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HIGHER EDUCATION SOLUTIONS NETWORK - QUARTERLY REPORT

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AidData Center for Development Policy
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Acronyms & Abbreviations

AMF	Aid Management Fellow
AMP	Aid Management Platform
API	Application Programming Interface
ARC	AidData Research Consortium
ASF	AidData Summer Fellows
BYU	Brigham Young University
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DG	Development Gateway
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HESN	Higher Education Solutions Network
POC	Point of Contact
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SRI	Strategic Response Innovation
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
USG	United States Government
UT-Austin	University of Texas-Austin
W&M	the College of William and Mary

Executive Summary

During Q2 FY2014, the AidData Center for Development Policy (AidData Center) advanced its mission of providing geospatial data, tools, and analysis so that USAID missions, host governments and civil society can maximize the impact of aid investments. Specifically, through production of geocoded data, development of innovative data-driven technologies, and increased research engagement in Q2, AidData has continued to enable USAID, partner country governments, civil society stakeholders, and the broader development community to incorporate data into planning, monitoring, and evaluation activities to improve development outcomes.

The research Activities of the AidData Research Consortium kicked-off this quarter with the first annual convening of the AidData Research Consortium (ARC) on January 8-11, 2014 in Williamsburg, VA. Fifty-six of the 81 ARC members attended the 4-day convening across multiple disciplines including political science, economics, geography, and global health. Attendees participated in skills workshops, met in teams to advance research agendas, and presented current research projects utilizing AidData's subnational geocoded development finance data. Throughout the quarter, the ARC members collaborated on research activities with several USAID operating units including the Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI), the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG), and Global Climate Change (GCC). Several publications using AidData's geocoded aid information were published this quarter including an article in *The Washington Post* by researcher Laura Seay entitled "[Did cutting access to mineral wealth reduce violence in the DRC?](#)", which cited the maps and analysis produced by AidData student researcher Lauren Harrison in her winning 2013 Map Off submission.

Significant progress was made in the AidData Center's in-country geocoding work this quarter. We completed the geocoding work of the aid portfolios of three of our partner countries during this quarter: Uganda, Haiti, and Timor-Leste. In each of these countries, AidData Center staff completed wrap-up trips to provide additional training and present the completed geocoded data to the government aid management unit, USAID Mission, and other donors. In Timor-Leste, the Ministry of Finance held an official launch event on February 3rd to introduce the geocoded aid information and public AMP GIS Module to the people of Timor-Leste. At the launch event, Vice-Minister of Finance, Santana JRF Viegas Cardoso said of the tool and new data, "Having this will make it easier to see the projects already taking place and where we need to focus more. For Development Partners, this will help avoid duplication of effort. This data will be a great benefit."

"AidData's work is a step in the right direction for development and aid effectiveness."

*-Amanda Glassman,
Center for Global Development*



Two new in-country geocoding activities were kicked off in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Honduras during this quarter; in each case a geocoding kick-off trip was completed, an Aid Management Fellow (AMF) was placed in the main aid coordination institution in the government, and the AidData team began working with the local donor community to collect location information for active externally-financed projects in Q2. AidData Center student researchers at our three university campuses prepared this quarter to initiate the geocoding work for DRC and Honduras during Q3. AidData Center staff also undertook an assessment trip to Indonesia to analyze the possibility of engaging the Government of Indonesia and the USAID/Indonesia Mission in a geocoding activity.

The AidData Center conducted its first geocoding follow-up trip in February, approximately seven months after the completion of the in-country geocoding work in Nepal - our first geocoding partner country under the HESN award. The purpose of the trip was to provide additional training support to key stakeholders and to assess the effectiveness, uptake and sustainability of the 2013 geocoding efforts. Information was gathered from key stakeholders within the Ministry of Finance and from the largest donors in Nepal, including USAID. The assessment revealed that enthusiasm for the geocoded data remains high in Nepal and identified key actions that the AidData Center needs to undertake to increase use of the data in policymaking and ensure the sustainable creation of data moving forward. These key lessons learned are discussed in section 6 below and will inform AidData's future in-country work.

“We read [about aid] in the newspaper, but we want to see what is really happening,”

-Dr. Sagar Sharma, Associate Dean of Kathmandu University School of Arts”



Attendees at the Nepal Data Working Group.

During the Nepal follow-up trip, Kathmandu University's School of Arts and the AidData Center co-hosted an open data event that brought together twenty-five representatives from government, donors, academia and civil society organizations for an animated discussion of how to use and improve the [geocoded aid information](#) created by AidData and Nepal's Ministry of Finance in order to catalyze open dialogue about development investments and results across the country. The working group event featured a presentation from Mr. Indra Sharan KC from USAID-Nepal on the ways in which his agency uses GIS and geocoded aid information to inform [USAID planning processes](#), demonstrating how good aid data can drive better donor-level decisions. The working group event ignited a discussion on what donors, government, civil society, academics, and infomediaries such as the AidData Center can do to get aid information to more of the people who can use it. The attendees expressed interested in continuing this discussion through regular working group meetings.

During Q2, the AidData Center initiated work on two Strategic Response Innovations (SRIs) to address needs identified by USAID. The first SRI will dramatically increase the usability of USAID's Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) by a) extracting text from the 150,000+ PDFs hosted on the DRC b) refining the metadata applied to those files for easier searching through concept extraction, c) creating a web application to allow users to run keyword searches on the extracted text, and d) exporting their results into open formats. AidData has also proposed hosting arrangements to allow users to download the full archive (approximately 400GB) of PDFs to replicate the innovation using different suites of open source tools. The second SRI, completed by Esri, created a custom ArcGIS Online application to show where the

various groups under the Global Development Lab are working throughout the world. The web map is currently displayed in the [home page of the Lab](#).

The AidData Center worked this quarter to engage students across our university campuses and the Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN) to produce development research and innovations leveraging open data. During this quarter, 27 new student researchers were hired at W&M, UT-Austin, and BYU, 67 students across HESN campuses designed innovations that leverage open data for development in the Big Ideas Open Data/Open Government window sponsored by the AidData Center, and 35 W&M students unleashed the power of geospatial data to answer policy research questions in AidData's second annual Map Off. Three new academic courses were launched at W&M this quarter which will foster student-faculty research projects across disciplines, teach students how to use experimental methodologies to answer key questions in development, and introduce over 70 students to the policy applications of the data and tools produced by the AidData Center.

Part I: Key Activities

I.1. Summary of Key Activities

Objective I- Gather Geocoded Data:

- The AidData Center initiated geocoding and capacity building activities in two new partner countries during Q2: the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Honduras.
 - Geocoding activities were kicked-off in DRC in February 2014. During the kick-off trip, the Ministry of Planning presented the activity at a workshop attended by development partners (including USAID/DR Congo) and an Aid Management Fellow (AMF) was embedded in DRC's Ministry of Planning. The AMF has already made progress in data collection and capacity building.
 - In March, 2014, geocoding activities were kicked off in Honduras. The government presented the Aid Management Platform (AMP) and the geocoding project to a group of development partners which expressed their support for the activities. An AMF was embedded in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the March kick-off and has begun outreach to individual development partners.
- Geocoding activities were wrapped up in three of our Year One partner countries during this quarter: Timor-Leste, Haiti, and Uganda. The final geocoded data sets were imported back into the country Aid Management Platforms and the results were presented to the government and development partners. In Timor-Leste and Haiti, the data is available on the public portals of their AMP's: <https://www.aidtransparency.gov.tl/> and <http://haiti.ampsite.net/>.
- In February, the AidData team conducted an assessment of the possibility of engaging the government of Indonesia and the USAID/Indonesia Mission in a geocoding activity. The AidData Center met with several different stakeholders, including key government officials and development partners.
 - The assessment revealed that, in general, interest was very high, especially in terms of building GIS capacity and eventually using the geocoding methodology and GIS capacity to map the national budget of Indonesia.

- As of the submission of this report, the Indonesia mission is currently reviewing our assessment report findings and would like to reevaluate the possibility of work there in Summer/Fall 2014.
- During this quarter, the AidData Center made significant progress towards launching a public AMP portal with our government partners in Senegal and Uganda. During quarter two, work began to configure the public portal for Senegal. The template has been completed by the AidData Center and we are currently working with the government to obtain pictures and documents that could be included in the configuration. We expect to complete the configuration during Q3. Public portal preparations began in Q2 for Uganda. We are working with the government to obtain high-level approvals to launch the portal and establish an official launch date. The Ministry of Finance, Planning, and Economic Development is aiming to hold a launch event in early summer 2014.
- A follow-up trip to Nepal took place in early February. The geocoding work wrapped up in Nepal in Q3 FY2013 with the completion of geocoded data set and the launch of a public AMP portal. The AidData Center undertook the follow-up trip to Nepal about 7 months following the wrap-up of our in-country geocoding work to (1) provide follow-up training and capacity support to the Ministry of Finance's International Economic Cooperation and Coordination Division (IECCD) related to their use of geocoded AMP data, and (2) assess the effectiveness, uptake and sustainability of the FY2013 geocoding efforts.
 - To meet the first goal of the follow-up trip, the AidData Center conducted a combined training session for IECCD and Line Ministry staff with 25 attendees and used interactive role-playing activities to illustrate and discuss opportunities for using AMP and AidData maps to improve day-to-day work.
 - To complete the second objective of the follow-up trip, we conducted key stakeholder interviews and administered a post-engagement survey to 8 IECCD staff (section officers and undersecretaries) and 7 DP staff representing some of Nepal's largest and/or most active donors (World Bank, ADB, EU, UNDP, USAID, SDC, Denmark). One key barrier to sustainability identified in this process was a need to foster data use among the "right people" for impact. The AidData Center also met with 4 journalists during the follow-up trip to discuss how geocoded aid information can be used more effectively by media.
 - We found that the AidData Center's first round of government and donor trainings primarily reached the AMP focal persons- typically financial or administrative staff- and produced limited knowledge diffusion to the program staff who plan and report on actual projects. We concluded that customized trainings for program staff on use of geocoded data – preferably conducted by an IECCD representative- will be essential to ensure long-term data use among the donor community. We also received feedback on improvements to the AMP GIS Module that will make the tool more user-friendly and help to promote data uptake. These stakeholder requests have been incorporated into the planned improvements for the next version of the AMP map, which will be completed in Q4.
- With the start of the spring semester during Q2, the AidData Center university partner hired new student researchers to support our geocoding work. Overall, 27 students were hired: 16 at William and Mary (W&M), 4 at Brigham Young University (BYU), and 7 at the University of Texas-Austin (UT-Austin). During the quarter, these students completed the remaining projects in Haiti and Timor-Leste, and prepared to initiate geocoding work for DRC and Honduras.
- The AidData Center also launched the Open Request Geocoding Window during Q2. This window will provide USAID staff and members of the ARC to submit requests for data sets to be geocoded by the AidData Center. We believe this demand-driven approach will best ensure that the data we produce will be used to inform policy and programming decisions. The AidData Center began taking geocoding requests from members of the ARC and USAID staff during Q2. These requests will be reviewed on a tri-annual basis that

corresponds with the student hiring windows at our university consortium members for the fall, spring, and summer academic sessions. The geocoding requests received during Q2 will be reviewed in the beginning of Q3, and will be coded during Q3 and Q4 of FY2014.

- During this quarter, the AidData Center continued to implement a rigorous data quality assurance (QA) program based upon the lessons learned in Q1 FY2013. As part of our movement forward with the QA tools and process rollout during Q2, the AidData Center has adopted a semantic versioning processes- or numeric coding system to clearly differentiate each major internal and external release and indicate compatibility between intermediate releases (for more information see Part 8: Appendix)- for research releases of data products and created version control systems for data product releases which allows us to effectively archive our data releases as we make improvements to data sets. We have also implemented an internal Data Recommendations Working Group to vet and approve releases of data on a bi-weekly cycle. The Working Group reviews all releases before an internal/external stakeholders board before the products are made public. The working group also advises on a variety of data-related issues, including prioritization of activities, preferred methodologies and workflows for generating various types of data, and user requirements for technical systems used to generate data. These processes have enabled us to more effectively assess the quality of our data prior to release and ultimately put out a higher quality data product for our stakeholders.

Objective 2- Create the AidData Research Consortium:

- The first annual convening of the AidData Research Consortium (ARC) was held on January 8-11, 2014 in Williamsburg, VA. Fifty-six of the 81 ARC members attended the 4-day convening from disciplines including political science, economics, geography, and global health.
 - The first 2 days of the convening were training days in which 47 attendees- including ARC members, AidData Center staff, and USAID staff- participated in one of the following workshops: 1) Spatial econometrics using R; 2) Introduction to ArcGIS; and 3) Experiments and quasi-experiments using spatial data. These courses equipped participants with the skills necessary to undertake quality research using the subnational geocoded development finance data produced by AidData.
 - During the second 2 conference days, participants met within their thematic teams to begin fleshing out their research agenda for the upcoming calendar year. In addition, ARC members presented their research that utilized AidData's subnational information. These lightning talks helped spur research ideas among the ARC members and underscored the wide variety of research questions that can be addressed using this subnational information. Lastly, conference sessions were held around issues that are cross-cutting in nature including: 1) Gender, 2) Resilience, 3) Fungibility of aid, 4) Remote sensing, 5) Transparency, and 6) Data visualization. These panels allowed attendees to think through how these topics could be addressed or methods could be used.

Objective 3- Develop and disseminate analytic tools for visualizing and analyzing geocoded aid information:

- In Q2, AidData received clearance from USAID to initiate work on a Strategic Response Innovation to a) extract text from the 150,000+ PDFs hosted on the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC), b) refine the metadata applied to those files for easier searching through concept extraction, c) create a web application to allow users to run keyword searches on the extracted text, and d) export their results into open formats. AidData has also proposed hosting arrangements to allow users to download the full archive (approximately 400GB) of PDFs to replicate the innovation using different suites of open source tools.

- The AidData Center completed development of its User Contributed functionality during Q2, which will be released in early Q3 as part of the AidData 3.0 site. The functionality allows users to add documents, photos, videos, or comments directly to project pages or to project locations in the GIS portal. Users can also upload their own datasets, research papers, or other content to AidData 3.0 and apply tags (e.g. countries, sectors, organizations) to their content.
 - When searching the AidData database, users will be able to view all of the uploaded content in the User Contributed tab of the Dashboards. For example, when searching “Kenya” and “United States”, users will not only be able to view all of the financial flows from the US to Kenya, but also any uploaded documents or media which have been tagged to those categories. Also, when viewing individual project pages, users can explore any content or comments which have been posted to that project.
 - The rollout of the User Contributed functionality will be phased, with a formal launch following a technical launch. The formal launch will include focus “Projects of the Week” that are featured on the AidData blog, outreach to select media and policy influencers, and a contest encouraging users to upload content.
- AidData Center institutional members Development Gateway and Esri, executed a Strategic Response Innovation for the Global Development Lab, working with the GeoCenter. Esri created a custom ArcGIS Online application to show where the various groups under the Global Development Lab are working throughout the world. The web map is currently displayed in the home page of the Lab (<http://www.usaid.gov/GlobalDevLab/about>).
- During Q2, AidData defined strategic objectives and technical requirements for a significant re-engineering of the Aid Management Platform, to be implemented with a combination of HESN funding (focused on the GIS module, IATI interoperability, and API for easier data exchange with AidData 3.0) and funding from other sources. Implementation of the AMP GIS module and API improvements will begin in Q3 FY14.
- Additional minor improvements to AidData 3.0 took place in Q2, primarily focusing on user-reported errors, export functionality, and the GIS module. During Q2, user and technical requirements were completed for significant upgrades to AidData’s Internal System, which will allow the Data team to keep up with incorporating the rapidly growing supply of data from a variety of sources, including the OECD, IATI, donor websites and APIs (including the forthcoming [usaid.gov/map](http://www.usaid.gov/map) API), and Aid Information Management Systems (AIMS), into AidData 3.0. This will ensure an up-to-date, comprehensive AidData 3.0 database and portal with the latest geocoded data from many sources. The Internal system will also merge AidData’s existing data management and geocoding processes, reducing the time required for HESN-geocoded data to appear in the AidData.org portal.
- Work began in Q2 on an AidData Center innovation pilot in collaboration with UNICEF Uganda and USAID/Uganda which will demonstrate how a) systems used to track project-location-level results data (through site visits) can be linked with AIMS to show accurate, up-to-date results data in AidData 3.0 and Country Systems, and b) locations geocoded through HESN can be “ground-truthed” to obtain further information on project results, pictures and video of project stories, and refine existing location information. All data collected through this process will be included in the AidData 3.0 User Contributed content functionality, and technical requirements will be developed for future inclusion of these data in the Aid Management Platform (in Uganda and elsewhere).
- Following the full convening of the ARC in January, Team Leaders have been working with their team members to refine a research agenda for their team and sketch out preliminary research projects. To date, ARC members have conceptualized 36 projects across 6 teams. Some of these projects may involve deep collaboration with USAID offices/bureaus in the design process, while others will

engage more with USAID once there are research findings that may be of interest to communicate back to relevant USAID operating units.

- There are active conversations regarding research collaborations with a few USAID offices with some of the most promising being potential collaboration with the Office of Transition Initiatives and Global Climate Change. Planning began during this quarter to hold a workshop with OTI in mid-May as well as a workshop with the Global Climate Change Office at the end of April. During the April workshop, members of the Environment and Climate Change ARC Team will present their findings from recent research using remote sensing to evaluate land tenure impacts on forest cover.

Objective 4- Foster innovative uses of geocoded aid data:

- During Q2, the AidData Center continued working with the Big Ideas team at UC Berkeley as students prepared their final proposal submissions. The Open Data window sponsored by the AidData Center received 25 pre-proposals from a total of 67 students across HESN campuses. From that group, seven teams made up of 19 students were invited as finalists in the Big Ideas Open Data category. Finalist teams came from UC Berkeley (four teams), William & Mary (one team), Duke (one team), and Makerere (one team).
 - Of the 12 pre-proposals submitted to the different Big Ideas windows by W&M students, two student teams representing five students were invited as finalists in the Open Data and Promoting Human Rights categories.
 - The AidData Center also secured ten judges and one mentor across the Open Data, Promoting Human Rights, and Global Poverty Alleviation categories. Judges came from a wide variety of institutions including the Center for Global Development, Ushahidi, Ashoka, and the World Bank.
- In February, the AidData Center and Kathmandu University's School of Arts co-hosted an Open Data Working Group as part of the AidData Center's salon events activity. This event brought together 25 development professionals representing the civil society, government, and donor communities to discuss opportunities and challenges they face in using the geocoded aid information produced by AidData in partnership with the Ministry of Finance in their development work.
 - The working group event raised several key issues including (1) the need for a better mechanism for gathering citizen feedback about aid projects in Nepal, and (2) the need to make information especially accessible to on-the-ground project implementers and other civil society representatives. The lessons learned from this event will help to inform the AidData Center's in-country geocoding and capacity building work. The members of the Open Data Working Group expressed an interest in continuing to meet to discuss topics related to open development data in Nepal.

Objective 5- Build partner country capacity:

- During Q2, the AidData Center recruited its 2014 AidData Summer Fellows cohort and identified hosting organizations. For the first time, the AidData Center opened the application for the Summer Fellows program to students affiliated with universities outside of the AidData Center. A special priority window was opened to the HESN campuses, which saw applications from students affiliated with Makerere University, Texas A&M, and University of California-Berkeley. Ultimately, 22 fellows were chosen representing 7 universities and 3 HESN labs. This represents a 100% increase in the number of AidData Summer Fellows over FY2013. This increase was made possible by leveraging external funding sources to expand the number of fellowships. These fellows will spend 10 weeks this summer

embedded with 13 different development stakeholder organizations in Uganda, Nepal, Timor-Leste, Mexico, and Senegal. The fellows will work to build the capacity of their host organizations to use geocoded aid information in their development work.

- Based upon the particular operating environments in DRC and Honduras, the AidData Center has implemented a new model of CSO outreach in these two partner countries, DRC and Honduras wherein the initial civil society landscape analysis and outreach work is incorporated into the scope of work for the Aid Management Fellow. During Q2, the AMFs for both DRC and Honduras received training on CSO outreach as part of their onboarding and initiated the CSO outreach work in-country.

1.1.1. Events

The following major events were achieved during this reporting period (if applicable):

Event Name	Description	Start Date	End Date	Location (City)	Location (Country)
ARC Convening	AidData Research Consortium first annual meeting/conference.	1/8	1/11	Williamsburg	USA
Map Off Competition	AidData students participate in map off challenge, receiving training on GIS technologies and exploring a research question and visualizing that on a map of their own creation.	1/15	Ongoing	Williamsburg	USA
DHS Workshop	AidData Center GIS Analyst and ARC member Carrie Dolan visited DHS to learn about the USAID-funded spatial data repository and lead an ArcGIS training that showed people how to use this repository and geocoded data to leverage both sources of spatial data	1/18	1/18	Washington, DC	USA
Technology in Governance Panel	AidData co-Executive Director Nancy Choi presented on the AidData Center's work at a Technology in Governance Panel at Georgetown University	1/29	1/29	Washington, DC	USA
Open Data Working Group	The AidData Center and the Kathmandu University School of Arts co-hosted an open data working group in Nepal.	2/9	2/9	Kathmandu	Nepal
WM Active Citizens Conference	On-campus conference promoting active citizenship and community engagement. AidData rep participated in lunch keynote and AidData staff presented a workshop breakout session.	2/14	2/15	Williamsburg	USA
SciDev: Making it Count	AidData Co-ED Brad Parks presented at conference in London exploring the challenges behind the data revolution.	3/25	3/25	London	USA

R Training	AidData students and staff participated in a day-long R training that was co-sponsored by ARC member and W&M professor Tanujit Dey	3/28	3/28	Williamsburg	USA
TribeHacks	Student-organized 24-hour hackathon on the W&M campus. AidData sponsored two challenges: one on automated coding and another on geospatial data visualization.	3/29	3/30	Williamsburg	USA

I.1.2. Publications

Publication Title	Publisher (Journal, etc.)	Author(s)	Publication Date	Link/DOI
Subnational Climate Justice? Adaptation Finance Distribution and Climate Vulnerability	World Development	Sam Barrett	Online Publication: 01/2014 Forthcoming Journal Publication: 06/2014	http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2014.01.014
More Power than You Think? Constituencies and Decision-Making Influences over Agency Output in EuropeAid	AidData used in paper prepared for 2014 Political Economy of International Organizations conference	Gina Yannitell Reinhardt	01/2014	http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/md/awi/peio/reinhardt_14.01.2014.pdf
Limits of Informal Governance? The Scope of Conditionality in the World Bank	AidData used in paper prepared for 2014 Political Economy of International Organizations conference	Elena McLean; Christina Schneider	01/2014	http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/md/awi/peio/mclean__schneider_30.08.2013.pdf
The Unipolar Fallacy: Common Agency, American	AidData used in paper prepared for 2014 Political	Mark Copelovitch;	01/2014	http://www.uni-heidelberg.de/md/awi/peio/copelovitch__nielso

Interests, and the International Financial Institutions	Economy of International Organizations conference	Daniel Nielson; Ryan Powers; Michael J. Tierney		n_powers_tierney_31.08.2013.pdf
Consensus Voting and Similarity Measures in IOs	AidData used in paper prepared for 2014 Political Economy of International Organizations conference	Frank M. Hage; Simon Hug	01/2014	http://www.unige.ch/ses/spo/static/simonhug/cv/asm/cvasmi_peio.pdf
Tracking Development via Effective Aid Management	Geospatial World	Samantha Custer	2/1/14	http://www.geospatialworld.net/Magazine/MArticleView.aspx?aid=30875
Perceptions Matter: The Effect of Foreign Aid on Democracy Depends on Incentives	The First Tranche	Erasmus Kersting and Christopher Kilby	2/26/14	http://aiddata.org/blog/perceptions-matter-the-effect-of-foreign-aid-on-democracy-depends-on-incentives
From the Great Lakes to the Great Rift Valley: Does Strategic Economic Policy Explain the 2009 Malawi Election?	UCD Geary Institute Discussion Paper Series	Samuel Brazys, Peter Heaney, Patrick Paul Walsh	2/28/2014	http://www.ucd.ie/geary/static/publications/workingpapers/gearywp201401.pdf
Five things you probably didn't know about African politics today	The Washington Post: The Monkey Cage	Kim Yi Dionne	3/11/14	http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/03/11/five-things-you-probably-didnt-know-about-african-politics-today-2/
Vulnerability Modeling for Sub-Saharan Africa: An Operationalized Approach in Malawi	Applied Geography	Dylan W. Malcomb, Elizabeth A. Weaver, and Amy Richmond Krakowka	03/2014	http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.apgeog.2014.01.004

Did cutting access to mineral wealth reduce violence in the DRC?	The Washington Post: The Monkey Cage	Laura Seay	3/25/14	http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/03/25/did-cutting-access-to-mineral-wealth-reduce-violence-in-the-drc/
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1.1.3. Communications

During the quarter, AidData's brought is data, research, and tools to the broader development community through its communications efforts. The AidData 3.0 web portal received more than 60,000 unique visitors during this quarter. We wrote about our work with USAID in 11 posts on our blog, *The First Tranche*, this quarter which had more than 1,200 page views during the reporting period. We magnified our reach through our social media presence on Facebook, LinkedIn, Flickr, and Twitter. We added 71 followers on Facebook during the quarter and 545 followers on Twitter, bringing our total number of followers on these platforms to 1,135 and 6,467 followers respectively. Key communications featuring the work of the AidData Center are included below:

Communication	Description	Date	Link
The First Tranche: AidData Research Consortium Seeks Answers to Big Development Questions with Granular Data	Introduction to the AidData Research Consortium, discusses upcoming ARC Convening.	1/10/14	http://aiddata.org/blog/aiddata-research-consortium-seeks-answers-to-big-development-questions-with-granular-data
CGDev.org: Spatial Relationships: Does Global Health Aid Go Where It's Needed	Center for Global Development blog post that discusses the AidData Research Consortium and includes examples from the health sector.	1/14/14	http://www.cgdev.org//blog/spatial-relationships-does-global-health-aid-go-where-its-needed
The First Tranche: The AidData Research Consortium Brings Big Ideas, Granular Data, and Great Minds Together	Re-cap of the AidData Research Consortium convening.	1/15/14	http://aiddata.org/blog/the-aiddata-research-consortium-brings-big-ideas-granular-data-and-great-minds-together
The First Tranche: Reflecting	Discusses Nepal's AMP and the effect of	1/17/14	http://aiddata.org/blog/reflecting-on-open-aid-in-nepal-

on Open Aid in Nepal: Many Steps Forward, But More Work to Be Done	having that information publicly available in Nepal.		many-steps-forward-but-more-work-to-be-done
William & Mary News: W&M hosts first AidData Research Consortium	Article about the AidData Research Consortium Convening.	1/17/14	http://www.wm.edu/news/stories/2014/wm-hosts-first-aiddata-research-consortium123.php
The Flat Hat: Students work with AidData to allocate foreign aid	Article in W&M student newspaper features AidData Research Assistants Justin DeShazor and Rebecca Schectman. Piece also mentions AidData Summer Fellows program.	1/20/14	http://flathatnews.com/2014/01/20/students-work-with-aiddata-to-allocate-foreign-aid/
The First Tranche: We Have Geocoded Data in Uganda - Now What?	Discusses the process of geocoding Uganda's foreign aid and the release of Uganda's public aid management platform from Ugandan Aid Management Fellow, Andrew Scott.	1/23/14	http://aiddata.org/blog/we-have-geocoded-data-in-uganda-now-what
The Guardian Global Development Professionals Network: Has the transparency standard come of age	AidData 3.0 is highlighted as one of three "platforms that show ordinary citizens that they can follow the money without much extra effort."	1/30/14	http://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2014/jan/30/iati-aid-transparency-standard-maturing
The First Tranche: Can Data Visualizations Help Mediate Between the Worlds of Research, Policy and Practice?	AidData Student Fellow Justin DeShazor reflects on his semester spent at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and his time at the AidData Research Consortium Convening.	1/31/14	http://aiddata.org/blog/can-data-visualizations-help-mediate-between-the-worlds-of-research-policy-and-practice
Government of Timor-Leste Press Release: Timor-Leste Geocoding	Both AidData and USAID HESN are mentioned in a government press release about the launch of the publicly available geocoded data.	2/3/14	https://www.mof.gov.tl/press-release-timor-leste-geocoding/?lang=en

Global Investigative Journalism Network: Covering the money behind the millennium development goals	AidData 3.0 is listed as a resource for tracking statistics on development aid. The OECD and IATI are also listed.	2/5/14	http://gijn.org/2014/02/05/covering-the-money-behind-the-millennium-development-goals/
The First Tranche: Making Data Matter: How Aid Management Platforms Are Changing Development In-Country	Discusses the Aid Management Platform Workshop hosted by Development Gateway in Ethiopia, how Aid Management Platforms are impacting development in-country.	2/20/14	http://aiddata.org/blog/making-data-matter-how-aid-management-platforms-are-changing-development-in-country
The First Tranche: AidData's Geocoding Process	For Open Data Day, AidData presents a story map of our geocoding process.	2/24/14	http://www.arcgis.com/apps/StorytellingTextLegend/index.html?appid=319382511f864176898a25b21d1558bb
Storify: Making it count: big data, the open revolution and public engagement	A Storify about SciDev's Making it Count conference includes tweets about Brad Parks' keynote address. In the keynote address, Brad shared several examples of the AidData Center's work.	2/24/14	http://storify.com/deborahndlovu/making-it-count-big-data-the-open-revolution-and-p?utm_campaign=website&utm_source=email&utm_medium=email
SciDev.net: Open-data advocates can hold power to account	This blog post summarizes the keynote speech Brad Parks delivered at SciDev's Making it Count conference. Brad shared several examples of the AidData Center's work in the speech.	2/24/14	http://www.scidev.net/global/data/scidev-net-at-large/open-data-advocates-can-hold-the-powerful-to-account.html
SciDev.net: How mobile phones increased the digital divide	This blog post includes quotes from the keynote speech Brad Parks delivered at SciDev's Making it Count conference. Brad shared several examples of the AidData Center's work in the speech.	2/26/14	http://www.scidev.net/global/data/scidev-net-at-large/how-mobile-phones-increased-the-digital-divide.html
The First Tranche: Delivering Better	Shortened version of Sam Custer's Geospatial World article detailing	3/4/14	http://aiddata.org/blog/delivering-better-governance-and-more-effective-aid-with-spatial-information

Governance and More Effective Aid With Spatial Information	AidData's work.			
The First Tranche: Do We Need a Data Revolution or an Accountability Revolution?	AidData Co-Executive Director Brad Parks spoke at SciDev's Making It Count event in London. This blog summarizes his remarks, discussing AidData's work, specifically aiddata.org.	3/6/14	http://aiddata.org/blog/do-we-need-a-data-revolution-or-an-accountability-revolution-4	
The First Tranche: DRC Launches Geocoding Effort to Improve Monitoring of its Foreign Assistance	AidData Project Manager Owen Scott discusses getting the geocoding efforts in DRC started.	3/18/14	http://aiddata.org/blog/drc-launches-geocoding-effort-to-improve-monitoring-of-its-foreign-assistance	
The First Tranche: Haiti's Government Embraces Aid Management Platform to "Build Back Better"	AidData Project Manager Dina Abdel-Fattah discusses Haiti's history and context around tracking development finance and the launch of AidData's geocoding efforts in the country..	3/27/14	http://aiddata.org/blog/haitis-government-embraces-aid-management-platform-to-build-back-better	

I.1.4. Travel

The following international travel using full or partial HESN funding occurred during this reporting period:

Location (City, Country)	Number of Travelers	Partner(s) Engaged (if applicable)	USAID Engagement (if applicable)	Purpose	Outcome(s) & Next Steps
Kampala, Uganda	1	Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, USAID/Uganda, other line ministries and development partners.	Presented to USAID/Uganda program office on results of the geocoding work	Objective 1 - Geocoding wrap-up	1. Prepare for public launch of Uganda AMP and data 2. Focus on more training in a follow-up trip post-launch

Kathmandu, Nepal	1	Ministry of Finance, USAID/Nepal, other line ministries and development partners.	Discussed results to-date and next steps for geocoding work with USAID/Nepal program office	Objective 1 - Geocoding Follow-up	1. Circulate follow-up trip report 2. Consider additional trip for map upgrade and training
Port-au-Prince, Haiti	1	Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation, USAID/Haiti, other line ministries and development partners.	Met with USAID Haiti M&E Office staff (Juan-Carlos Rodriguez, Anna Brenes, and Hubert Sylney) to discuss outcomes of geocoding work	Objective 1 - Geocoding wrap-up	Next steps 1 - Continue follow-up with delinquent donors 2 - Continue discussions with CNIGS 3 - Plan for 6 month sustainability check-in trip
Dili, Timor-Leste	1	Ministry of Finance, USAID/ Timor-Leste, other line ministries and development partners	Met with USAID (Milca Baptista and Crystal Weathersby)	Objective 1 - Geocoding wrap-up	1- Explore ways to engage MoF and DPs in using the geocoded info 2-Follow-up trip in July
Jakarta, Indonesia	2	Government of Indonesia, USAID/ Indonesia, other development partners	USAID mission was briefed at the beginning and end of the assessment and also provided key contacts for assessment meetings	Objective 1 - Geocoding assessment	USAID mission is currently reviewing our assessment results to make a decision on next steps
Kinshasa, DRC	2	Ministry of Planning, USAID/ Democratic Republic of Congo, other line ministries and development partners.	USAID mission was briefed several times during the trip, in addition to one operational meeting with several key members of the Program Office and one larger presentation open to the entire program	Objective 1 - Kick-off Geocoding work and engaged key stakeholders.	After a successful kickoff, next steps involve continuing to engage with development partners around data collection.

office and attended by
~15 people.

Tegucigalpa, Honduras	3	Ministry of Foreign Affairs (the team of former Ministry of Planning), USAID, Other development partners	Met with USAID mission (Anais Henriquez, Robert Arellano)	Objective 1 - Geocoding kick-off	The AMF is gathering information from all donors in country
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1.1.5. Solutions (Creation, Testing, Scaling)

The following innovations, technologies, and approaches were supported during this reporting period:

Name	Type (innovation, technology, approach)	Phase (developed, piloted, adopted, scaled, evaluated)	Beneficiaries Reached (i.e. 10s, 100s, 1000s, more)	Focal Country or Region(s)	Description
User Contributed	Technology	Developed	n/a (internal release only)	Global	Providing users with the ability to add comments, datasets, documents, images, or other media to AidData.org, including tagging to individual projects or locations. This will be released publicly in Q3.
India NGO Crowdsourcing tool	Technology	Developed	n/a (internal release only)	Global	Building on the User Contributed features, this innovation pilot will support an ARC research project to contact 53,000 NGOs in India to provide feedback on AidData geocoded projects in India (World Bank)

1.1.6. Datasets

Below are datasets, and new data-related technologies, tools, approaches, and best practices that were provided or made accessible to USAID or development stakeholders by the Development Lab during the reporting period:

Title	Description	To whom was made it available?
Nepal (alpha)	Internal release of the Nepal dataset. The dataset is undergoing final QA prior to public release in Q3	AidData's data team
Uganda (beta)	External beta release of the Uganda dataset (available here: https://docs.google.com/uc?export=download&id=0Byu8wvSu2L_ITWIMcVVpejZ3NEEyTVVMTVFvaIB5dU9rdDFN). The data will be re-released shortly with additional data and fields, and then incorporated into the GIS model of AidData 3.0	Public
Senegal (alpha)	Internal release of the Senegal dataset for QA. The dataset will be public as soon as QA is completed.	AidData's data team
Timor-Leste AMP	The Government of Timor-Leste released the geocoded aid data via their public aid portal at https://www.aidtransparency.gov.tl/ . The data will subsequently go through the AidData QA process and will then be released on aiddata.org.	Public
Haiti AMP	The Government of Haiti released the geocoded aid data via their public aid portal at http://haiti.ampsite.net/ . The data will subsequently go through the AidData QA process and will then be released on aiddata.org.	Public

1.1.7. Student Engagement

The following student courses or seminars were conducted or developed during this reporting period:

Course Title	Description of Status	Institution
INRL 390: Field Experiments for International Development	Offered in the Spring 2014 semester, this course introduced 15 students to experimental methodologies and their applications in international development. Students worked in groups to design and implement 6 randomized control trials (RCTs), many of which focused on the AidData Center's work and will be placed in the field this summer.	The College of William and Mary
INRL 391: Policy Oriented Research	Offered in the Spring 2014 semester, this course oriented 70 students to	The College of

and Analysis Using Aid and Development Data

the different data products produced by AidData and the applications of quantitative data and analysis to development policy-making.

William and Mary

INRL 391: Introduction to Development Mentored Research

Offered in the Spring 2014 semester, this course paired 10 of AidData's top students with faculty and AidData staff at W&M to conduct a focused mentored research project related to AidData's work. Project focuses included: gender & agriculture, humanitarian assistance and refugee camps, service delivery incentives in Eastern Europe, quality and value of transparency indexes, spatial statistics for health epidemiology, and NGO activities and sectors in Latin American.

The College of William and Mary

The following fellowship and internship programs and field practica took place during the reporting period:

Program or Practicum Name	Host Institution(s)	Program Location (City, Country)	Student Type (undergrad, masters, PhD, undergrad/grad)	Description
Geocoding Internship	W&M, UT-Austin, BYU	Williamsburg, VA, Austin, TX, and Provo UT	Undergraduate and graduate students	Geocoding interns learn to apply AidData's geocoding methodology to aid project records to identify the subnational locations of aid projects. These interns receive training on how to use GIS software, research methodologies, and data management skills to visualize and analyze geocoded data.
GIS Fellowship	W&M	Williamsburg, VA	Undergraduate students	GIS Fellows work directly with the AidData Center GIS team to support staff, students, policymakers, and researchers to use GIS technologies to visualize and analyze geocoded data. They also support the AidData Center's quality assurance processes.
Senate Foreign Relations Committee Internship	United States Senate Foreign Relations Committee	Washington DC	Undergraduate students	AidData student researchers work with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (SFRC) to use AidData's aid information and analytic tools to analyze US foreign assistance on a country-by-country basis and work with SFRC staff to

				prepare briefing materials for senators on the composition of foreign aid distributed to countries of interest by the US and other bilateral and multilateral donors.
Graduate Fellowships	UT-Austin	Austin, TX	Masters Students	Graduate fellows at UT-Austin lead thematic research teams composed of undergraduate and graduate students to build analytic and research skills and conduct research aligned with the ARC thematic teams.
Policy Outreach and Communications Intern	W&M	Williamsburg, VA	Undergraduate students	The Policy Outreach and Communications Intern provides support to the communications and policy outreach team by organizing and maintaining media infrastructure, assisting in management of social media accounts, completing desk research, and drafting communications strategy documents.

Part 2: Intra-Development Lab/ University Engagement

2.1. Interdisciplinary Collaboration

The AidData Research Consortium (ARC) aims to foster a model of deep interdisciplinary research collaboration. Each of the ARC teams is comprised of scholars from a variety of disciplines including political science, economics, geography, and global health. During Q2, each ARC team worked together to flesh out their research agenda for the calendar year, finding that working in interdisciplinary teams enables them to approach research questions and identify novel approaches more effectively than a single-discipline approach. One such research question identified by the Environment and Climate Change Team is to investigate the success of agricultural extension programs that aim to improve livelihoods and food security in poor countries? The questions identified by the teams will guide interdisciplinary research throughout the year.

The AidData Center is extending this interdisciplinary research approach to its student-faculty research activities. Beginning in January, AidData has paired 10 of its top students with researchers across the William & Mary campus. These students split their time between “data liberation” and data analysis, receiving both course credit and funding for their work. During the 2014 Spring Term, researchers from the following disciplines/interest areas are involved: food security, humanitarian assistance, geospatial (land change and foreign investment), political economy, constituent feedback, HIV/AIDS, and open government/transparency. During the semester, students and professors will co-write blog

posts on their research, with the top posts being featured on the First Tranche. Many of the student-faculty teams aim to parlay this work into co-authored journal articles and/or applied field activities.

The AidData Center offered two other courses at William & Mary this semester. *Policy Oriented Research and Analysis Using Aid and Development Data* introduced W&M students to different data products produced by AidData and the applications of quantitative data and analysis to development policy-making. Each class featured different AidData Center staff as guest lecturers to guide students through an introduction and applied activity across a variety of subjects including: international aid transparency standards, sector-specific data and sectoral development strategies, geospatial analysis of aid, and others. *Field Experiments for International Development* introduced students to experimental methodologies and their applications in international development. Students worked closely with AidData Center staff and William and Mary faculty to design and implement randomized control trials (RCTs) including experiments to test how people make decisions with spatial versus non-spatial information, how to effectively engage citizens to crowd-source information on development projects, and practitioner incentives to engage in donor coordination activities.



Co-Executive Director Brad Parks teaches a class on development data to W&M students.



Data Manager Scott Stewart sets up a booth to work with students attending W&M Hackathon.



AidData staff attend R training from a faculty member of Rochester Institute for Technology.

The AidData Center participated in several events this quarter that engaged students, faculty, and staff at William & Mary and the broader community. AidData Center staff were invited to participate in the Active Citizens Conference, an annual conference put on by the William & Mary Office of Community Engagement on February 15, 2014. The conference brings students, faculty, and community leaders together to learn about the best practices for impacting communities and mobilizing social change. Director of Operations David Trichler spoke about the AidData Center in a keynote address and Communications Associate Ellie Kaufman and Policy Outreach Specialist Rebecca Latourell led a workshop on data journalism. The keynote and the data journalism introduced new communities to the AidData Center's activities under the HESN award, including several students attending from the University of Richmond who then applied to the AidData Summer Fellows Program.

On March 28 and 29, AidData sponsored two challenges at William & Mary's first ever student organized hackathon, TribeHacks. This event brought over 200 student hackers to W&M from across the country- with students even coming from as far away as Texas to participate in the event. The first challenge put forth by AidData was to build an automated activity coder which could yield new insights to improve the performance of a previous automated activity coder built by AidData. The second challenge was to build the best application or data visualization using the AidData 3.0 API. The winning team built a Google Earth-based 3D visualization of all geocoded aid projects.

Through the USAID HESN award, the AidData Center offered several training opportunities to the campus community during this quarter. On March 14th, AidData kicked-off the second annual Map-Off Competition for students. Student participants are tasked with using geocoded aid data and other sub-national data to explore thematic patterns related to the spatial distribution of aid. As part of the Map-Off, AidData Center GIS staff provide trainings in ArcGIS software tools that are opened to other members of the W&M community. In March, 35 AidData student research assistants and interns received training in ArcGIS desktop and online platforms.

On March 28, AidData hosted a full-day training on the statistical package R for 15 participants in order to catalyze the use of AidData's spatial data. Within the field of spatial econometrics and spatial modeling, R is seen as one of the most valuable programs to conducting quality research. Providing this training has enabled AidData staff, students, and ARC members with the knowledge necessary to undertake quality research. During this full day event, participants were introduced to the program and its basic functions. A follow up event is planned to unpack how the program can be used and applied specifically to AidData's spatial data. These critical trainings provide participants in a variety of fields and disciplines with the skills necessary to undertake quality research projects.

2.2. Partner Engagement

The AidData Center engaged extensively with its institutional member during this quarter. AidData Center members Development Gateway and Esri collaborated on a Strategic Response Innovation for the Global Development Lab (through the GeoCenter) to create a web-based map application which allows users to explore the Global Development Lab's activities worldwide. The map includes a variety of filters and map navigation to drill down on specific groups, initiatives, or countries. The map is featured in the Global Development Lab home page (<http://www.usaid.gov/GlobalDevLab/about>).

Interactive Map of Global Development Lab Projects

U.S. Global Development Lab Projects

This map displays the locations of Global Development Lab projects by Lab team and Project type. Each point is representative of a country centroid and can display multiple projects. Use the Team check box below to filter by Lab teams and click on a country point to get more information on a specific project.

Disclaimer: Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.

Lab Teams	Unselect All
Data and Future Analysis	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Development Innovation Ventures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
GeoCenter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Global Development Alliances	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Grand Challenges for Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Launch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Mobile Solutions	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



Esri also sponsored the AidData Map-Off Competition during Q2, and will be offering prizes to the winners in the form of free software and educational material which will be awarded in Q3.

AidData Center staff across member institutions collaborated extensively on writing user requirements for the new AidData Internal system (“Internal 3.0”) during Q2. This process kicked off with a week-long Internal 3.0 summit in Williamsburg that brought together staff from DG, W&M, and BYU. The upgrades included in Internal 3.0 focus on streamlining the internal toolset, removing unneeded features and improving overall system performance for the entire range of internal users. Particular attention has been paid to the coding workflows to ensure that the new internal can manage a larger number of coders, and improve the overall throughput and stability of the system and in having tighter integration between activity and geocoding workflows.

During Q2, the AidData Center engaged extensively with our university partners at UT-Austin and BYU to facilitate student summer opportunities, including the AidData Summer Fellows and USAID HESN internship programs. The AidData Center received 12 applicants from UT-Austin and 33 applicants from the College of William and Mary for Summer Fellows positions, awarding 5 fellowships to UT-Austin students and 9 fellowships to W&M students. Several AidData Center students from all three of our university partners applied for internship opportunities at USAID made possible through the Higher Education Solutions Network. Ultimately, 7 students were offered internships with USAID this summer including students from UT-Austin and W&M. Our students will be interning in the following offices and bureaus this summer: Office of Science and Technology-Front Office, Office of Science and Technology- Data and Analytics Team, GeoCenter, Global Health-Research, Global Health- Center for Accelerating Innovation and Impact, and Regional Development Mission in Asia- Donor Coordination.

The following partners were engaged during the reporting period:

Partner	Partnership Funded (Funded, In kind, Unfunded)	Location (City)	Location (Country)	Relevant Activity Number(s) (if applicable)	Outcome(s)
Development Gateway	Funded	Washington, DC	USA	Development Gateway collaborated closely with William & Mary and other consortium partners on the following AidData Center activities during Q2 FY2014: 1a, 1b, 1c, 1d, 3b, 3c, 3e, and 3f.	Geocoding work was completed in three year one partner countries: Uganda, Timor-Leste, and Haiti (1a). Geocoding work was initiated in DRC and Honduras and an assessment was undertaken in Indonesia (1b). The first Open Request Window was opened to submissions by ARC members and USAID staff (1c). The Nepal follow up trip was completed (1d). Improvements to AidData 3.0 continued this quarter including

					the completion of the User Contributed functionality and the launch of an effort to overhaul AidData Internal to improve its functionality (3b). Strategic objectives were defined for a suite of upgrades to the AMP GIS Module (3c) and official approval was received to initiate work on our first Strategic Response Innovation focused on the Development Experience Clearinghouse (3e). Preparations began for an innovation pilot to “ground-truth” our geocoded data to be completed this summer in collaboration with UNICEF Uganda (3f).
University of Texas-Austin	Funded	Austin, TX	USA	UT-Austin collaborated closely with William & Mary and other consortium partners on the following AidData Center activities during Q2 FY2014: 1a and 5d.	Student researchers at UT-Austin completed geocoding the Uganda aid portfolio this quarter (1a). The UT-Austin students continue to conduct research in thematic teams mirroring the structure of the ARC to support ARC research (2f). For example, the work of UT-Austin students helped inform the concept note on evaluating climate adaptation projects that ARC Climate Change team members put together for the USAID Climate Change Unit. Additionally, 5 UT-Austin students were accepted as AidData Summer Fellows this quarter (5d).
Brigham Young University	Funded	Provo, UT	USA	BYU collaborated closely with William & Mary and other consortium partners on the following AidData Center activities during Q2 FY2014: 1a and 3b.	During this quarter, student researchers at BYU helped to complete the Haiti geocoding work (1a). AidData Center staff at BYU traveled to Williamsburg during the quarter to kick-off the upgrades to AidData Internal and continue to be part of the team working on this effort (3b).
Esri	Funded	Redlands, CA	USA	Esri collaborated with William & Mary and other	Esri led on a Strategic Response Innovation for the Global Development Lab (through

				consortium partners on the following AidData Center activities during Q2 FY2014: 3e, and WM Map Off	the GeoCenter) this quarter to create a web-based map application which allows users to explore the Global Development Lab's activities worldwide. Esri also sponsored the AidData Map-Off Competition that kicked-off this quarter.
International Economic Cooperation Coordination Division (IECCD), Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal	Funded (in-kind)	Kathmandu	Nepal	Worked closely with AidData Center staff at Development Gateway to prepare for 6-month follow-up trip which took place during Q2 FY2014 (1d) and participated in salon event (4d),	The IECCD collaborated closely with AidData Center staff at DG to plan and implement the 6-month geocoding follow trip in Nepal this quarter. Several IECCD staff participated in trainings and interviews to identify challenges to the sustainability of the geocoding effort (1d). During the trip, several IECCD staff participated in the Nepal Open Data Working Group salon event (4d).
Aid Effectiveness Project within the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation (MPCE), Government of Haiti	Funded (in-kind)	Port-au-Prince	Haiti	Worked closely with AidData Center staff at Development Gateway to complete in-country geocoding work (1a). Hosted an Aid Management Fellow (5c).	The MPCE worked closely with AidData to complete the in-country geocoding work in Haiti during this quarter. They helped to facilitate the geocoding wrap-up trip which included a meeting with MPCE staff as well as preparations for the departure of the Aid Management Fellow.
Department of Economic and Financial Cooperation (DCEF) within the Ministry of Economy and Finance, Government of Senegal	Funded (in-kind)	Dakar	Senegal	Worked closely with AidData Center staff at Development Gateway to prepare to launch a public AMP portal.	During quarter two, work began to configure the public portal for Senegal. The template has been completed by the AidData Center and we are currently working with the government to obtain pictures and documents that could be included in the configuration. We expect to complete the configuration during Q3
The Aid Liaison Division (ALD) of	Funded (in-kind)	Kampala	Uganda	Worked closely with AidData Center staff at	The ALD worked closely with AidData to complete the in-country geocoding work in

the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MoFPED), Government of Uganda				Development Gateway to complete in-country geocoding work (1a). Hosted an Aid Management Fellow (5c).	Uganda during this quarter. They helped to facilitate the geocoding wrap-up trip which included a meeting with ALD staff as well as preparations for the departure of the Aid Management Fellow.
Development Partnership Management Unit within the Ministry of Finance, Government of Timor-Leste	Funded (in-kind)	Dili	Timor-Leste	Worked closely with AidData Center staff at Development Gateway to complete in-country geocoding work (1a). Hosted an Aid Management Fellow (5c).	The DPMU worked closely with AidData to complete the in-country geocoding work in Haiti during this quarter. They helped to facilitate the geocoding wrap-up trip which included a meeting with DPMU staff as well as preparations for the departure of the Aid Management Fellow. The Ministry of Finance also hosted an official launch event to publicize the release of the geocoded aid data and the public AMP GIS module.

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

3.1. Summary of Collaboration Across the HESN

During this quarter, the AidData Center extensively engaged with researchers across several HESN Labs. AidData Center Principal Investigators at the University of Texas-Austin collaborated with TAMU ConDev researchers Shahriar Kibriya (also a member of the AidData Research Consortium Conflict Team) and Benjamin Tkach to design and submit a research proposal for a Department of Defense Minerva grant on Food Security, Aid and Conflict in Fragile States. As of the submission of this report, the application has moved to the final round of review. The AidData Center staff and faculty also consulted with the Texas A&M ConDev Capstone team to help them add geospatial data collection processes to their household survey data collection protocols. The ConDev was able to collect geospatial survey data during their research trip to Democratic Republic of Congo during this quarter. This data collection effort will help to facilitate future collaboration between AidData Center and ConDev researchers who will be able to mash-up the ConDev geospatial survey data with AidData’s forthcoming geocoded aid data for DRC and conduct interesting geospatial analyses. The AidData Center similarly began discussions with the Resilient Africa Network team at Tulane to collaborate on the design of their forthcoming household survey work to incorporate geospatial data collection.

The AidData Center also worked with HESN labs on multiple activities to engage students during this quarter. Since Q1, the AidData Center has been working with UC Berkeley to create and sponsor a new open data/ open governance window of their Big Ideas competition. During Q2, the AidData Center supported the Big Ideas program by selecting 7 finalists in the open data window representing 19 students from the pool of 25 applicants representing 67 students. The AidData Center also secured 10 judges and 1 mentor for the Big Ideas finalists across 3 categories. We also worked with UC Berkeley and Texas A&M during this quarter to develop a concept note proposing the creation of an HESN Big Ideas competition. This would be a multidisciplinary student-led innovation competition across five Universities within the USAID Higher Education Solutions Network featuring (approximately five) categories addressing specific challenges within the field of international development. The contest would mirror the goals, timing, and emphasis of the Big Ideas@Berkeley Contest, recognized as a model for inspiring and supporting student-led ideas.

The AidData Center worked during this quarter to develop opportunities to facilitate knowledge and skills transfer between students at the AidData Center campuses and other HESN campuses. AidData principal investigators at UT-Austin began discussions with Texas A&M during this quarter to discuss how to promote student engagement between UT-Austin and Texas A&M. One proposal discussed was to facilitate a summer intern exchange in summer 2014 between AidData student researchers at UT-Austin and ConDev student researchers at Texas A&M. AidData Center staff at W&M also explored opportunities for student engagement with students affiliated with the Resilient Africa Network (RAN) lab at Makerere University. The discussions in this quarter centered on how to build the capacity of Makerere students to use geospatial data produced by the AidData Center and the RAN labs in their research and innovation work. Based upon these discussions, the AidData Center and RAN teams will work in Q3 to design activities for the AidData Summer Fellows in Uganda to engage with Makerere students this summer.

Finally, the AidData Center opened its AidData Summer Fellows program to students across the HESN campuses this quarter, offering a priority window to HESN students to facilitate their participation in the program. We received several applications from students at UC Berkeley, Texas A&M, and Makerere University. The 2014 Summer Fellows cohort will include three fellows representing HESN campuses (Texas A&M and Makerere University).

3.1.1. Data

Partner HESN Lab	Activity Number (if applicable)	Completed / Ongoing Activity	Outcome(s)
Texas A&M		Completed	The AidData Center consulted with the Texas A&M ConDev team to help them incorporate geospatial data collection methodologies into their household survey protocols for the DRC Capstone project. As a result of this consultation, the ConDev Capstone team purchased and used GPS devices to collect geospatial waypoints for the more than 3,000 household surveys they conducted. This geospatial data set will enable future research collaboration between the AidData

RAN- Tulane	Ongoing	Center and Texas A&M. The AidData Center also began discussions with the RAN team at Tulane University surrounding the incorporation of geospatial data collection into their upcoming quantitative household surveys. These initial discussions led to the establishment of a meeting at the beginning of Q3 to discuss the geospatial data collection methodologies.
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3.1.2. Solutions (Creation, Testing, Scaling)

Partner HESN Lab	Activity Number (if applicable)	Completed / Ongoing Activity	Outcome(s)
UC Berkeley	4b	Ongoing	The AidData Center continues to collaborate with UC Berkeley during this quarter on the Big Ideas competition open data/ open government window. During Q2, the AidData Center selected 7 finalists in the open data/ open government window and identified 10 judges and 1 mentor to support the finalists across 3 categories. The AidData Center collaborated with UC Berkeley and Texas A&M to create a concept note outlining the creation of an HESN Big Ideas competition.
Texas A&M	4b	Ongoing	The AidData Center collaborated with Texas A&M and UC Berkeley to create a concept note outlining the creation of an HESN Big Ideas competition.
Texas A&M	2f	Ongoing	ARC Researchers and AidData principal investigators at UT-Austin ConDev researchers Shahriar Kibriya (also a member of the AidData Research Consortium Conflict Team) and Benjamin Tkach to design and submit a research proposal for a Department of Defense Minerva grant on Food Security, Aid and Conflict in Fragile States. As of the submission of this report, the application has moved to the final round of review.

3.1.3. Student Engagement

Partner HESN Lab	Activity Number (if applicable)	Completed / Ongoing Activity	Outcome(s)
Texas A&M	5d	Ongoing	During this quarter, the AidData Center began discussions with Texas A&M to develop an intern exchange program between UT-Austin and Texas A&M. These

			discussions will continue into Q3. Additionally, Texas A&M students applied to the AidData Summer Fellows program through the HESN priority window, and one student will be in the 2014 cohort.
UC Berkeley	5d, 4b	Ongoing	The AidData Center worked with UC Berkeley to engage students through the Big Ideas competition. Across the HESN campuses, 67 students participated on application teams for the open data/ open governance window sponsored by the AidData Center. Additionally, UC Berkeley students applied to the AidData Summer Fellows program through the HESN priority window.
Makerere University	5d	Ongoing	The AidData Center began discussions with Makerere University regarding how to leverage the presence of several AidData Summer Fellows in Uganda this summer to design activities that build the capacity of Makerere University students to use geospatial data for research and analysis and to foster collaboration between Makerere and AidData Center students. Additionally, Makerere students applied to the AidData Summer Fellows program through the HESN priority window, and two students will be in the 2014 cohort.
All		Ongoing	The AidData Center presented on its student engagement activities during the February meeting of the USAID HESN Student Engagement Working Group. One of AidData's Senior Research Assistants participated in the presentation.

Part 4: USAID Engagement

4.1. USAID/Washington Interactions

The AidData Research Consortium furthered research engagements with several USAID/Washington operating units in this quarter. These research engagements will help to define, implement, and disseminate ARC research throughout the year. The interactions are described by operating unit below:

Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI): In January, members of the Democracy & Governance and Conflict Mitigation ARC teams met with the Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI). The purpose of this meeting was to introduce OTI to the work of the ARC and to learn about the most pressing challenges OTI faces. As a result of this interaction, a half-day workshop is planned for May 12 with several members of the ARC and OTI staff to do a deeper dive on the challenges OTI is grappling with and how ARC research can be used to provide new insights.

President's Malaria Initiative (PMI): During Q2, members of the Global Health ARC team met with the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) several times to discuss areas of potential collaboration around a project evaluating PMI's impact in select focus countries. Although PMI is

unable to undertake this particular project right now, they remain excited about this collaboration and we hope to pursue this research project at a different time.

Democracy, Human Rights, & Governance (DRG): In February, members of the Democracy and Governance ARC team met with members of the Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights, & Governance (DRG Center) for a data-focused discussion. The group discussed the challenges associated with trying to build a complete picture of DRG foreign assistance data. To help address these challenges, AidData may undertake an assessment to determine resources needed to create new data for DRG in the upcoming quarters.

Global Climate Change (GCC): Throughout Q2, members of the Environment & Climate Change ARC team met with individuals in the Office of Global Climate Change (GCC) to discuss potential areas of collaboration on a research project examining whether desired development results are better achieved with the inclusion of adaptation activities in programming. Discussions are ongoing with GCC.

During this quarter, the AidData Center worked closely with USAID staff within the Center for Data, Analysis, and Research and the Center for Development Innovation to design a Strategic Response Innovation (SRI) focusing on the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC). Work is scheduled to begin on the DEC SRI in Q3 to a) extract text from the 150,000+ PDFs hosted on the DEC, b) refine the metadata applied to those files for easier searching through concept extraction, c) create a web application to allow users to run keyword searches on the extracted text, and d) export their results into open formats. AidData has also proposed hosting arrangements to allow users to download the full archive (approximately 400GB) of PDFs to replicate the innovation using different suites of open source tools. The AidData Center worked on a second SRI with the Global Development Lab and the GeoCenter to create a web-based map application embedded on the Lab website homepage which allows users to explore the Global Development Lab's activities worldwide. The map includes a variety of filters and map navigation to drill down on specific groups, initiatives, or countries.

The AidData Center has also engaged extensively with the USAID HESN team during this quarter to determine the process and workflow for selecting which countries will be worked on in the coming years. AidData has worked with USAID HESN staff to develop or update three key operational documents: country selection criteria, which seeks to quantify the indicators by which all new country partners will be selected; mission vetting process, which seeks to create a clear process for understanding whether USAID country missions are willing to provide sufficient support to any potential AidData HESN-related activities in the country; and standard operating procedures, which have been updated to reflect new ideas about how to best engage missions. The AidData Center will continue to work with USAID HESN staff to operationalize and refine this workflow in the coming quarters.

4.2. USAID Mission Interactions

The AidData Center engaged with several USAID Missions during this reporting period to advance our in-country geocoding work and facilitate uptake of our geocoded data and decision support tools. The engagements are described by country below:

Nepal: AidData Center staff met with the USAID/Nepal Program Office staff during the February follow-up trip. During this meeting, we discussed the results of geocoding work, possibilities for improving the geocoding work, and general concerns with the AMP system. We were also able to have an in-depth discussion with the USAID GIS specialist, Indra Sharan, on how geocoded data are currently used within the

USAID/Nepal Mission and how the data and processes can be improved to foster further uptake. Mr. Sharan also gave an excellent presentation at Nepal Open Data Working Group Event co-hosted by AidData and Kathmandu University on the ways in which he has used the geocoded aid information produced by AidData to [inform planning processes at USAID/Nepal](#).

Haiti: AidData Center staff met with the USAID/Haiti M&E team during the Haiti geocoding close-out mission in January. The AidData Center reported to the Mission on all the aid activities that were geocoded as part of the geocoding exercise, provided the team with the geocoding data management plan that outlines how the geocoding process will be sustained for their reference, and thanked them for their support throughout the geocoding process.

Uganda: The AidData Center interacted with the USAID/Uganda Program Office during the February wrap-up trip in a meeting that was facilitated by USAID GIS specialist Richard Okello. The AidData Center presented the results of our geocoding efforts including highlighting examples of geocoded data and potential applications of this data to USAID/Uganda's work. We also discussed possibilities for increasing geocoded data uptake within the Mission. One suggestion that came out of that discussion was that program officers should direct project appraisal and evaluation teams to AidData's data resources and analytic tools when researching and writing reports. The AidData Center also discussed the upcoming "ground-truthing" innovation pilot that will be undertaken in collaboration with UNICEF Uganda this summer with GIS specialist Richard Okello. He expressed general interest and support and would like to be apprised of progress during implementation.

Timor-Leste: The AidData Center met with the USAID/Timor-Leste Mission during the February wrap-up trip to present the geocoding work that was accomplished under the HESN award and is now available to them, and to thank them for their support. During this meeting, we discussed how USAID/Timor-Leste could continue to support the work by using the geo-data in their work, continuing to update it, and sharing with others the ways they are able to use the information. Representatives from the USAID/ Timor-Leste Mission also attended the [official launch of the geocoded data](#) hosted by the Timor-Leste Ministry of Finance.

Democratic Republic of Congo: The AidData Center met with the USAID/DRC Mission to introduce the geocoding work and discuss strategies for joint engagement of development partners. The USAID Mission was very supportive, lending their weight behind a national recommendation to centralize geographic data collection under the Ministry of Planning via this geocoding effort - which was later adopted by the broader development partner coordination group.

Honduras: The AidData Center and two representatives from the Honduras Ministry of Foreign Affairs Secretary of Aid Coordination met with USAID/ Honduras during the March geocoding kick-off trip. The AidData Center presented the geocoding process to the Mission, outlined expected results, and introduced the Aid Management Fellow. The Mission expressed their interest in the project and has been very supportive. The AMF will continue to work with USAID/Honduras staff to obtain their project information to be geocoded.

Indonesia: The AidData Center met with the Indonesia Mission during the geocoding assessment trip in February 2014. Previously, the AidData Center had engaged with the Mission over email and phone to coordinate the meetings and working sessions for the assessment. During the assessment trip, the mission hosted an in-brief, an out-brief, a brown bag lunch on AidData's work, and the GIS specialist attended

some of the assessment meetings. The Indonesia mission is currently reviewing our assessment report findings and would like to reevaluate the possibility of work there in Summer/Fall 2014. Another outcome of this assessment trip is ongoing discussions with USAID/Indonesia and the GeoCenter to implement a Strategic Response Innovation to create a lightweight geocoding application which can be integrated with USAID's ArcGIS Online subscription to enable a streamlined geocoding workflow which will easily allow USAID missions to a) geocode their data, b) organize, manage, and share the geocoded data within and between Missions, between Missions and the GeoCenter, and with the public, and c) create interactive maps using the geocoded data. A high-level workflow diagram of this system was shared with the Indonesia Mission as part of the Q2 Indonesia Technical Assessment Report.

Part 5: Monitoring & Evaluation

5.1. Progress Narrative

During Q2 FY2014, the AidData Center made progress towards several of its annual performance indicator targets. The AidData Center achieved several significant milestones in its in-country geocoding work. We completed the geocoding work in three of our Year One partner countries: Haiti, Timor-Leste, and Uganda. This will lead to the creation of three new geocoded data sets that will be made available to the public in Q3 (IR1.1in1). The AidData Center also initiated work in two new partner countries during this quarter-Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Honduras- representing two additional developing country governments using the AidData Center's geocoding services (O1in2). During the kick-off trips to DRC and Honduras we embedded an Aid Management Fellow in the respective aid management units in each country (IR3.1in2).

The AidData Center also began work on its first Strategic Response Innovation (SRI) during Q2. This new data-related technology (IR1.2in4) will a) extract text from the 150,000+ PDFs hosted on the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC), b) refine the metadata applied to those files for easier searching through concept extraction, c) create a web application to allow users to run keyword searches on the extracted text, and d) export their results into open formats. AidData has also proposed hosting arrangements to allow users to download the full archive (approximately 400GB) of PDFs to replicate the innovation using different suites of open source tools.

AidData Center Research activities scaled up during Q2. Following the ARC Convening in January, ARC members held several data-related consultations with development organizations to identify and refine research activities. During the quarter, the ARC held 4 data related consultations with the Office of Transition Initiatives, President's Malaria Initiative, Democracy, Human Rights & Governance, and Office of Global Climate Change. Members of the ARC produced several publications using development data produced by AidData in this quarter (IR2.1in2), including a publication "[Five things you probably didn't know about African politics today](#)" in *The Washington Post* Kim Yi Dionne and "[From the Great Lakes to the Great Rift Valley: Does Strategic Economic Policy Explain the 2009 Malawi Election?](#)" published by Samuel Brazys. An article in *The Washington Post* this quarter by researcher Laura Seay entitled "[Did cutting access to mineral wealth reduce violence in the DRC?](#)" featured the maps produced by AidData student researcher Lauren Harrison in her winning 2013 Map Off submission. AidData Center

Director of Communications, Samantha Custer, published an article in *Geospatial World* entitled [“Tracking Development via Effective Aid Management.”](#)

The AidData Center’s geocoding work was publicly mentioned by 5 development policymakers or practitioners during Q2 (O3in2), including a blog post from the Center for Global Development covering the ARC Global Health team entitled [“Spatial Relationships: Does Global Health Aid Go Where It's Needed”](#) and an [official press release from the Government of Timor-Leste Ministry of Finance](#) discussing the completion of AidData’s geocoding work in Timor Leste.

Part 6: Lessons Learned / Best Practices

As AidData Research Consortium activities scaled up dramatically this quarter following the inaugural ARC Convening in Williamsburg, the AidData Center learned several key best practices and lessons learned about how to set up the ARC for success in the coming quarters. One key best practice identified this quarter was the creation of a more clear process for allocating resources to ARC members. Members of the ARC have access to a bundle of resources on a competitive basis including Research Assistance hours, technical grant writer hours, kick-start funding, and strategic communication and policy outreach support. During Q2, ARC members started to submit requests for these resources. To streamline the requests of 81 members of the ARC, we have instituted a weekly review process and engage the ARC Team Leaders early in the process to adjudicate the requests. Through this process, we have learned the importance of working closely with our Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) to ensure kick-start funds can be awarded in a timely manner to ARC members.

Another key lesson learned during the quarter was how to facilitate productive engagements between the ARC and USAID operating units. During Q1, AidData held numerous briefing meetings with USAID offices that helped set the stage for ARC activities in Q2. During this quarter, several ARC teams were able to initiate follow up meetings to begin the process of fleshing out new research projects. Learning from the previous rounds of meetings, AidData is looking to set up deeper dive meetings instead of broad ARC introductory meetings. To better prepare for these meetings, ARC members are creating rough-cut research designs that can be presented to interested USAID offices. This collaboration method allows USAID offices to react and build upon initial research ideas instead of having to brainstorm ideas from scratch which requires more time.

We also identified some key lessons learned this quarter related to engaging USAID Missions. Learning from previous challenges when engaging missions for new activities in the field, AidData and USAID have developed an on-going process for selecting and vetting potential new countries for its in-country geocoding operations to create a pipeline of new countries to engage in the coming years. The process includes criteria for selection of new countries and a decision tree for vetting mission appetite and buy-in for in-country activities that will be evaluated in monthly meeting with AidData Center and USAID HESN colleagues.

As the AidData Center continues to implement the Quality Assurance (QA) processes initiated by our incoming Data Manager last quarter, we have learned and applied several lessons to refine our QA processes. In order to more effectively communicate with our users during the QA process, the AidData Center has adopted a semantic versioning process for research releases of data products which assigns each data set a

numeric code to clearly differentiate each major internal and external release for our users and indicate compatibility between intermediate releases (for more information see Part 8: Appendix). We also created version control systems for data product releases which allows us to effectively archive our data releases as we make improvements to data sets. We have also implemented an internal Data Working Group to vet and approve releases of data on a bi-weekly cycle. The Working Group reviews all releases before an internal/external stakeholders board before the products are made public. These processes have enabled us to more effectively assess the quality of our data prior to release and ultimately put out a higher quality data product for our stakeholders.

During this quarter, the AidData Center undertook a follow-up trip to Nepal-our pilot geocoding partner country. The purpose of this trip was twofold: (1) provide follow-up training and capacity support to the Ministry of Finance International Economic Cooperation and Coordination Division (IECCD) related to their use of geocoded AMP data, and (2) assess the effectiveness, uptake and sustainability of the 2013 geocoding efforts. This assessment yielded many key lessons learned that will inform our subsequent work in Nepal and other geocoding countries. We learned that the AMP GIS module needs some key functionality improvements to make it more user-friendly before it is likely to be used widely by government and donors in Nepal. These enhancements are under way to be completed in Q3 and should help improve data uptake and use. We also learned that the data produced by AidData have not been disseminated to some of the specific sets of stakeholders that make development policy. Steps must be taken to communicate the usefulness of geospatial aid data to (1) Line Ministries and (2) Donor Program Staff to ensure more widespread use. Another strategy identified to help promote uptake is to produce more examples of concrete products that can be made with geospatial aid data in Nepal to demonstrate the benefits of geocoded aid information in policymaking. The lessons learned from this trip will enable us to craft a strategy for subsequent work in Nepal to address the challenges identified and promote sustainable data use.

Part 7: Future Activities

Throughout the first 18 months of HESN, including the Nepal follow-up trip discussed above, AidData has collected feedback from its host country Government partners on the existing GIS features, user experience, and performance. Based upon this feedback, AidData has determined that a significant re-engineering of the AMP should commence in Q3 to provide users with the most streamlined process to a) easily create and share maps that will contribute to decision-making processes, b) maintain and update the geocoded dataset, and c) provide access to the data “outside” of AMP in the most analysis-ready formats (API). These improvements will also facilitate easier transition of data from AMPs to AidData 3.0, ensuring the availability of the latest, most up-to-date geocoded data in AidData 3.0 beyond AidData’s initial engagement with each country.

The AidData Center is also looking forward to launching its User-Contributed functionality next quarter. The functionality will allow users to add documents, photos, videos, or comments directly to project pages or to project locations in the GIS portal. Users will also be able to upload their own datasets, research papers, or other content to AidData 3.0 and apply tags (e.g. countries, sectors, organizations) to their content. The technical launch of the User-Contributed functionality is currently scheduled for late April. A public-facing launch is scheduled for mid-May. This public-facing launch will focus on “Project Pulse,” the project-specific portion of the functionality. We will feature a “Project of the Week” each week for an initial trial period of three months and plan to conduct targeted outreach to a variety of stakeholders involved in each

week's project to solicit contributions to AidData.org; each Project of the Week will also be featured on the AidData blog. Kat Townsend has written a post for the White House blog that mentions the new functionality and directs readers to the AidData.org portal. We are also exploring how contests could entice user feedback and are looking into possible events that would feature Project Pulse.

AidData Consortium Research activities will also continue in Q3, with several exciting engagements with USAID operating units planned. On May 12, members of the Democracy & Governance and Conflict Mitigation ARC teams will participate in a half-day workshop with the Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI). The purpose of the workshop is to determine a short-list of priority challenges OTI is grappling with and identify how ARC research could be designed in such a way as to gain new insights for OTI. On April 30, members of the Environment & Climate Change ARC team will participate in a series of meetings with the following USAID offices: Forestry and Biodiversity (FAB), Land Tenure and Resource Management (LTRM), and Global Climate Change (GCC). During these meetings, ARC members will present findings from their research in Ecuador to highlight how spatial data can be used to answer pressing development questions. It is anticipated that this will spur collaborative research projects with interested USAID offices.

Quarter three will bring the conclusion of two ongoing student engagement activities as the academic year comes to a close. In Q3 a select group of the Big Ideas finalists will participate in the Big Ideas Pitch Day, scheduled for May 5th. The selected students will be flown to Berkeley to pitch their project ideas to a panel of judges; a number of these participants will receive an additional award. In Q3, AidData's second annual Map-Off Competition will come to a close. Over the course of the Map-Off, over 30 AidData students received training in ArcGIS software, data visualization, and blog-writing. We expect that 6-7 teams will submit entries for evaluation by a panel of AidData staff at W&M and Esri at the beginning of Q3. Map-Off winners will be subsequently be announced via the First Tranche, AidData's blog. Each winning map will also be featured in a First Tranche blog post.

The summer research session will also begin during Q3. During Q2, W&M began the process of interviewing summer interns from a pool of 55 applicants. These interns will help with coding the Democratic Republic of Congo and Honduras during the summer. We anticipate that we will have close to 140 research assistants across the three universities participating in summer activities. New Senior Research Assistants (RAs) were selected for leading summer teams, and all RAs were further trained on arbitration coding to enable the AidData Center to achieve maximal geocoding efficiency during the summer. The AidData Summer Fellows program will also kick off during Q3 with a week-long intensive skills boot camp in Williamsburg from May 19-23. Fellows will receive training in teaching geocoding, GIS, field research, strategic communications, and strategies for working abroad. Following the boot camp, our 22 Fellows representing 7 different universities will travel to their host organizations in Uganda, Senegal, Mexico, Nepal, and Timor-Leste. The Fellows will work with their host organizations to build their capacity to visualize and analyze geocoded aid information and incorporate the AidData Center's data and tools into their development work. AidData will also be hosting participants from the [Young African Leaders Initiative Network](#) (YALI Network) during this summer period.

Part 8: Appendices

Please use the Appendix to attach any documents, figures, etc. that help to illustrate your progress or key activities. There is no page limit to this section, but please be selective with the materials you include and reference them in your narrative as possible. In addition, please number your appendices in a manner that is consistent with your project activities if possible.

- Semantic Versioning and Data Production v1.3
- ARC Team Research Agendas
 - Research Agenda_Conflict Mitigation
 - Research Agenda_Democracy and Governance
 - Research Agenda_Economic Growth
 - Research Agenda_Environment and Climate Change
 - Research Agenda_Global Health
 - Research Agenda_Humanitarian Assistance
- Intro to the ARC for potential members (Intro to the ARC – 2page – Academic)
- Nepal Showcase (Nepal Showcase – 3page – USAID)
- Poster for the AidData Center (ACDP – Poster/Flyer)
- Updated Intro to AidData Center (Intro to ACDP – 2page – General)