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Part 1: Executive Summary

During this quarter, discussions were held in Cairo, with participants representing the Egyptian Science and Technology Development Fund (STDF), NAS, USAID, and the Department of State. The meetings' purpose was to compare the Egyptian and U.S. reviewer comments and discuss preparations for the U.S.-Egypt S&T Joint Board meeting. Following these Cairo discussions, preparations continued for the Joint Board meeting, scheduled to be held at NAS's Washington, DC headquarters on April 6th.

Part 2: Description of Key Activities

Program Activities:

- Multiple Skype discussions were held with STDF to prepare for the U.S.-Egypt S&T Joint Board meeting and possible changes in the Cycle 18 RFA.
- From January 31st to February 4th, the NAS Program Officer, Senior Program Assistant, and several participants from the U.S. review process held meetings in Cairo with STDF, USAID, and the Department of State. The meetings' purpose was to compare the Egyptian and U.S. reviewer comments and discuss preparations for the U.S.-Egypt S&T Joint Board meeting.
- In coordination with USAID, the Department of State, and STDF, NAS assisted in the preparations for the April 6th meeting of the Joint Board through securing a venue and other logistical tasks.
- NAS and STDF began efforts to collaboratively draft a semi-annual and annual technical report form and discuss procedures going forward for project monitoring.
- Throughout the quarter, NAS maintained contact with the Department of State, USAID, and STDF to discuss possible science policy workshop topics.
- In March, NAS provided USAID with a series of possible alumni initiative activities, as well as a draft alumni survey.

Administration:

- In March, the quarterly accrual was submitted to USAID.

Plans for the Next Quarter:

- The planning and follow-up processes for the Joint Board meeting will continue, with the meeting being held at NAS's Washington, DC headquarters on April 6th.
- After the Joint Board approves the Cycle 17 projects, NAS will work to complete all administrative tasks necessary for the sub-awards to be sent to the relevant U.S. institutions.
- NAS and STDF will continue to discuss steps forward for Cycle 18.
- NAS will continue discussions with relevant stakeholders to further plan for a possible science policy workshop and the Joint Fund Symposium in Cairo.