

Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER)

PEER is an international grants program that funds scientists and engineers in developing countries who partner with U.S. government-funded researchers to address global development challenges. PEER partnerships leverage major investments made by U.S. government science agencies in research to improve development outcomes in USAID-presence countries.

PEER not only catalyzes collaborative research and elevates the use of science and technology to further USAID's development objectives, but also establishes long-lasting research relationships that build scientific research capacity, strengthen the research ecosystem in developing countries, and enable collaborators to become better partners in development. Since PEER's launch in 2011, it has supported more than **160 projects** in **over 40 countries** with an investment of about **\$28 million**.



PEER Partner Agencies

The PEER program is designed to leverage federal science agency funding from NASA, NIH, NSF, Smithsonian Institution, USDA, and USGS by directly supporting developing country scientists who work in partnership with current or new colleagues supported by these U.S. government agencies. Technical areas include water resource management, climate change, biodiversity, agriculture, energy, disaster mitigation, nutrition, maternal and child health, and infectious diseases.

PEER Success Stories

Climate Change: In Southeast Asia, a multi-country team of researchers is examining the interactions between pollutants and ground-level climate to develop emissions models for predicting air quality scenarios. Using climate and air quality data, the researchers have successfully engaged with lawmakers from Vietnam, Thailand, and Indonesia to inform policies that reduce emissions and promote a strong regional climate research network.

Education: In Morocco, most hearing-impaired people suffer from impeded access to education. Researchers have aided this neglected community by developing a novel computer-based instructional tool that translates Modern Standard Arabic into Moroccan Sign Language in real time. In addition to empowering the hearing-impaired, this research has caught the attention of the Moroccan government, and schools throughout Morocco are adopting the translation tool.

Biodiversity: In Indonesia, where overfishing can have significant impact on the local economy and food supply, genetics researchers are using DNA-barcoding technology to develop cheap and fast methods to identify tuna and sharks. Their techniques are enabling scientists to recommend more effective conservation strategies. Accordingly, they are helping the Indonesian government regulate the fishing industry and protect endangered species and marine ecosystems.

Drug Safety: In Indonesia, regulating the quality and concentration of drugs that health workers give to patients can be a major challenge. To combat these problems, researchers have developed PharmaCheck, an affordable tool that can ensure drug quality and safeguard against counterfeit and mis-dosed drugs.

Mother-to-Child HIV transmission: In Malawi, HIV is one of the leading causes of mortality in children under the age of five, and is usually transmitted to the child from the mother. Option B+ is a promising antiretroviral treatment that is administered to pregnant mothers and then their children soon after birth, but the widespread effect of the treatment had been unmeasured. Researchers in Malawi are working to integrate a vast, decentralized health registry, evaluate the effectiveness of Option B+, and inform the public of the results of their work.

PEER Eligible Countries

ASIA

Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Bhutan**
Burma
Cambodia
India
Indonesia
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Maldives*
Mongolia
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Sri Lanka
Tajikistan
Thailand
Timor-Leste
Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan
Vietnam

EUROPE AND EURASIA

Albania
Armenia
Azerbaijan
Belarus
Bosnia and Herzegovina
Georgia
Kosovo
Macedonia
Moldova
Serbia
Ukraine

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Angola
Benin
Botswana**
Cameroon
Democratic Republic of Congo
Ethiopia
Gabon
Ghana
Guinea
Kenya
Liberia
Malawi
Mali
Mozambique
Namibia
Niger**
Nigeria
Rwanda
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Somalia
South Africa
South Sudan
Swaziland**
Sudan
Tanzania
Uganda
Zambia

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Antigua and Barbuda
Brazil
Colombia
Dominica
Dominican Republic
El Salvador
Grenada
Guatemala
Guyana
Haiti
Honduras
Jamaica
Mexico
Nicaragua
Paraguay
Peru
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines

MIDDLE EAST

Egypt
Iraq
Jordan
Lebanon
Libya
Morocco
Tunisia
West Bank/Gaza
Yemen

*Applicants from the Maldives are only eligible to submit proposals under the special topical focus area on Maldives Climate Change Adaptation and not on any other topics.

**Applicants from Bhutan, Botswana, Niger, and Swaziland are only eligible to submit proposals under the SERVIR focus area and not on any other topics.