

USAID's Approach to Measuring Locally Led Development

USAID knows that the ability to exercise meaningful influence over decision-making in one's own organization or community is foundational to locally led development, and that results are more likely to be sustained when local actors lead, resource, and experience genuine ownership over development efforts. USAID is committed to engaging local partners, communities, and change agents across its programs and in a wide range of relationships, including as direct recipients of USAID funding, sub-partners or participants in a USAID program, or members of a community affected by USAID programming.







USAID developed the Locally Led Programs indicator to hold ourselves to account for working in ways that elevate local leadership and to spark additional conversation about how we can do so. The Locally Led Programs indicator is reported alongside the Direct Local Funding indicator, which measures the percentage of acquisition and assistance funding that goes directly to local partners in a given fiscal year. Taken together the two metrics track USAID's progress on localization. Find out more about how [USAID measures progress on localization at our website](#).



The Locally Led Programs indicator measures the percentage of active USAID-funded development and humanitarian programs that demonstrate the use of at least two good practices for local leadership across at least two categories in a given fiscal year. The modular nature of the indicator provides a broad menu of options to guide and inspire USAID staff to promote local leadership and elevate local voices across all types of programming and contexts.

The indicator was developed based on wide consultations with stakeholders from more than 300 organizations from nearly 50 countries, and spanning all sectors and geographic regions in which USAID works. This included community-based organizations, current and former USAID local partners, US-based and international partners, USAID staff, and advocacy networks focused on advancing locally led development. This [Learning Lab blog post: What does it mean for USAID programs to be locally led? We asked](#) shares more details about the consultation and indicator development process.

Good Practices for Local Leadership

	Category	Good Practices for Local Leadership
	Working Directly with Partners	1. Partnering directly with local or regional partners
	Creating Effective Local Partnerships	2. Co-creating with local or regional partners 3. Making descriptive, not prescriptive awards to local and/or regional partners 4. Helping local and regional partners achieve full cost recovery
	Recognizing, Leveraging, Strengthening Local Capacity	5. Using demand driven capacity strengthening approaches 6. Advancing local and regional actors' readiness to work directly with USAID 7. Measuring programmatic success using locally defined measures 8. Making local subawards and subcontracts 9. Including the transition award process in prime assistance awards 10. Conducting evaluations with local experts
	Engaging Communities Directly	11. Conducting listening tours to inform activity design 12. Co-creating with stakeholders, including local communities 13. Institutionalizing feedback and accountability with local communities 14. Implementing participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning