



**USAID**  
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# OFFICE OF LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Journey to Self-Reliance Begins with Locally Led Development



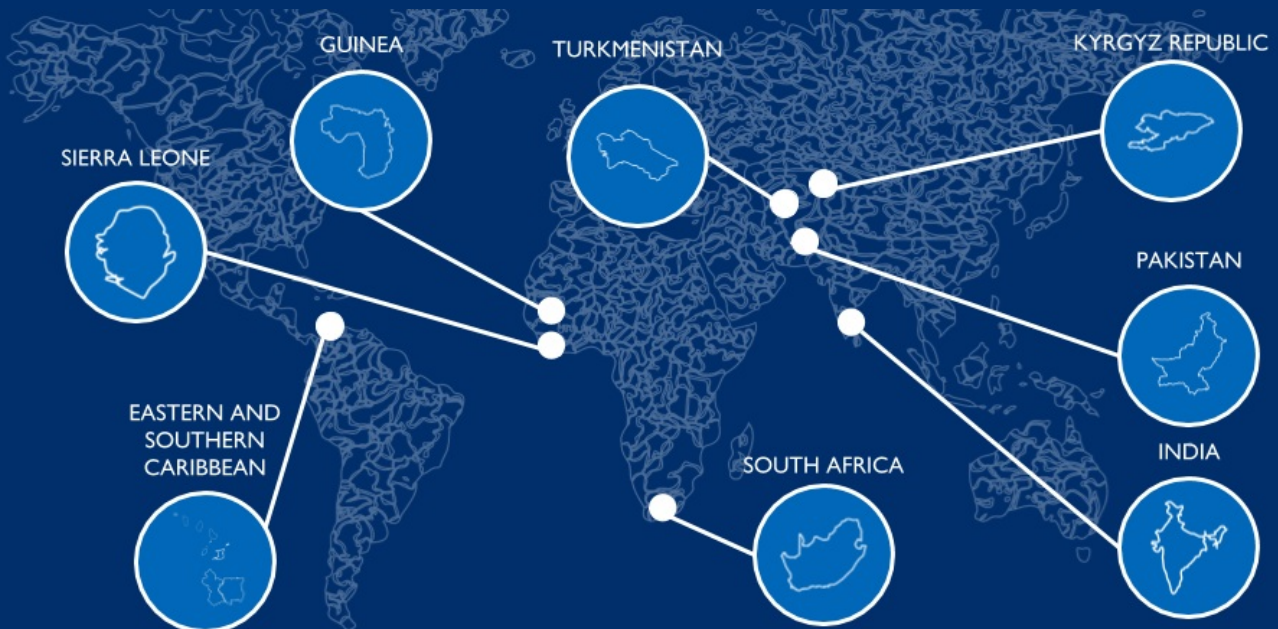
LOCAL WORKS PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

PHOTO CREDIT: FLAVIO BORGES, USAID/TIMOR-LESTE

USAID/TIMOR-LESTE LOCAL WORKS TEAM INTERVIEWING YOUTH ON THE STREET IN THE LIQUICA MUNICIPALITY

August 2020

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**LOCAL WORKS: ANNOUNCING THE NEW 2020 MISSIONS**

As USAID's flagship locally led development programming, [Local Works](#) provides five-year discretionary funding to USAID Missions that are awarded through an annual competition. This year, the [Office of Local Sustainability](#) selected eight Missions to join the program:

- **USAID/Eastern and Southern Caribbean** will work to improve the development of underserved communities by implementing citizen-led approaches that address the communities' needs, identifying gaps in resources, and clearly outlining priorities for development.
- **USAID/Guinea** will bring together a coalition of local actors to manage a training, apprenticeship, and grants program to support young entrepreneurs as they establish new businesses that will improve local food security.
- **USAID/India** will work to educate, advocate, and engage networks of local champions and organizations dedicated to improving air quality into a cohesive, strategic, and action-oriented movement to reduce air pollution in up to four cities in India.
- **USAID/Kyrgyz Republic** will improve the health of rural Kyrgystanis by empowering local communities to play an essential role in determining the services they need, while strengthening the government's ability to provide responsive and effective social and behavior change communication and health services to its citizens.
- **USAID/Pakistan** will pilot locally led approaches to enhance community cohesion and mitigate social intolerance to counter violent extremism in Pakistan.
- **USAID/Sierra Leone** will source locally led solutions to reduce the prevalence of female genital mutilation (FGM) while maintaining cultural integrity by partnering with local organizations to identify the drivers of FGM across the country, and piloting locally led interventions to reduce its prevalence.
- **USAID/South Africa** will facilitate improvements in collaborative planning, community engagement, local ownership, and trauma-informed approaches to deepen and sustain the impact of private sector investments in renewable energy companies. USAID will elevate the role of communities from beneficiaries to crucial stakeholders and ensure that the private sector and the government treat them as such.
- **USAID/Turkmenistan** will work to improve its livestock sector by applying locally driven, market-oriented, and affordable solutions to increase income for farmers, service providers, and entrepreneurs.



## UKRAINE: LEADING WITH LOCAL OWNERSHIP DURING COVID-19

PHOTO CREDIT: EUHEN MATVEENKO, SMILA PROGRESSIVE YOUTH  
THE SMILA YOUTH VOLUNTEERS WITH THEIR MENTORS AND A PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEER IN THE NEW YOUTH CENTER SPACE

Smila is a mid-sized town in central Ukraine with a sizable youth population. Pre-pandemic, the Smila Town Center for Social Services, a civil society organization called Progressive Youth+, and a Peace Corps Volunteer (PCV) collaborated to support a group of young Smila residents who had been meeting sporadically with limited access to space. Through the [Small Project Assistance Program](#) (SPA), “Progressive Youth” secured meeting space, training from USAID and the Peace Corps, and more.

As the pandemic and the evacuation of PCVs impacted SPA activities, the local champions forged ahead: youth mentors continued to engage community volunteers virtually through [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Once quarantine restrictions were eased, they resumed in-person operations and even secured local funding sources to revamp the youth space. The Progressive Youth have been so successful that last month, it was profiled by a local TV station, Smila TV, in a [10-minute segment](#) highlighting the organization's hard work and vision for marginalized youth in Smila.



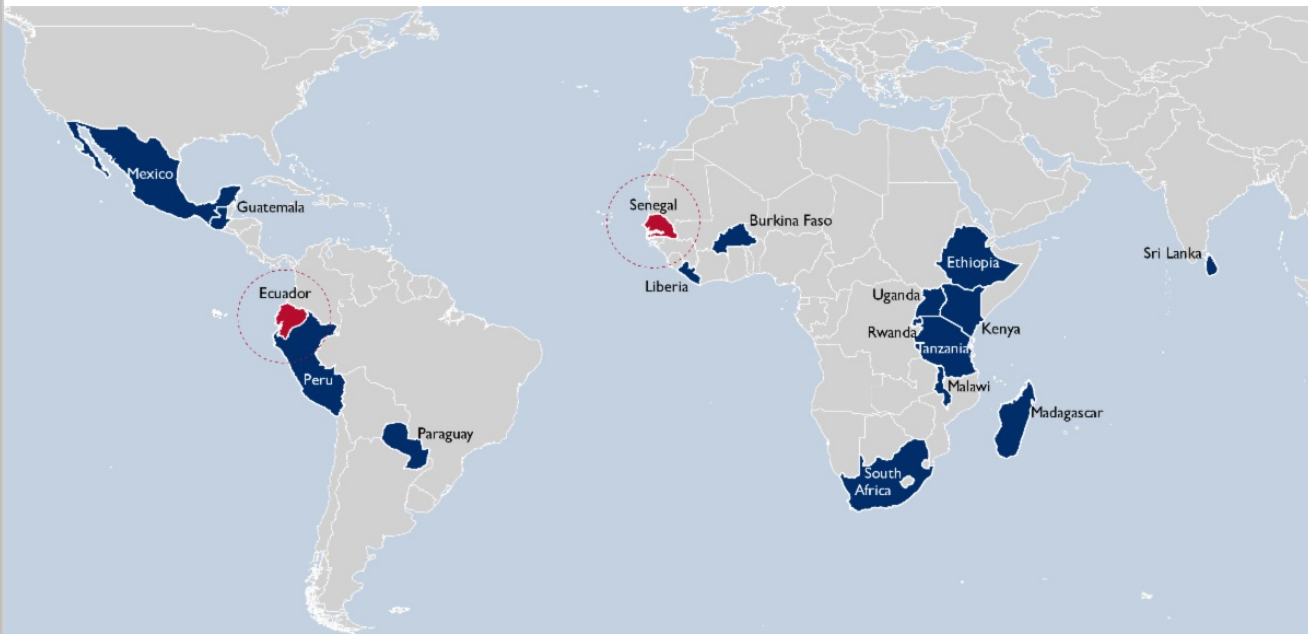
## KENYA: SUPPORTING NATIONAL AND LOCAL RESPONSES TO COVID-19

PHOTO CREDIT: COOPERATIVE CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE COMMITTEE

A MAN AT THE LELCHEGO SAVINGS AND CREDIT CO-OP SETS UP A HAND-WASHING STATION

In Kenya, cooperatives are a force! It is estimated that [approximately 80% of the population](#) derives its income either directly or indirectly from cooperative businesses. Through USAID's [Cooperative Development Program](#) (CDP), the [National Cooperative Business Association](#) (NCBA CLUSA), the [World Council of Credit Unions](#) (WOCCU), and non-governmental organization (NGO) [Global Communities](#) are working together to boost the country's response to COVID-19. At the national level, these partners are supporting the critical work of the Kenyan government by using cooperative networks to track and distribute key information on COVID-19. At the regional and local level, CDP is supporting a local dairy cooperative in Nandi County with its COVID-19 response. Six female cooperative members are taking the lead by educating children on symptoms, proper handwashing, and social distancing. These women also created a communications platform to disseminate information from the Ministry of Health and provide COVID-19-specific financial advice to borrowers from an affiliated savings and credit cooperative.

[Read more](#) about how the Kenyan cooperative sector is responding to COVID-19.



# ECUADOR AND SENEGAL: EXPANDING USAID SUPPORT FOR COOPERATIVES AND CREDIT UNIONS

GRAPHIC CREDIT: COLLEEN BRADY, THE OFFICE OF LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY, USAID

A MAP GRAPHIC HIGHLIGHTING THE 17 CDP COUNTRIES, WITH THE TWO NEW COUNTRIES (ECUADOR AND SENEGAL) FEATURED IN RED

The [Office of Local Sustainability's CDP](#) is expanding its activities into Ecuador and Senegal this year, bringing the total number of CDP countries to 17! In Ecuador, implementing partner [NCBA CLUSA](#) will assess the country's cooperative law and regulation and make policy recommendations for a more favorable environment for cooperatives and credit unions.

In Senegal, implementing partner [WOCU](#) will strengthen a regional association of credit unions to provide improved financial products to small and medium enterprises.

[Learn more](#) about the CDP's presence and programming.

## Announcements



**World Day of Indigenous Peoples:** In honor of the World Day of Indigenous Peoples (August 9), this new video from USAID/Paraguay shows how USAID supports locally owned, sustainable development by engaging with Indigenous communities. [Check it out.](#)



**Addressing Gender-Based Violence during COVID-19:** [Cooperative Development Program](#) (CDP) implementing partner [Land O'Lakes Venture37](#) shares its approach to gender-based violence work across eastern and southern Africa amid COVID-19 in a three-part blog series. Read the [first](#) and [second](#) posts.

### **Randomized, Controlled Trials (RCTs) and Locally Led**

**Development:** How can development practitioners best use evidence to inform policies and programs that advance locally led development? Read this interview with 2019 Jefferson Science Fellow Paul Vincelli, who served as a Senior Science Advisor to the [Office of Local Sustainability](#), to learn more. [Check it out.](#)

**COVID-19 and Generosity:** CivSource Africa and the Global Fund for Community Foundations look at giving during the COVID-19 lockdown in Uganda. The organizations are looking to capture and recognize this community-centered giving while also examining the broader environment for philanthropy. [Check it out.](#)

**COVID-19 and Local Humanitarian Action:** This briefing note from the Overseas Development Institute examines the shift and potential long-term

effects of the pandemic on locally led development. [Check it out.](#)

**Four Global Lessons From Locally Driven Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Efforts:** From centering local voices to valuing lived experience, this article in the Stanford Social Innovation Review shares helpful insights for locally led DEI work. [Check it out.](#)

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**Advancing Women's Economic Opportunity through Member-Owned Enterprises:** The [Office of Local Sustainability](#) and the [Office of Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment](#) hosted a webinar on the cooperative sector's contributions to women's economic empowerment. Panelists shared insights from studies and interventions conducted across Africa, Asia and Latin America. [Watch the webinar recording.](#)

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**Facilitating Financial Sustainability (FFS):** FFS, a former [Office of Local Sustainability co-created research initiative](#) implemented by [LINC](#), [Peace Direct](#), and [Candid](#), produced an action learning brief with concrete recommendations to support international donors and local organizations alike in establishing Action Learning Groups to improve the financial sustainability of local civil society organizations. [Check it out.](#)

**How To Foster Local Ownership for Improved Development Results:** How can we use our roles to intentionally and systematically foster local engagement and ownership? A review of the evidence on collaborating, learning, and adapting (CLA) and local ownership offers some answers. [Check it out.](#)

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**Communities Leading COVID-19 Response and Oxygen Ecosystem:** USAID's Bureau for Global Health is seeking concept papers that will build upon and expand USAID's efforts to better connect communities and health systems as part of the COVID-19 response - and in strengthening and adapting existing health systems for COVID-19 preparedness and response. Closing date is August 24, 2020. [Learn more.](#)

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[Content Submissions + Feedback](#)

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