USAID Partnership 101: Biographies

Basic introduction to USAID structure and first steps to partnership; also includes tips for writing a successful grant application.

Terri Hasdorff- Moderator

Ms. Terri Hasdorff serves as the Director of the Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Center is tasked with implementing the international aspects of the President's Faith and Community Based Initiative and serves USAID and the U.S. Dept of State. Prior to this position Terri worked to establish the first Office of Faith-Based & Community Initiatives for the Governor of the State of Alabama and served as the Office Executive Director. Her experience also includes working in the White House Office of Public Liaison as an assistant to the chief liaison for the President to the faith-based community. She has also served as Administrative Assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer of the U.S. House of Representatives; Legislative Assistant to Congressman Robert Aderholt; Deputy Director of the House Republican Conference under Congressman J.C. Watts, and Senior Advisor to Congressman Mark Souder where she worked on the Charitable Choice legislation. She has also worked in the U.S. Treasury Department and in the U.S. Department of Labor. A graduate from Samford University, and has also completed the Senior Executives Program at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Mark A. Walther - Panelist

Mark A. Walther, Division Chief, USAID, Office of Acquisition & Assistance (OAA), 1989-Present in USAID/Washington. Currently supports the Democracy, Conflict & Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) Pillar Bureau responsible for emergency relief and stabilization efforts especially in crisis related situations. Prior to supporting DCHA, headed OAA efforts for Global Health (GH) and Economic Growth, Agriculture & Trade (EGAT), and supported Eastern Europe during USAID's initial entry into the region. Education includes a BA in American Government, MA in International Relations and a JD degree--all from The Catholic University of America.

Michael Burkly - Panelist

Michael Burkly is a Foreign Service officer with the U.S. Agency for International Development, currently posted to Washington, DC. He was most recently a General Development Officer with USAID/Moldova, and prior to that, was health team leader with USAID/Brazil. He was also a health officer with USAID/Peru, and has worked with NGOs in health and HIV/AIDS prevention in Cambodia and several other countries. Mike was a Peace Corps rural development volunteer in Liberia. He has a Masters in Public Health degree from Harvard University, and a Masters in Business Administration from Durham University.

Karen D. Turner - Panelist

Ms. Turner is Director of USAID's Office of Development Partners, which has responsibility for private sector alliance building, liaison with the Millennium Challenge Corporation, and relationships with bilateral and multilateral development institutions. Ms. Turner has served at USAID since 1985, working initially as a legal advisor in the General Counsel's Office and then as a regional legal advisor in USAID Missions in Egypt and India. She has also served in USAID management positions as AID Representative for the West Bank, Deputy Mission Director in USAID/Indonesia, Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Asia Near East Bureau, and most recently as the Mission Director for USAID/Jamaica. Prior to USAID, Ms. Turner was in private law practice with Shearman & Sterling in New York. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics and Political Science from Northwestern University, and a Juris Doctor and Master of Business Administration degrees from Harvard University. In 2007, she was promoted to Career Minister, USAID's highest career Foreign Service level.

Mary Newton - Panelist

Mary Newton serves as USAID's Registrar for U.S.-based and international private voluntary organizations in the Private and Voluntary Cooperation Division within the Office of Development Partners where she provides guidance and training for new organizations seeking partnerships with the Agency. She has served as the USAID Registrar since 1993 and manages a registry of over 580 PVOs. During her tenure with USAID she has also worked in the Office of Financial Management as a budget analyst and the Office of Food for Peace as a program specialist where her main focus was the World Food Program. She holds degrees in Criminal Administration and Criminology and is a special advocate for the D.C. Superior Court for Abused and Neglected Children.

Jocelyn M. Rowe - Panelist

Ms. Rowe has served as Executive Director of the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid since joining USAID in June 2004. In her current capacity, she oversees and coordinates the Committee's policy deliberations and proceedings, including its public meetings. Ms. Rowe also facilitates its interactions with USAID and other US Government officials, and serves as a liaison between USAID and private voluntary organizations. Prior to USAID, Ms. Rowe was the Special Assistant to the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Ms. Rowe worked for five years on Capitol Hill as a senior legislative assistant to Congressman Christopher Smith of New Jersey and Congresswoman Linda Smith of Washington State. She also has experience in the non-profit sector, with an emphasis on development and capacity building. Ms. Rowe graduated from McGill University in 1993 with a joint honors degree in political science and history.

Heather MacLean - Panelist

Heather MacLean has served as Senior Advisor in USAID's Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives since April 2007. The Center is tasked with implementing the international aspects of the President's Faith and Community-Based Initiative. Prior to coming to USAID, Heather worked as a senior policy staffer in the U.S. Senate. She is a graduate of Cedarville University.