



OFFICE OF LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Leading USAID's locally led development efforts

July 2019



Serbia: Local Works Program Hosts Fresh Air Market

In order to raise awareness of air pollution in Smederevo, Serbia, a local civic group organized a "Fresh Air Market" through the [Local Works](#) Program. The city, near Belgrade, has one of the highest levels of air pollution in the country. At the market, citizens of Smederevo received a jar of 100 percent fresh air to keep on hand for the winter season when air pollution is at its peak. This initiative is one of many supported through the Local

Engagement and Asset Development Activity, implemented by the [National Coalition for Decentralization](#). The coalition works to empower local actors to take the lead in addressing issues of community concern.



Macedonia: USAID-Peace Corps Partnership Plants More than 1,800 Seedlings

Through USAID's [Small Project Assistance](#) (SPA) Program, a Peace Corps Volunteer, a community counterpart, and group of forward-thinking farmers in Macedonia converted abandoned land into a higher-yielding, lower-maintenance fruit and nut tree orchard. SPA funded the cost of additional seedlings, soil tests and improvements, and improved village composting.

The project constructed 15 covered composting piles. Twenty farms planted approximately 400 macadamia seedlings and 200 avocado seedlings. The partners planted more than 1,200 seedlings of various fodder tree species for soil improvement and animal feed. The project introduced the concept of cover cropping and planted two new varieties of cover crops. For the first time, the community had soil samples analyzed and learned to adjust soil conditions. Although it will be several years before the trees are productive, the project is already a tremendous benefit to the community.



Rwanda: Improving Gender Equality in Agricultural Cooperatives

Land O'Lakes, an implementing partner for USAID's [Cooperative Development Program](#) (CDP), recently completed a [gender assessment](#) in Rwanda. Land O'Lakes explored perceptions, access, responsibilities, and mindsets among agricultural cooperative members and leaders. The gender assessment determined that both men and women reported low self-confidence among women. Despite this, women feel more empowered as part of their cooperatives than they do in their own homes. Though they have a seat at the table, there are still underlying social and cultural norms and mindsets that inhibit their engagement.

Based on the findings, Land O'Lakes will tailor its future trainings to include topics like self-worth and gender-based violence. The organization will promote gender champions and safe spaces - and activities which allow men and women to trade places to learn more about household and agricultural daily tasks.

Co-Created Research Initiatives Examine Financing Self-Reliance & Transitioning Aid to Local Entities

The Facilitating Financial Sustainability consortium, one of E3/LS' [co-created research initiatives](#), recently published a blog post outlining several key findings from its research on local financial sustainability related to [the role of local philanthropy in financing self-reliance](#).

Also, at the Interaction Forum in Washington, D.C., in June, the [Stopping As Success \(SAS\)](#) consortium joined World Vision, Plan International USA, and E3/LS to discuss system-wide questions about local leadership. SAS shared insights and examples drawn from 20 positive deviance case studies of international non-governmental organization (INGOs) transitions conducted in 13 countries. It also highlighted that transitioning to local entities can be effective for local leadership - and that INGOs have an active role to play in shifting the power in the current aid system.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

From the Field

- USAID/Vietnam's Clean Air Green Cities [Local Works](#) activity is implemented by a local organization, Live & Learn. In June, Live & Learn, in partnership with Hanoi's Department of Natural Resources and Environment, the Hoan Kiem district People's Committee, and other Government of Vietnam agencies, organized a "Clean Air Green Hanoi" festival, with 33 businesses and environmental groups participating and 3,000 attendees. Through educational games, exhibitions, and street music performances, the event increased the public's knowledge about air pollution and existing solutions, including Citizen Science air monitoring, green transportation, clean energy, and zero waste practices.
- E3/LS staff traveled to Vietnam in May and provided virtual support in June to support the Mission in co-creating an award with a local [backbone](#) organization to reduce air pollution through [collective impact](#).
- Funded by E3/LS, [Local Works](#) World Connect provided \$3,600 to We Rise to support women entrepreneurs in Malawi. We Rise established an entrepreneurship hub to train 50 women survivors of gender-based violence in tailoring, fashion design, and carpet making. The women are planning to launch businesses to generate income and gain economic independence. Many of them will return to the hub to train more women in the future. Many We Rise leaders also completed the U.S. Department of State's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Mandela Washington Fellowship.
- USAID/Dominican Republic had an amazing cross-border collaboration trip to visit [Local Works](#) sites with USAID/Haiti that included both Mission Directors, staff, implementing partners, the private sector, and Government of Dominican Republic counterparts. The trip led to several ideas for joint initiatives along the border, such as joint Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) initiatives, conflict resolution, small grants to community groups, and private sector engagement. The second bi-national meeting is scheduled in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, this month.
- In June, [LINC](#), an E3/LS [co-created research initiative](#) partner, led a virtual Social Network Analysis (SNA) visualization workshop for local Filipino partners and USAID/Philippines staff. The partners are assisting with an SNA of water service providers in the Municipality of Tublay. LINC uploaded survey data collected by local

partners into [Kumu](#), a network visualization platform, and guided participants through an initial analysis. A version of the presentation (with names removed to protect privacy) can be found [here](#). A full analysis of collaboration among water service providers in Tublay, including results of the SNA, is forthcoming.

- USAID and Bangladesh deepened their partnership to end Tuberculosis (TB). Bangladesh is one of the highest TB burden countries in the world and one of the 20 priority countries for USAID's new model of partnership called the "Global Accelerator to End TB." Bangladesh's Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and USAID signed a new Statement of Partnership establishing a framework to reduce the incidence of TB by 2022 through increasing case detection and treatment of all forms of TB.

Locally Led Development Opportunities

- As reported last month, E3/LS issued the "[New Directions in Advancing Locally Led Development](#)" Addendum to its Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for Locally Led Development Innovation. The Office is seeking short Expressions of Interest on the following topics related to locally led development:
 - Engaging the Local Private Sector
 - Conflict, Post-Conflict, and Non-Permissive Environments
 - Effective Partnerships
 - The Changing Role of the Donor
 - Local Giving, Philanthropy, and Other Private Resource

Expressions of Interest are due to LLD-BAA@usaid.gov no later than 11:59pm EDT this Friday, July 12, 2019.

- USAID/Serbia has issued "Innovation Driven Development in Serbia," an Addendum to E3/LS' BAA for Locally Led Development Innovation. The Addendum seeks Expressions of Interest on game-changing solutions to advance innovation-driven/knowledge-based development - and to improve the overall environment for innovation-driven development in Serbia. Expressions of Interest are due August 16, 2019, 17:00 Serbia local time. Find the Addendum under "Related Documents" [here](#).
- This month's issue of the *Cooperative Business Journal* highlights the E3/LS [Cooperative Development Program](#) (CDP). Read about the partnership to improve dairy production in Rwanda and CDP's global impact over the past 15 years.
- E3/LS staff participated in the [2019 Moving the Needle Conference](#) with USAID's Learning Lab. Participants engaged in discussions on collaboration, learning, and adapting (CLA), and led sessions focused on strengthening locally led development. These included: "Oh, The Places We'll Go: Reimagining What Local Partnerships Look Like," "Engaging, Discovering, and Adapting to Local Systems," and "How CLA Supports Risk-Taking in an Uncertain World."

Staffing

- E3/LS is excited to welcome several new staffers:
 - Whitney Stockwell, Mission Support Program Analyst
 - Colleen Brady, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Specialist

- Lora Wentzel, Expanding Monitoring and Evaluation Capacities (MECap) Fellow
- Kristina Evans, Program Assistant

SAVE THE DATE

October

14-15

2019 Cracking the Nut Conference: October 14-15, 2019, Dakar, Senegal



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**For internal USAID staff*



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