USAID Mission: Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination
Program Title: Learning from Experience
Pillar: Economic Growth, Agriculture and Trade
Strategic Objective: 996-013
Status: Continuing
Planned FY 2005 Obligation: $3,621,000 CSH; $4,714,000 DA
Prior Year Unobligated: $300,000 CSH
Proposed FY 2006 Obligation: $3,157,000 CSH; $6,795,000 DA
Year of Initial Obligation: 1998
Estimated Year of Final Obligation: 2005

Summary: The USAID program embraces policy and program coordination on four main fronts: 1) providing the most up-to-date knowledge for development in the form of information, analyses and evaluations related to policy and critical development issues, including coordinating with the MCC; 2) directly addressing and shaping the global policy debate on development assistance and humanitarian relief; 3) coordinating with other donor governments; and 4) integrating the best practices of strategic budgeting and performance monitoring to ensure that budgets reflect strategic priorities of Congress and the Administration.

Inputs, Outputs, Activities:
FY 2005 Program: Improve Program Evaluations and Knowledge Management Systems ($5,930,000 DA and/or CSH). USAID will continue to develop the Knowledge for Development (KfD) initiative, including design of a prototype "Portal" for secure, web-based collaboration space; piloting of a prototype "Yellow Pages" to the knowledge repositories within USAID; and development of an Expertise Locater database to access USAID's technical experts. The semi-annual report of Presidential Initiatives impact will continue, as will database support to the Agency. Data for the President's Report on Overseas Economic Assistance will be collected and analyzed by USAID on behalf of the President. Support and transfer of lessons learned to the MCC will also be included in this work, including coordination for MCC programs in Compact and threshold eligible countries, and supporting the Administrator's role on the MCC Board of Directors. In Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) eligible countries, USAID field missions will support MCC visits in the country; and offer insights on program and implementation issues. PPC will serve as the central contact and liaison in USAID on organization, direction and assessment of the threshold program administered by USAID with funds transferred from the MCA. Principal partners include: Academy for Education Development, International Business Initiatives, and Logical Technical Services.

Shape the Development Policy Debate ($1,105,000 DA and/or CSH). PPC will lead the Agency in aligning policies and programs with priorities laid out in the aid effectiveness strategy, ensuring that the Agency's core mission is reflected in a common and coherent policy framework. That strategy will be complemented by a new policy on mitigating and managing conflict and a strategy for combating corruption. Other policy initiatives include issuance of a strategy for catalyzing agricultural growth, policy guidance on minimizing the impact of HIV/AIDS on development progress, and continuation of a series of papers to improve our understanding of the Muslim world. As the co-chair for the State-USAID Joint Policy and Management Councils, PPC will contribute to strengthening interagency policy coordination.

Promote Donor Coordination and Outreach ($700,000 DA and/or CSH). USAID will assist other donors in strategy development; support USG reporting to the OECD/DAC, and produce reports on other donors. PPC will participate in a United Kingdom (UK) Microenterprise Reform Study, follow-up on the Millennium Development Goals, coordinate USAID's participation in fall/spring meetings of the World Bank, and prepare the Administrator and other USAID/State officials for bilateral and multilateral consultations. Principal partners include: U.S. Department of Agriculture, USAID Development Information Services, the OECD/DAC, and the UK Development Agency.

Reform Strategic Management Policy and Implement Performance Management Tools ($900,000 DA and/or CSH). PPC will lead the Agency reform of strategic management policy to improve the strategic allocation of resources. These policies will result in revisions of the Automated Directives System Series 200; and in the development of common indicators to aid in reporting on USAID activities. Operation performance will be enhanced by development of improved analytical tools to inform policies to better align staff with program priorities, and by implementation of new mission management assessments to improve overseas operational effectiveness. PART continues to be an important element of the Agency's efforts to assess program performance. Principal Partners include Management Systems International.

FY 2006 Program: Improve Program Evaluations and Knowledge Management Systems ($7,100,000 DA and/or CSH). USAID will continue its Agency-wide KfD initiative, including review and improvement of the prototype "Portal"; deployment of the pilot "Yellow Pages"; and the Expertise Locator database. After Action Review facilitation and training, evaluations of international development impact, refinements to the virtual e-library; the semi-annual report of Presidential Initiatives impact; and database support to the Agency will continue. With a number of MCA Compacts likely to be under implementation, the Agency will coordinate between MCC and USAID programs on all aspects of program implementation, including initiating new programs in FY 2006 in threshold countries. On threshold programs, PPC will continue to serve as the central contact in USAID on organization, direction and assessment of programs administered by USAID with funds transferred from the MCA.

Shape the Development Policy Debate ($900,000 DA and/or CSH). The implementation of the MCA, the aid effectiveness and the fragile states strategies will likely continue to have implications for the way USAID does business as we enter FY 2006. PPC will play a key role in helping to articulate and shape new strategic priorities, work to align Agency policies and programs to achieve those priorities, and will ensure inter-agency policy debate is informed by an analytically grounded development perspective.

Promote Donor Coordination and Outreach ($800,000 DA and/or CSH). PPC will continue its role in coordinating bilateral/multilateral development consultations for USAID, in representing USAID at the OECD/DAC, and in the dissemination of USG/USAID development policies and programs among donor countries and international organizations.

Reform Strategic Management Policy and Implement Performance Management Tools ($1,152,000 DA and/or CSH). USAID will begin utilizing common indicators for reporting on common elements of every USAID program. Managing for Results training and technical assistance to the Agency will continue, as will Mission Management Assessments. In FY 2006, USAID is proposing an expansion of our Transition Initiatives account to better link strategy and budget in four key fragile states, and will continue to work with OMB to use the PART process to improve budget and performance integration, and acquire technical policy experts.

Performance and Results: In FY 2004, USAID led the global development policy debate by establishing broad policy consultation with international donors, providing knowledge for development support to field and Washington-based offices, and implementing performance management practices Agency-wide. USAID broke new ground in enhancing the effectiveness of foreign assistance with the publication of "U.S. Foreign Aid: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century," and began the process of applying its principles to the Agency's budget and operations. USAID also led the donor community in issuing a new policy on responding to the needs of internally displaced persons. The Agency also improved its rating on the OMB PMA Scorecard for performance and budget integration, and ranked in the top one-third of all Federal programs to date in the PARTs.

In FY 2005, PPC will also likely provide assistance to the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Commission, a Congressionally-mandated commission to study the effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance programs, initiate the MCC threshold program; and incorporate aid effectiveness principles into policy and strategic budgeting approaches. With successful completion of this strategic objective, USAID will continue to strengthen its position among the world's top development assistance and humanitarian aid organizations while promoting U.S. national security interests and strategic priorities.

US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Bureau for Policy and Program Coordination

996-013 Learning from Experience	CSH	DA
Through September 30, 2003		
Obligations	10,923	32,515
Expenditures	7,680	27,874
Unliquidated	3,243	4,641
Fiscal Year 2004		
Obligations	4,310	5,898
Expenditures	6,213	8,092
Through September 30, 2004		
Obligations	15,233	38,413
Expenditures	13,893	35,966
Unliquidated	1,340	2,447
Prior Year Unobligated Funds		
Obligations	300	0
Planned Fiscal Year 2005 NOA		
Obligations	3,621	4,714
Total Planned Fiscal Year 2005		
Obligations	3,921	4,714
Proposed Fiscal Year 2006 NOA		
Obligations	3,157	6,795
Future Obligations	3,157	6,795
Est. Total Cost	25,468	56,717