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

Locally Led Development Initiatives



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UGANDA: INCREASING ACCESS TO CARE THROUGH HEALTH COOPERATIVES

PHOTO CREDIT: HEALTHPARTNERS
MEMBERS AND LEADERS OF THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED HEALTH COOPERATIVE IN UGANDA'S EASTERN CORRIDOR

One community in Uganda's eastern corridor is no stranger to the cooperative business model. The area encompassing the Bukedi and Bugisu subregions, a coffee and rice growing hub, is home to a significant number of agricultural cooperatives. Members of these cooperatives are farmers who pool their risk and resources to overcome poor crop yields and market challenges. Some community members are also involved in savings and credit cooperatives to help improve their livelihoods and access to finance. Yet until now, they never had the opportunity to organize their community around a critical and often overlooked issue: health.

Through a partnership between USAID's [Cooperative Development Program](#) and [HealthPartners](#), the community established the region's first health cooperative. For six months, local stakeholders worked together to set up the cooperative's leadership structure, recruit members, collect shares and membership dues, and receive training from HealthPartners, to then officially register as a health cooperative in Uganda. Through the new cooperative, members are able to access quality health care at affordable rates - which is especially important given the COVID-19 pandemic. The benefits of health cooperative membership have already been amplified by the community. Within the first few months "all women in the cooperative were able to access cervical cancer screening for free," said one cooperative leader. Looking ahead, the cooperative is working to expand into other locations and increase their capital so that they can continue providing valuable services to their members.



BENIN: NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR

PHOTO CREDIT: PEACE CORPS
A COMMUNITY MEETING ABOUT THE COMMUNITY GROUP CARE APPROACH FOLLOWING THE TRAINING

In Benin, Peace Corps partners worked with community health workers to set up care groups. Care groups can play an important role in community health. In this model, health workers form groups of neighbors, in which they provide information, training, support, and more.

While Peace Corps Volunteers were evacuated in March of last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Peace Corps/Benin continues to partner with local health workers to meet community needs. With funding from the [Small Project Assistance Program](#), Peace Corps provided training to emerging community health leaders on care group roles and responsibilities, potential challenges and solutions, how to facilitate and motivate a care group, how to take a community census, and more. Key health topics included nutrition, sexual health, and family planning. During the session, health care workers also had the chance to practice their facilitation skills. They all walked away with an action plan to start and develop care groups in their communities.

One attendee is already putting the training into action: the week after, he held a meeting with community leaders and seven community health workers, in which he shared the care group approach and explained how this approach could help with dissemination of key health messages and lead to behavior change. Now, he is working with a women's savings association to move forward with forming a care group.

USAID supported this activity through the [Small Project Assistance Program](#) (SPA), a longstanding partnership with the Peace Corps.

MALAWI: COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR A HEALTHIER COMMUNITY

In Malawi, collective action is at the core of addressing some of the country's most pressing health challenges, including HIV, gender-based violence, and sexual and reproductive health rights. Currently, there is low treatment adherence for these issues, especially among young people, as well as a lack of accountability in health services provided.



PHOTO CREDIT: MANASO
A MOTHER LOOKING BACK AT HER CHILD

That's why the [Malawi Network of AIDS Service Organizations](#) (MANASO), with support from USAID's [Local Works](#) program, and the [President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief](#) (PEPFAR), engages individuals and communities for collective action.

For instance, MANASO and a team of local partners are using scorecards to engage community members directly in assessing priority issues and identifying barriers to the delivery of quality services.

Collectively, the communities can then hold local traditional authorities and public service providers accountable for acting on the findings and recommendations.

By supporting community engagement around health, this program is creating the structures and laying the groundwork for collective action around other issues in the future, too.



PAKISTAN: A PANDEMIC HOMETOWN HERO

PHOTO CREDIT: MUHAMMAD HAMZA KHAN
MUHAMMAD HAMZA KHAN, CO-FOUNDER OF AN NGO TO PROVIDE COVID-19 RELIEF IN KARACHI

Muhammad Hamza Khan, a student at Institute of Business Administration (IBA) in Karachi, Pakistan, has worked tirelessly to support his community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to volunteering at a field hospital, Hamza is the founder of [Aitebar Foundation](#), a non-governmental organization focused on promoting social welfare. During the pandemic, Aitebar has led soap distribution drives, and is now creating a [public directory for rations](#), ensuring people across Karachi can access reliable, responsible donations of food and supplies.

Khan is also a participant in USAID programming aimed at reducing the vulnerability of students to Violent Extremist (VE) narratives by strengthening student connections. Through this work, USAID is providing training on civic responsibility, confidence, and collaboration to help lay the foundation for community champions like Hamza to rise up and lead their communities.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



In Case You Missed It (ICYMI): Connect with the [Local, Faith, and Transformative Partnerships Hub](#) on Twitter for program updates, funding opportunities, and more. [Follow us on Twitter.](#)



Saving Mothers, Giving Life: This innovative, public-private partnership with both USAID and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Uganda and Zambia highlights the benefits of taking a systems approach to health. Read more about it [here](#) and [here](#).



USAID/Guatemala: Through [Local Works](#), USAID/Guatemala is seeking concepts from eligible local organizations that strengthen youth and indigenous peoples' participation at the community, municipal, regional, and national levels. Deadline to apply is July 28, 2021. See Addendum 9 under "Related Documents" [here](#).



July 22 - Local Capacity Development & Global Health Webinar Series: This latest event in the series will focus on transition awards. Staff from USAID, implementing partners, and local organizations will share guidance and lessons learned in designing, implementing, and managing USAID Transition Awards. [Register here.](#)

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