PD-AAG-169

Unclassified
CLASSIFICATION

PROJECT EVALUATION SUMMARY (PES) — PART I

Report Symbol U-447

1. PROJECT TITLE	2. PROJECT NUMBER	3. MISSION/AID/W OFFICE
AFRICAN GRADUATE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (AFGRAD)	698 - 0062	AFR/RA

4. EVALUATION NUMBER (Enter the number maintained by the reporting unit e.g., Country or AID/W Administrative Code, Fiscal Year, Serial No. beginning with No. 1 each FY) 698-80-3

☒ REGULAR EVALUATION ☐ SPECIAL EVALUATION

5. KEY PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION DATES	6. ESTIMATED PROJECT FUNDING	7. PERIOD COVERED BY EVALUATION
A. First PRO-AG or Equivalent FY 63	A. Total $ 19,300,000	From (month/yr.) 5/76
B. Final Obligation Expected FY 79	B. U.S. $ 19,300,000	To (month/yr.) 1/80
C. Final Input Delivery FY 81		Date of Evaluation Review 1/80

8. ACTION DECISIONS APPROVED BY MISSION OR AID/W OFFICE DIRECTOR

A. List decisions and/or unresolved issues; cite those items needing further study. (NOTE: Mission decisions which anticipate AID/W or regional office action should specify type of document, e.g., airgram, SPAR, PIO, which will present detailed request.)	B. NAME OF OFFICER RESPONSIBLE FOR ACTION	C. DATE ACTION TO BE COMPLETED
Submission of annual report for AFGRAD for the 1978-79 academic year.	AAI: Heather Monroe	March, 1980
Monitoring of 149 AFGRAD Fellows still in studies to assure their timely completion of degrees and return to Africa.	AAI: Heather Monroe	Continuing
Advise AAI of terminal contract completion .	AFR/RA: J.W. Dawson	March, 1980
Submission of AAI's completion report, including updated information and current locations and positions of all AFGRAD Fellows.	AAI: Heather Monroe	June, 1982

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9. INVENTORY OF DOCUMENTS TO BE REVISED PER ABOVE DECISIONS

- ☐ Project Paper
- ☐ Financial Plan
- ☐ Logical Framework
- ☐ Project Agreement
- ☐ Implementation Plan e.g., CPI Network
- ☐ PIO/T
- ☐ PIO/C
- ☐ PIO/P
- ☐ Other (Specify) _____
- ☐ Other (Specify) _____

10. ALTERNATIVE DECISIONS ON FUTURE OF PROJECT

- A. ☒ Continue Project Without Change
- B. ☐ Change Project Design and/or ☐ Change Implementation Plan
- C. ☐ Discontinue Project

11. PROJECT OFFICER AND HOST COUNTRY OR OTHER RANKING PARTICIPANTS AS APPROPRIATE (Names and Titles)

Norman W. Green, Education Officer, AFR/RA(drafter)
James W. Dawson, Project Officer, AFR/RA(substance)
Heather Monroe, Acting Director, Division of Education,AAI

12. Mission/AID/W Office Director Approval

Signature: E. Dennis Conroy

Typed Name: E. Dennis Conroy, Director, AFR/

Date: March 17, 1980

13. SUMMARY: The objective of the African Graduate Fellowship Program (AFGRAD) is to increase the reservoir of high-level African manpower for priority areas in African development. Since the program's inception in March 1963, 1301 students from 33 African countries have received training at 154 U.S. graduate schools. By the end of the program, it is expected that at least 1200 of the students will have obtained advanced degrees and at least 1170 students will have returned to Africa to assume positions which contribute to Africa's economic and social development. This PES finds that the project has been very successful in meeting its planned objectives. Administration of the program by the African-American Institute has been generally satisfactory, although there has been a tendency to allow some AFGRAD Fellows to unduly prolong their study programs.

14. EVALUATION METHODOLOGY: This project was started in 1963 to support graduate-level academic training programs for African students in American universities. The last new students entered universities in the 1967-77 academic year. Currently, about 149 students are in their final years of study. The project is being phased out, its purpose having been subsumed in large degrees by a new project, African Manpower Development, 698-0384. The PES, therefore, does not review the project in terms of changing its design or implementation but instead concentrates on measuring the project's overall accomplishments as it nears completion.

This routine evaluation was prepared by staff of the Africa Bureau's Office of Regional Affairs. It is based on a review of reports from the project contractor, previous special evaluations, and correspondence and periodic meetings with contractor personnel.

15. EXTERNAL FACTORS: The project has been adversely affected by inflation. In 1970, the average cost to AID for one student's yearly maintenance and incidental expenses was $3,400. By 1980, this figure had approximately doubled. In 1970, it was projected that 1142 graduates could be produced at a cost of $11.7 million. It is presently estimated that it will cost $19.3 million to produce approximately 1200 graduates

16. INPUTS: The African Graduate Fellowship Program is a cooperative effort among AID, African governments, U.S. universities represented by the U.S. Council of Graduate Schools. AID finances the students' subsistence, books, U.S. travel, and other incidental costs and pays for the contractual services of the African-American Institute (AAI) to administer the program. African governments pay international travel costs for the students. American graduate schools provide tuition-free scholarships. In a small number of cases, AID has paid tuition costs when university scholarships could not be located for a specific candidate in a particular field.

During fourteen years of placement activity (1963 through 1976), 1301 students from 33 African countries entered 154 U.S. graduate schools. In the first seven years of the project, the average intake was 65 students per years. The 1970 PROP suggested a new level of 125 new starts per year for the last seven years of the project. The actual average intake during this letter period was 120 students per year. In terms of selecting and placing students for this program, the overall performance of the AAI, African governments, and American universities is considered to be highly satisfactory.

Another of the project's outstanding features has been the low per/student cost to AID, due to the tuition-free scholarships provided by American

universities. In 1978, the per student cost to AID was $5035 per year for maintenance and other expenses and an additional $866 per student for administrative costs incurred by AAI. However, as noted previously, inflation is causing a steady increase in these figures.

Another cause for increased costs to AID has been a tendency for some AFGRAD study programs to be extended well beyond the time periods originally planned. During the closing years of this project, AAI should keep close track of all AFGRAD Fellows still in training to assure that their study is completed in a timely fashion. According to AAI's January 30, 1980 computer print-out, completion dates for the 149 AFGRAD Fellows still in studies are as follows:

February 19, 1980	6	Fellows
March 31, 1980	4	
April 30, 1980	2	
May 31, 1980	4	
June 30, 1980	18	
August 31, 1980	3	
September 30, 1980	29	
December 31, 1980	38	
February 28, 1981	1	
June 30, 1981	12	
August 31, 1981	4	
September 30, 1981	12	
December 31, 1981	9	
June 30, 1982	5	
September 30, 1982	1	
December 31, 1982	1	
Total	149	Fellows

The termination date of this project is September 30, 1981. AFR/RA has notified AAI that the termination date is firm and no expenditures will be authorized after that date.

17. <u>OUTPUTS</u>: The last annual report received from AAI is dated November 17, 1978 and covered the 1977-78 academic year. AAI's report for 1978-79 is

overdue and should be submitted immediately. Data for the PES are taken from the 1978 report, updated where possible with information from AAI's computer printout dated January 30, 1980.

As of June 1978, the AFGRAD statistics were as follows:

Currently receiving AFGRAD assistance	282
Currently receiving visa sponsorship only	17
(sub-total)	(299)
Long term self-funded research in Africa	5
Program graduates	921
Program withdrawals	76
(sub-total)	(1002)
TOTAL	1301

Of the 1002 students designated as former AFGRAD Fellows, 921 are considered to have successfully completed their study programs. These figures give a high completion ratio of 91.9 percent. By the end of the project it is expected that a total of approximately 1200 students will have been successful in completing their graduate studies, a figure well above the estimate of 1087 graduates given in the last (1976) PAR. There is no question that the large, carefully selected group of African students has done well in the competitive environment of American graduate schools.

By June 1978, 901 of the 1002 AFGRAD Fellows had returned to Africa, a repatriation rate of 89.9 percent. At that time, some of the non-returnees were Ugandans and Ethiopians who were remaining in the U.S. for political reasons. As of January 1980, at least ten graduates from these two countries were still residing in the U.S. Assuming a continuing repatriation rate of at least 90 percent, it is projected that a minimum of 1170 former AFGRAD Fellows will have returned to Africa by the end of the project. A repatriation

rate of 90 percent is high in comparison to rates of return for long-term trainees from Asia and Latin America.

AAI's 1975 report on "Operation Search" provided highly useful information on the location of 913 former AFGRAD Fellows from the period 1963 to 1974. In its annual reports since 1974, AAI has provided information on the current locations of each of the new graduates. Article VI.B.1.c. of Amendment 24 to Contract No. AID/afr-538, Task Order 4, requires that AAI submit "a final report summarizing the Contractor's operations and progress during the entire period of the task order with a final listing of all students.... Such report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the completion of services."

In addition to the reporting requirements stated in the contract, the final AAI report should include an updating of the students' current locations and positions, together with analyses of fields of study, countries of origin, areas of assignment, and other appropriate information. If necessary, AID should provide additional funds to enable AAI to make this listing as complete and accurate as possible and to permit AAI to make a large printing of the report for wide distribution to African governments, AID field posts, and interested international organizations.

18. PURPOSE AND GOAL: The objective of the project, as stated in the 1970 PROP, is "to provide graduate level training in American universities for selected African students in fields of study related to specific economic and social development activities, when such training is not available in Africa."

African universities were not -- and, to a large degree, are still not -- capable of fulfilling the demand for graduate degrees in many developmental fields. It may be noted here that two related projects, the African Scholarship Program for American Universities (ASPAU) and the Inter-African Universities Scholarship Program (INTERAF) were also established in the 1960s to help meet African training needs by providing undergraduate scholarships to the U.S. or African countries. These programs produced 1338 and 1040 graduates, respectively. The need for external training at the undergraduate level has diminished in most countries, but graduate studies abroad are still generally required by almost all African nations.

Sixty percent of the AFGRAD scholarships were provided to just six African countries: Nigeria (199), Ghana (178), Ethiopia (168), Kenya (85), Cameroon (80), and Uganda (76). This concentration has been very beneficial to some institutions in those countries. In Ghana, for example, 21 AFGRAD Fellows were on the faculty of the University of Science and Technology at Kumasi. Many countries, however, received only a handful of scholarships (e.g., Chad, 3; Somalia, 3; Burundi, 1; Niger, 1) or none at all (e.g., Rwanda, Central African Republic, Mauritania). These small numbers were partially due to the shortage of English speaking candidates in francophone Africa and a problem of degree equivalencies. These disparities should be taken into account in apportioning scholarships under current regional manpower projects.

Since the program's inception in 1963, the fields of study authorized for AFGRAD Fellows have not always been as directly related to rural development as more recent AID policy would wish. Current AID manpower programs for Africa are more sharply focused in this direction. This is not to say,

however, that the AFGRAD study programs, as authorized, lacked a general developmental objective as perceived by African countries. The training programs have produced advanced technical skills and provided policy makers, professors and researchers for a wide spectrum of developmental programs and institutions. Fields of study undertaken by AFGRAD Fellows are grouped as follows:

	Percent
Economics and Business Administration	18.7
Engineering	13.8
Sciences	13.6
Education (including linguistics, English as a second language, library science)	12.9
Agriculture fields	11.6
Health (medicine, dentistry, public health)	6.8
Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Science	6.4
Administrative professions	6.1
Geography, demography, natural resources, urban and regional planning	5.2
Humanities, Social Sciences, Law	4.9
	100.0

It appears evident that the AFGRAD program has been a significant means of contributing to human resources development in a number of African countries. The cooperative aspects of the program among AID, AAI, American universities and African governments are being continued under the "AFGRAD II" portion of the African Manpower Development Program. This new program has an average intake of 90 Fellows a year. As stated in the 1974 evaluation of AFGRAD by the Overseas Liaison Committee of the American Council on Education, "So long as some African countries have less-than-complete university offerings at home (e.g., in the professions), inter-country or overseas opportunities will be imperative at both undergraduate and graduate levels. It is clear that with the exception of Nigeria, and perhaps Ghana, such need will persist through sub-Saharan Africa beyond 1980."

19. BENEFICIARIES: The direct beneficiaries of the project are the 1301 students who received AFGRAD fellowships. By 1981, some 1170 graduates will have returned to 33 African countries and the great part of these will have assumed responsible positions in government ministries or in training and research institutions. The skills they have acquired for policy making, teaching, research, and in technical fields will indirectly benefit the populations of those countries.

20. UNPLANNED EFFECTS: Not pertinent at this time.

21. LESSONS LEARNED: We have noted that the closer the project approaches termination, the greater the tendency on the part of the AFGRAD Fellows and/or the contractor to find reasons for extensions to the individual training programs. We have learned that it is necessary to monitor the contractor's performance more closely during this period to assure that the contract provisions on program extensions are being followed.