

U.S. Agency for International Development
2020 Sustainability Report and Implementation Plan

**United States Agency for International
Development (USAID)**
Sustainability Report and Implementation Plan
2020

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Executive Summary

I. BACKGROUND

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has programs that operate globally and affect millions of people worldwide with the objective of building self-reliance to increase our partners' capacity to plan, finance, and implement solutions to development challenges. The Agency's commitment to ensuring the sustainability of development gains, both environmental and through a focus on sustaining outcomes, is part of our core mission and our commitment to supporting the President's *National Security Strategy*. Our programs on sustainability focus on energy programs abroad, including expanding access to clean energy and energy efficiency, strengthening utilities, energy-sector governance, rebuilding energy infrastructure, and engaging with the private-sector to identify market-based solutions and leverage private-sector expertise, innovation, and resources. USAID's commitment to progress on sustainable energy is central to the Agency's programmatic approach and operations, and to the Agency's commitment to environmental performance and sustainable facilities management.

II. HIGH-PERFORMANCE SUSTAINABLE BUILDINGS

Progress on Sustainable Buildings During Fiscal Year (FY) 2019: USAID's commitment to the efficient utilization of space generates cost-savings and enables the Agency to run our operations with a smaller, more-sustainable footprint. Throughout FY 2019, USAID continued renovations of a new domestic facility, the USAID Annex (UA). The Agency completed renovations at the UA in January of 2020. By the end of the second quarter of FY 2020, USAID completed moving staff into the UA. The UA has allowed USAID to consolidate its footprint from five buildings to two primary facilities with limited "swing space" in two additional buildings as it completes renovations in the Ronald Reagan Building (RRB). With the completion of the UA and renovations at RRB, approximately 52 percent of USAID's total domestic space is sustainable. This is a 30 percentage point increase over the sustainable space reported in USAID's 2019 Sustainability Report and Implementation Plan.

III. SUSTAINABLE ACQUISITION/PROCUREMENT

Progress in Sustainable Acquisition During FY 2019: USAID's inclusion of sustainability clauses in its procurement actions ensure that we acquire, use, and dispose of products in a sustainable manner to meet statutory environmental requirements. Of contracts awarded in FY 2019, USAID had 9.4 percent of awards and 4 percent of obligations (in dollars) with statutory environmental requirements, for a total of \$43,223,143.¹ Globally, USAID produced 6,039 contract actions in FY 2019. Of those actions, sustainable-acquisition requirements could be applicable to some portion of 1,715 actions that had a Place of Performance in the United States and excluded Blanket Purchase Agreement Setups, Indefinite Quantity Contracts, and Personal Services Contracts. Similar to last year, of those 1,715 actions, 33 contained statutory environmental requirements according to the [Federal Procurement Data System – Next Generation](#) data set.²

IV. MANAGEMENT AND DIVERSION OF WASTE

Progress in Waste-Management During FY 2019: USAID's Limited Excess-Property Program (LEPP) enables the Agency to recycle excess equipment overseas at the close of programming to improve the sustainable management of waste and further development outcomes. In FY 2019, LEPP transferred \$43,509,737 worth of excess property to approved partners. This is a decline from the approximately \$51

¹ This excludes Blanket Purchase Agreement (BPA) Setups, Indefinite Quantity Contracts (IQC), and Personal Service Contracts. The first two items are excluded to avoid double counting from BPA Calls and IQC Task Orders.

² Due to how USAID pulls data from the Federal Procurement Data System, the count of "actions" includes various administrative actions that could include exercising an option year, revising contract clauses, and de-obligating funds.

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million transferred to approved partners in FY 2018 and FY 2017. USAID attributes this to a slow down in ordering during the partial lapse in government appropriations in Q2 of FY 2019, and delays in the LEPP ramping back up. The LEPP, authorized under Sections 607 and 608 of the Foreign Assistance Act, gives USAID special authority to grant approved Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs) access to U.S. Government excess property under programs managed by the General Services Administration (GSA) and the Disposition Services of the Defense Logistics Agency within the U.S. Department of Defense. The LEPP PVO partners, in turn, use the property to build the capacity of their local in-country partners, such as community hospitals and clinics that receive medical supplies, or schools and technical training facilities that receive computer equipment. The program provides an innovative, cost-effective means to reuse excess U.S. Government property, reduce waste, and further USAID's development goals.

V. STRATEGIC PRIORITIES FOR FY 2020 – 2021

A. *Washington Real-Estate Strategy (WRES)*

The USAID WRES, developed in consultation with the GSA, provides a multi-year, dual-track framework to create a consolidated real-property footprint for office space in two modernized buildings—the RRB and the new UA. The *WRES* prioritizes the efficiency and effectiveness of space, and it includes sustainability in its design goals. Specific design strategies to increase sustainability include the following: using equipment with ENERGY STAR labels; using high-efficiency lighting and heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) equipment; and providing access to vehicle-charging stations. USAID leverages the *WRES* to apply more-efficient space policies by consolidating three of the Agency's expiring leases into one, 20-year replacement lease in the new UA building, which will reduce costs, deliver 307,000 SF of modernized office space, and improve the Agency's overall space utilization. Occupancy of the new UA building began in FY 2020. Upon completion of the consolidation project, USAID will also retain leases for space in its training center, storage space, and the COOP site.

B. Real-Property Efficiency Plan

USAID's Real-Property Efficiency Plan (FY 2020–2024) reduces the Agency's real-property footprint and achieves cost savings. As the Agency implements the plan, USAID will continue to reduce square footage, which will generate cost-savings and increase efficiency. Beginning in FY 2020, the consolidation of leases will substantially reduce operational costs because of savings in shuttle, security, building-operations, and telecommunication costs. Further, substantial lessor rent credits obtained by GSA for the new consolidated lease will reduce the Agency's rent costs in FY 2020 and FY 2021. USAID will use these cost-savings to fund the on-going RRB renovation project. The Real-Property Efficiency Plan expects the phased RRB renovations to reduce our footprint substantially through the more-efficient use of space.

C. Building Renovations

Renovations of the RRB are ongoing, with a target completion date of FY 2025. The RRB renovation will meet the LEED "Silver" standard, and aims to qualify for the GSA's Design Excellence Program, which requires the building's design to meet the GSA's Sustainability and Green Purchasing requirements. Specifically, the building's design will include, among other features, greater flow of natural light, sustainable interior lighting, thermal comfort control, and improved air flow. Once the renovation is complete, nearly all of the Agency's office space (both headquarters buildings) will be sustainable.