

USAID Knowledge Management Inventory

1. Describe your knowledge sharing activity - what did you do? – how did you do it?

The Implementation Grant Program (IGP) Integrated Management System (IMS) is a web based reporting system with an Access database backend. The first few modules were designed to link grant officers with IGP grantees and their local organization partners in order to share financial and programmatic reporting information. The database also contains historical data for all IGP financial services grants to the beginning of the program in 1995.

2. Describe your motivation / rationale / value proposition / business case for the initiative – why did you do it? – for whom?

The IMS was originally conceived as a means to improve the timeliness and accuracy of semi-annual IGP grant reporting and to reduce the need for time-intensive follow up of late and incomplete reports by grant officers. At the same time, the Microenterprise Development (MD) Office sought to revise and update its revisions and updates to its reporting format and facilitate reporting for its grantees were sought by moving to an automated web-based information system. As the system developed, it became clear that its potential and capabilities far outreached the initial conception of a simple reporting system.

3. Describe the results of the effort – who and/or what was impacted and how? – what are the benefits?

By moving to an automated online database, MD has been able to achieve the following:

- Improved quality and quantity of financial information
- Improved monitoring and follow up capability for grant officers
- Improved analysis of data, measurement of impact and ability to capture lessons learned
- Increased reporting efficiency and accuracy
- Decreased reporting burden on grantees and grant officers
- Decreased the use of paper
- Ability to simultaneously track a much wider range of information (i.e. grant agreement data, expenditures and obligations data, etc.)
- Ability to generate analytical reports on a wide variety of indicators
- Improved communication between grant officers, grantees, and local organizations

4. Describe any future implications or issues related to the initiative, e.g., what plans are in place? What current constraints or challenges are you facing? How is the initiative being sustained / maintained? How can it be replicated or scaled up?

Future plans for the system include programming of a parallel management information system to capture data from other MD grant programs (Business Development Services) and

