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# USAID and Open Data

**Robert Birkenes, USAID/Regional Development Mission for Asia**

**Open Government Data Conference 2015**

**May 26, 2015**

# OPEN DATA: GLOBAL CONTEXT

**United Nations - Data Revolution Advisory Group**

- August 2014 - To “close data gaps and to strengthen national statistical capacities” in support of the post-2015 development agenda

**International Aid Transparency Initiative**

- November 2011 – USG as signatory, to “improve the transparency of aid, development and humanitarian resources” via a common standard for the publication of aid information (via www.foreignassistance.gov)

**Open Government Partnership**

- September 2011 – USG as member, to “foster a global culture of open government that empowers and delivers for citizens.”

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# OPEN DATA: U.S. CONTEXT

*"My Administration is committed to creating an unprecedented level of openness in Government. We will work together to ensure the public trust and establish a system of* ***transparency****,* ***public participation****, and* ***collaboration****."*

- President Barack Obama, Memorandum on Transparency and Open Government, January 2009

*"One of the things we're doing to fuel more inventiveness like this, to fuel more private sector innovation and discovery, is to make the vast amounts of America's data open and easy to access for the first time in history. So talented entrepreneurs are doing some pretty amazing things with data that's already being collected by government."*

- President Barack Obama, May 2013

**Source:** https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2013/05/09/remarks-president-applied-materials-inc-austin-tx

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## U.S. Agency for International Development mission statement:

***"We partner to end extreme poverty and to promote resilient, democratic societies, while advancing our security and prosperity."***

View of Doi Mae Salong, Chiang Rai Province, where communities of three villages engaged in workshops under USAID's Mekong Adaptation and Resilience to Climate Change project.

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# WHY OPEN DATA?

## 1. Improved Development Outcomes

- Data sharing as the hallmark of the collaboration, learning, and adapting that leads to improved programming

## 2. Host Country Relationships

- Many countries where USAID operates are members of the Open Government Partnership, also making similar open data commitments

## 3. Untapped Economic Value

- Global market potential estimated in the trillions of dollars

## 4. USAID's Evaluation Policy

- Requires USAID evaluation data to be stored in central database

## 5. Executive Order / OMB Policy (M-13-13) on Open Data

- Makes US Government data open to the public by default

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# THE VALUE OF OPEN DATA

USG

**GIS Data**

**Weather Data**

Mapping Software

Handheld Weather Apps

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**Drought Data**

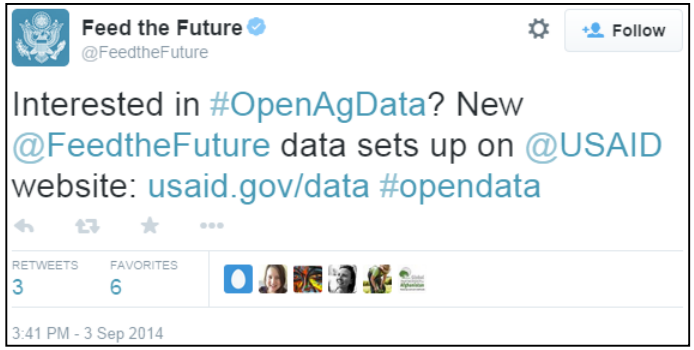
**Crop Price Data**

Famine Supply Positioning

Mobile App to Maximize Crop Income

Your Organization

**Innovation in Progress . . .**



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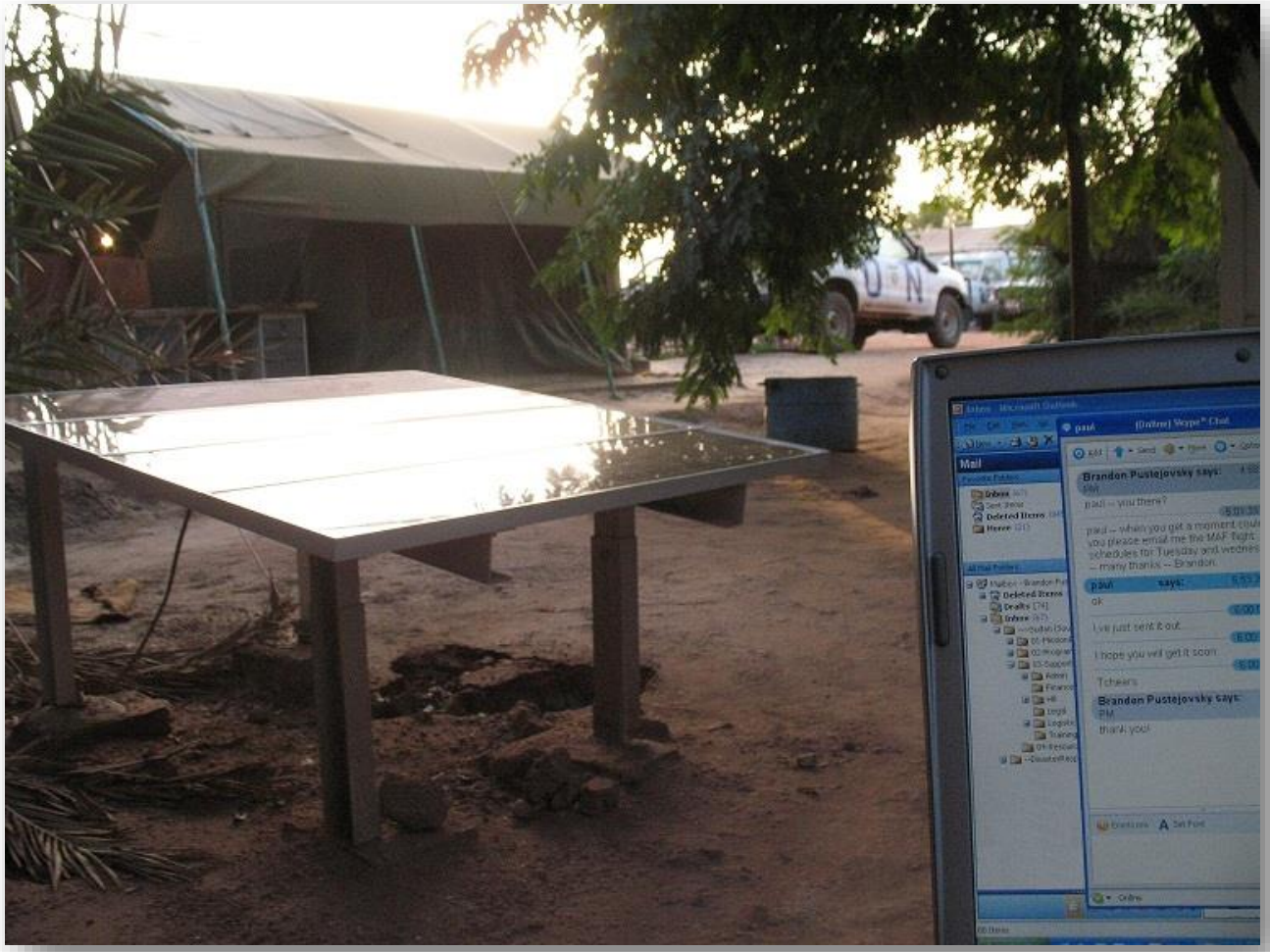
# Illustrative Data Collection / Data Storage Location:



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# Hackathon

Source: http://www.usaid.gov/open/engagement

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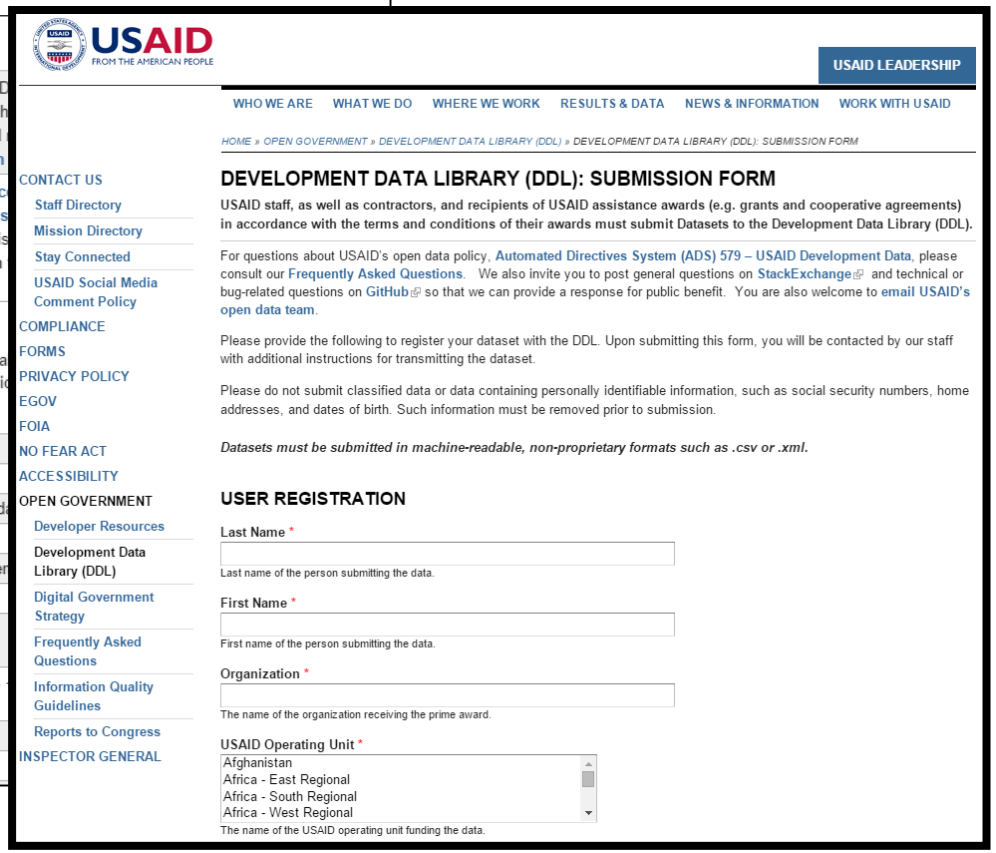
# WHERE? www.usaid.gov/data



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# How Can I Contribute to this Discussion?

StackExchange (general questions):
http://bit.ly/1FSzL3t

GitHub (technical questions):
http://bit.ly/1DqewSB

Email:
opendata@usaid.gov

Data Grant Survey:
http://bit.ly/AIDdatagrant

Questions? Interested in Learning More?

Contact: Robert Birkenes,
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