



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Investing in cooperatives and credit unions around the world to build social cohesion and stabilize economies.

The Cooperative Development Program (CDP) is a global initiative that strengthens the capacity of cooperative businesses and credit unions. Through the CDP, USAID partners with 10 U.S.-based Cooperative Development Organizations (CDOs) working in the sectors of agriculture, finance, health, energy, and information technology (IT).

With their specialized expertise, CDOs have advanced cooperative businesses and systems throughout Africa, Latin America, and Asia - reaching more than 1 million households.

## ADVANCING LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT

Cooperative businesses are a critical engine of economic growth both in the U.S. and abroad. There are more than three million cooperatives and credit unions around the world. All of these cooperative businesses share a set of principles designed to support both the economic and social empowerment of their members - making cooperatives a powerful force for sustainable development.

EQUAL EXCHANGE

## PROGRAM DETAILS

CDP partners are strengthening cooperative businesses and credit unions abroad in a number of ways, including:

- Governance
- Member equity and capitalization
- Financial management
- Market performance
- Legal and regulatory reform
- Gender inclusion
- Youth engagement

The CDP also fosters collaboration among partners through technical working groups, joint cooperative research, co-designed learning agendas, and dissemination of cooperative development resources through global networks.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: PHILIPPINES

In the Philippines, millions of people in rural areas needed a reliable source of energy for their livelihoods. Through CDP, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International deployed U.S. electric cooperative volunteers to provide technical assistance to a network of 119 cooperatives. The volunteers delivered power generation and distribution technology, as well as training in utility management, to the local electric cooperatives' technicians. With this training and technology, NRECA International's program brought electricity to more than 56 million people in 36,000 rural villages and towns.

### PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: PERU

In Peru, cooperatives were struggling to achieve the quality and volume standards required for exporting their cacao, causing international buyers to purchase less cacao from cooperatives. Faced with a decrease in overseas sales, cacao cooperatives were tempted to diversify into illicit crops. Through CDP, Equal Exchange partnered with three Peruvian cooperatives to improve their capitalization and overall productivity, as well as the quality of their harvests so that they could continue producing cacao. Across all three cooperatives, productivity increased by more than 100% - and members earned more than \$5 million in quality premiums as a result of the program.

## PROGRAM OUTCOMES

Since 2001, CDP has strengthened more than **10,000 cooperatives and credit unions** (representing more than 1 million households) in more than **35 countries** across Africa, Latin America, and Asia. The CDP has also leveraged more than **\$150 million** from U.S. and local private sector partners and proposed **43 new cooperative laws and regulations**.