<p style="text-align: center">Annual Report to Congress
U.S. Agency for International Development
Report on Implementation of Public Law 115-435
Foundations for Evidence-Based Policy-Making Act
Reporting for Year: 2021</p>

As required by the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policy Making Act (the Evidence Act), this report outlines the status of the U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID's) compliance with the requirements of USAID's Chief Data Officer (CDO) as outlined in 44 U.S.C. §3520(e).

Background

The Evidence Act requires that the Chief Data Officer "submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives an annual report on Agency compliance with the requirements of this subchapter [Subchapter I], including information on each requirement that the agency could not carry out and, if applicable, what the agency needs to carry out such requirement." The status of USAID's compliance with each requirement of 44 U.S.C. §3520(e) is outlined below. Compliance efforts with these requirements are ongoing.

EVIDENCE ACT REQUIREMENTS	
(a) (b) CDO Designation and Qualifications	
Requirement	**Status Narrative**
Head of the Agency designated a qualified, nonpolitical appointee employee as Chief Data Officer (CDO)	The USAID Administrator designated Brandon Pustejovsky as CDO in June 2019. From July 21 to August 7, 2020, USAID recruited competitively via USAJobs.gov for a full-time CDO that met the qualifications specified by the Evidence Act and OMB memorandum M-19-23. Mr. Pustejovsky was competitively selected for this position on April 7, 2021.
(c) Functions	
Requirement	**Status Narrative**

(1) CDO is responsible for lifecycle data management	The CDO has authority and responsibility for data governance and full lifecycle data management at USAID. Per the Evidence Act, the CDO serves in a central leadership position. The CDO leads USAID's data governance body, the [USAID Data Administration and Technical Advisory (DATA) Board](). The CDO defines USAID's policies and processes for data management planning, data collection, integration and interoperability, analytics, curation, and responsible data sharing and publication. The CDO also pursues strategic opportunities to harness new technologies to extract maximum potential and insight from USAID's varied data assets. The CDO serves as the Agency lead for USAID's data strategy, policy, and enterprise data governance efforts. The CDO ensures that USAID policies and practices incorporate best practices in data management, encompassing all aspects of the data management lifecycle. The CDO applies sound business acumen to identify opportunities to reduce cost and effort associated with managing and deriving business intelligence from USAID's data assets. The CDO establishes strategic partnerships across USAID operating units, the interagency, private enterprise, and academia to advance the use of data and to promote innovation in international development and humanitarian assistance. The CDO is leading comprehensive updates to USAID's data policy, Automated Directives System Chapter 579, ["USAID Development Data"]() (ADS 579), which includes policy guidance on lifecycle data management. The Agency partially revised ADS 579 in 2020 to add requirements related to data management planning, including a draft mandatory reference on data management planning. In September 2021, the CDO circulated for comment a preliminary draft of ADS 579 to the members of USAID's DATA Board. USAID is revising the draft and expects to complete the comprehensive re-draft in September 2022.
(2) CDO has coordinated with officials in the agency responsible for using, protecting, disseminating, and generating data	The CDO regularly coordinates with the Chief Information Officer (CIO), Chief Information Security Officer, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Senior Agency Official for Privacy, Chief Privacy Officer, and Agency Evaluation Officer. Many of these senior officials, along with the CDO, report to the CIO and all regularly coordinate on data-related priorities and issues. The CDO also regularly coordinates with senior officials across the agency whose offices

	generate data, as well as other senior officials with data-related responsibilities. One example of coordination is through chairing the DATA Board, which includes senior staff whose offices generate data, and senior staff who have data-related responsibilities, such as the Agency's Evaluation Officer (EO) and the Chief Geographer. The CDO also created a working group, under the DATA Board, that focuses on privacy, security, risk, and sharing data. In 2021, to fulfill requirements of Executive Orders 13859 and 13960, the DATA Board established an Artificial Intelligence (AI) working group, which is led by the CTO, and which will compile and submit the USAID AI inventory to OMB in 2022. The CDO's team also coordinates regularly with the Agency leadership, the Office of Security, Office of Privacy, Office of the General Counsel, and the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Office on data publication issues.
(3) CDO has managed data assets of the agency, including the standardization of data format, sharing of data assets, and publication of data assets in accordance with applicable law.	The CDO ensures publication of Agency data assets, along with metadata and supporting documents, to the Development Data Library (DDL) in machine-readable, archival standardized formats. The Agency increased the total number of publicly available data assets (project and activity-related datasets) by 26 percent through the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2021, compared to FY 2020, by adding 82 public and restricted-public data assets. In 2021, to improve uniformity in USAID-funded data, the CDO launched a Technical Data Standards Working Group, under the DATA Board, to compile data standards in use across various disciplines within USAID. The working group issued a draft set of standards that will be incorporated into contractual requirements via USAID's engagement in the Federal rulemaking process.
(4) CDO has consulted with statistical official to carry out paragraphs (3) and (5)	As of April 28, 2021, USAID's CDO was designated the Agency'sStatistical Official (SO), and led a panel of subject matter experts in 2021 to update the Agency's data policy (ADS 579) to address issues outlined above in paragraphs (3) and (5). The CDO/SO ensures alignment on data governance issues, the Agency Learning Agenda, and building the Agency's evidence base. The CDO/SO designates a representative to serve as the lead of the DATA Board's Data Privacy and Data Sharing Working Group and ensures USAID participates in the Interagency Council Statistical Policy (ICSP) to ensure the Agency adopts best statistical practices. As the SO, the CDO/SO also regularly collaborates with

	the Chief Records Officer on compliance with the requirements listed in paragraph (5).
(5) CDO has carried out the requirements of the agency as set forth in USC 44, sections 3506 (information collection and paperwork reduction); 3507 (rulemaking); and 3511 (data inventory)	The CDO, together with the USAID CRO, is collaborating on carrying out these agency requirements. For example, the CDO worked closely with procurement experts, legal counsel, information collection and paperwork reduction experts, and experts in USAID programming to draft a proposed rule titled, "Planning, Collection, and Submission of Digital Information as Well as Submission of Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plans to USAID," which was published in the Federal Register on December 15, 2021. USAID proposed the rule to amend the USAID Acquisition Regulation (AIDAR), 48 CFR Chapter 7, to streamline digital information data collection and use data as an asset to inform the planning, design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Agency's foreign assistance programs. Specifically, this proposed rule would incorporate into the AIDAR a new policy on Digital Information Planning, Collection, and Submission Requirements (with a corresponding clause) and adds a new clause titled, "Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plan Requirements." The intention of the proposed rule is to reduce the burden on contractors, increase efficiency, and improve the use of data and other forms of digital information across the Agency's programs and operations. On December 15, 2021, the proposed rule was made available for a 60-day public comment period through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. The commenting period closed on February 14, 2022. The CDO collaborates with USAID's Chief Records Officer to ensure that USAID data collection complies with the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). To comply with Section 3511 of the PRA, the CDO ensures regular updates of USAID's comprehensive data inventory via the DDL.

(6) CDO has ensured that agency data conforms with data management best practices	The CDO serves as the Agency's senior strategist and operational expert for instituting data science best practices at USAID. The CDO ensures that USAID policies and practices incorporate best practices in data management, encompassing all aspects of the data management lifecycle. In 2021, the CDO ensured that USAID embedded data management best practices into new drafts of the Agency's data policy (ADS 579) and incorporated them as standards that USAID referenced in the draft rule, "Planning, Collection, and Submission of Digital Information as Well as Submission of Activity Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Plans to USAID," as published in the Federal Register. The CDO also identified opportunities to reduce cost and effort associated with managing and deriving business intelligence from USAID's data assets. For example, the CDO established a Blanket Purchase Agreement as a centralized, less burdensome means for operating units to procure cutting-edge data processing tools.
(7) CDO has engaged agency employees, the public, and contractors in using public data assets and encouraged collaborative approaches on improving data use	The CDO's team engages USAID staff via a formal training program, newsletters, listservs, working groups, and brown bag meetings to improve data use. In August 2021, the CDO collaborated with the Department of State to launch a revised, consolidated foreignassistance.gov website to provide a central public-facing resource for U.S. foreign assistance data. This new website replaces legacy websites—State's ForeignAssistance.gov and USAID's Foreign Aid Explorer—that both published foreign assistance data, but employed distinct methodologies and fulfilled different mandates. In 2021, the CDO's team launched the *Essentials* and *Foundations* Data Literacy e-Learning Series through USAID University. The *Essentials* eLearning Series includes four modules and provides learners with key knowledge about USAID data-related tools, guidance, and best practices, in order to enhance basic skill sets and help staff use data to better communicate, collaborate, and improve productivity. The *Foundations* eLearning Series includes eight modules and provides on-demand, self-paced content designed to equip staff with a variety of tools to use data to improve development, humanitarian, and operational outcomes. The CDO team also released an e-Learning module titled, "Mitigating Risk During Data Collection: Guidance for AORs and CORs." In December 2021, USAID released a

	three-part "Data in December" webinar series, which featured interviews and panel discussions with the Agency's CDO and top data analysts and geospatial specialists.
(8) CDO has supported the Performance Improvement Officer of the agency in identifying and using data to carry out the functions described in USC 31 Section 1124(a)(2)	USAID's acting Performance Improvement Officer (PIO) is an *ex-officio* voting member and active participant of the USAID DATA Board. The CDO and PIO regularly collaborate to ensure meaningful contributions to the Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) Goals, which includes updating quarterly USAID's progress on the CAP Goal on "Data as a Strategic Asset."
(9) CDO has supported the Evaluation Officer of the agency in obtaining data to carry out the functions described USC 5 Section 313(d)	The CDO collaborates closely with the Agency Evaluation Officer (EO) to promote making evidence-based decisions using the best available science and data, and to ensure USAID uses evidence in a way that upholds scientific integrity free from political or other biases. The CDO and EO collaborated in 2021 to identify data assets in USAID's comprehensive data inventory that support the Agency's Learning Agenda, focusing specifically on the importance of USAID's Evaluation Registry Dataset. In compliance with USAID's evaluation policy, which is outlined in Automated Directives System Chapter 201, "Program Cycle Operational Policy" (ADS 201), the CDO's team supports USAID's EO by maintaining the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC), which is USAID's official repository for evaluations. Data that support these evaluations are collected in USAID's DDL, which the CDO's team also maintains.
(10) CDO has reviewed the impact of the infrastructure of the agency on data asset accessibility and coordinated with the Chief Information Officer of the agency to improve such infrastructure to reduce barriers that inhibit data asset accessibility	The CDO addresses the impact of infrastructure on data accessibility by addressing USAID's data architecture and by master data management. The CDO's team collaborates with Office of the CIO information technology (IT) engineers to update the Agency's IT Strategic Plan (ITSP) and the Agency's current and target data architectures. The CDO's team led an effort with the Bureau for Global Health to embed a Development Data Commons prototype in USAID's IT environment to help Agency staff use heterogeneous data and data science technologies to address mission-driven questions. The CDO continues to collaborate with Office of the CIO leadership and teams to support the Agency's new Development Information Solution (DIS), an investment that integrates Agency systems around the world into a standard, interoperable solution. In 2021 the

	CDO's team collaborated with the Master Data Management Working Group to prototype a data quality tool that USAID will use to stand up the Agency's master data domains, introduce Agency-wide reference data, and establish and apply data quality standards to the Agency's data assets.
(11) CDO has ensured that the agency maximized the use of data in the agency	As noted in Paragraph 3, above, in 2021, to improve uniformity in USAID-funded data, the CDO launched a Technical Data Standards Working Group to compile data standards in use across various disciplines within USAID. As a result, the group issued a draft set of recommended standards tol be incorporated into contractual requirements via USAID's engagement in the Federal rulemaking process. The CDO launched an Agency-wide Tableau Users Group (TUG) in July 2021, a community of practice that focuses on informal information-sharing, learning, and mentorship on the use of Tableau software for self-service analytics. To date, USAID has held six monthly TUG meetings. In those meetings, TUG members discussed content on technical topics within Tableau and presented data visualizations using USAID data. The TUG provides USAID staff with grassroots and hands-on learning opportunities about data use across the Agency. In September 2021, the CDO's team further maximized data use at the interagency level by developing and hosting an [interactive dashboard](#) for President Biden's Quad Vaccine Partnership Initiative for addressing vaccination needs in the Indo-Pacific.
(12) CDO has identified points of contact for roles and responsibilities related to open data use and implementation	The CDO's team includes designated points of contact for topics related to the use of open data, including communications, best practices for data repositories, policy and governance, data analytics, and data-literacy. The CDO team works with the USAID DATA Board technical working groups, including those that focus on Master Data Management, Data Privacy and Sharing, Agency-Wide Data Literacy Curriculum, Data Policy, Data Standards, and Artificial Intelligence. The CDO also has a dedicated team that focuses exclusively on the ongoing intake and publication of new datasets via the Agency's open data portal, the [DDL](#).
(13) CDO has served as the agency liaison to other agencies	The CDO/SO continues to collaborate with USAID and interagency stakeholders on the best way to use USAID data for statistical purposes. This collaboration includes ensuring

and the Office of Management and Budget on the best way to use existing agency data for statistical purposes	USAID participates in the Interagency Council on Statistical Policy (ICSP) and the CDO Council's Data Sharing Working Group. The CDO provides leadership and technical support to reduce barriers to providing data to statistical agencies and units, as required in Section 303 of the Evidence Act. The CDO's team participates in monthly meetings for the Subcommittee on Open Science working groups, including data curation, data sharing, and data management planning. The CDO's team also participates in GSA's Open Data Working Group.
(14) CDO has complied with any regulation and guidance issued under subchapter III, including the acquisition and maintenance of any required certification and training	The CDO works with USAID's Chief Privacy Officer, SO, and Privacy Council to ensure USAID complies with subchapter III. For example, the CDO's team manages a clearance process for data releases, which includes assessing and mitigating data risk, and following statistical disclosure limitation controls. This process enables USAID to disseminate timely information, ensure confidentiality, and uphold the highest ethical practices, which protects the trust of data subjects and information providers.

(d) Delegations of Responsibilities

Requirement	Status Narrative
(1) - (3) CDO has delegated responsibilities to the head of a principal statistical agency or recognized statistical unit as set forth in USC 44 Section 3561	The CDO/SO delegates participation in ICSP meetings and carrying out related responsibilities. Additionally, the CDO/SO delegates oversight on data quality standards as described in the Information Quality Act, in conformance with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-19-23 Section IV. The CDO collaborates with the Agency Evaluations Officer to ensure data availability in support of the Agency's Learning Agenda, and on issues and techniques relevant to data privacy and data security. USAID is not a designated statistical agency, and does not have a statistical unit.

(e) Reports

CDO has submitted an "annual report on the compliance of the agency with the requirements of this subchapter," as specified in the Act.	This report outlines the status of compliance by USAID with the mandates for the Agency's Chief Data Officer as outlined in Section 3520(e) of Title 44 of the United States Code (U.S.C.) for the year 2021.