**Public-Private Partnerships Historical Dataset Background**

*Overview*

Since its inception in 2001, the Global Development Alliance (GDA) model has grown from a small portfolio of alliances funded through a GDA Incentive Fund to a more robust approach utilized and funded by USAID Bureaus, Technical Offices and Missions around the world. GDAs represent a specific model for engaging the private sector, and must adhere to guidelines published annually by USAID in the GDA Annual Program Statement (see <http://www.usaid.gov/work-usaid/get-grant-or-contract/opportunities-funding/global-development-alliance-annual-program> for more information).

The GDA model is one of many ways that USAID works with the private sector on Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs). Since the inception of the GDA model, USAID has maintained an Operating Unit (OU) responsible for overseeing technical aspects of GDA implementation as well as wider Agency strategy in engaging the private sector through PPPs. Part of this effort has been collecting data on PPPs throughout the Agency. Currently, the U.S. Global Development Lab Center for Transformational Partnerships (LAB/CTP) is the OU responsible for guiding the Agency’s GDA and PPP strategic engagement, and has assembled this dataset.

*Technical Background*

This dataset brings together information collected since 2001 on PPPs throughout the Agency. Due to the need to streamline reporting burdens for USAID Missions and Bureaus and to integrate into core USAID data collection systems and standards as much as possible, the data has been collected through different mechanisms and at varying intervals over the past 13 years. Most notably, the need to realign reporting with the State Department led to a significant gap in data collection between 2009 and 2012, resulting in an under-reported subset of data for PPPs beginning in this period. This dataset should therefore be considered a broad-based and representative view of the PPPs USAID has developed from 2001-2013, but not a fully comprehensive or exhaustive compilation over this entire time period. For the purposes of this dataset a Public-Private Partnership is defined as a USAID-supported development project or initiative which engages the private sector (including global and local businesses, foundations, industry associations, and others) as a core resource partner.This definition of PPPs differs from other ways of engaging the private sector such as contracting a for-profit implementer, in that this definition of PPPs requires private sector actors to be co-investing skills, technologies, other core business capabilities, or financial resources to the project or activity to achieve development outcomes. The historical data calls used to assemble this dataset have used varying parameters, and therefore the functional definition for this dataset is by necessity more inclusive than the current definition used by USAID for its ongoing PPP data collection**.** The LAB/CTP team has reviewed the dataset to flag and remove any partnerships that do not meet the dataset’s PPP definition given the information available; however, if users note data errors (including incorrect data points, data points which should be removed, or omissions) they should contact gda@usaid.gov with recommended edits and updates.

Also note that this dataset does not include partnerships created by the USAID Development Credit Authority (DCA). Though DCA partnerships also engage the private sector, they do so through loan guarantees, and therefore leverage resources in a fundamentally different way than the PPPs included in this dataset. For comprehensive data on USAID DCA, please see http://www.usaid.gov/results-and-data/progress-data/data/dca.

The database includes both GDAs (which adhere to the specifics laid out in the GDA Annual Program Statement linked above) and other PPPs as reported by the USAID Mission or Bureau/Technical Office that manages or managed the partnership. Please note that **partner contributions are estimates provided to USAID by its partners and/or estimated by the relevant USAID Mission or Bureau/Technical Office and may include contributions from various partners including the private sector, non-governmental organizations, foreign governments and other organizations**, because many PPPs include public as well as private sector resource partners. Estimated contributions include cash and in-kind resources. In-kind resource estimates may have been valued by non-USAID partner organizations. Partner contribution estimates are not audited. Also, note that these PPPs are and have been dynamic and subject to constant change, and all of these changes may not be represented in this dataset.

USAID has published this updated PPP dataset to share our experience in partnerships and to promote learning, knowledge sharing, and transparency. As USAID continues to expand the use of PPPs across all of its work, the Agency is committed to continually improving the completeness, accuracy and accessibility of data on our partnerships.