Outline for Standard Regional/Country Development Cooperation Strategies

A Mandatory Reference for ADS Chapter 201

This detailed outline describes the components that are required in a streamlined Regional and Country Development Cooperation Strategy (R/CDCS). It is recommended that the page length for the R/CDCS not exceed 20 pages, and the timeline for development should last between six to eight months. R/CDCSs must comply with existing requirements for the three mandatory analyses (Gender, Tropical Forests and Biodiversity, and Climate Change), and include findings from these analyses throughout the R/CDCS, as relevant and applicable. The required Annexes listed below (Annexes 1-5) must also be included in the final R/CDCS. Missions exempt from completing R/CDCSs[1] have the option of developing a Strategic Framework (SF) (email the Regional Bureau program office POC and **sppstrategy@usaid.gov** to discuss parameters). Detailed instructions are included in ADS 201mag.

<p align="center">**DETAILED OUTLINE**</p>

A. **Opening paragraph: (½ page)** State the R/CDCS Goal, strategy start and end dates (by year), and Development Objectives.

B. **Country Context: (3 pages)**

   a. **Operating Environment:** Provide a description of the current operating environment including: social, political, conflict, religious and economic factors; dynamics of the local systems; evidence from key Mission analyses including the mandatory ones; description of relevant development and humanitarian challenges; and opportunities for impact and constraints.

   b. **Relationships and Engagement with Partner Governments and other Local Stakeholders**

      i. Describe the nature of the overall relationship between the Mission/U.S. Government (USG) and the partner country government, and how the Mission's strategy aligns with the priorities of the partner government, citizens, and other key local stakeholders (e.g., local civil society). Mention any major areas of divergence that could impact success of the strategy.

      ii. Describe what efforts the Mission made to consult and coordinate with a diverse set of local actors to obtain their perspectives during strategy development (including historically marginalized groups, and how local perspectives and priorities are reflected in the strategy.

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[1] **ADS 201.3.2.4 CDCS Exemptions:** 1) Overseas OUs such as Country Offices that have a limited presence or that do
not manage at least $20 million in programming; and 2) Overseas OUs that implement single-sector programs.

C. **Strategic Approach: (5 pages)** Summarize the Mission's strategic approach, including the following:

   a. The Mission's approach to advancing local stakeholder priorities, sustainable development, including gender equality, and how the Mission will leverage other political and/or financial resources from local actors, donors, foundations, and/or the private sector to amplify achievement of development goals/objectives;

   b. How the Mission will prioritize among the five challenges in the USAID Policy Framework, and any other cross-cutting priorities or approaches (e.g., gender, inclusive development, DEIA, localization, conflict sensitivity, climate change, countering corruption, resilience, religious engagement). The narrative may include rationales for why the Mission will not address particular Policy Framework priorities.

   c. How the CDCS Development Objectives align with the pillars of the National Security Strategy, goals of the Joint Strategic Plan, Joint Regional Strategy, the Integrated Country Strategy, and/or other relevant U.S. regional strategies and initiatives (see sample template). Missions have the flexibility to address other priorities and directives to which they will be held accountable such as those articulated in country-specific or other congressional or Administration directives. See the USAID Policy Registry for more information on USG policies and strategies, and please take a look at the Policy Framework Rubric.

D. **Results Framework Summary (5-10 pages)**

   a. **Results Framework Graphic**: Include the CDCS Goal, Development Objectives (DOs), Intermediate Results (IRs), sub-IRs (optional), as well as a topline description of development challenges to be addressed by USAID.

   b. **Development Objective and Development Hypothesis:** Include the following:

      i. Supporting narrative for each DO must include a Development Hypothesis, explanations of the logic of how the IRs contribute to each DO with citations of related evidence; and descriptions of DO-specific challenges, opportunities and USAID's comparative advantage to address each DO.

      ii. Narratives for each IR; and

      iii. A bulleted list of assumptions and risks associated with each DO.

E. Annexes (See Below)

Annex 1: Sensitive But Unclassified (SBU) Budget Scenarios Table
Annex 2: (SBU) Adaptive Management
Annex 3: Monitoring, Evaluation, and Collaborating Learning and Adapting
Annex 4: Climate Change Annex
Annex 5: Scenario Planning (optional)
Annex6: Social Impact Risk Diagnostic (optional)

Note: Each Annex should be no longer than two pages maximum. Contact **sppstrategy@usaid.gov** with questions.

A. Annexes

I. (SBU) Budget Scenarios Table and Narrative

    A. (SBU) Program Budget Resources and Priorities Table, noting the **two budget scenarios** (baseline and aspirational budget)**,** and a rationale for the budget scenarios noting any trade-offs or shifts the Mission is requesting. Please also note any gaps between key local priorities and the priorities that can be addressed given the Mission's mix of funding (see ADS 201mag for guidance).

II. (SBU) Adaptive Management

    A. Discuss the Mission's management considerations (both opportunities and challenges) that could impact strategy implementation.

    B. Describe how the Mission plans to integrate the objectives of the Acquisition and Assistance Strategy over the course of the five-year strategy, and any plans to use co-creation and innovative procurement vehicles to engage with local systems and new and underutilized partners to advance sustainability.

    C. As relevant, address staffing considerations, including United States Direct Hires (USDHs), United States Personal Services Contractors (USPSCs), Foreign Service Nationals (FSNs), Third Country Nationals (TCNs), etc. staffing patterns.

III. Monitoring, Evaluation, and Collaborating Learning and Adapting (MECLA)

    A. State the CDCS learning priorities. Describe the rationale for choosing them: Why are these particular themes or topics critical to programmatic and operational decisions and implementation?

    B. Briefly describe potential MECLA challenges relevant to assessing progress on the Results Framework, addressing learning priorities, and/or the general operating environment. These will be further discussed in the Performance Management Plan (PMP), along with the other required/recommended PMP elements.

IV. Climate Change Annex. See ADS 201mat (Please reach out to **climatechange@usaid.gov**)

V.   **Scenario Planning (optional):** Scenario planning can be used for strategies that need to address significant risks (whether due to country context, USG bilateral relationships, disasters, etc.) or other uncertainties in the context that could affect programming. This annex could address how the Mission envisions using contingency plans or adaptive management tools and approaches in the event of various scenarios.

VI.   **Social Impact Risk Diagnostic Tool** (Please see guidance) **(optional)**

CDCS Development Timeline