo-visualization of these loans will allow countries and the public to see where USAID has helped to enhance the private sector's capacity to lend to new sectors. USAID Missions will be able to see where loans in specific sectors are being disbursed and how these loans could act as a gauge of the needs and trends in those areas to further signal areas for synergy with other projects. This would be the first time that USAID has used crowd-sourcing to help process its data and is notable for leveraging several USG government assets – including assistance from the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency and repurposing of data.gov to act as a crowd sourcing platform – to effectively eliminate associated costs. This project, which is a collaboration between the GeoCenter and DCA is being implemented at zero cost to USAID, could serve as an example for future public engagement.

In support of increased transparency and open government, through 2014 USAID will explore new ways to engage with citizens and stakeholders to put this data and information to use, such as facilitated sessions with application

developers and through establishing a [Foreign Assistance Community](#) on data.gov.

#### 1.3.4 Improving Data Collection Processes to Capture High Value Data

As part of its normal business, USAID generates both operational and technical programmatic data. Many of our operational data sets, used as part of central planning, budgeting, procurement, and spending, are coordinated centrally.

USAID is making progress in posting data from our operational systems of record to the Foreign Assistance Dashboard. Data from our budgeting system is publically available on the Dashboard. Additional USAID financial data will be posted on data.gov, and accessible on the Dashboard, by December 2012. Additional data sets based on the Dashboard format will be scheduled and released on the Dashboard and through data.gov in 2013.

For USAID programmatic data, our future data plans will address not only public access to the information but also improved internal coordination and standardization to gather data from across the Agency's technical offices and country Missions. USAID is striving to have an improved programmatic data collection process in use by 2014.

### 1.4 **The Development Experience Clearinghouse**

USAID has a long history of making the Agency's rich development experience available to the public. In 1975, USAID established the [Development Experience Clearinghouse \(DEC\)](#). The DEC's purpose is to strengthen development activities by making development experience documents available to a wide variety of audiences including USAID offices and mission staff, non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, developing countries, and the public worldwide.

Originally, all source documents were stored on microfilm and their associated metadata stored on computer tapes running on a mainframe with no online access. Now, the DEC is the largest online resource for USAID funded technical and program documentation. At the time of USAID's publication of its Open Government Plan v1.0, over 72,000 documents were available for electronic download at <http://dec.usaid.gov/>. Over the past two years, additional documents in the collection has been scanned and stored electronically. Now, a collection of more than 150,000 documents are available online for easy electronic download by staff, our partners, and the public.

The DEC is such a rich collection of development experience because the requirement to contribute to the archive is written into the terms of USAID contracts and grants. According to Acquisition & Assistance Policy Directive 04-06: Submission of Development Experience Documents:

*The Contractor shall submit to USAID's Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) copies of reports and information products which describe, communicate or organize program/project development assistance activities, methods, technologies, management, research, results and experience as outlined in the Agency's ADS Chapter 540. ...These reports include: assessments, evaluations, studies, development experience documents, technical reports and annual reports. The Contractor shall also submit copies of information products including training materials, publications, databases, computer software programs, videos and other intellectual deliverable materials required under the Contract Schedule.*

In 2008, the Agency's Automated Directives System (ADS) Chapter 540: USAID Development Experience Information, was amended to accept electronic information in all National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)-approved formats as described in NARA guidelines related to the transfer of permanent e-Records. (See <http://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/initiatives/transfer-to-nara.html>).

In addition, the software used by the DEC will be upgraded this year to a product that improves full text searches, expand options to save and share documents and allow collaboration through comments, ranking and blogs.

All of this paves the way for taking DEC to the next level—collecting and publishing underlying data in the most accessible forms and formats as called for in the Open Government Directive. This will require an aggressive plan to: 1) educate our Contracting Officer's Representative (CORs); 2) implement additional software/ hardware upgrades to automate content tagging and expand data holdings to include geospatial data and multi-media; and 3) enforce the policy with implementing partners. USAID also plans to add geospatial data to the DEC collection. With this additional content USAID will be able to share the supporting data from its projects and analysis directly with the public in ways previously not possible.

## **1.5 USAID Contributions to U.S. Government Transparency Initiatives**

USAID is currently meeting its legal information dissemination obligations as defined in the Paperwork Reduction Act, Public Law. No. 104-13, section 3506(d). Our Agency is providing the public with timely and equitable access to USAID's publically available information

The following sub-sections provide additional information about USAID's participation in a variety of U.S. Government transparency initiatives.

### 1.5.1 Data.gov

The purpose of the Data.gov initiative is to make data generated by the Federal Government available to the public. According to the data.gov website, “Data.gov strives to make government more transparent and is committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in Government. The openness derived from Data.gov will strengthen our Nation's democracy and promote efficiency and effectiveness in Government.” Data.gov is a platform by which the public can evaluate the Federal Government’s, and each government agency’s, commitment to transparency. The Open Government Directive instructs each agency to identify and publish high-value information<sup>1</sup>.

January 22, 2010, marked the official launch of Data.gov and the requirement for each agency to post three high-value datasets for public inspection. USAID met the original requirement. USAID data currently posted on data.gov are described in Appendix A and can be found on the [USAID data.gov page](#), under both the Raw Data and Tools Catalogs.

For USAID data that is already in the public domain, Data.gov facilitates discovery and presentation of data in a user-friendly format. One of the original data sets posted to data.gov, U.S. Overseas Loans and Grants, is still one of the top downloaded data sets of all time with nearly 53,000 downloads as of March 2012. For data historically limited to internal Agency use, USAID plans to include additional Agency data sets through an improved process that will ensure privacy, confidentiality, and security regulations are protected.

USAID’s Chief Information Officer (CIO) is responsible for populating Data.gov with high-value, authoritative data that explains and supports the Agency’s core development mission. The CIO established a Point of Contact (POC) who is responsible for implementing Data.gov submission procedures and coordinate compliance requirements both within USAID and between the Agency and the Data.gov Program Management Office.

As USAID evaluates data for suitability for posting to Data.gov, the Agency will incorporate applicable policies and procedures from the Automated Directives System, USAID’s directives management program.

- Chapter 557, Public Information, describes the responsibility of the Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs to ensure information released to the public is in an appropriate style for public distribution and consistent with Agency policies.

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<sup>1</sup> Open Government Directive Attachment section 3.a.i defines “high-value information” as “information that can be used to increase agency accountability and responsiveness; improve public knowledge of the agency and its operations; further the core mission of the agency; create economic opportunity; or respond to need and demand as identified through public consultation.”

- Chapter 578, Information Quality Guidelines, adopts Office of Management and Budget (OMB)—the Executive Office of the President—guidelines on information quality and USAID-specific procedures to implement the OMB guidelines. In this chapter, USAID uses six categories to classify Agency information:
  - Planning and Management
  - Programs, Products, and Services
  - Policy, Legislative, Regulatory Standards, and Enforcement
  - Research and Statistical
  - General Reference
  - Influential Scientific, Financial, or Statistical.

Both chapters will require revision to include the new standards of data dissemination contained in the Open Government Directive. A working group composed of the Agency data quality subject matter experts, the Information Technology (IT) legal advisor, the POC of Data.gov, the Office of Security, the Privacy Office and others working in information technology will establish a review and approval process to qualify data for Data.gov. USAID will include policy updates to its Automated Directives System to improve the process for publically posting its data no later than 2013.

#### 1.5.2 Regulations.gov

The E-Government Act of 2002 required agencies to become more transparent and accountable by providing Web-based access to records and by allowing a broader spectrum of the public to participate in the rulemaking process. The website [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) is the public face of the U.S. Government's eRulemaking Initiative and facilitates public participation in the federal regulatory process by providing a single location where the public can view and comment on federal regulatory actions. New changes to the site will improve public participation, support an "open exchange" of information and content, increase the knowledge of the regulatory process and provide easier access to rules and regulations. In addition the site has integrated social media tools (Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Regulations.gov Exchange).

The Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) is an electronic docket management system that provides Agencies the ability to post a broad set of documents routinely provided in their dockets (e.g., Federal Register notices, proposals and rules; supporting analyses; and public comments) on the Internet. The FDMS is publicly accessible through Regulations.gov. The FDMS contains Federal rulemaking dockets, including supporting documents that can be reviewed and commented on by the public online.

FDMS requires each agency to designate an FDMS Agency Administrator who is responsible for the application of Agency-specific configurations, user, and

system administration. For USAID, this function resides in the Bureau for Management's Office of the Chief Information Officer (M/CIO).

### 1.5.3 Federal IT Dashboard Requirements

USAID is fully compliant with federal IT Dashboard reporting requirements. The M/CIO has evaluated all Agency major information technology (IT) investments. A representative within USAID's M/CIO issues a monthly data call to the Project Manager (PM) for each major IT investment. After all of the PMs have responded, the completed evaluations are submitted to the M/CIO for review. With the M/CIO's approval, the evaluations are used to update the IT Dashboard at the end of each month.

### 1.5.4 Recovery.gov

Recovery.gov is the U.S. government's official website providing easy access to data related to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act spending and allows for the reporting of potential fraud, waste, and abuse.

Given the high priority placed on the accuracy and reliance of information on USASpending.gov, and specifically information related to American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act) reporting on Recovery.gov, USAID has established internal controls, procedures and data quality standards to assure data is submitted accurately, completely, timely and in the proper format. As prescribed by the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) and the Recovery Act, USAID is responsible for pre-dissemination review of all information being submitted to USASpending.gov and Recovery.gov. All agencies must ensure all reporting is complete and accurate and complies with the agency's Information Quality Act guidelines.

To align with these guidelines for Recovery Act related information, USAID established a Senior Risk Management Council and a supporting Recovery Act working group composed of individuals across business areas accountable for acquisitions, contracts, technology, finance, legal, policy, OMB compliance and risk management. At the beginning of the project, the group met weekly. After the funds were obligated, the group discontinued the weekly meetings and now meets on an as needed basis. The Compliance Lead, located in M/CIO, reviews and facilitates clearance of all Recovery Act information. Information is posted on Recovery.gov and on USAID's public Recovery act website- [www.usaid.gov/recovery/](http://www.usaid.gov/recovery/).

### 1.5.5 USASpending.gov

USAID is committed to data integrity and compliance with all OMB directives relative to data collection, quality and transparency in general and in accordance



with USASpending requirements. It is Agency policy that information about all applicable contracts, grants and loans are available for public review on USASpending.gov in accordance with the various applicable OMB Directives. Specifically this means that all contractual actions are automatically transferred from our internal systems to the government wide Federal Procurement Data System (FPDS) per an agreed upon schedule. Currently, the Agency has two internal automated data collection systems that perform this function, the Global Acquisition and Assistance System (GLAAS) and the Electronic Procurement Information Collection System (EPICS). GLAAS is the Agency's new acquisition and assistance system. Deployment of GLAAS is now complete in all of the USAID field offices and all of the Washington bureaus. The current plan is to sunset EPICS by the end of fiscal year 2012, and in 2013 100% of acquisition and assistance reporting will be done using GLAAS. Both GLAAS and EPICS are directly linked to FPDS, so once data has been entered into one of these systems and validated, it is immediately available on [www.FPDS.gov](http://www.FPDS.gov).

USASpending.gov retrieves its contractual data from FPDS.gov and other websites. Information to be made available to the public is reviewed for data quality errors and issues are reported as appropriate. In the Agency's recent FPDS Data Quality Report, USAID plans to report 100% of all applicable actions by the end of fiscal year 2012. The Agency is also performing Independent Verification and Validation efforts on FPDS data, in accordance with OMB Directives. This requires statistically sampling data submitted to FPDS and comparing it to actual data as presented in the original contractual documents. This process will help identify any reported errors and the need for enhanced training and guidance, if applicable. For assistance actions (grants and cooperative agreements) and loans, the Agency submits a batch process containing all relevant actions for the reporting period to USASpending, twice a month in accordance with governing guidance. All submissions have been successfully received and posted to USASpending.gov. The Agency is committed to systemically providing training and enhancing guidance relative to data reporting.

To align with the additionally data fields required for tracking Recovery Act funds, USAID currently manually creates and transfers a data and program file to FPDS as appropriate. This file enables USASpending.gov to accurately report Recovery Act contractual data to the public.

## **1.6 Records Management**

USAID recognizes the importance of incorporating efficient and effective processes, along with sound policy to manage one of the government's most important assets – its records. The USAID Bureau for Management, Management Services, Information and Records Division (M/MS/IRD) oversees the Agency's management of both paper and electronic records. Policies and practices are currently in place to manage records from creation to destruction to permanent archiving. The effective management of the Agency's official records

results in improvements in searching and retrieving information. This provides for transparency within the Agency.

Realizing the proliferation of electronic records, USAID is making a very assertive effort to put additional tools in place to address the emphasis placed on managing government records by President Obama in his Presidential Memorandum from November 28, 2011 on Managing Government Records. The Obama Administration has emphasized automation and harnessing current technological advances to facilitate openness, transparency, participation and collaboration. In this vein, USAID recently acquired an Electronic Records Management Application, known as ARMS (Agency Records Management System) to provide solutions to address the need to manage the various forms of electronic records. This includes those records currently created, produced, generated and stored on various electronic infrastructures throughout the Agency. With the enterprise-wide implementation of ARMS in 2013, USAID will realize a modernized 21st century records management program to digitize and manage electronic records throughout their lifecycle.

For additional information, see <http://www.usaid.gov/policy/ads/500/502.pdf> -- the Automated Directives System (ADS) chapter on Records Management.

## **1.7 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)**

The FOIA function is centralized in the Bureau for Management's Office of Management Services, Information and Records Division (M/MS/IRD) at USAID. This division is responsible for the receipt of all FOIA requests for the agency. Requests for documents are sent to various bureaus, missions, and offices to fulfill the requests. M/MS/IRD has the authority and full responsibility to receive, process, and make release and withholding determinations for all FOIA requests.

Since USAID is a world-wide operation, spanning more than 100 countries, coordination and collaboration of analyzing and responding to requests vary in duration, as sometimes there are numerous documents submitted from across the globe. Further, if it is determined that submitter's comments are needed, under Executive Order 12600, additional time is required to review and send comments (10 days). These unusual circumstances can sometimes affect USAID's capacity to respond within the statutory time limits.

To facilitate more expedient FOIA processing, USAID uses an electronic tracking system. A recent upgrade to the FOIA tracking system helped to facilitate an increase in timeliness. The upgrade streamlined the FOIA business process and reduced processing time/delays/backlogs, increasing efficiency and productivity in request processing, automating compliance and generating accurate statistical reporting. This system allows the FOIA team to register requests, input responsive documents and other relative information about cases in one place. An acknowledgement letter is generated by the system and sent to the requester

that includes a unique FOIA tracking number and the contact information of the FOIA Specialist assigned to the case.

USAID is very committed to improved FOIA administration, which focuses on reducing the backlog of cases. The Chief FOIA Officer set goals for processing and completing FOIA requests. Unprecedented attention and additional resources were dedicated in this area. In addition, each FOIA specialist consistently reviewed their portfolio to bring older FOIA cases to closure. Weekly and monthly reporting on FOIA statistics also helps to ensure that management, at every level, participates and monitors FOIA progress.

As a result, USAID's prior years FOIA backlog was reduced by 51% in just one year. An aggressive strategy, with targeted goals, coupled with a dedicated team of FOIA professionals, management, and agency partners, contributed to this success, which far surpasses the Attorney General's (AG) annual reduction goal of 10%.

For additional information about USAID's (FOIA) process, see <http://www.usaid.gov/about/foia/>.

## **1.8 Congressional Response**

Every year Congress asks USAID to submit a series of reports on various matters of concern. In an effort to provide a maximum of transparency to the general public, these reports are being made available on the USAID Public Affairs website (<http://www.usaid.gov/press/congressional/>) managed by USAID's Bureau for Legislative and Public Affairs (LPA).

## **1.9 Declassification Program**

The USAID Systemic Declassification Program resides with the Management Bureau's Information and Records Division. The Information Records Division also handles Mandatory Declassification Review requests that are made by the public in accordance with Executive Orders 12958 and 13526 (Classified National Security Information).

Documents that are originally classified outside of USAID, with the exception of State Department, must be sent to that respective agency to be reviewed for declassification. USAID does not have the authority to declassify documents that are not originally classified by USAID's Original Classification Authorities. The USAID Declassification Team reviews documents at the Washington National Records Center (WNRC). These individuals follow the guidance included in Executive Orders 12958 and 13526 to determine when to declassify particular documents.

Referrals made to USAID by other agencies are reviewed by State Department employees located at the national Archives, College Park (NARA II) in

accordance with State's authority to declassify USAID documents and vice versa. Some referrals from CIA are reviewed by a member of the USAID declassification team at International Point.

## 2.0 Participation

*"Participation allows members of the public to contribute ideas and expertise so that their government can make policies with the benefit of information that is widely dispersed in society."* – Open Government Directive, 12/08/2009

USAID is committed to engaging the public in a proactive and transparent exchange of ideas, providing opportunities for the public to provide input into Agency programs and activities. Public engagement impacts the Agency's activities as new foreign assistance projects are designed and implemented. Many offices within USAID's pillar bureaus and overseas missions engage with stakeholders on an ongoing basis to evaluate program successes and improve program design.

### Participation Objectives

By participating with the public, we are:

- Promoting opportunities for the public to participate throughout the decision-making process;
- Offering a more open forum to engage the public in the foreign assistance dialogue;
- Providing an outlet to inform partners, stakeholders and the public of development challenges; and
- Creating an interactive platform for the people who benefit from our assistance.

## Participation Commitments and Status: Open Government Plan v1.0

USAID has completed, and continues to improve upon, Participation projects outlined in the Agency's first plan. Details on the status of activities and projects outlined in Plan v1.0 are included in the chart below:

<b>U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Open Government Implementation Tracker April 2010 Plan Commitments, Citations and Status</b>			
Commitment	Commitment Date	Citation in Plan v1.0	Status
<b>Participation</b>			
<b>Provide Information to the Public/Social Media (via Twitter) -</b> Increase active engagement with the public	N/A - Ongoing	2.1	<b>Complete and Ongoing</b> (Followers as of November 2011: USAID - 122,190; Administrator Raj Shah Followers - 8,959; USAID Missions/Offices with Official USAID Twitter Accounts Continues to Grow and Includes: USAIDMiddleEast, USAIDMozambique, USAIDLiberia, USAIDJamaica, USAIDEgypt, USAIDParaguay, USAIDHaiti, USAIDDevelopmentCreditAuthority, USAIDGlobalHealth, USAIDChiefInnovationOfficer)
<b>Provide Information to the Public/Social Media (via Facebook)-</b> Increase active engagement with the public using Facebook	N/A - Ongoing	2.1	<b>Complete and Ongoing</b> (38,844 Fans as of November 2011)
<b>Provide Information to the Public/Social Media (via USAID YouTube Channel) -</b> Increase active engagement with the public	N/A - Ongoing	2.1	<b>Complete and Ongoing</b> (As of November 2011, USAIDVideo has 20,420 Channel Views; other USAID missions with official USAID channels include: Democratic Republic of Congo, Afghanistan, Africa, West Bank & Gaza, Dakar, Vietnam, Nicaragua, Peru, Morocco, El Salvador, Belarus, Mongolia, Egypt, Ghana, Albania, Pakistan, Bolivia, Timor-Leste, Colombia, Central Asia Republics, India, East Africa Region, Southern Africa, Indonesia, Philippines)
<b>Public Engagement -</b> Through Open Government Website	N/A - Ongoing	2.2	<b>Complete and Ongoing</b> ("Contact Us" Features available on the usaid.gov website)

## **2.1 Public Information and Opportunities for Participation**

Stakeholders and the general public can engage with USAID in a number of venues. USAID's Public Information, Publications, and Online Services division engages the public through written correspondence, the agency phone operator, and the USAID Public Web Site (<http://www.usaid.gov/contact.html>). Feedback and suggestions received from the public are routed internally to appropriate offices for action. Visitors to USAID's "Contact Us" page can look up a USAID staff member in the Personnel Directory or contact a USAID Mission directly by looking it up in the USAID Mission Directory.

## **2.2 Blog and Social Media Participation**

The USAID [Impact Blog](#) is the Agency's tool for communicating daily information about USAID's programs and results. The blog features information about news and events as well as stories from USAID employees in the field. The blog is available from the main Web site page and is also available as an RSS feed, which allows subscription users to automatically receive new content as it becomes available. USAID also communicates with the public on several social media platforms, including [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Flickr](#), [YouTube](#), and [LinkedIn](#). These are being used as avenues for information dissemination as well as resources for two-way communication with citizens, stakeholders, and beneficiaries. USAID Missions are also using social media to communicate with host country audiences in their local languages.

We currently have more than 100 social media accounts being managed through the missions. A [full list of USAID social media accounts](#) can be found on our Facebook page.

## **2.3 Newsletters and Subscriptions**

USAID also maintains multiple newsletters, email lists, and really simple syndication (RSS) feeds, available at [usaid.gov/stayconnected](http://usaid.gov/stayconnected) for dissemination of updates and current information on USAID activities.

USAID's bi-monthly news magazine [Frontlines](#) is available online and in print. We also produce an online [newsletter](#) that is distributed via email and archived on our Web site. Many missions and bureaus also produce regular newsletters.

## **2.4 New and Easier Methods for Public Engagement**

USAID, in the interest of the Open Government Directive, will implement the maximum practical and manageable participation methods available on its [www.USAID.gov/open/](http://www.USAID.gov/open/) page, to include linking to:

- FOIA Request Forms
- USAID Senior Accountable Officials and contact information
- USAID Open Government Representative and contact information
- USAID Organization and Leaders
- USAID Organizational Structure Chart
- USAID Physical Address
- USAID Employee Directory
- USAID Open Government Directive email, i.e., [opengov@usaid.gov](mailto:opengov@usaid.gov)
- 'Share' through Social Media Portals
- USAID Official Social Media page, i.e., Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, Blogs/RSS, Slideshare, et al.
- Contacts for submitting ideas to USAID
- Newsletter/Update subscription forms
- Events calendar for 'Open Public' meetings, speeches, events, etc.
- Other Open Government Links
  - [Open Government Directive](#)
  - [Data.gov](#)
  - [USASpending.gov](#)
  - [Recovery.gov](#)
  - [IT Dashboard](#)
  - [Regulations.gov](#)
- Provide Press Releases in Social Media News Release (SMNR) format for third party ease-of-use.
- Import RSS feed of USAID updates linked to platforms allowing participation
- USAID publications and collateral

USAID official social media pages will allow commenting from the public and be moderated accordingly.

## **2.5 Public Engagement Campaigns**

USAID will continue to develop information and action campaigns to engage the public in our work.

One example was our awareness campaign about famine, war and drought relief in the Horn of Africa, called the FWD or "forward" campaign. USAID launched the nationwide FWD campaign in collaboration with the Ad Council to enlist the American people as our partner in spreading the word about the crisis in the Horn of Africa.

Another recent engagement campaign was a White House event called Innovations for Open Development. The event highlighted how the government and the private sector are harnessing science, technology, and innovation to promote global development. Administrator Shah discussed science, technology and innovation for development and gave the public the opportunity to submit questions for him to answer on a live Web chat. The event offered an opportunity for the public to see what the Agency has done in the field of science and technology, and hear from leaders across the government. More information about the event can be found on the White House website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2012/02/06/open-questions-innovation-global-development>.



## 3.0 Collaboration

*“Collaboration improves the effectiveness of Government by encouraging partnerships and cooperation within the Federal Government, across levels of Government, and between the Government and private institutions.” – Open Government Directive, 12/08/2009*

USAID collaborates with a range of partners through sharing of networks, expertise, and joint innovation to address development challenges that no one organization can solve on its own. Our partnerships span relationships with more than 3,500 American companies and over 300 U.S.-based voluntary organizations. Working in over 100 countries in five regions of the world, USAID programs support long-term development and equitable economic growth and advances U.S. foreign policy objectives. USAID’s commitment to engage and collaborate is governed by our equally important commitment to good development practice. The agency has a range of central collaboration and knowledge-sharing platforms and tools, which are being applied in many collaborative programmatic activities. Our work is focused on economic growth, agriculture and trade, global health, and democracy, conflict prevention, and humanitarian assistance. We are committed to improving collaboration through partnerships and cooperation with other Federal government agencies, across levels of government, and with the range of existing and possible development partners from the private sector, the non-profit community, educational institutions, think tanks, community and civic associations, and the public.

Drivers for USAID’s improved collaboration and partnership include:

- Leadership among and synergy with other development actors
- Accountability – improved and more clearly-conveyed performance results
- Relevance – accomplishing development objectives in a multi-faceted development assistance arena that is shared with a range of development partners
- Improved development practice and scalability – better, faster, smarter accomplishment of USAID’s mission and objectives; ability to translate and transfer up and across
- Effective development process – technology and tools as enablers of knowledge generation, sharing, exchange, application and use
- Innovation as a source of fresh ideas, new solutions and approaches, and conversations about challenges being addressed

## Collaboration Commitments and Status: Open Government Plan v1.0

USAID has completed Collaboration projects outlined in the Agency's first plan. Details on the status of activities and projects outlined in Plan v1.0 are included below:

U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Open Government Implementation Tracker 2010 Plan Commitments, Citations and Status			April
Commitment	Commitment Date	Citation in Plan v1.0	Status
<b>Collaboration</b>			
<b>Solicit suggestions, ideas and feedback</b> - Through collaboration platforms - IdeaScale	N/A - Ongoing	3.3	<b>Complete and Ongoing</b> (Received input via IdeaScale, February 10, 2010)
<b>Solicit suggestions, ideas and feedback</b> - Through collaboration platforms	N/A - Ongoing	3.3	<b>Complete and Ongoing</b> (FWD: Famine War Drought Relief campaign ( <a href="http://www.usaid.gov/fwd/">http://www.usaid.gov/fwd/</a> ) launched in advance of FWD Day, November 9, 2011, where through social media channels the public, Members of Congress, and NGO partners can "forward the facts" regarding the 13.3 million people affected by the famine and drought in the Horn of Africa.
<b>Solicit suggestions, ideas and feedback</b> - Through collaboration platforms	N/A - Ongoing	3.3	<b>Complete and Ongoing</b> ("LAUNCH" campaign; <a href="http://www.launch.org">www.launch.org</a> ; USAID, NASA, Department of State, and NIKE formed LAUNCH to identify, showcase and support innovative approaches to global challenges through a series of forums. The LAUNCH program identifies innovations poised to create transformational change in critical sustainability issues, connects innovators to thought leaders and advisors, and then provides resources and guidance in order to accelerate the implementation of the technologies and projects. The LAUNCH: Energy Forum, took place at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on November 11-13, 2011.)
<b>Develop a Proposal for Innovation</b> - Bring a holistic, integrated innovation approach to how USAID does business	Date Not Specified	3.5	<b>Complete</b> (USAID established a new Office of Innovation and Development Alliances (IDEA) in November 2011 to build the Agency's capacity for high-impact public-private partnerships)
<b>Development 2.0 Challenges/Grand Challenge for Development</b> - Identify and Implement the next Development Challenge	Date Not Specified	3.5	<b>Complete</b> ("Saving Lives at Birth" was launched on March 9, 2011 through a partnership between USAID, the Government of Norway, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Grand Challenges Canada, and The World Bank. The request resulted in one of the largest pools of applicants ever for a USAID competition. Innovators from non-governmental organizations, academic and medical research institutions, faith-based organizations, for-profit companies, medical associations, and foundations sent more than 600 solutions that have the potential to save lives. <a href="http://www.savinglivesatbirth.net/">http://www.savinglivesatbirth.net/</a>

### 3.1 Organizing for Collaboration and Partnership – The Office of Innovation and Development Alliances (IDEA)

USAID has been looking for new ways to collaborate with key constituencies, stakeholders and the public to source ideas and innovative approaches to global development challenges. As part of USAID Forward reform, the Agency is emphasizing "new partnerships, innovation, and a relentless focus on results." In November 2011, USAID established the Office of Innovation and Development Alliances (IDEA) (<http://idea.usaid.gov/>) to pioneer, test, and mainstream models, approaches, and mechanisms that can lead to drastic, not incremental, improvements in development outcomes, while establishing and coordinating partnerships that can lead to more sustainable development outcomes. IDEA focuses on increasing the cost-efficiency, speed, and sustainability of development impacts through innovation, partnership, and local solutions. In service of the Open Government Initiative, IDEA and its divisions prioritize looking externally for new ideas and input, and in making their process, products, and results open and available.

The Global Partnerships (GP) Division of IDEA develops public-private partnership models that bring together corporations, civil society, governments, and other sectors, and builds USAID's capacity to sustain these models and develop new partnerships that leverage resources effectively and efficiently to achieve sustainable development impact. The Global Partnerships staff provides technical guidance and support to assist the Agency and its partners in building partnerships focused on USAID priorities such food security, climate change, global health, along with economic growth, education, technology, and water, and to pilot new partnership models focused on the Diaspora, impact investing, clean technologies, inclusive business, corporate social responsibility and provide greater coordination with other donors.

IDEA's Global Partnerships Division has both an external and internal function in that it pursues partnerships on specific Agency priorities while helping offices across the Agency develop their own partnership capacity. The Global Partnerships Division's Global Development Alliance (GDA) program, established in 2001, has led to nearly a thousand public-private partnerships with over 3,000 distinct partners to leverage nearly \$9 billion in combined public and private resources. The GP Division maintains a transparent, searchable partnership's [database](#), and in October 2011, the GP Division launched an [interactive map](#) of its partnerships that includes public-private-partnerships from the preceding ten years.

Through [Development Innovation Ventures \(DIV\)](#), USAID awards grants to compelling new development solutions, rigorously tests them, and helps scale those that are proven successful to become development grand slams. DIV recognizes that development breakthroughs can come from anywhere—a lab in a university, a local person who has deep contextual knowledge, or a passionate

entrepreneur. Through a crowd sourcing model, DIV runs an open competition for ideas: anyone in the world can apply to DIV with their proposed development solution. DIV seeks solutions that are several times more cost effective than current practice, with the potential to scale to tens of millions of beneficiaries within ten years. Through DIV grants e-governance via mobile phones have been used to track healthcare worker attendance in the Indian state of Karnataka, and monitor polling stations to reduce electoral fraud in Afghanistan. Other grants are increasing citizen engagement in reducing road traffic accidents in Kenya, and education and awareness of local elections in Bihar, India.

The Local Sustainability (LS) Division of IDEA is at the cutting edge of the Agency's implementation and procurement reform efforts, including how to increase sustainable development partnerships with local organizations. The Division works closely with local development partners and implements [pioneering programs](#) – including the [Development Grants Program](#) and the [Cooperative Development Program](#) - that build the capacity of local partners so that they can become sustainable development actors in their communities. LS partners with the Peace Corps to support dozens of small development projects to support country development goals, and works with U.S. NGOs to register as Private Voluntary Organizations to be eligible to partner and work with USAID. LS manages the Limited Excess Property Program, which enables USAID-approved Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs) to access government excess property for use in their overseas development programs. LS updates its public website with stories that demonstrate the return on investment of USAID dollars to long-term local development, provides their contact information, and is responsive to inquiries.

The Mobile Solutions (MS) Division leverages the simple power of the mobile phone to accelerate USAID's development goals. While access to information is critical to improving agriculture and health outcomes, not everyone has access to a mobile phone or mobile broadband. While access to finance can transform lives, the vast majority of mobile money platforms are stuck in a subscale trap. And while the mobile phone can amplify the voice of the poor in real time--flipping on its head the relationship between people, governments and donors -- development organizations and governments have not kept pace with the breakneck speed of technology. MS seeks to catalyze mobile money platforms, access and uptake of mobile broadband, and systems of mobile accountability. It does so through direct mobile money programs as part of the USAID Forward Initiative and partnerships like the Better Than Cash Alliance and Global Broadband Initiative.

### **3.2 Collaboration with the University Community**

USAID is looking to expand upon its long tradition of engagement with universities, colleges, research institutes, and other institutes of higher education.

A new website, <http://universityengagement.usaid.gov/>, is the first step in this effort and will serve as a centralized resource for students, faculty, and administration interested in engaging and collaborating in the field of international development.

### **3.3 Collaboration with U.S. Government Agencies**

Under the "LAUNCH" program ([www.launch.org](http://www.launch.org)) USAID, NASA, the Department of State, and NIKE combined efforts to identify, showcase and support innovative approaches to global challenges. . The LAUNCH program identifies innovations poised to create transformational change in critical sustainability issues, connects innovators to thought leaders and advisors, and then provides resources and guidance in order to accelerate the implementation of the technologies and projects. LAUNCH offers a great opportunity to support innovators and entrepreneurs who are helping provide sustainable solutions to today's biggest development challenges

LAUNCH focuses on key human and environmental sustainability challenge areas in international development, including water, health and energy, and gives thought leaders a venue for evaluating creative ideas among peers and joining in collaborative, solution-driven discussion. Following the forums, the LAUNCH Accelerator provides individual support to each innovator to help integrate LAUNCH forum recommendations, and move each innovation closer to implementation.

USAID sees LAUNCH as an opportunity to support innovators and entrepreneurs in the fields most critical to sustainable international development. USAID brings technical expertise and access to networks of technical experts and development professionals. LAUNCH is breaking new ground in how best to support both entrepreneurs and the technical solutions they bring to international development problems. USAID seeks to move ideas to first implementation and impact at scale as quickly as possible.

To date, four LAUNCH Forums have been announced, including Beyond Waste, Energy, Health, and Water.

## 4.0 Flagship Initiatives

- The Foreign Assistance Dashboard - A National Action Plan Initiative ([www.foreignassistance.gov](http://www.foreignassistance.gov)). The Foreign Assistance Dashboard provides a view of U.S. Government foreign assistance funds and enables users to examine, research, and track aid investments in a standard and easy-to-understand format. It aims to eventually integrate all U.S. Government foreign assistance budget, financial, program, and performance data. The Dashboard launched in December 2010 and currently includes State and USAID budget planning data and Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) budget planning, obligation, and expenditure data. Other U.S. Government agencies that receive foreign assistance funds, and additional funding and programmatic details will be phased into the Dashboard over time. USAID is working to integrate our data sets into the Dashboard under common U.S. Government data standards. Government-wide guidance will be released soon to provide a schedule for agencies managing foreign assistance funds to provide standard data feeds to the Dashboard -- and to data.gov.
- USAID Public Website Re-Launch ([www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov)). As noted previously in this report, USAID is developing a redesigned external Web site that is expected to launch in the summer of 2012.
- Grand Challenges for Development (<http://www.usaid.gov/grandchallenges/>). The Grand Challenge for Development Model is designed to focus attention on specific and narrowly defined development challenges that facilitate innovative, collaborative, and engaging approaches to solving those challenges. The initiative focuses on solutions that are grounded in science and technology, and are robust, cost-effective, and scalable. This approach promotes the expansion of ideas, engages new actors in creating solutions and brings to the fore solutions that might not otherwise receive support. The inaugural USAID Grand Challenge for Development, "Saving Lives at Birth: A Grand Challenge for Development," targeted improvements in maternal and newborn health. Under another Grand Challenge, USAID, World Vision and the Australian Agency for International Development 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." Through this fund, USAID is working to bring clarity and attention to the problem, to articulate the fundamental barriers to success, and to fund the design and implementation of solutions. The Agency expects to achieve substantial global impacts in early grade reading by leveraging the power of research, capitalizing on innovation, catalyzing partnerships, and increasing the utilization of science, technology, and 21st century infrastructure. Overall, the Grand Challenges for Development will increase the pool of solvers through open innovation and public engagement to

channel and focus existing resources, encourage innovative thinking, affect public policy, and build an “architecture of participation.”

## Appendix A

To date, USAID has submitted the high value data in the table below to the data.gov website.

RAW DATA CATALOG		
Data Set	URL	Dataset Description
U.S. Official Development Assistance Data	<a href="http://www.data.gov/raw/1596/">http://www.data.gov/raw/1596/</a>	As the principal U.S. agency extending foreign assistance dollars overseas it is essential to evaluate international aid flow indicators or Official Development Assistance (ODA) as defined by the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), Development Assistance Committee (DAC). USAID annually submits a U.S. ODA report to OECD/DAC who serves as the principal body dealing with issues relating to international cooperation with developing countries. The U.S. ODA data is then able to be utilized on a comparative basis with assistance across donor countries.
U.S. Trade Capacity Data	<a href="http://www.data.gov/raw/1605/">http://www.data.gov/raw/1605/</a>	USAID supports on-the-ground activities in economic growth and trade to sustain foreign policy interests in expanding free markets. Since 2001, USAID has conducted an annual survey on behalf of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to identify and quantify the U.S. Government's trade capacity building activities in developing countries and transitional economies. The data is used to promote and conduct trade within World Trade Organization rules.
U.S. Overseas Loans and Grants	<a href="http://www.data.gov/raw/1554/">http://www.data.gov/raw/1554/</a>	Commonly known as the Greenbook (the bound copy always sports a green cover), the report provides a complete historical record, since 1945, of U.S. foreign aid to the rest of the world. Data is reported by fiscal year—October 1 to September 30 of the following year <sup>2</sup> .

<sup>2</sup> Previous to 1976, the fiscal year began on July 1 and ran until June 30 of the following year.



		Congress mandates <sup>3</sup> the submission of foreign assistance data on all loans and grants authorized by the U.S. government and categorized as either economic assistance or military assistance. Non-concessional support <sup>4</sup> is also presented.
Eastern Horn Market Price Data	<a href="http://www.data.gov/raw/5151">http://www.data.gov/raw/5151</a>	This USAID dataset for the 'Eastern Horn Market Price Data' shows the partial credit guarantees that USAID has issued through DCA. This dataset illustrates the monthly market pricing data for 19 staple cereals from January 2000- July 2011 for Djibouti, Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.
USAID's Development Credit Authority Data Set: Guarantee Utilization and Claims	<a href="http://www.data.gov/raw/5587">http://www.data.gov/raw/5587</a>	USAID's Development Credit Authority (DCA) works with investors, local financial institutions, and development organizations to design and deliver investment alternatives that unlock financing for U.S. Government priorities. This USAID dataset shows the partial credit guarantees that USAID has issued. The spreadsheet also reflects the full facility size of each guarantee, how much was lent under the guarantee, the status of the guarantee (i.e., active or expired), how much in claims the bank submitted due to losses it incurred for loans placed under the guarantee, and how many loans were placed under coverage of the guarantee.
U.S. CRS++ Submission to the OECD DAC CY2009	<a href="http://www.data.gov/raw/4148">http://www.data.gov/raw/4148</a>	U.S. Official Development Assistance (ODA), Other Official Flows and Private Flows to developing countries for calendar year 2009. This is the official U.S. government submission of the Creditor Reporting System (CRS), in this instance CRS++ table to the OECD/DAC. This data falls under the category of foreign commerce and aid. The CRS for ODA and other official flows (OOF) covers multilateral ODA,

<sup>3</sup> A binding obligation

<sup>4</sup> Loans based on market rates which must be repaid.

		multilateral OOF and private flows. This extended CRS, called CRS++, allows the compilation of all aggregates collected in the DAC Annual and Advanced Questionnaires.
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<b>TOOL CATALOG</b>		
<b>Data Set</b>	<b>URL</b>	<b>Dataset Description</b>
Development Experience Clearinghouse	<a href="http://www.data.gov/tools/4869">http://www.data.gov/tools/4869</a>	USAID's Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) is the largest online resource for USAID funded technical and program documentation, with over 168600 documents available for electronic download. The USAID's online database of agency-funded technical and program-related documents are searchable and gives users the ability to download USAID documents in PDF format for free.
Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET)	<a href="http://www.data.gov/tools/5152">http://www.data.gov/tools/5152</a>	A USAID-funded food security and famine early warning system covering more than 30 of the most food insecure countries in the world. Funded by the USAID since 1985, it analyzes a variety of data and information, such as market prices of food, precipitation and crop failures to predict when and where food insecurity will occur, and issues alerts on predicted crises.
Global Education Database	<a href="http://www.data.gov/tools/2063">http://www.data.gov/tools/2063</a>	The Global Education Database (GED) is a repository of international education statistics compiled from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS). The GED also provides a series of analytic tools to facilitate effective use of the data.
The USAID Environmental Compliance Database	<a href="http://www.data.gov/tools/4868">http://www.data.gov/tools/4868</a>	USAID promotes environmentally sound design by requiring that all USAID funded activities undergo an environmental impact assessment. This is accomplished through an Initial Environmental Examination (IEE), an Environmental Assessment (EA) or a Request for a Categorical Exclusion, all

		in accordance with Title 22 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 216, commonly known as 22 CFR 216 or "Reg 216." This searchable database contains copies of the environmental impact assessments prepared and approved by USAID Regional and Global Bureaus.
Trade Capacity Building Database	<a href="http://www.data.gov/tools/2060">http://www.data.gov/tools/2060</a>	The database provides funding levels of U.S. Trade Capacity Building (TCB) activities designed to promote economic growth through international trade in developing countries and transition economies.
U.S. Overseas Loans and Grants (Greenbook)	<a href="http://www.data.gov/tools/2061">http://www.data.gov/tools/2061</a>	The Greenbook, or U.S. Overseas Loans and Grants, provides a complete historical record of all economic, military, and foreign assistance provided by the United States to the rest of the world by country from 1946 to 2010. This is the authoritative data set of U.S. foreign assistance. The data set is used to report U.S. foreign assistance to Congress as required by the Foreign Assistance Act, Section 634.
Development Statistics for Latin America and the Caribbean	<a href="http://www.data.gov/tools/2404">http://www.data.gov/tools/2404</a>	This website, a companion to the annual publication Latin America and the Caribbean: Selected Economic and Social Data, provides the public, U.S. government agencies, and international development partners with socio-economic data on countries in Latin America and Caribbean. This includes the most recent data from a multitude of official country sources and leading international institutions.
U.S. Official Development Assistance Database	<a href="http://www.data.gov/tools/2062">http://www.data.gov/tools/2062</a>	Official Development Assistance (ODA) is defined by international agreement under the Development Assistance Committee at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD/DAC). These U.S. ODA statistics provide details of U.S. Official Development Assistance

		by country and implementing agency as reported to the OECD/DAC.
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