



Daniel Van Schooten <dvanschooten@pogo.org>

Your Query to USAID on Direct Channel

Wed, Oct 11, 2017 at 7:42 PM

To: dvanschooten@pogo.org
Cc: USAID Press <press@usaid.gov>

Daniel,

I'm following up on your query to some of my colleagues related to the "Direct Channel" at USAID.

I can provide this on background as a USAID spokesperson:

The Direct Channel is one of multiple mechanisms available for USAID employees to express opinions and voice concerns about policy issues. It is an email inbox established in 2011 that allows USAID employees to directly reach senior Agency leaders.

Below is a copy of the Agency notice you requested.

Best,

Office of Origin: A/AID
Notice Category: Administrator
Date of Announcement: November 7, 2011
Distribution: USAID/General Notice

This message was sent out on November 7, 2011 as an executive message.
This notice is being posted to the intranet for record purposes.

Launch of USAID Direct Channel

USAID is an agency that prides itself on supporting diverse viewpoints in the pursuit of better development program decisions and results to create a better, more prosperous, and safer world. We are at a critical moment in our Agency's history as we face a rapidly changing environment -- undergoing fundamental and important reforms while constrained by increasingly limited resources. To ensure we continue to be successful, I have made it a priority that we tap into the knowledge, skills, and views of all Agency employees, particularly those in the field and on the front lines who are implementing these changes. For that reason, I am announcing the creation of a formal USAID Direct Channel, which will be officially launched Monday, November 07. This channel will allow any USAID employee to transmit his or her opinion or dissent on any substantive USAID development program issue directly to me via the Deputy Administrator. Use of the Direct Channel is limited to dissent on substantive USAID and development program issues alone and is to be used as a means of last resort. The Direct Channel will be open to all USAID employees including U.S. direct hires FSNs, TCN and PSCs. Submissions will be in the form of a formal memorandum, electronically submitted to the Direct Channel Listserv for adjudication. Any USAID employee who submits a dissent will receive acknowledgement of their submission within 4 business days and a substantive response within 30 business days. Submissions will be managed by the Office of the Deputy Administrator and kept confidential following receipt. Formal ADS policy guidance will be issued with the official launch. Many of you are likely familiar with the State Department's "Dissent Channel" that allows for any State or USAID U.S. direct hire employee to send a formal dissenting view on a substantive foreign policy issue directly to the Secretary of State and senior State Department staff. The State Dissent Channel will still be available for use by USAID U.S. direct hire employees, but they will also have the option of using the internal USAID channel. Selection of use of either or both

channels will be at the discretion of the employee. This tool will hopefully serve as another method to ensure we are listening to all of our talented employees to ensure our development reforms are successful and institutionalized appropriately. For questions and input as we finalize the specifics of this channel, please email directchannel@usaid.gov. Any questions concerning this notice may be directed to -- directchannel@usaid.gov.

Notice 1142