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Long-term Assistance and Services for Research Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine (LASER PULSE)



The Long-term Assistance and Services for Research (LASER) Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine (PULSE) program hosts a global network of researchers at higher education institutions and development practitioners from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. This dynamic network collaborates on research-based solutions to critical development challenges in USAID partner countries.

CORE COMPONENTS

Capacity Strengthening

By working directly with research teams and development actors, LASER strengthens and sustains their capacity to conduct development research and research translation, contributing to the long-term impact of the research project.

Funding for Research

LASER PULSE funds research in two ways:

1. Buy-in funding: Working with USAID Missions/Bureaus/Independent Offices (M/B/IOs) to refine development challenges and assemble, fund, and support research teams from its network to carry out the research project.
2. Core funding: Issuing Requests for Application based on identified research needs and makes awards that bring together collaborative teams of researchers and practitioners to carry out research in USAID partner countries for 1-2 years. The intention is that this work will lead to changes in practice or policy and address important global development challenges.

Gender Integration


LASER funds research that integrates gender considerations to address inequalities that are barriers to international development and human rights.

Embedded Research Translation

LASER encourages academics, practitioners, and other stakeholders to work together in an iterative co-design process where research is purposefully applied to a development problem.

Innovation, Technology, & Research Hub

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AREAS OF WORK



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LASER PULSE ASSISTANCE INCLUDES:

- Help USAID and others identify and refine research needs.
- Co-create and implement research activities.
- Research design, primary data collection, and analysis.
- Produce technical reports for wide dissemination.
- Translate research findings into policy and program relevant recommendations.
- Conduct academic-style program evaluation (hypothesis-driven evaluation question).
- Foster sustained research partnerships with USAID M/B/IOs, host-country universities, governments, or other organizations.

THE NETWORK

Purdue University leads the LASER PULSE consortium in establishing a dynamic, open network of university-based researchers across the countries and technical sectors in which USAID works. The Consortium's network is comprised of more than 3,200 researchers from 86 countries.

LASER PULSE will run for ten years, from 2018-2028 and the network of universities will continue to grow and expand throughout this period of time.

THE CONSORTIUM

The LASER PULSE consortium harnesses the collective research and engagement power of Purdue University (US) with international development and academic expertise of their non-governmental organization and academic partners. In addition to Purdue, the LASER PULSE consortium includes:

- Catholic Relief Services (US)
- Indiana University (US)
- Makerere University (Uganda)
- University of Notre Dame (US)