USE CASE STUDY

Leveraging Data Through Partnerships

*The United States Agency for International Development (USAID)*

A Product of the Federal CIO Council Innovation Committee

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Envisioning the End of Extreme Poverty

USAID’s Mission: *We partner to end extreme poverty and to promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity*

USAID accelerates human progress in developing countries by:

- Promoting broadly shared **economic prosperity**
- Strengthening **democracy and good governance**
- Protecting **human rights**
- Improving **global health**
- Advancing **food security and agriculture**
- Improving **environment sustainability**
- Furthering **education**
- Helping societies **prevent and recover from conflicts**
- Providing **humanitarian assistance** in the wake of natural and man-made disasters
Data Driven Decisions

To gather and open data from its expansive partnerships, USAID recognized the need for comprehensive changes to its business processes and technology infrastructure.

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<th>USAID has many partners...</th>
<th>with whom it exchanges data...</th>
<th>resulting in several challenges...</th>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. Agencies</td>
<td>• Program Data</td>
<td>• Varying data formats and structures</td>
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<td>Multilateral Organizations</td>
<td>• Performance Data</td>
<td>• Multiple data reporting requirements based on legislation</td>
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<td>Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO)</td>
<td>• Evaluation Data</td>
<td>• Various data collection methods</td>
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<td>Private Sector</td>
<td>• Research Data</td>
<td>• Varying data collection and reporting intervals</td>
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<td>Research Institutions</td>
<td>• Geospatial, Mobile, and Real-time Data</td>
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<td>Faith Based Organizations</td>
<td>• Financial Data</td>
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<td>Civil Society Organizations</td>
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USAID has many partners with whom it exchanges data, resulting in several challenges.
**USE CASE STUDY:**

USAID established its first-ever open data policy and the Development Data Library, creating a framework that enables its partners to share valuable data on international development.

By embedding data submission requirements into its awards, USAID receives a steady stream of data from its worldwide programs, which it can then release to the public.

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**USAID**

- Create policy framework with roles and responsibilities
- Establish procurement requirements for data submissions
- Manage data publication and privacy protection
- Socialize policy requirements among staff and partners

**Development Data Library (DDL)**

www.usaid.gov/data

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS**

- Collect data from USAID funded projects
- Add metadata per DDL requirements
- Document and submit data to the DDL
- Develop APIs where appropriate
A New Policy Framework

By embedding data submission requirements into its awards, USAID receives a steady stream of data from its projects worldwide, which it can then release to the public.

USAID’s policy on Development Data (Automated Directives System 579) was released in October 2014 which “paves the way for USAID and its partners to draw from an increasingly robust, data-rich environment to create breakthrough insights and solutions in support of [its] mission.”

Key Elements to USAID’s Open Data Policy

- Defines USAID’s data governance structure
- Establishes the Development Data Library (DDL) as the Agency’s repository of USAID-funded data
- Creates Data Stewards in every USAID operating unit
- Outlines requirements for USAID staff and implementing partners to submit data to the DDL, including a data tagging protocol
- Defines standard data clearance process
- Outlines special considerations for research data

Centralized Data Storage

A centralized repository for machine-readable data is key to USAID’s efforts to publish international development data as a global good.

The Development Data Library (DDL) is USAID’s public repository of Agency-funded, machine readable data. USAID operating units and partners are required to submit international development data to the DDL at www.usaid.gov/data.

USAID requires implementing partners to submit datasets generated with USAID funding to the Development Data Library (DDL) in machine-readable, non-proprietary formats.

The DDL is a web-based solution where USAID staff and partners can upload datasets for public release, after which they are vetted and redacted for privacy, security, and other exceptions to release permitted by law.

The DDL contains data on programs, performance, evaluations, research, finances, and other subjects.
Organizational Alignment:
Strategic alignments between IT, Business Units, and Data Strategy

Roles and Responsibilities:
Specific points of contact at USAID for managing information and data.

Inventory Schedule:
A schedule of how USAID plans to expand, enrich, and open its data inventory.

Customer Feedback Process:
A process for stakeholders to provide feedback on USAID's public data assets.

Policy and Award Language:
Outline open data requirements for all USAID operating units and changes to award language requiring implementing partners to submit data to USAID.

Data Publication Process:
A process for releasing data, while ensuring protections for privacy and security and other considerations allowed by law.

Public Engagement:
Hackathons and other events invite participants from the private sector, public sector, non-profits, academia, and other members of civil society to generate new development insights using USAID data.
**Partnership and public engagement** are essential to creating a thriving culture of open data at the agency level and beyond.

Ongoing **communication and change management** must continue to accompany changes to policy and awards, well after initial implementation.

In the international context, prepare to address complex issues of **data ownership** and usage rights.

**Special federal requirements** apply to scientific and human subjects **research data** that agencies must thoroughly address in their open data efforts.

**Public events** (e.g. hackathons) can generate new insights to inform future projects, while creating a community of practice around agency data.

The learning curve is steep. Agencies should prepare to **build the capacity** of their staff and partners to open data responsibly.
Success Stories

Open Data Latin America and the Caribbean Hackathon (#LACHack)
In a first-of-its kind hackathon, USAID organized over 50 organizations in 2015 to tackle development challenges in Latin America. As a result, the event produced nine projects that generated new insight about crime and insecurity in the region.

http://www.usaid.gov/open/engagement

Open Geographic Data for Disaster Risk Reduction in Nepal
USAID and the World Bank organized a “crowdsourcing” event in which volunteers mapped Kathmandu’s infrastructure. When a massive earthquake struck the country in April 2015, USAID was able to upload timely and current data onto GPS devices for disaster response teams.


M-Farm and FEWSNet
In Kenya, M-Farm used open data from USAID’s Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNet) to provide data on crop prices, trends, and fluctuations. This enabled farmers to plant crop varieties yielding greater income.


Using Data to Improve Regional Water Management
USAID is working to use data in the Middle East and North Africa region as an effective tool for regional water management. Open and accurate data is facilitating more effective decision-making on the sharing and use of this scarce resource.

USAID embeds generally accepted open data principles into its socialization and training efforts on its open data policy.

USAID’s Open Data Policy provides a “framework for systematically collecting Agency-funded data in a central repository, structuring the data to ensure usability and making the data public, while ensuring rigorous protections for privacy and security.”

**Supporting Open Data Principles**

**ACCESSIBLE**  
Convenient, non-proprietary, machine-readable formats (e.g. CSV, JSON, XML)

**DESCRIBED**  
Fully documented; limitations and processing instructions explained

**REUSABLE**  
No restrictions on use

**COMPLETE**  
Highest level of granularity practicable (e.g. latitude / longitude, individual survey responses)

**TIMELY**  
Made available when data is of greatest use and updated regularly

**MANAGED POST RELEASE**  
Point of contact assigned to continue updates and respond to queries
## Online Resources

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<tr>
<th>RESOURCES</th>
<th>URL</th>
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<tr>
<td>USAID Open Data Team</td>
<td><a href="mailto:opendata@usaid.gov">opendata@usaid.gov</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USAID Public Feedback Channel (StackExchange)</td>
<td><a href="https://opendata.stackexchange.com/questions/ask?tags=USAIDOpen">https://opendata.stackexchange.com/questions/ask?tags=USAIDOpen</a></td>
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FEDERAL CIO COUNCIL

For more information contact the Innovation Committee at feedback@cio.gov
The Federal CIO Council

The Federal CIO Council is the principal interagency forum on Federal agency practices for IT management.

The Federal CIO Council mission is to improve practices related to the design, acquisition, development, modernization, use, sharing, and performance of Federal Government information resources.
The Innovation Committee

The Federal CIO Council created the Innovation Committee to enable Agency mission delivery, improve customer service, maximize return-on-investment, and support emerging IT needs.

Chaired by Margie Graves (DHS Deputy CIO) and Bill Zielinski (SSA CIO), the Innovation Committee focuses on relevant topics such as the use of modern technologies to deliver digital services to citizens and businesses, deployment of mobile technology within Government, modular IT development strategies, and using Federal data as a strategic resource to enable Agency mission delivery and to grow the economy.

For more information on the Federal CIO Council, the Innovation Committee, or products and resources, visit https://www.CIO.gov.