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**USAID-Funded Afghanistan Economic Governance and
Private Sector Strengthening**

Data Quality Assessment

13 November 2008

Prepared by:



Prepared for the U.S. Agency for International Development

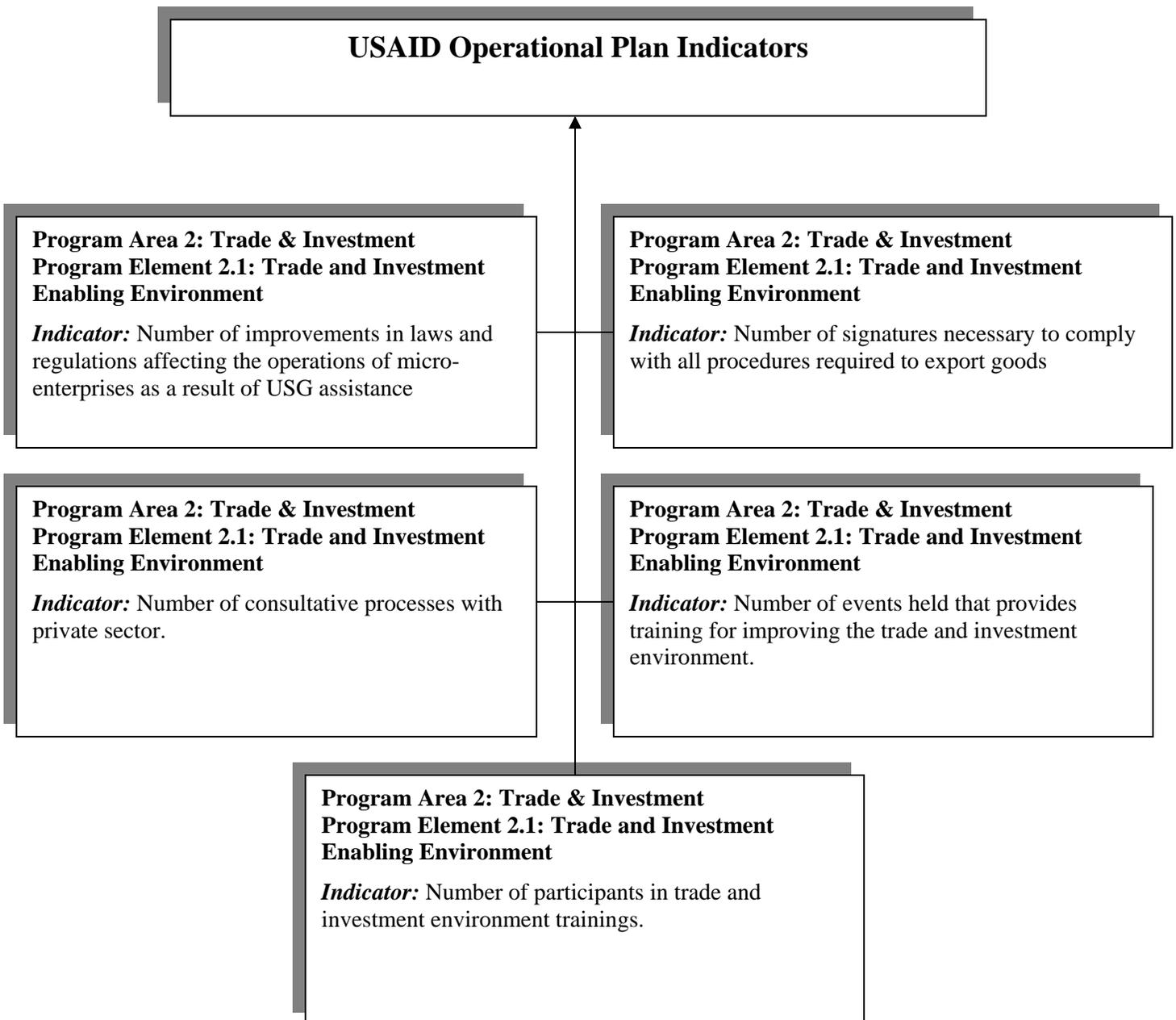
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INTRODUCTION

Under the request from PPDO office, each Technical Office is required to prepare its Performance Plan and Report (PPR) and Data Quality Assessment (DQA) on a yearly basis. This is consistent with the operation plan of FY08. The purpose of the PPR and DQA is to provide data quality for management with an accurate and short review of data quality for each program area and to be used as an instrument for results-based management decision making.

In compliance with this requirement, the Office of Economic Growth (OEG) has conducted a DQA for five indicators under Trade & Investment areas. These indicators fall under Afghanistan Economic Governance & Private Sector Strengthening (EGPSS) program



USAID/EGPSS has an obligation to collect, analyze, and report data against the above performance indicators on a quarterly basis considering the nature of each indicator and the program management needs.

In order to ensure that the collected data are trustworthy and can be used for evaluating the program progress and making program decisions, USAID/EGPSS Project Management Office reviewed data against data quality checklist to:

- Verify that data are of reasonable quality based on the five data quality standards (Validity, Integrity, Precision, Reliability, Timeliness);
- Review data collection, maintenance, and processing procedures to ensure consistent application; and
- Take steps to address data quality limitations.

This document serves as the report of data quality assessment for the FY08 as of (30 September 2008) which is based on the five data quality standards provided in ADS 203.3.5.1.

ADS Requirements for Data Quality (ADS 203.3.5.1)

Performance data should be as complete, accurate, and consistent as management needs and resources permit. To be useful in managing for results and credible for reporting, performance data should meet reasonable standards of validity, integrity, precision, reliability, timeliness.

- ❑ **Validity.** Data should clearly and adequately represent the intended result. While proxy data may be used, the Operating Unit should consider how well the data measure the intended result. Another key issue is whether data reflect a bias such as interviewer bias, unrepresentative sampling, or transcription bias.
- ❑ **Integrity.** Data that are collected, analyzed, and reported should have established mechanisms in place to reduce the possibility that they are intentionally manipulated for political or personal reasons. Data integrity is at greatest risk of being compromised during collection and analysis.
- ❑ **Precision.** Data should be sufficiently precise to present a fair picture of performance and enable management decision-making at the appropriate levels. One key issue is whether data are at an appropriate level of detail to influence related management decisions. A second key issue is what margin of error (the amount of variation normally expected from a given data collection process) is acceptable given the management decisions likely to be affected. In all cases, the margin of error should be less than the intended change; if the margin of error is 10 percent and the data show a change of 5 percent, the Operating Unit will have difficulty determining whether the change was due to the USAID activity or due to variation in the data collection process. Operating Units should be aware that improving the precision of data usually increases the cost of collection and analysis.
- ❑ **Reliability.** Data should reflect stable and consistent data collection processes and analysis methods from over time. The key issue is whether analysts and managers would come to the same conclusions if the data collection and analysis process were repeated. Operating Units should be confident that progress toward performance targets reflects real changes rather than variations in data collection methods. When data collection and analysis methods change, the PMP should be updated.
- ❑ **Timeliness.** Data should be timely enough to influence management decision-making at the appropriate levels. One key issue is whether the data are available frequently enough to influence the appropriate level of management decisions. A second key issue is whether data are current enough when they are available.

FINDINGS OF THE ASSESSMENT

A data quality assessment Checklist has been completed for each of the indicators covered in this assessment to outline findings and provide information on specific data quality issues. The forms are included as annexes to this report. However the following are presented here to provide a brief synopsis of the data quality assessment findings.

VALIDITY:

The data reported by EGPSS on each indicator have a direct relationship with the program activities and have been collected by qualified individuals. Data on most of the indicators comes directly from EGPSS project staff situated within the relevant ministries and involved in the relevant activities. For example, when reporting on the number of participants in Trade and Investment environment trainings, a qualified EGPSS staff member is onsite at each training to monitor and collect attendance rosters. This data is collected and reported at a consolidated level each quarter by EGPSS staff.

INTEGRITY:

There are proper safeguards in place to prevent unauthorized changes to the data. Once the collected data is reported to USAID/EGPSS, it is considered final. Any changes to the final data in EGPSS reporting and files are not made unless the data provider presents appropriate justification.

PRECISION:

Data on most of the indicators comes directly from EGPSS project staff situated within the relevant ministries and involved in the relevant activities. Reported data is periodically reviewed on a random sample basis by project management to ensure it is accurate.

RELIABILITY:

A consistent data collection process is used to collect and report on the EGPSS indicators. No inconsistencies have been detected.

TIMELINESS:

EGPSS has communicated a regular data collection schedule with OEG to meet its program management needs. Data is included in each submission of our standard quarterly reports submitted to the EGPSS CTO. Relevant data on these indicators and the quarterly reporting are stored and readily available on the EGPSS project portal.

In general, given the fact that EGPSS has control over the data related to our indicators and monitors the process of data collection, the outcome of the DQA, based on the samples tested, has revealed that the reported data is valid, reliable, precise, high quality, and can be used for making program decisions and for other program management purposes.

ANNEXES:

Annex A.USAID EGPSS Data Quality Checklist_OI-1

Annex B.USAID EGPSS Data Quality Checklist_OI-2

Annex C.USAID EGPSS Data Quality Checklist_OI-3

Annex D.USAID EGPSS Data Quality Checklist_OI-4

Annex E.USAID EGPSS Data Quality Checklist_OI-5

End.