



## BUREAU FOR DEVELOPMENT, DEMOCRACY, AND INNOVATION LOCAL, FAITH, AND TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIPS HUB

### Locally Led Development Initiatives



APRIL 2021

LOCAL WORKS PHOTO CONTEST WINNER: FLAVIO BORGES, USAID/TMOR-LESTE  
USAID/TMOR-LESTE LOCAL WORKS TEAM INTERVIEWING YOUTH ON THE STREET IN THE LIQUICA MUNICIPALITY

### BANGLADESH: GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY, GOOD FOR THE CLIMATE

In the Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh, communities are facing a twofold challenge: the impact on livelihoods from accommodating one million Rohingya refugees, and the impacts of climate change, including water scarcity and flooding, which in turn impact agriculture. To address both challenges, community members engaged in training focused on year-round, high-yield, and climate-smart vegetable cultivation. From trellises to sandbags, the community members have adopted these strategies to utilize the limited land more efficiently and reduce flood risk. The benefits are already evident within the community, as community members are not only growing more food for their own consumption, but they are also able to sell the surplus harvest.



PHOTO CREDIT: KEITH METZNER, USAID/BANGLADESH  
ONE OF THE FARMERS FROM COX'S BAZAR. HE NOW CULTIVATES YEAR-ROUND, HIGH-YIELD CROPS LIKE TOMATOES AND CUCUMBERS, AND EMPLOYS A MORE ECO-FRIENDLY APPROACH TO FERTILIZER THROUGH VERMICOMPOST.

Through the Local Works program, USAID will continue to mobilize and support community groups, ensuring their efforts to both improve livelihoods and protect the climate continue.

USAID supported this training through the [Local Works](#) program.

### CHAMPIONING LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT: PATRICK ROBISON

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, USAID's [Local Works](#) program is building local systems and strengthening relationships between local and national organizations, the government, and the private sector to better serve communities across the country. To accomplish this, the Mission has taken a unique approach: they have a broad portfolio of activities, ranging from capacity development for local organizations, to establishing local philanthropy.



PHOTO CREDIT: USAID/BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA  
LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT CHAMPION PATRICK ROBISON

Patrick Robison, the Director of USAID/Bosnia and Herzegovina's Office of Acquisition and Assistance, explains that this is a set of "interlocking pieces to create a whole program - the end result is that we are utilizing all of these pieces to the larger locally led development (LLD) puzzle that will leave behind an ecosystem for LLD."

"We're advocating at multiple levels to increase the idea of giving and create accountable ways in which businesses and individuals can give through philanthropy," Patrick added. "Additionally, [we are] advocating at all government levels for them to seek out areas within their own budgets to be able to fund needs which are identified by the community."

Patrick was instrumental in creating this program. "I was able to support the team to adjust their initial overall design and create elements that helped fit everything together - not just through the initial concept, but looking forward to how we're going to manage all these pieces together," he explained.

His secret to success? "We're not just contracting officers, we're business advisers," Patrick shared. "I am not an expert in Democracy and Governance, health or infrastructure. All of these [are] areas where I've worked. So I don't try to get into the technical nuances of what makes a good health program or such.

"We know we'll need to pivot, to change, so building into the actual instruments certain flexibilities so we can maneuver and adapt is super important."

- Patrick Robison  
Director of the Office of Acquisition and Assistance, USAID/Bosnia and Herzegovina

But what I do know is business processes which brings value to whatever design I'm working on."

As such, Patrick suggested that the Mission build in flexibility to the awards. "We know we'll need to pivot, to change, so building into the actual instruments certain flexibilities so we can maneuver and adapt is super important."

USAID/Bosnia and Herzegovina is part of the [Local Works](#) program. The Local, Faith, and Transformative Partnerships Hub recognizes individuals from the USAID Local Works Missions for their exemplary work in advancing locally led development.



### SRI LANKA: SPICES AND SUSTAINABILITY

PHOTO CREDIT: FRONTIER CO-OP  
MEMBERS OF THE SPICE ASSOCIATION IN SRI LANKA PARTICIPATING IN A TRAINING ON GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

In Sri Lanka, a small farmer's association is producing high quality, organic spices. However, new food safety requirements in other countries have prevented the association's members from directly exporting their products. That's why [Frontier Co-op](#), a [Cooperative Development Program](#) (CDP) partner and longtime sourcing partner for the association, is investing in the capacity building, technical assistance, and food safety equipment the association needs to compete in the global spice market. Developing local expertise in food safety compliance is an important part of that process, so Frontier Co-op food safety specialists are currently training local farmers on Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) and Good Handling Practices (GHP), systems for food safety that are widely accepted in international markets, for cinnamon, clove, nutmeg and black pepper. Frontier Co-op and the association will also partner to establish a certified organic processing facility, so that the farmers' spices can be ground and sterilized in-house. Since both organizations are committed to environmental stewardship, the facility will utilize modern and energy-efficient equipment and have recycling and composting capabilities.

Once operational, the facility will create new employment opportunities which could benefit vulnerable residents in particular, including youth, women, and people living with disabilities. Through this partnership, the association will be more competitive in the global spice industry, while remaining committed to environmental sustainability and also improving the livelihoods of the 3,500 association members, their families and local community.

USAID supported this project through the [Cooperative Development Program](#).



PHOTO CREDIT: PROTOK21  
A MUSICIAN PERFORMS AS PART OF THE PROTOK21 STREET CAMPAIGN

Smederevo is a Serbian city best known for its steel plant and, sadly, pollution. But now, Smederevo's residents are taking action: more than 4,000 citizens have mobilized to measure air pollution. Protok21, a local civil society organization, has a petition to install a so-called "traffic light for air pollution" system which would publicly display air pollution levels, providing crucial information to citizens of Smederevo. Now, with support from the Center for Research, Transparency, and Accountability, a USAID partner, Protok21 is organizing an additional public awareness campaign featuring well-known actors, athletes, musicians, journalists, and more. The campaign, "We need to know," is using these public figures to raise awareness of the impacts of air pollution and is garnering support for the proposed system. Utilizing billboards, traditional media, outdoor public events, and other creative means of communication, the campaign has reached more than 600,000 people in Smederevo and beyond, helping to clear the haze of confusion around air pollution. Now, Protok21 is looking for funding for the proposed system.

USAID supported this project through [Local Works](#).



PHOTO CREDIT: PEACE CORPS/MEXICO  
MEMBERS OF THE PURISIMA DE ARISTA COMMUNITY PARTICIPATE IN A WATER MANAGEMENT TRAINING

With a broad array of plant and animal life, the [Sierra Gorda Biosphere Reserve](#) is not only one of the most beautiful, but also one of the most biodiverse regions in Mexico. Purisima de Arista is a small, rural community located within the reserve. Given their location and surroundings, the community was seeking to better understand climate change. By partnering with a Peace Corps Volunteer, the community was able to provide training sessions through schools, an important institution for adults and children alike in the community, while also taking steps to mitigate climate change, from planting trees to improving access to clean water. Now, teachers and community members have the training and tools they need to pass along a strong understanding of climate and environmental stewardship, ensuring Purisima de Arista can continue to enjoy their surroundings for years to come.

USAID supported this project through the [Small Project Assistance Program](#).



PHOTO CREDIT: USAID/GUATEMALA  
CAPTION

COVID-19 has impacted and even interrupted education around the world. In Guatemala, a new campaign is ensuring students can safely return to schools. Led by [FUNSEPA](#), a local Guatemalan non-profit, "Safe Return to School" is supporting schools with the tools they need to safely reopen, while also preventing the spread of COVID-19. This unique campaign is a partnership between USAID and the Government of Guatemala, and has also garnered support from the U.S. Department of Defense, the private sector, and more. The campaign's contributions are already evident, as more than half of the public primary schools in the country were able to safely reopen in the past month alone, ensuring students have a safe, healthy environment to continue their education.

USAID is supporting this project through [Unsolicited Solutions for Locally Led Development](#).



**Unsolicited Solutions for Locally Led Development (US4LLD):** Several changes have been made in order to meet increased demand, including:

- **Award limits:** To ensure fairness, the number of awards made with US4LLD funding is now limited to one per Mission per fiscal year, except when available resources support otherwise. Details are posted [online](#).
- **Funding cap:** The maximum funding will be reduced from \$2 million to \$500,000, except when available resources support otherwise. This will enable US4LLD to support a greater number of awards. Please note that this does not impact applications that were submitted prior to this change.
- **Updated concept form:** The concept form has been updated to provide more clarity around the principles of locally led development. [Learn more](#).



**New Partnerships Initiative (NPI): [Local Impact](#),** a joint initiative of the [Aga Khan Foundation](#) (AKF) and USAID under the [New Partners Initiative](#) (NPI), is an innovative framework using an intensive human centered design process to achieve meaningful, sustained impact across Asia and Africa that puts local communities at the center of development. USAID Offices and Missions interested in exploring new ways to design and implement solutions to persistent development challenges can execute Associate Awards without the need for additional competition through October 2024. Missions looking for more information can email Paul Hamlin at [pamlin@usaid.gov](mailto:pamlin@usaid.gov).



**Register for WorkwithUSAID.org's Partner Directory:** [WorkwithUSAID.org](#) is USAID's free platform designed to support organizations interested in working with the Agency. By registering on this website, current and prospective partners can access a variety of innovative services and curated resources created to improve organizational readiness, connect partners to peers and experts, and prepare to seek USAID funding. The Partner Directory is a searchable database of global organizations that will enhance the ability to network across the development community. To learn more, check out the [FAQ](#) or contact [IndustryLiaison@usaid.gov](mailto:IndustryLiaison@usaid.gov). Want to be one of the first organizations featured? [Register now](#).



**New Training from the New Partnerships Initiative (NPI):** [NPI](#) and the Partnerships Incubator have two recently refreshed training modules for new partners seeking to work with USAID:

- [Understanding USAID Awards](#) covers the types of awards the Agency uses and how they work, including how to determine which types of awards are the best fit for your organization.
- [Exploring USAID Funding Opportunities](#) is designed to help organizations navigate USAID information channels to research potential funding opportunities to partner with the Agency.
- Five updated modules will be released in April: Preparing Budgets for Acquisition Solicitations, Preparing Budgets for Assistance Applications, Effectively Responding to USAID Solicitations, Building Strong Sub-partnerships, and Preparing for your USAID Post-Award Conference. Stay tuned via the [training page!](#)



**Knowledge Management and Learning Specialist:** USAID/DDI/LFT is seeking a full time Locally Led Development Knowledge Management and Learning Specialist. Deadline to apply is May 6, 2021. [Learn more](#).



**USAID/Indonesia:** Through the Higher Education Partnership Initiative (HEPI), USAID/Indonesia is looking to engage locally based new and underutilized partners to expand and amplify USAID's work through and with higher education. Deadline to apply is May 24, 2021. [Learn more](#).

**USAID/Zimbabwe:** USAID/Zimbabwe is looking to engage the participation of people with disabilities in ongoing USAID programs/activities, and to strengthen the capacity and leadership of civil society organizations run by and for people with disabilities. Eligibility is restricted to Zimbabwean organizations. Deadline to apply is April 14, 2021. [Learn more](#).

**USAID/Malawi:** Through the [Higher Education for Leadership, Innovation,](#)

[and Exchange \(HELIX\)](#), USAID/Malawi is seeking to create new partnerships between Malawi and U.S. higher education institutions to advance STEM Education. Deadline to apply is April 26, 2021. [Learn more.](#)

**USAID/India:** Through Cleaner Air and Better Health (CABH), USAID/India is looking to strengthen air pollution mitigation and exposure reduction systems. Deadline to apply is September 30, 2021. [Learn more.](#)

**USAID/Bosnia and Herzegovina:** USAID/Bosnia and Herzegovina is seeking applications from qualified entities in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia to strengthen broad-based participation in community development and enhance the culture of local philanthropy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Deadline to apply is April 30, 2021. [Learn more.](#)

---

We want to hear from you! Share your thoughts and ideas for future stories:

[Content Submissions + Feedback](#)

---

Visit us online:



---

[Subscribe](#)