THE BUREAU FOR DEVELOPMENT, DEMOCRACY AND INNOVATION (DDI)

The proposed Bureau for Development, Democracy and Innovation will reorient Washington-based technical expertise to drive program decision-making toward the field, offering more consistent, coordinated and responsive technical support.

WHY ARE WE MAKING THESE CHANGES?

USAID Missions are central to achieving the Agency’s vision to support our host partner countries on their respective journeys to self-reliance. Over time, though, technical assistance to support our Missions has spread across Bureaus and Operating Units overseas, leaving field staff to “shop around” for the assistance they need. This has led inconsistent cross-sectoral integration and attention to Agency priorities such as inclusive development, innovation, and partnership in our work.

Our reliance on informal or voluntary communities of practice has limited opportunities to build upon learning across geographies, optimally integrate our field expertise in country context, and equip our local partners with the latest evidence and programming tools.
WHAT WILL THESE CHANGES DO?
The proposed Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation (DDI) would reorient Washington-based technical expertise to drive program decision-making towards the field, with more consistent, coordinated and responsive technical support. This new configuration would:

- Increase coordination and accountability among Washington expertise in their service to missions
- Consistently infuse the values of USAID and the American people into programming
- Enable staff to experiment, test, and scale new practices and approaches
- Increase learning to improve performance

HOW WILL WE MAKE THESE CHANGES?
DDI will serve as the Agency’s central resource for design support and technical assistance, and would bring together the following:

- Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, and Environment (E3)
- Global Development Lab (Lab)
- Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
- Office of American Schools and Hospitals Abroad
- Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives
- Minority-Serving Institutions program

THE BUREAU WOULD HOUSE A NUMBER OF CENTERS AND HUBS, PROVIDING MISSIONS WITH COORDINATED CONSULTANCY SERVICES.
Operating Units (OUs) that provide integrated Agency-wide sector leadership, backstop support, technical assistance and expertise in a given sector will be Centers.

DDI Centers include:
- Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
- Education
- Energy, Environment and Infrastructure
- Economics and Market Development

OUs that work on cross-cutting priorities will be “hubs” of expertise that provide technical assistance and coordinate counterparts in OUs throughout the Agency.

Proposed DDI Hubs include:
- Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment
- Innovation, Technology and Research
- Private Sector Engagement
- Youth and Inclusive Development
- Local, Faith-based and Synergistic Partnerships Hub

Coordinated by the Bureau Program Office, these units would break through traditional silos to create efficiencies and ensure cross-Bureau and cross-Agency coordination of technical expertise and other key priorities, such as governance, inclusion, the creation or expansion of private markets, and innovation.