



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

USAID
Higher Education
Solutions Network

HIGHER EDUCATION SOLUTIONS NETWORK - QUARTERLY REPORT

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
International Development Innovation Network
AGREEMENT NO. AID-OAA-A-12-00095

SUBMITTED: January 30, 2014
REPORTING PERIOD: FY 2014 QUARTER I

This publication was produced for review by the United States Agency for International Development. It was prepared by MIT, University of Colorado, UC Davis and NTBC.

Table of Contents

Acronyms & Abbreviations..... 2

Executive Summary..... 3

Part 1: Key Activities 4

 1.1. Summary of Key Activities.....4

 1.1.4. Travel 9

Part 2: Intra-Development Lab/ University Engagement..... 10

 2.1. Interdisciplinary Collaboration 10

 2.2. Partner Engagement..... 11

Part 3: High Value Areas of Collaboration [HVAC] (Lab-to-Lab) 12

 3.1. Summary of Collaboration Across the HESN.....12

 3.1.1. Data..... 12

 3.1.2. Solutions (Creation, Testing, Scaling)..... 12

 3.1.3. Student Engagement..... 13

Part 4: USAID Engagement..... 13

 4.1. USAID/Washington Interactions 13

 4.2. USAID Mission Interactions..... 13

Part 5: Monitoring & Evaluation..... 14

 5.1. Progress Narrative..... 14

Part 6: Lessons Learned / Good Practices..... 14

Part 7: Future Activities..... 15

Part 8: Appendix 16

Acronyms & Abbreviations

3IE	International Initiative for Impact Evaluation
ADE	Affordable Design and Entrepreneurship (Olin College)
AISE	Accelerating Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship
CARMATAC	Center for Agricultural Mechanization and Rural Technology
CASE	Center for the Advancement of Sustainable Enterprise
CCB	Creative Capacity Building
CSU	Colorado State University
GSSE MBA	Global Social and Sustainable Enterprise MBA (CSU)
IADB	Inter-American Development Bank
IAP	Independent Activities Period
IDDS	International Development Design Summit
IDE	International Development Enterprises
IDIN	International Development Innovation Network
IFPRI	International Food Policy Research Institute
ITA	Instituto Tecnológico de Aeronáutica
ITTU	Intermediate Technology Transfer Unit
JHPIEGO	John Hopkins affiliate
KNUST	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana)
MIT	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
NEVA	New Economy Venture Accelerator
NTBC	National Technology Business Centre (Zambia)
NRDC	Natural Resources Development College (Zambia)
PI	Principal Investigator
PIET	Program for International Energy technologies

Executive Summary

During Y2Q1 the IDIN program major accomplishments include implementation of a successful themed summit, significant progress towards establishment of three Innovation Centers, consolidation of design curriculum and the exploration and piloting of varied approaches to support and strengthen the IDIN Network.

From October 21st to November 4th, IDIN hosted a Maternal and Neonatal Health themed summit in Tanzania. The summit trained 29 participants in the design and innovation process. Participants were from a mix of diverse backgrounds. The summit was hosted at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology and focused on exploring the challenges facing mothers and newborns living in poverty and co-creating solutions that have the potential to improve health and well-being. Numerous institutions and partners collaborated to make the summit a success. Key contributions were made by: USAID's Global Health Bureau via Karen Clune; JPHIGO; AISE; Laerdal; Arusha Regional Maternal and Child Health Office; Monduli and Monduli Ju District Hospital; Oldonyo Sambo Health Clinic; USAID Tanzania Maternal and Child Health Office; and AYHZ.

The summit produced six problem-framing briefs and sketch models, one of which is being used by the MIT D-Lab Discovery class. Five organizers were targeted for mentoring in design facilitation. Post summit, IDIN has matched one participant with USIU to assess whether manufacturing of menstrual pads developed can be a viable business and Ghanaian participants have begun organizing step down maternal health trainings in their local communities. The summit was also a forum for AYHZ to present their KIVA project and seek distributors among project participants.

Significant progress was made in the establishment of three innovation centers. The centers are located in Pader, Uganda; Arusha, Tanzania; and São Paulo, Brazil. All three centers received funding during the quarter to establish operating space and to begin to purchase supplies and hire staff. Centers are consulting with local communities to prioritize activities and trainings that will be held in subsequent quarters.

The IDIN Network is comprised of former IDDS alumni, organizers and instructors and has a current membership of 350. During the quarter, IDIN has expanded and varied the range of support it offers to the Network. Ten micro-grants were disbursed to provide resources for prototype development and business expansion and guidance was provided to alumni groups aiming to formalize their local gatherings into a formal Chapter. IDIN staff have also worked closely with a website development firm to wireframe the IDIN website. Once complete, the website will provide an online forum for Network members to share ideas, seek assistance, learn about funding and training opportunities and keep abreast of their peers latest ventures.

A number of administrative actions were taken in the quarter to build the organizational capacity of IDIN. A Program Manager was hired to manage the day-to-day operations and ensure timely deliverables. In preparing for summits planned for quarters two and three, an inventory of available curriculum was conducted and staff and volunteers are working to strengthen existing lessons plans, identify gaps, and develop a fully-rounded curriculum to use for future summits.

A total of 45 students were engaged in classwork that was connected to IDIN's work in the field.

Part I: Key Activities

In the following three tables, IDIN lists out the three strategic objectives and under each objective provides detail on the activities, events, publications, communications and major administrative actions that were undertaken during the quarter in support of the objective. With the exception of building the IDIN research team (activity under objective three) and website development, all activities included in the year two workplan are on schedule and underway. IDIN will conclude its search for a Research Coordinator and develop a research strategy in quarter two and the timeline for website development was underestimated. The architecture for the site will be finalized in quarter two and the design and developing of the site are now scheduled for quarters three and four.

I.1. Summary of Key Activities

Objective I. Develop and disseminate technologies, products and approaches that address key development challenges and improve the lives and livelihoods of people living in poverty.

Activity	Type	Date	Location	Description
Website development	Activity	Oct-Dec	MA	A firm (Nimble) was hired to conduct site mapping and wireframing. The completed website will be a critical tool to share the IDIN story and connect Network participants to mentors, resources, funding opportunities and each other.
Student engagement (class)	Activity	Oct-Dec	MA	At MIT, D-Lab held its Development Class in the fall semester. The class was comprised of 31 students who formed 6 teams (2 teams in Ghana, 1 in Zambia, 1 in Brazil, 1 in El Salvador, and 1 in India). 22 students traveled in January to work with IDIN partners on projects.
Student engagement (class)	Activity	Oct-Dec	MA	Olin held its Affordable Design and Entrepreneurship (ADE) class with an IDIN connected site and projects in Ghana. The Ghana site team consisted of 3 engineering students from Olin College and 5 business students from Babson College for a total of 8 students (7 women, 1 man). The two built two prototypes of mini-grates that will be field-tested in quarter two. www.design.olin.edu/courses/ade/
Student engagement (class)	Activity	Oct-Dec	MA	Olin held the first experimental offering of Regional Analysis for Development (RAD), a new course at Olin College, which was completed by 6 students (4 women, 2 men). The instructor is funded by with IDIIN funds. Students selected and analyzed sectorial challenges associated with regions of the world. Engaged a faculty member at Tufts University to provide resources, course materials, curriculum guidance, and guest lectures. Students develop problem-framing briefs.
Student	Activity	Oct-Dec	MA	Olin provided two IDDS project for students in other

Activity	Type	Date	Location	Description
engagement (class)				classes to continue. For a Principles of Engineering (POE) class a team of 4 students developed a long-lasting, vibration-sensing data logger for use by the ADE Ghana site team in their pilot tests of mini cassava graters. For a Materials Science and Solid State Chemistry class a team of 4 students analyzed the quality of aluminum castings made by small-scale fabricators in Lusaka, Zambia, as follow-up support for a project at IDDS Zambia 2013.
Developed summit systems	Admin.	Oct-Dec (ongoing)	MA	The IDIN team worked on developing and standardizing IDIN's systems and processes for summit organizing that will aid staff and committees in smooth implementation of future summits. Advancements were made in processes for summit site and participant selections, directions and manuals for organizers, and budgeting.
Summit Preparation	Admin.	Oct-Dec	MA, Tanzania	IDIN is working closely with various institutions on summit preparation for both the Annual Summit scheduled for Tanzania in July/Aug and the themed Summit (Rethink Relief) scheduled for Pader, Uganda in May. Committees are working to set curriculum, identify appropriate local projects, invite and screen participants, and establish local connections. Rethink Relief is being organized in collaboration with the Faculty of Industrial Design, Netherlands the Pader branch of Caritas Gulu. The annual summit is being organized with Twende, AISE, and CARMATEC.
Develop educational resources (CCB)	Activity	Oct - Nov	MA	Developed a Trainers manual for a 3 day workshop that includes design lessons, technology demonstrations and build-it modules. The manual was piloted and will be finalized in quarter 2.
Develop educational resources (summit)	Activity	Oct	Worldwide	Developed Maternal and Neonatal schedule for summit focused on problem identification and idea generation.
Partnerships to support IDIN members (Scale-ups)	Activity	Nov.	MA	MIT's Scale-ups program (housed at D-Lab) received IDIN funding that was matched by Scale-ups. In exchange, IDDS participants now can apply for Scale-ups funding. Two IDDS alumni were awarded 15K grants this quarter.
Grant support to IDIN members	Activity	Nov.	MA, CO	The first round of micro-grants with a total value of \$12,175 was disbursed. 3 Venture development micro-grants disbursed by CSU; and 7 prototype development micro-grants disbursed by MIT.
Publicity on	Publication	Nov.	South	Two papers published on summit experiences.

Activity	Type	Date	Location	Description
IDDS Zambia and projects			Korea	Jamie Jungmin Yoon: Appropriate Technology, Vol.6, No.1 (Issue 9) 'IDDS spirit and its approach to appropriate technology'. And Heewon Lee: Designing Aluminum Furnace for Developing Countries. http://www.ecodesign.or.kr/paper/index.html
Partnerships to support IDIN members (GSSE)	Event	Nov.	CO	The University of Colorado has identified three mentors to support micro-grant recipients and GSSE teams. The mentors will provide technical expertise and coaching.
Student engagement	Activity	Nov - Dec	MA India	MIT D-Lab students created a prototype web site 'crowdsolver' to post call for actions for technological solutions to issues. Students are working collaboratively with IDDS alumni in India. See appendix.
Develop educational resources (webinar)	Comms.	Nov	Worldwide	IDIN held an interactive webinar for IDDS alums and GSSE students who are building a start-up and need some advice and assistance on next step.
Website launch (UC Davis)	Comms.	Nov	CA	UC Davis launched a website with links to IDIN content and UC Davis D-Lab projects. http://128.120.151.3/pietwp.ucdavis.edu/?page_id=27
Themed summit (Maternal and Neonatal Health)	Event Comms.	Nov	Tanzania	29 participants to the Maternal and Neonatal Health summit where 6 problem-framing briefings were developed. See full description in executive summary. https://www.facebook.com/groups/455449654576297/
Partnerships to support IDIN members (KIVA)	Activity	Dec	Ghana, India Zambia	Ayzh, a project started by a IDDS alumni, received a grant from KIVA to expand sales and distribution of the company's clean birthing kit to Africa. Ayzh is sourcing distributors via the IDIN network – thus providing a potential source of income to alumni and a model of how IDIN can assist alumni to scale up products.
Student Engagement (class)	Activity	Dec	Kenya	USIU (Kenya based) and accreditation body approved the University of Colorado's GSSE 15-credit course content as a concentration option in their existing MBA program. This will open up engagement on IDDS to local Kenyan students.

Objective 2. Empower, train and support more people from communities facing development challenges to engage in design, innovation, product and venture development.

Activity	Type	Date	Location	Description
----------	------	------	----------	-------------

Activity	Type	Date	Location	Description
Project Continuity Support	Activity Comms.	Oct.	Zambia	Follow-up visits were made to projects initiated at IDDS 2013. A status report on the projects is included in the appendix. A donation of aluminum from Toyota was secured for one project. http://allafrica.com/stories/201310230389.html
Venture Accelerators	Event	Oct-Dec	Kenya	22 undergraduates at USIU were trained in business incubator strategies. Many students expressed an interest in applying for the SEMBAA program. This was a cost-share activity.
Social entrepreneurship networking event	Event	Oct - Dec	CO	65 students attended this event to meet with investors and learn about what ideas and ventures are attractive to investors. This was a cost-share activity. Students were also encouraged to apply for a summit.
Support to community based alumni groups	Activity	Oct	Zambia	MIT and NTBC facilitated the creation of a taskforce to develop the Zambia IDIN Chapter.
Support to community based alumni groups	Event	Oct	San Francisco	UC Davis participated in the second meeting of the emerging San Francisco chapter. 9 IDDS alumni met in San Francisco to share their work with one another.
Creative Capacity Building Training	Event	Nov- Dec	Uganda	MIT held a two-week TOT for 24 participants in Wakiso, Uganda in preparation for the third quarter launch of a randomized control trial focused on evaluating the effectiveness of the creative capacity building methodology. IDIN staff worked with Kulika staff to develop project timeline, budget, and personnel policies necessary for the effective implementation of this project. (also see HESN partnership section).
Innovation Center inception (2)	Event	Nov	Tanzania Uganda	A SOW and budget with Twende (community-based partner) that will expand and operate an innovation center in Arusha, Tanzania was finalized. In Uganda, a SOW and budget was finalized with Caritas who will establish a center in Pader. Inception activities and purchasing for both centers is underway.
Project continuity framework	Admin.	Dec	Cambridge	Administrative actions to develop systems to monitor projects post IDDS. Exploring appropriate software options to collect data on projects, alum and lessons learned.
Innovation Center	Event	Dec	CA	UC Davis' D-Lab, Olin and MIT are working with CAOS Focado to develop build it curriculum that

Activity	Type	Date	Location	Description
(Brazil)				can be used in the surrounding favelas.
Innovation Center – site selection	Event	Dec	Brazil	Local organizers selected a location for the innovation center in the Vila Nova Esperança. A timeline and budget for repairs to the space was also developed. Renovations are underway and the first projects selected by community are planned to commence in Q2.

Objective 3: Increase knowledge about and adoption of a creative capacity building approach to addressing development challenges.

Activity	Type	Date	Location	Description
Develop the research framework	Event	Dec	MA	Three graduate students conducted research as a first step in defining the research agenda. The researched resulted in: a) identification of scholars and researchers working in the fields that relate most closely to IDIN's research areas; b) identification of the state of theory and measurement tools in areas where IDIN seeks to conduct impact assessment (for example, local innovation, group creativity, and collective efficacy); c) identification of gaps in the theory and practice where IDIN might be able to make a valuable contribution through the research team's activities, and d) the creation of assessment tools for measuring outcomes and impacts in some key areas (see row 9 below). The findings will be used in the development of the research strategy.
Panel participation	Presentation	Oct	DC	Amy Smith from MIT Presented at the Demand Solutions Conference at IADB on promoting local innovation as a development strategy.
Advisory Groups formed	Administrative	Nov	MA	To further support IDIN Coordinators and ensure that IDIN activities were benefiting from the breadth of PI's experience; advisory committees were created for Summits, Research, M&E, Network and Innovation Centers. The committees will serve as a resource for Coordinators.

I.1.4. Travel

The following international travel using full or partial HESN funding occurred during the past Quarter:

Location (City and Country)	Number of Travelers	Partner(s) Engaged (If applicable)	USAID Engagement (If applicable)	Outcome(s) & Next Steps
Colombia (partial)	1	UNAL (National University of Colombia)	n/a	Began a discussion with IDDS alumni about starting a local chapter and hosting a summit. Started a discussion with UNAL about collaboration.
Kenya (full)	1	Local alumni group	n/a	Began a discussion with IDDS alumni about starting a local chapter, hosting a summit, and starting an innovation center (Gearbox). The groups is preparing a proposal for the center.
Thailand (cost-share)	3	UC Davis to Kasetsart Univ.	n/a	Three IDIN staff from Davis visited Kasetsart to help create a syllabus for design coursework and advise on launching a D-Lab. 30 students are currently enrolled in the course.
Zambia (full)	1	NTBC	n/a	Held 10 individual and 2 group meetings with key members of the IDDS alumni community in Zambia in support of the creation of a local IDDS-Zambia chapter that will interface effectively with NTBC. Worked with a local community based organization, Disacare, on a timeline and workplan for an innovation center in Lusaka. Discussed the creation of a pilot rural community workshop in Kafue, Zambia with 2 IDDS alumni.
Tanzania (full)	1 (one staff traveled to both Uganda and Tanzania)	Land O'Lakes (USAID Mission partner)	n/a	At the request of USAID, MIT visited 18 out of 30 technology groups formed by the USAID/Land O' Lakes funded Innovations in Gender Equality (IGE) project. The groups were trained by IDDS alum (former summit and TOT participants). MIT is preparing a report for IGE on groups and projects visited.

Location (City and Country)	Number of Travelers	Partner(s) Engaged (If applicable)	USAID Engagement (If applicable)	Outcome(s) & Next Steps
Uganda (full)	2	Caritas Kulika 3IE IFPRI Makerere Univ.	n/a	Two IDIN staff visited Uganda to conduct CCB trainings and support the inception of the Innovation Center as described under objective 2.
Tanzania (full)	6 staff 9 organizers 20 participants	JHPIEGO, AISE, Arusha Regional Maternal and Child Health Office, Monduli and Monduli Ju District Hospital, Oldonyo Sambo Health Clinic.	USAID Global Health Bureau, Maternal and Child Health units at Mission and Regional offices	Travel was undertaken to participate and support the Maternal and Neonatal Child Summit. (see executive summary)

Part 2: Intra-Development Lab/ University Engagement

2.1. Interdisciplinary Collaboration

IDIN has collaborated on the following interdisciplinary actions this quarter:

Collaboration	Description	Outcome (s)
MIT Innovation Initiative	Amy Smith of MIT's D-Lab is part of an ad hoc committee at MIT to envision an institute-wide Innovation Initiative in a response to the challenge set forth by MIT's president. http://president.mit.edu/speeches-writing/presidential-charge-committee-form-mit-innovation-initiative	The committee is scheduled to deliver its findings and recommendations by Jan. 31.
MIT 's D-lab with Faculty at USP	MIT sought out assistance by Professor McDowell (Urban Studies and Planning) to develop a monitoring tool to measure knowledge gained by summit participants.	The tool was piloted at the November themed summit and will be used in upcoming summits. Prof. McDowell is open to further collaboration.
MIT's D-Lab with Aero/Astro Department	MIT's D-Lab and MIT's Aero/Astro department hosted 4 faculty members from ITA and explored potential partnerships. ITA was invited to participate in the Tanzania summit and upcoming site visit by MIT's D-Lab students.	MIT presented a proposal to Aero/Astro for inclusion in the overall proposal to ITA. If funded, the award would start a D-Lab at ITA. Review of the proposal presented to ITA is underway.

2.2. Partner Engagement

IDIN is comprised of a consortium; consortium partners include MIT, Olin, UC Davis and the University of Colorado. Consortium partners have closely engaged with each other to implement and progress on key activities and students and have also had exploratory conversations with other universities and potential partners that are interesting in bringing work similar to IDIN to their campuses. Details as follows:

Partner	Partner Type (Unfunded/Funded)	Location	Outcome (s)
Davis - UCU	Unfunded	CA, Uganda	UC Davis began a preliminary conversation about how it could support the establishment of a D-Lab at Uganda Christian University. Next step: UCU to apply for Tanzania summit and learn more about D-Labs.
Intra- consortium	Funded	MA, CO, CA	IDIN issued a call to IDDS alumni to complete questionnaire regarding the status of ongoing projects. Eleven submissions received. Projects will be matched with students at consortium members for potential collaboration during future semesters.
Intra-univ. (MIT)	Funded	MA	The IDIN program leveraged (1:1) grant resources provided by the Scale-Ups program to assist two alumni (Ayzh and Zimba Water) to increase the scale of their businesses.
Intra- consortium (Olin to KNUST)	Funded	MA, Ghana	Continued the product design for development research project on scaling innovations through key component standardization. Two undergraduate students at Olin College Collaborated with 1 graduate student at KNUST (3 females). Made multiple local site visits in Ghana. Prepared data-logging sensors for deployment during the next site visit.
Intra- consortium (Olin to KNUST)	Funded	MA, Ghana	Completed preparations for a new-product workshop on the ADE Mini Grater for fabricators in Suame Magazine. Prepared materials for 15 fabricators including presentations, design specifications, handouts, demonstration materials, and hands-on materials for participants. Completed preparations for a production pilot study for the ADE Mini Grater in Suame Magazine. The goal of the study is to identify challenges in scaling up production of the grater in Ghana.
University of CO – Business Daily Newspaper (Kenyan)	Unfunded	CO	Commitment to co-sponsor annual social business plan competition scheduled for January with winners announced in April. The competition finalists will be encouraged to attend IDDS and support projects.
University of CO - USIU	Funded	CO	USIU Associate Dean Amos Njuguna has agreed to provide SEMBAA participants feedback on their

ventures based off quarter end student presentation. (see also objective 1 for additional collaboration with USIU).

Olin - Babson	Funded	MA	Olin approached Babson to jointly deliver ADE together.
---------------	--------	----	---

Part 3: High Value Areas of Collaboration [HVAC] (Lab-to-Lab)

3.1. Summary of Collaboration Across the HESN

In year two, IDIN anticipates finalizing multi-year partnerships with KNUST in Ghana and NTBC in Zambia. This will bring the number of consortium partners to six. Subsequently, IDIN will be focused on maximizing collaborations and partnerships within the consortium in year two and in subsequent years will focus more on external HESN partnerships.

3.1.1. Data

Partner	Completed / Ongoing Activity [Indicate tie to activity number]	Outcome(s)
MIT to Kulika, Kulika to Makerere	Ongoing	MIT is working with Kulika to train and support CCB trainers with funding from IDIN and USADF. Kulika also received funding from 3ie to conduct a 3 year randomized control trial to evaluate the impact of CCB trainings. Makerere University and IFPRI will implement the RCT. MIT will advise Makerere/IFPRI on possible metrics.
Olin to Berkley, MIT, William and Mary	Ongoing	Olin sought interest by other labs to collaborate on sensors in development. Conversations continue on a framework for collaboration and the identification of initial projects.

3.1.2. Solutions (Creation, Testing, Scaling)

Partner	Completed / Ongoing Activity [Indicate tie to activity number]	Outcome(s)
UC Davis to Berkeley	Ongoing	Initial discussions regarding curriculum work at UC Davis and resources available at UC Berkeley have been held. UC Davis to share Build It curriculum.
Olin to William and Mary	Ongoing	Olin sought William and Mary's help in developing and refining RAD. Their input will be incorporated into existing RAD curriculum and

will be used by Olin in September, 2014.

3.1.3. Student Engagement

Partner	Completed / Ongoing Activity [Indicate tie to activity number]	Outcome(s)
All HESN Partners	Ongoing	IDIN has welcomed and encouraged HESN partners to apply to attend summits. Formal announcements will be distributed to HESN partners in quarter two when participant applications are released.

Part 4: USAID Engagement

4.1. USAID/Washington Interactions

IDIN consortium members (MIT, UC Davis, Olin, Colorado State) attended the HESN sponsored TechCon in November. UC Davis presented on build it exercises and collaborative design. Amy Smith from MIT ran a session to promote collaborations between labs that started with a small hands-on activity, then broke people into groups to where they discussed the resources that their labs could offer to other labs, and start conversations about possible collaborations between the labs. Olin College engaged five students in the event. Students brought and showcased a Lantern Build-It and an ADE Mini Grater prototype at the Innovation Marketplace.

Initial discussions were had at TechCon around a variety of potential partnerships. IDIN team members met with RAN team as well as Texas A+M to discuss Rethink Relief collaborations; IDIN met with the Duke team and shared NM-AIST contacts for the Incubation Hub site potential; and IDIN met with USAID-MENA Regional Specialist and discussed ways to increase MENA region participation in summits.

In November, with coordination support from USAID, MIT met with Senator Warren's and Senator Markey's offices to share the work of HESN and also met with Global Health Bureau to debrief on Maternal and Neonatal Health Summit. IDIN also met with the desk officer at USAID/Washington to share information about the Rethink Relief conference scheduled for quarter three of 2014.

IDIN is actively planning a visit to USAID in quarter two with the HESN office. During the visit, IDIN will have an opportunity to share its overall program, lessons learned and plans for the future with HESN staff and other USAID offices and bureaus. An interactive, hand on, exercise is also planned. The trip will provide IDIN an opportunity to learn more about USAID's work in innovation and to explore areas of common interest with other USAID offices.

4.2. USAID Mission Interactions

India Mission

The campuses of MIT and UC Davis hosted Dr. Sheila Desai from USAID India in December. The purpose of the trip was information exchange. Ms. Desai shared the work and priorities of the USAID Mission in India and learned more about the current and planned work of IDIN. She was particularly helpful in sharing advice about how to work effectively with Missions, which will be used when planning the upcoming summits. Ms. Desai also had the opportunity to connect with the Department of Mechanical Engineering at MIT and other departments.

IDIN sought East African Mission expertise in designing and attending Maternal and Neonatal Health Summit. Grace Miheso, the Maternal and Child Health Director, was engaged during the summit and spend a few days with participants and contributed to lectures.

In quarter two, IDIN aims to collaborate with the Missions in Uganda and Tanzania on summit preparation and will seek their help in identifying potential project sites for field work. Numerous students will also be engaging in field-work in January and upon their return IDIN will share brief synopses of their work with Mission personnel.

Part 5: Monitoring & Evaluation

5.1. Progress Narrative

Over the last quarter, IDIN has been making progress towards its M&E goals as outlined in the work plan by devising and implementing better reporting mechanisms, conducting research and developing M&E/documentation/research tools both in Cambridge and at this quarter's Maternal and Neonatal Health (MNNH) Summit for better measurement and capture of outcomes, and devising better custom indicators on our lab's work together with our consortium and as applicable to our various activities. Data was archived for indicators on the list of our HESN-standard indicators, many of which will be reported on at the time of the semi-annual report next quarter.

In terms of specific indicators, several IDDS Zambia projects and innovations reached a new stage in their development, resulting in progress towards our goal indicator targets, such as technologies adopted (Goal Indicator #3), technologies piloted (Goal Indicator #4), and evaluations conducted (Goal Indicator #6). Members of our consortium and network published materials of various types, contributing towards our targets for IR 1.2 Indicator 1, which tracks awareness and publications, and various partnerships were made in progress towards targets for IR 2.3 Indicator 1, which tracks number of community partnerships. Through our recent summit and the attraction of participants to innovation centers over the last quarter, IDIN has also made progress towards IR 3.4 Indicator 3, which tracks number of participants in hubs and summits. IDIN expects further progress on all these and more fronts in terms of meeting our targets in Quarter 2.

Part 6: Lessons Learned / Good Practices

At UC Davis they have adopted a practice of one staff meeting per quarter that is working effectively in their Lab. At the meeting, staff are assigned task for the quarter. Davis has also learned that early and frequent outreach to students about events and courses help increase enrolment and attendance. Davis also works

to ensure that interests and motivation at Davis' D-Lab is aligned with the interest and motivations of their client and communities for best results.

The Olin team noted that an explicit focus on low-cost productivity aids for women, especially time saving ones, may prove to be an effective way to achieve multi-level social benefit for poor families and their communities, particularly small-scale ones.

IDIN attempted to organize consortium level meetings at the TechCon in November. A lesson learned was that this was not a good practice since it was difficult to make time between the conference sessions and meetings were often disjointed. It was a good practice to have broad representation from the PI's, since it allowed for individual discussions and connections to be made with other HESN partners.

The Maternal and Neonatal Health Summit provided a number of lessons and good practices. A good practice followed was having a participant pool with wide range of sector expertise that could contribute to a range of discussions. Organizers and lecturers were also well selected and took advantage of the experience available in IDIN's network. It was the first time IDIN worked with the Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology. Although the end result was positive, it was difficult organizing a summit remotely with a new service provider and IDIN could have benefited from more local organizers, including someone with an established relationship with the Nelson Mandela Institute. Project initiated at both the Zambian and Tanzania summits were later adopted by students at MIT and Olin, which created synergies and help advance the product development. This good practice will be followed in subsequent years.

Participant feedback from the summit revealed that the practice of forming teams comprised of a mix of new IDDS participants with limited design experience and repeat IDDS participants comfortable with design help alleviate the stress and insecurities the new participants had going into the workshop. New participants also benefited from site visits to repeat participants workshops to see how they were applying skills learned in previous summits. The organizing team was also interested to learn that going into the workshop, participants expressed the most interest and excitement about engaging in the hand-on design activities. But, at the workshop's conclusion the majority reported that they benefited most from the abstract exercises with problem-solving and conflict resolution. Participants also expressed an interest in organization capacity building in addition to design capacity.

Part 7: Future Activities

Innovation Centers: In quarter one progress was made on determining the management partners of the Innovation Centers and putting the administrative relationships in place that will allow MIT to fund the Centers. In quarter two, attention will shift to ensuring that the local communities are involved in envisioning and completing repairs to the innovation center space, helping to determine programming priorities for the center and gathering baseline data in advance of the formal launches.

February Strategic Visioning Exercise: Consortium partners, IDIN staff and key volunteers will attend a 2-day session in February. The objectives of the workshop are: to provide the IDIN team with clarity regarding IDIN's current work and future commitments; to engage all in thinking boldly about the potential collective

impact; to develop the research agenda; and to strengthen the relationships and communications practices necessary to be successful. HESN will be briefed on substantial outcomes.

Custom Indicators: In quarter two, IDIN will finalize all of its custom indicators in the monitoring plan. A data collection plan will be established for each indicator and performance indicator reference sheets amended as needed.

Summit Preparation: Preparation for both the Rethink Relief and Annual summit will continue throughout next quarter. Participants will be selected for both summits as well as finalization of project sites for field visits. IDIN will increase its information sharing with relevant Missions during the quarter to ensure that USAID is engaged.

Project Continuity Support: IDIN staff and the Network will continue to monitor and support IDDS projects. Students are scheduled to visit projects and alumni in January to help develop and test prototypes and mentoring, funding and advice will continue to be provided by Network activities.

Part 8: Appendix

Appendix 1: Video overview of Crowdsolver website experience, its development, and students involved in its creation.

Appendix 2: Write-up brief of Crowdsolver website goals, purpose, and development. Includes examples of its projected uses and detailed functions.

Appendix 3: IDIN newsletter from Maternal and Neonatal Health Summit, Tanzania, including basic information about projects, participants, and schedule. <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B-LIZE9MjeZoNTI2Nk5uSkhTYTA/edit>

Appendix 4: Maternal and Neonatal Health Summit program schedule.

Appendix 5: Project tracker spreadsheet with updates on past project continuity throughout the network, including projects from IDDS 2013 in Zambia.