



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Analysis of Service Contract Inventory for FY 2013



Bureau for Management

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I. INTRODUCTION

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is recognized as a central pillar in our national security strategy. Its development mission is to shape and sustain a peaceful, prosperous, just, and democratic world for the benefit of the American taxpayer and people around the world. The Agency is uniquely committed to fostering innovative development solutions for stability and progress.

In accordance with Section 743 of Division C of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 Consolidated Appropriations Act, P.L. 111-117, civilian agencies are required to prepare an annual inventory of their service contract actions to determine whether the contractors' skills are being utilized in an appropriate manner.

As stated in the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum of December 19, 2011 entitled, *Service Contract Inventories*, by December 30, 2014, USAID must submit a report for public disclosure on its analysis of the FY 2013 service contract inventory to determine if contract labor is being used in an appropriate and effective manner. Further, the report must state whether the mix of Federal employees and contractors in the Agency is effectively balanced.

The analysis provides a listing of the required service contracts with contract-related information as required in OMB's Office of Federal Procurement Policy's (OFPP) guidance. The report is divided into four main parts:

- 1) **Special Interest Functions Studied**
Summarizes the special interest functions studied, the dollars obligated to those specific Personal Service Contracts (PSCs) in FY 2013, and the rationale for focusing on the identified functions.
- 2) **Methodology**
Discusses the methodology used to select questionnaire participants and develop the questions included.
- 3) **Findings**
Reports the questionnaire results and draws conclusions based on these results. These findings explain the use of the various PSCs and the questionnaire-specific elements.
- 4) **Related Agency Contract Initiatives**
Outlines related Agency contract initiatives that provide increased oversight and scrutiny for contract activities ranging from a re-examination of contract coding to Agency Acquisition and Assistance (A&A) planning.

Finally, after analyzing key factors included in the Service Contract Inventory Questionnaire, concrete conclusions are articulated to continue setting effective priorities that align with the Agency's strategic goals.

II. SPECIAL INTEREST FUNCTIONS STUDIED

During FY 2013, USAID had a total of 3,165 service contract actions in all PSCs with a total obligation value of \$4,392,282,308. The services play various roles in achieving Agency objectives; a detailed description of each service can be found in **Table B - 1** in **Appendix B**.

In accordance with guidelines from the OFPP, this analysis focuses on contract actions over \$25,000 in “special interest function” PSCs. During FY 2013, USAID performed contract actions in 10 of the 15 special interest function PSCs. The five special interest function PSCs with no contract actions included the following codes: B505 Cost Benefit Analyses, D310 ADP Backup and Security Services, R413 Specifications Development Service, R414 Systems Engineering Services, and R423 Intelligence Services.

In Fiscal Year 2013, USAID had a total of 1,476 contract actions with an individual obligation greater than \$25,000 in the remaining 10 special interest function categories. The total value of these contract actions was \$1,079,569,199. These totals include all actions for any active contract action in 2013 in these categories.

The Agency evaluated three codes of interest in addition to the required special interest function PSCs: R421 Technical Assistance, R499 Other Professional Services, and R799 Other Management Support. These three additional codes are of interest because they each account for the largest percentages of obligation value during the reporting period. The cumulative value of service contract actions in these three PSCs was \$2,185,258,175. Like the special interest functions, each contract action had a minimum value above \$25,000. PSC 408 Program Management/Support Services and R425 Engineering and Technical Services are also among the largest percentages of value but are included as two of the 10 special interest function categories.

In total, 13 Product Service Codes were assessed with a total of 2,220 contract actions. The combined award value total was \$3,264,827,375. This subset of contracts represents 72.1 percent of the Agency’s total service contract inventory and 74.3 percent of the obligation value. A summary of the full inventory can be found in **Appendix A**.

Corresponding to the figures described in the discussion above, **Table 1** summarizes the inventory subset that was analyzed. Please note that the percentages reported in this table are the percentages of the Agency’s total service contract inventory, which includes *all* PSCs.

Table 1: Summary of the 13 Product Service Codes (PSC)

PSC	Description	Contract Spending	Percentage of All PSC Spending	Count	Percentage of All PSCs
Special Interest Functions					
D302	ADP Systems Development Service	\$2,623,747	0.1%	7	0.2%
D307	Automated Information System Services	\$4,271,534	0.1%	8	0.3%
D314	ADP System Acquisition Support Services	\$32,053,206	0.7%	67	2.1%
R406	Policy Review/Development Services	\$7,788,628	0.2%	9	0.3%
R407	Program Evaluation Services	\$5,871,052	0.1%	7	0.2%
R408	Program Management / Support Services	\$587,308,938	13.4%	326	10.3%
R409	Program Review/Development Services	\$18,044,743	0.4%	4	0.1%
R425	Engineering and Technical Services	\$270,048,304	6.1%	104	3.3%
R497	Personal Service Contracts	\$93,445,677	2.1%	914	28.9%
R707	MGT SVCS/Contract & Procurement	\$58,113,370	1.3%	30	0.9%
Subtotal		\$1,079,569,199	24.6%	1,476	46.6%
Largest Percentage of Obligations					
R421	Technical Assistance	\$896,043,981	20.4%	305	9.6%
R499	Other Professional Services	\$1,186,232,244	27.0%	386	12.2%
R799	Other Management Support	\$102,981,950	2.3%	53	1.7%
Subtotal		\$2,185,258,176	49.8%	744	23.5%
Total of 13 Product Service Codes		\$3,264,827,375	74.3%	2,220	70.1%

Note 1: The total obligation value is \$4,392,282,308 and includes contract actions in *all* PSCs included and excluded from this table

Note 2: Totals might not sum due to rounding

III. METHODOLOGY

For this analysis, a combination of methods and tools were utilized to collect data, including information from the Federal Procurement Data System – Next Generation (FPDS NG) and a questionnaire distributed to Contracting Officer Representatives (COR) determining whether specific contract policies and procedures are in place.

Methodology for Survey Distribution and Collection

Developing the Contract Actions Sample

Beginning with the original population of contract actions in all PSC categories the inventory was first filtered to include only those with a place of performance in the United States. USAID’s Management Support Service Contracts (MSSCs) are predominantly performed in the U.S. making this a representative sample. Second, the data were then filtered to include only one contract action per contract. This eliminates the possibility of one contract being analyzed multiple times. The survey was then sent to all CORs who oversaw at least one contract action within the 13 PSC categories. After the survey responses were collected, the results were further filtered to exclude any data pertaining to contract actions not in the 13 PSC categories.

In the 13 PSC categories, a total of 2,220 contract actions were recorded in the database. Of those, approximately 500 were included in the survey sample. Survey responses regarding 193 contract actions in the 13 PSC categories were ultimately received.

In accordance with OMB guidelines, priority consideration was given to contracted professional and management services and information technology support services, ensuring they were adequately represented in the sample. Review of professional and management services included acquisition support and an appropriate sampling of policy and program management and development services.

Survey and Interview Questions

The survey was distributed to all USAID staff who were CORs for at least one contract in the 13 PSCs in FY 2013, were still at the Agency at the time the survey was administered and available by email.

The questions included in the survey directly addressed the OMB mandate. The questions were as follows:

- To your knowledge, were each of the services contracts in your purview entered into and performed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations?
 - Please indicate the contract number(s) below which were not.
- To your knowledge, were any service contracts in your purview poorly performed because of excessive costs or inferior quality?
 - If yes, please indicate the contract number(s) below you believe were poorly performed due to excessive cost or inferior quality.
- In your opinion, should any service contracts in your purview have been considered for the conversion of performance by direct hire employees?
 - If yes, please indicate the contract number(s) below that should have been considered for the conversion.
- In your opinion, should any service contracts in your purview have been considered for the conversion of an alternative acquisition approach that would better enable USAID to efficiently utilize its assets and achieve its public mission?
 - If yes, please indicate the contract number(s) below that should have been considered for the conversion.
- To your knowledge, were any of the service contracts in your purview using contractor employees to perform critical functions in such a way that could affect the ability of the agency to maintain control of its mission and operations?
 - If yes, please indicate the contract number(s) of the contracts:
- To your knowledge, were there any additional contracted functions in your purview where the Agency may be at risk of over reliance of service contractors?
 - If yes, please indicate the contract number(s) of the contracts:

- To your knowledge, do sufficient internal agency resources exist to manage and oversee service contracts effectively?
- To your knowledge, were any of the contractors providing inherently governmental services for any of the contracts in your purview?
- Do you believe the Agency was giving special management attention to functions that are closely associated with inherently governmental functions?
 - If yes, please indicate the contract number(s) that provide inherently governmental services and briefly explain the reason the contractor is doing so:
- In your opinion, does the Agency have specific safeguards and monitoring systems in place to ensure that work being performed by contractors has not changed or expanded during performance to become an inherently governmental function?

IV. FINDINGS

Included in the qualitative portion of the analysis, all 2,220 contract actions in the 13 PSC categories were analyzed. For the quantitative portion, which consisted of the survey, 193 contract actions, or nine percent of the contract actions in the 13 PSC categories, were analyzed. Sixty-nine CORs who received the survey responded, giving the Agency a response rate of approximately 50 percent. The following measurements were extrapolated from the survey results along with information reported in the contract database. All figures are reported at the 95 percent confidence level. A summary of the analysis is below.

- Based on review of the contracts, the Agency determined that USAID contracts are mostly compliant with Federal and Agency-level statutes and regulations.

Only a small number of contract actions are identified as not having been entered into and/or performed in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. **Agency wide, between 96.8 and 99.9 percent of contract actions in the 13 PSC categories are considered compliant.**

- The Agency identified only one contract action as having been poorly performed due to excessive costs or inferior quality. **It can be said that 99.9 percent of contract actions Agency wide are *not* performed poorly.**
- Two service contract actions are identified as those that should be considered for the conversion of performance by direct hire employees. Two additional CORs provided feedback indicating that the Agency has contracts with “aspects of the work that could be performed by direct hire employees” if staffing limitations and insufficient funds for travel did not prevent this. **Agency-wide, this indicates between 97.6 and 99.9 percent of contract actions should *not* be considered for this conversion.**

- Two service contract actions are identified as those that should be considered for the conversion of an alternative acquisition approach that would better enable USAID to efficiently utilize its assets and achieve its public mission. **Agency-wide, this indicates between 97.6 and 99.9 percent of contract actions should *not* be considered for this conversion.**
- The Agency identified only one contract action as using the contractor employees to perform critical functions in such a way that could affect the ability of the agency to maintain control of its mission and operations. **It can be said that 99.9 percent of contract actions do *not* use contractor employees in such a way.**
- The Agency identified only one contract action where the Agency may be at risk of over reliance of service contractors. **It can be said that 99.9 percent of contract actions at the Agency are *not* at risk of over reliance on service contractors.**
- **Twelve of the 69 survey respondents, or 17.4 percent, feel that sufficient internal Agency resources do *not* exist to manage and oversee service contracts effectively.**
- **Three of the 69 survey respondents, or 4.3 percent, identified contract actions which performed inherently governmental services.**
- **Sixteen of the 69 respondents, or 23.2 percent, do *not* believe the Agency was giving special management attention to functions that are closely associated with inherently governmental functions.**
- **Sixteen of the 69 respondents, or 23.2 percent, do *not* believe the Agency has specific safeguards and monitoring systems in place to ensure that work being performed by contractors has not changed or expanded during performance to become an inherently governmental function.**

Agency Success

From the analysis undertaken, the Agency can be confident that contract labor is being used in an appropriate and effective manner and the mix of Federal employees and contractors in the Agency are effectively balanced. The Agency has determined that service contracts are highly compliant in most areas, with contracts generally entered into and performed according to applicable laws. The results further indicate that the quality and cost of the contracts are acceptable for performance standards.

Areas for Improvement

The only areas identified as needing improvement are concerning sufficient internal Agency resources and oversight. The Agency should take measures to be sure that sufficient resources exist to manage and oversee the service contracts effectively, particularly for contracts with inherently governmental functions.

Responsible Officials

Lastly, in accordance with GAO report “Civilian Service Contract Inventories – Opportunities Exist to Improve Agency Reporting and Review Efforts” (GAO-12-1007) and as directed by OMB to improve how compliance with statutory and OMB requirements are monitored, USAID has designated the Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Management, Angelique Crumbly, as the accountable official for ensuring appropriate internal management attention and responsiveness. The designated official’s role is to improve civilian agency compliance for compiling, reviewing, and reporting on inventories, ensuring appropriate internal management attention and responsiveness in the future.

V. RELATED AGENCY CONTRACT INITIATIVES

Given USAID’s commitment to improving the Agency’s use of contractors, there are several support actions and initiatives underway Agency-wide to ensure appropriate contracted functions. Key initiatives which provide increased oversight and scrutiny for contract activities were incorporated in Agency Acquisition and Assistance Planning Policy. These initiatives ensure workforce recruitment, retention, and procurement processes provide sufficient oversight of contractor performance. A brief description of the objectives of these activities is provided below.

Senior Management Review of Planned A&A Awards

In order to carry out the Agency’s over-all mission of ending extreme poverty, promoting resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity, USAID partners with organizations from the non-profit and private sectors to implement programs aimed at achieving its development objectives.

Historically, USAID’s acquisition and assistance (A&A) mechanisms have represented over three fourths of the Agency’s annual spend plan. Given the central role A&A has in terms of executing the mission of the Agency, the Bureau for Management (M) has committed to look for ways to continue to streamline the A&A process and increase efficiency and effectiveness.

In FY 2014 the Bureau for Management developed a new Agency Acquisition and Assistance Plan System. This new system replaced the Agency’s previous Google spreadsheets tool and provides additional features to help Agency planners more easily enter in A&A planning data, as well as track planned actions over time. The new features include: 1) reporting that allows users to run standard reports with the click of a button, as well as build customized reports; 2) a dashboard which provides overall totals and graphically represents Operating Unit-specific plan data, and 3) standardized fields that maximize use of drop down menus and calendar functions to increase the accuracy of plan data.

In addition, FY 2014 was the first fiscal year that USAID implemented its new A&A Senior Management Review Policy, which mandates reviews of large planned competitions to increase senior leadership engagement and accountability for acquisition and assistance. The policy – aimed at helping to ensure more rigorous project design and costing standards, establish greater linkages between Washington and field activities, and result in more effective implementing mechanisms – allowed for greatly increased visibility of planned complex awards by senior agency officials and also resulted in greater value for U.S. taxpayer money. The Agency conducted an after-action review of this new policy, and

based on the input from Agency staff members who went through the senior review process, revised the policy to improve its overall effectiveness and put in place internal controls to ensure the process was as efficient, timely, and included well defined roles and responsibilities.

Past Performance Reporting

USAID has been working diligently in Fiscal Year 2014 to meet contractor past performance reporting goals as set by OMB. Past performance reporting is critical and will remain an integral and expected part of the Agency's contractual process. The Agency requires all Contracting Officers (CO) and CORs to complete substantive assessments on prior year contracts with detailed justification for the rankings. The commitment of the Agency to producing quality past performance information has resulted in tremendous growth, demonstrated by a compliance rate that has almost doubled over the course of Fiscal Year 2014 to approximately 60 percent.

In Fiscal Year 2015, USAID will intensify its focus on past performance reporting through extensive policy updates, more rigorous training requirements, and increased engagement with the COs, CORs, and Agency leadership who together have been key to the Agency's past successes in this area. By fully integrating past performance reporting into its regular business practices, the Agency will empower its COs with the information necessary to ensure the selection of the best possible partners to accomplish its mission.

Human Capital Planning

All human capital (HC) goals and objectives cascade from the Joint Department of State, USAID Strategic Plan, Performance Planning process, and USAID's own Agency Strategic Budget. These HC goals are then integrated into USAID's Workforce Planning efforts and updated continually. After implementing and evaluating the HC initiatives outlined in these plans, USAID considers results and feedback to alter the Agency's strategic hiring and budget planning processes for the following year. Some of the HC initiatives included in these plans are gap analysis, competency management, position planning and organizational support.

In FY2015, USAID will continue to focus on the deployment of staff to critical priority locations overseas. In addition, USAID will continue the program of the Office of Personnel Management as a graduate of the pilot for the new Human Resource Statistics (STAT) System of HC planning and monitoring. This system is another tool that will enable USAID to increase efficiencies in workforce planning.

VI. CONCLUSION

The Agency is highly compliant in its management of management service contracts. With the exception of a very small percentage of contract actions, Agency CORs report positively on compliance, performance and management standards. The contract labor is being used in an appropriate and effective manner and the mix of Federal employees and contractors in the Agency are effectively balanced. The Agency will continue its focus on internal controls to ensure adequate oversight of contracts with inherently governmental functions.

Appendix A

Figure A - 1: USAID Service Contract Inventory Summary

			Contract Type Analysis				Competition Analysis				Time of Obligation Analysis				
			(as % of PSC Obligations)				(as % of PSC Obligations)				(as % of PSC Obligations)				
Special Interest Functions	Obligations	% Total Obligations	Fixed Price	Cost	Time & Materials/ Labor Hours	Other	Competed	Not Competed	Not Available for Competition	Blank	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
B505	COST BENEFIT ANALYSIS	\$0.00	0.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
D302	ADP SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	\$2,623,747.29	0.06%	30.02%	66.54%	3.44%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	20.55%	34.01%	42.10%	3.34%	
D307	AUTOMATED INFORMATION SYSTEM SVCS	\$4,271,533.93	0.10%	96.18%	0.00%	3.82%	0.00%	99.39%	0.61%	0.00%	0.61%	0.00%	3.65%	95.74%	
D310	ADP BACKUP AND SECURITY SERVICES	\$0.00	0.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
D314	ADP ACQUISITION SUP SVCS	\$32,053,205.61	0.73%	68.51%	0.00%	23.86%	7.62%	84.58%	15.18%	0.23%	11.43%	27.86%	23.26%	37.45%	
R406	POLICY REVIEW/DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	\$7,788,628.00	0.18%	1.92%	45.44%	52.64%	0.00%	98.75%	1.25%	0.00%	0.67%	38.52%	14.69%	46.12%	
R407	PROGRAM EVALUATION SERVICES	\$5,871,052.00	0.13%	68.66%	0.68%	30.66%	0.00%	71.90%	28.10%	0.00%	37.30%	0.00%	34.12%	28.58%	
R408	PROGRAM MANAGEMENT/SUPPORT SERVICES	\$587,308,938.22	13.37%	7.87%	87.54%	4.52%	0.07%	87.49%	11.31%	1.18%	11.06%	16.18%	30.16%	42.60%	
R409	PROGRAM REVIEW/DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	\$18,044,743.00	0.41%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	8.06%	5.59%	86.36%	
R413	SPECIFICATIONS DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	\$0.00	0.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
R414	SYSTEMS ENGINEERING SERVICES	\$0.00	0.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
R423	INTELLIGENCE SERVICES	\$0.00	0.00%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
R425	ENGINEERING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	\$270,048,304.17	6.15%	1.47%	79.42%	19.11%	0.00%	82.00%	15.56%	2.45%	11.09%	18.71%	14.18%	56.01%	
R497	PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS	\$93,445,677.20	2.13%	44.30%	34.38%	21.32%	0.00%	84.64%	14.73%	0.34%	12.54%	24.26%	24.33%	38.87%	
R707	MGT SVCS/CONTRACT & PROCUREMENT SUP	\$58,113,370.00	1.32%	4.99%	90.35%	4.65%	0.00%	96.66%	0.27%	3.06%	26.12%	20.40%	25.71%	27.76%	
Biggest Percentage of Obligations															
R499	SUPPORT- PROFESSIONAL: OTHER	\$1,186,232,244.38	27.01%	5.59%	88.74%	5.67%	0.00%	99.18%	0.35%	0.47%	0.01%	6.59%	37.56%	15.77%	40.08%
R421	TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE	\$896,043,981.46	20.40%	2.52%	89.83%	7.12%	0.54%	98.02%	1.79%	0.19%	0.00%	13.53%	25.21%	24.76%	36.50%
R408	SUPPORT- PROFESSIONAL: PROGRAM MANAGEMENT/SUPPORT	see above													
R425	SUPPORT- PROFESSIONAL: ENGINEERING/TECHNICAL	see above													
R799	SUPPORT- MANAGEMENT: OTHER	\$102,981,949.81	2.34%	4.16%	51.18%	44.66%	0.00%	99.55%	0.11%	0.33%	0.00%	26.88%	11.57%	12.27%	49.28%
Y11B	CONSTRUCTION OF HIGHWAYS, ROADS, STREETS, BRIDGES, AND RAILWAYS	\$101,383,086.91	2.31%	95.07%	4.93%	0.00%	0.00%	97.56%	2.44%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	
C214	ARCHITECT AND ENGINEERING- GENERAL: MANAGEMENT ENGINEERING	\$93,445,677.20	2.13%	44.30%	34.38%	21.32%	0.00%	84.64%	14.73%	0.34%	12.54%	24.26%	24.33%	38.87%	
R497	SUPPORT- PROFESSIONAL: PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS	see above													
AG96	R&D- ENERGY: OTHER (MANAGEMENT/SUPPORT)	\$61,000,000.00	1.39%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%
V115	TRANSPORTATION/TRAVEL/RELOCATION- TRANSPORTATION: VESSEL FREIGHT	\$59,858,450.40	1.36%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	7.04%	32.82%	6.29%	53.84%

Total Service Contracts Obligation Amount

\$4,392,282,308.32

Appendix B

Table B - 1: PSC Category Descriptions for Contract Actions Analyzed

PSC	Description	Detailed Description
D302	ADP Systems Development Services	Technical support such as web design, e-business, network, help desk, project management, infrastructure protection, internet technology, and software development.
D307	Automated Information System Services	Technical support required from delivery of product through installation and integration, equipment acquisition, software testing and evaluation.
D314	ADP System Acquisition Support Services	Information Technology (IT) and Telecom-System Acquisition Support.
R406	Policy Review / Development Services	Support services for policy analysis, policy guidance and assessments.
R407	Program Evaluation Services	Policy guidance, training evaluation, assessment services and supportive technical assistance and analysis systems into all aspects of program management.
R408	Program Management/Support Services	Wide-ranging services and support from administrative and analytic support including support to evaluate internal controls, manage audit compliance and the tracking of audit recommendations to provide project management oversight to ensure grantee compliance in administering federally funded programs. A large portion of these projects were also for Information Technology (IT) related purchases and procurements.
R409	Program Review / Development Services	Program development support and assistance.
R425	Engineering and Technical Services	Product or service that provides engineering and technical support.
R497*	Personal Service Contracts	Personnel support to fulfill a range of requirements, including surge, and short term assignments.
R707	Management Services/ Contract and Procurement Support	Professional support services to the Agency in conducting federal acquisition management activities. Services covered were acquisition planning assistance, including market research and recommending procurement strategy; acquisition document development, including cost/price estimates, quality assurance surveillance plans, statements of work, synopses, solicitations, and price negotiations.
R421	Technical Assistance	Technical advice and support, capacity building, monitoring and evaluation, training, construction, and commodities.
R499	Other Professional Services	Expert advice, assistance, guidance or counseling in support of Agency management, organization, and business improvement effort studied analyses and reports documenting any proposed developmental consultation or implementation efforts.
R799	Other Management Support Services	Information technology, administrative, and facilities support services.

*Note: USAID has three primary authorities to hire Personal Services Contracts in Washington D.C. and overseas. These include various “notwithstanding” authorities provided in both authorizing and appropriations legislation; an authority contained in section 636(a) (3) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2396) which authorizes USAID to hire Personal Services Contracts overseas; and, an authority which allows USAID to hire a small number of Personal Services Contracts in Washington.