



HIGHER EDUCATION SOLUTIONS NETWORK 2.0

Working closely with universities, scientists and development actors from around the world, the Higher Education Solutions Network 2.0 enhances USAID’s mission through convening, researching, testing and translating solutions to development challenges.

HESN 2.0 will leverage a vast network of higher education institutions, local stakeholders, private enterprise, and other development actors to increase the use of scientific research for development, refine and translate complex data, build local scientific potential, and test new and innovative development approaches. HESN 2.0 will also provide a platform for USAID to co-create with multiple stakeholders to address critical development challenges and inform future policies and programs.

HESN 2.0 is a portfolio of two flagship programs and three additional programs which launched in 2018. The flagship programs are **Higher Education Solutions Network** and the **Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER)**. Under the HESN 2.0 portfolio the array of partners developed under PEER and the original HESN program will be augmented by the **Long-term Assistance and Services for Research (LASER)** network, a myriad of technical experts organized by the **Research Technical Assistance Center (RTAC)**, and an open source platform, the **Science, Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships Annual Program Statement (STIP APS)**. This expanded global network of development actors, platforms and programs will allow USAID to source, convene, fund and translate research in new and impactful ways. HESN 2.0’s design allows the entire development system, from researchers, to innovators, to partners, policy makers and end-users to be engaged and educated, thus contributing to more sustainable development outcomes.

NEW PROGRAMS UNDER HESN 2.0:

LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES FOR RESEARCH (LASER)

LASER is an international network that provides long-term technical assistance and research to help solve pressing development challenges. USAID seeks to leverage and support international university networks, inclusive of universities from both the United States (U.S.) and lower-middle income countries (LMIC), to improve development research opportunities, evidence generation, and uptake by development actors and policy makers. The network will identify new research questions, fund research activities, translate research results into development impact, and build capacity of local higher education institutions and researchers.

RESEARCH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER (RTAC)

RTAC provides rapid research-based technical assistance that facilitates USAID's capability to make quick, evidence-based programming decisions by leveraging the technical and research expertise of the Higher Education community. Potential activities include: creation of evidence-to action policy briefs, technical reports, strategic research agenda and research activity consultations, coordination of university-based researchers for experts panels or convening, sector-focused training, and other short-term technical assistance.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION, AND PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL PROGRAM STATEMENT (STIP APS)

The STIP APS will draw on the strengths of the global academic community and facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration to solve high-priority development challenges through innovative tools and approaches. The STIP APS provides a flexible mechanism for USAID Missions to tap-into and to collaborate with the global academic community and other key stakeholders to:

- Generate targeted evidence and solutions around complex development challenges by supporting interdisciplinary partnerships.
- Accelerate the translation of evidence to impact by facilitating coloration between universities, implementers, local governments, and other stakeholders.
- Strengthen global innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems to support long-lasting development impact through individual and institutional capacity building.

USAID Missions, Bureaus, and Independent Offices may publish specific requests for applications in the form of Addenda to the umbrella STIP APS. Current Addenda and further information regarding submitting an Addendum can be found on our website.

To learn more about HESN 2.0, please contact CDRFeedback@usaid.gov.