



Agency Priority Goal | Action Plan | FY 22 – Q3

Democracy and Governance

Goal Leader(s):

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Goal Overview

Goal statement

- USAID will seek to increase democratic demand in countries experiencing democratic openings. By September 30, 2023, more effective USAID programming will contribute to a 5% increase in the V-Dem Civil Society Participation Index in target countries.

Problem to Be Solved

- The world has now marked 16 years of global democratic decline, and the pace of decline is accelerating. Autocracies are home to 70% of the world's population.
- President Biden has outlined a bold vision to win the competition for the future by revitalizing democracy both at home and abroad, confronting corruption, and defending and protecting human rights.
- At the December 2021 Summit for Democracy, President Biden announced a new Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal. This initiative included a marquee deliverable intended to surge assistance to “bright spot” countries that are experiencing democratic openings.
- The reasons to place outsized focus on democratic openings, in the context of a global backsliding problem, are: (a) a handful of successful democratic transitions can challenge the notions that democracy is failing and populations are turning away from it; and (b) openings tend to feature willing governmental and civil society partners, meaning our efforts can have outsized local effect.

Goal Overview Continued

What Success Looks Like

- o 2022 can and should be the turning point toward a new era of democratic expansion. Over the next two years, renewed USAID Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG) assistance will contribute to successful democracy movements and reforms in countries experiencing democratic openings. In these contexts, elevated levels of civic participation will serve as an indicator of democratic demand, engagement, momentum, and vitality.
- o Target countries will include those with recent democratic openings in each USAID region and will receive a mix of rapid response assistance and longer-term support. USAID established a preliminary list of APG countries in Q2 FY 2022, and will revisit the list annually. A methodology for country selection will be developed and refined in 2022. In the interim, DG APG countries include Malawi, Zambia, Moldova, Armenia, North Macedonia, Ecuador, Honduras, Timor Leste, Dominican Republic, and Ukraine.

**Notes:*

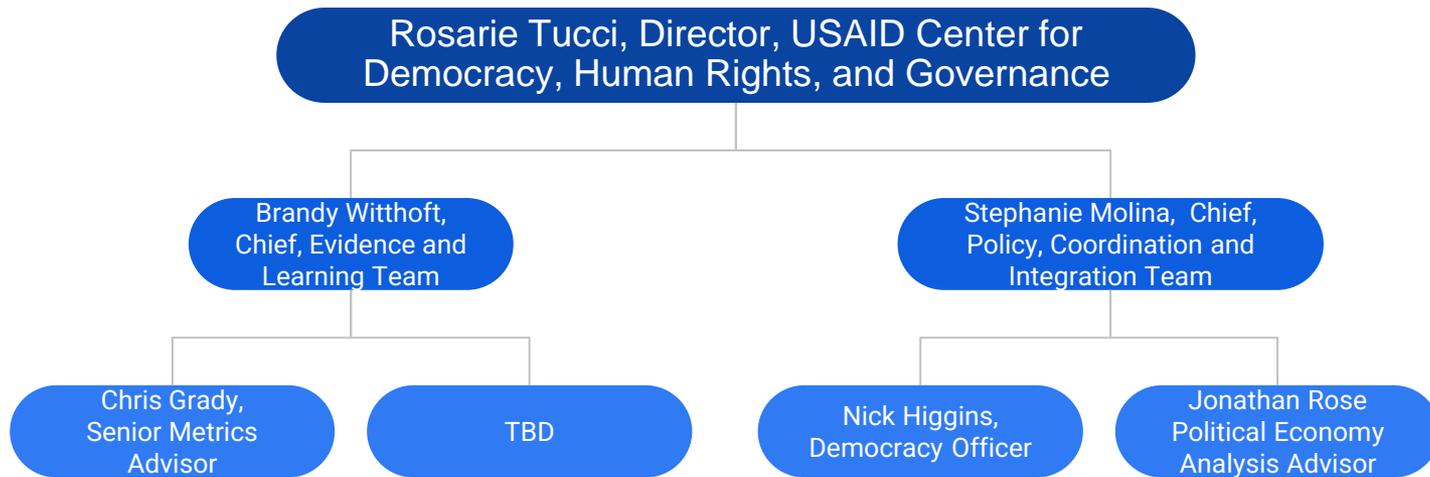
- *This APG is linked to State/USAID Joint Strategic Plan Goal 3 (JSP 3.1.3), which includes a focus on strengthening democratic demand. In this context, changes in levels of civic participation serve as an expression and indicator of democratic demand.*
- *We acknowledge the war in Ukraine and the exceptional challenges confronting the country at this time. Given this dramatic change in context, we will revisit and possibly remove Ukraine from the list of APG countries in Year Two.*

Goal Targets

| Achievement statement | | Key indicator(s) | Quantify progress | | | Frequency |
|-----------------------|---|--|-------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| By... | We will... | Name of indicator | Target value | Starting value | Current value | Update cycle |
| 09/30/23 | USAID will seek to increase democratic demand in countries experiencing democratic openings. By September 30, 2023, more effective USAID programming will contribute to a 5% increase in the V-Dem Civil Society Participation Index in target countries. | Indicator #1: Percent of DRG project solicitations in target countries that call for evidence-based approaches. | 50% | 28.5% | 28.5% | Annual |
| 09/30/23 | | Indicator #2: Percentage increase in V-Dem Civil Society Participation Index for target countries | 5% | 1.00% | 1.00% | Annual |
| 09/30/23 | | Indicator #3: Number of new DRG Center learning resources produced | 30 | 25 | 25 | Annual |
| 9/30/23 | | Indicator #4: Downloads of data portrait and indicator inventories from idea.usaid.gov/drg* | 1500 | 320 | 738 | Quarterly |

*Target value is 1500 downloads per quarter during the reporting cycle.

Goal Team



Goal Strategies

The strategies to achieve this DRG goal are grounded in an acknowledgement that USAID must renew its approach toward democracy promotion through updated conceptual and programmatic approaches, a willingness to challenge our assumptions about where and how we work, a relentless drive to utilize high quality evidence and data in program design and adaptation, and a commitment to reward democratic reform by marshalling both rapid response resources and longer-term, cross-sectoral aid to support democratic openings and transitions so that emerging democratic leaders and movements are able to succeed. These actions will maximize USAID's contribution to the vital task of not only preventing further democratic decline and decay, but of fostering a new wave of democratic commitment, consolidation, and confidence.

While the fate of democracy will not hinge on USAID's DRG portfolio alone, we recognize that we must renew the tools, approaches, and urgency of our work if we are to maximize our effectiveness and help animate change toward a more just, accountable, inclusive and participatory future for all. Goal strategies include:

- **Update DRG conceptual and programmatic approaches to reflect new programmatic challenges and opportunities:** The current DRG strategy was approved in 2013 early in the period of democratic decline and before the rise of disinformation, digital authoritarianism, and COVID-19. To begin the process of sharpening USAID's DRG approaches to best engage with our contemporary context, USAID will renew sector priorities and approaches, starting with the development of a new DRG policy.

Goal Strategies Continued

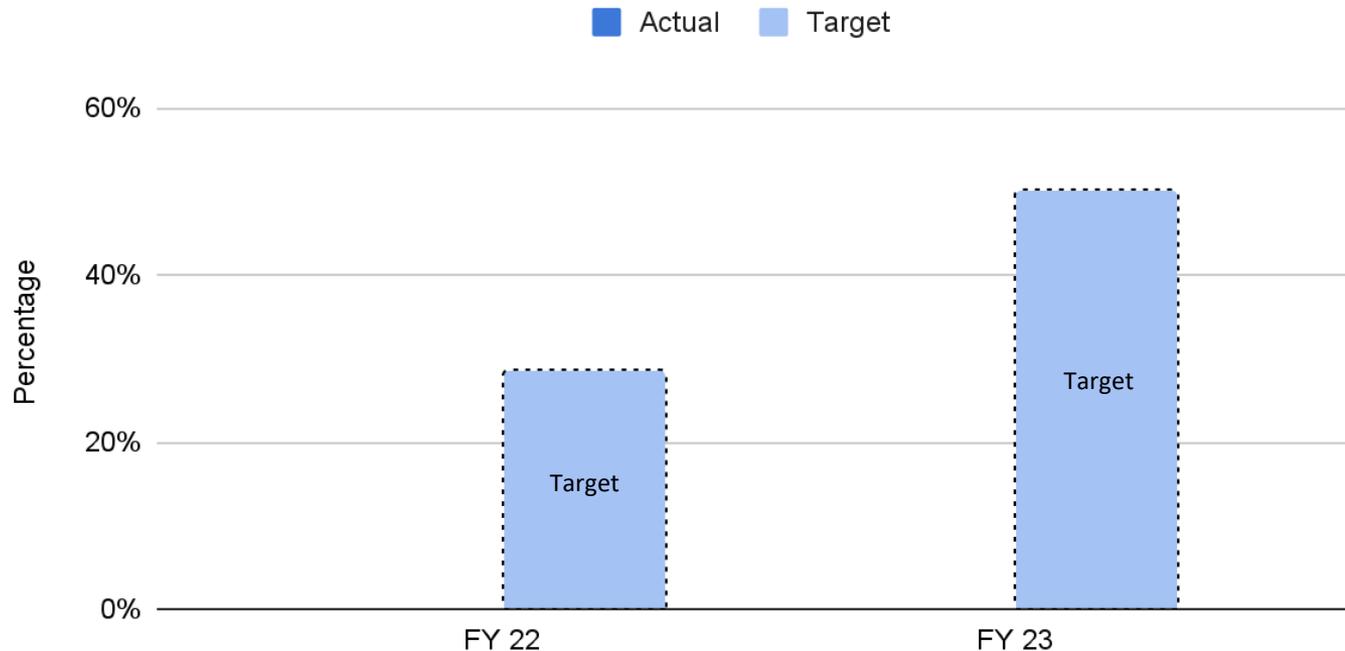
- **Promote evidence-based and data-driven DRG programming:** Democracy assistance works - it has a statistically significant positive effect over time. However, this work should be recalibrated to meet today's challenges through an increased grounding in research and learning, both centrally and in the field. USAID Operating Units should use high quality measures of democratic change, such as [V-Dem](#) data and USAID's DRG Country [Data Portraits](#), together with evidence and research findings from the DRG [Learning Agenda](#) and gap map efforts, to inform strategic planning, activity design, and performance management and adaptation.
- **Increase support to democratic openings:** Given the recent trend toward authoritarianism, it is critical that we are able to surge DRG resources and staffing support to democratic openings when they occur. As democratic breakthroughs are inherently unpredictable, this will require flexibility, multi-year commitment, the ability to work across development sectors, and a growing rapid response capability on the part of USAID Washington DRG teams within the Development, Democracy, and Innovation (DDI) Bureau and DRG technical teams within each of USAID's regional bureaus. This APG will reinforce USAID's Partnerships for Democratic Development deliverable under the Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal which seeks to surge support to democratic "bright spots."

Key annual indicators

Annual Indicators:

- Indicator #1: Percent of democracy, human rights, and governance (DRG) project solicitations in target countries that cite evidence and/or call for evidence-based approaches. This quantitative indicator provides a simple and reliable way to express achievement in the utilization of DRG evidence and learning in USAID's procurement process.
- In gathering indicator data, USAID piloted the use of innovative machine reading software to scan USAID DRG solicitation documents for evidence-based technical approaches.

Percent of DRG project solicitations in target countries that cite evidence and/or call for evidence-based approaches.

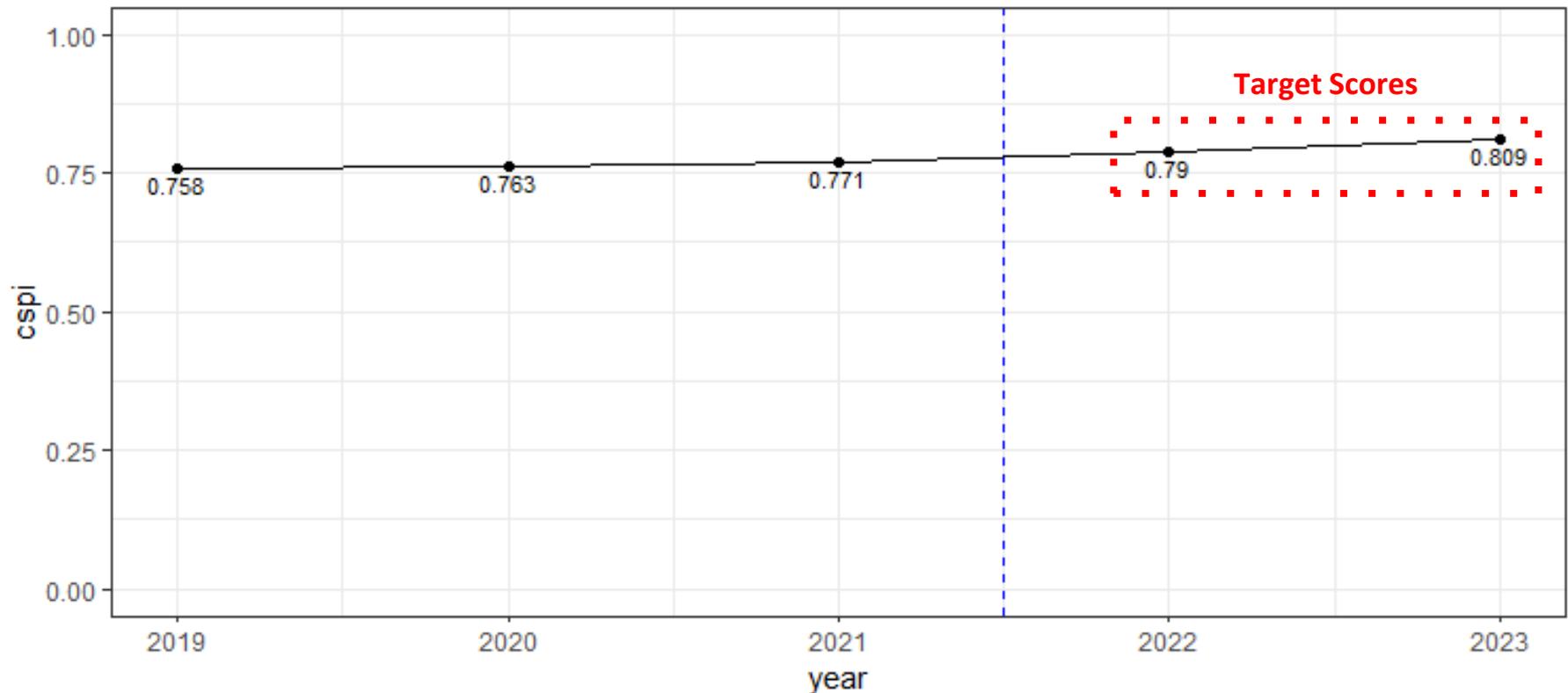


Key annual indicators

Annual Indicators:

- Indicator #2: Percentage increase in V-Dem Civil Society Participation Index for target countries. A quantitative context indicator that provides a simple and reliable way to express a specific change in civil society participation in target countries. The index examines whether CSOs are routinely consulted by policymakers; the scale of citizen involvement in CSOs; and, women's participation in CSOs.

V-Dem Civil Society Participation Index

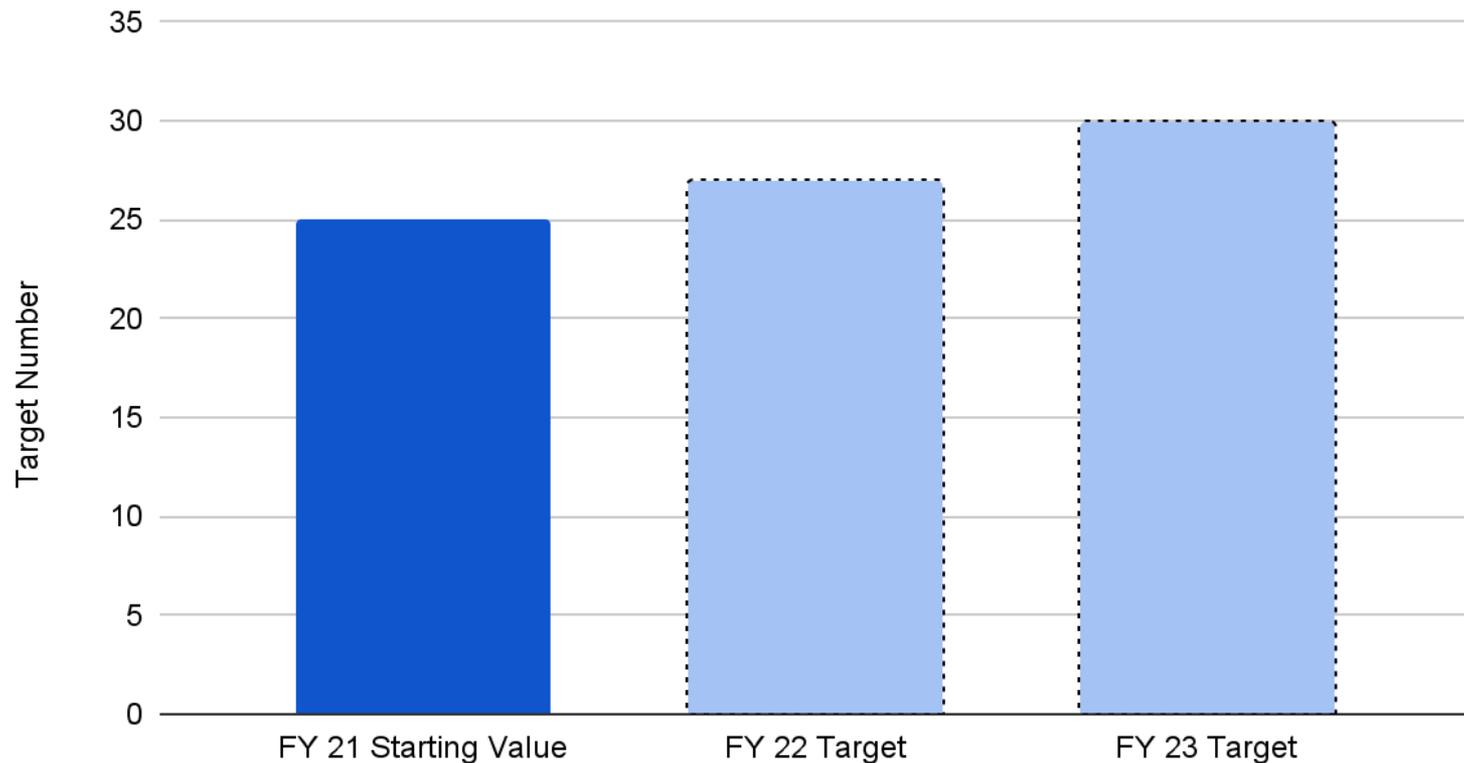


Key quarterly indicator

Quarterly Indicator:

- Indicator #3: Number of new DRG Center learning resources produced. A quantitative indicator that provides a simple and reliable way to express achievement in the production of new technical resources for DRG staff.

Number of New DRG Resources Produced

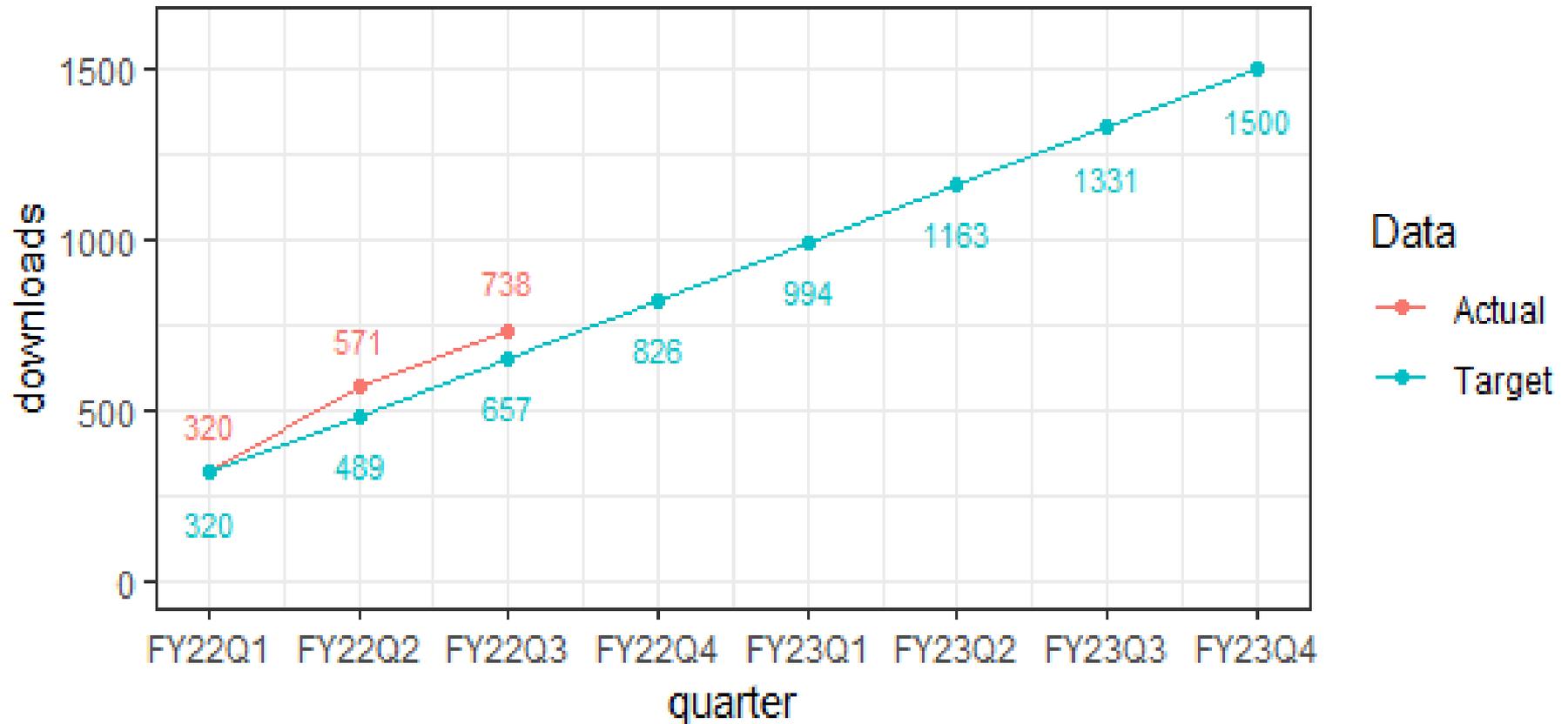


Key quarterly indicator

Quarterly Indicator:

- Indicator #4: Downloads of data portrait and indicator inventories from idea.usaid.gov/drg.

IDEA DRG Resource Downloads



Key milestones

- Nine milestones relate to USAID’s efforts to increase the effectiveness of DRG programming by updating DRG conceptual and programmatic approaches. One milestone relates to USAID’s efforts to expand the DRG workforce. One milestone relates to the Partnerships for Democratic Development effort to support democratic openings.
- USAID will use these milestones as an additional tool to track progress toward the achievement of this APG.

| Milestone Summary | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------|---|
| Key Milestone | Milestone Due Date | Milestone Status | Change from last quarter | Owner | Comments |
| Establish evidence base for new DRG Policy | Q3 FY22 | Complete | Complete | DDI/DRG/PCI | DRG Policy literature review drafted |
| Begin consultations with internal and external stakeholders to inform new DRG Policy | Q2 FY22 | Complete | Complete | DDI/DRG/PCI | DRG stakeholder consultations initiated. |
| Complete consultations with internal and external stakeholders to inform new DRG Policy | Q3 FY22 | Complete | Complete | DDI/DRG/PCI | DRG Stakeholder consultations completed |
| Develop democratic openings identification methodology | Q3 FY22 | On Track | Delayed | DDI/DRG/PCI | The draft methodology was completed on June 30, 2022. The methodology will be finalized in Q4 FY22. |
| Draft new DRG Policy | Q4 FY22 | On Track | | DDI/DRG/PCI | DRG Policy development ongoing |
| Review DRG Strategic Assessment Framework | Q4 FY22 | On Track | | DDI/DRG/PCI | In progress and ahead of schedule. Milestone to be reached by Q4 FY22. |
| Develop DRG workforce expansion plan | Q1 FY23 | On Track | | HCTM & DDI | In progress and on track. Due date updated to Q1 FY23. |

Key milestones (Cont.)

- Four milestones relate to USAID's efforts to increase the effectiveness of DRG programming by updating DRG conceptual and programmatic approaches to reflect new DRG challenges and opportunities. A fifth milestone relates to USAID's efforts to expand the DRG workforce.
- USAID will use these milestones to signify progress toward the development of new conceptual and programmatic approaches for DRG programming that are informed by the current global DRG context.

| Milestone Summary | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------|--|
| Key Milestone | Milestone Due Date | Milestone Status | Change from last quarter | Owner | Comments |
| Finalize new DRG Policy | Q2 FY23 | On Track | | DDI/DRG/PCI | Milestone due date moved to Q2 FY23 to align with 2nd Summit for Democracy. |
| Disseminate new DRG Policy to USAID workforce | Q3 FY23 | On Track | | DDI/DRG | Milestone due date moved to Q3 FY23 to follow policy release at 2nd Summit for Democracy |
| Finalize new DRG Strategic Assessment Framework | Q2 FY23 | On Track | | DDI/DRG/PCI | |
| Utilize updated DRG Strategic Assessment Framework | Q4 FY23 | On Track | | DDI/DRG/PCI | |

Narrative – FY 22 Q3

In FY22 Q3, USAID continued implementation of the DRG APG Work Plan. The plan seeks to increase democratic demand in target countries through renewed conceptual and programmatic approaches, evidence-based and data-driven programming, and rapid response and longer term support to democratic openings. This effort will directly contribute to the Partnerships for Democratic Democracy (PDD) effort, an element of the Presidential initiative for Democratic Renewal announced by President Biden in December 2021 (see Goal Overview - Slide 2).

Work in support of the DRG APG Work Plan progressed and is on track. USAID previously identified ten initial target countries for this APG that are experiencing democratic openings (see Goal Overview Continued - Slide 3). In FY22 Q3, USAID used innovative machine reading software to scan USAID DRG solicitation documents for citations of evidence. USAID completed the disaggregation of data to precisely track the use of evidence in informing programmatic choices. Based on this analysis, 28.5 percent of project solicitations during FY 2021 (reported in FY 2022) in target countries demonstrated evidence based approaches.

USAID continued to advance the DRG Policy development process in FY22 Q3. Working through the inter-bureau DRG Policy Collaboration Group, USAID completed work to establish the evidence base for the policy. The evidence base included a review of recent and relevant academic and grey literature, such as white papers, evaluations, policy papers, etc., and consultations with democracy experts and practitioner groups. In addition, USAID advanced development of the methodology for APG and PDD country identification during FY22 Q3. Once finalized, USAID will use the methodology to update the list of APG countries for FY23. In addition, USAID advanced an effort to assess and update the DRG Strategic Assessment Framework.

In Q3, USAID once again exceeded its quarterly goal for the number of downloads of data portrait and indicator inventories from idea.usaid.gov/drg as a result of its efforts to raise awareness of DRG data resources through USAID's quarterly DRG Learning Digest and weekly DRG Factly Friday newsletters.

Data accuracy & reliability

Varieties of Democracy (V-Dem) is a new approach to conceptualizing and measuring democracy. The **organization** provides a multidimensional and disaggregated dataset that reflects the complexity of the concept of democracy as a system of rule that goes beyond the simple presence of elections. The V-Dem project distinguishes between five high-level principles of democracy: electoral, liberal, participatory, deliberative, and egalitarian, and collects data to measure these principles. V-Dem is a team of over 50 social scientists on six continents. They work with more than 3,500 country experts and a global International Advisory Board. Read more about V-Dem's work on [their website](#).

The **Civil Society Participation Index** examines the following questions: Are major Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) routinely consulted by policymakers; how large is the involvement of people in CSOs; are women prevented from participating; and is legislative candidate nomination within party organization highly decentralized or made through party primaries?

Clarification: The sphere of civil society lies in the public space between the private sphere and the state. Here, citizens organize in groups to pursue their collective interests and ideals. We call these groups civil society organizations CSOs. CSOs include, but are by no means limited to, interest groups, labor unions, spiritual organizations if they are engaged in civic or political activities, social movements, professional associations, charities, and other non-governmental organizations.

The core civil society index (CCSI) is designed to provide a measure of a robust civil society, understood as one that enjoys autonomy from the state and in which citizens freely and actively pursue their political and civic goals, however conceived.