



Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) Fact Sheet for USAID Missions and Bureaus

USAID has created the [PEER Science and PEER Health](#) international grants programs to bring U.S. researchers, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and National Institutes of Health (NIH) together with scientists and engineers in developing countries to address global development challenges. NSF and NIH, among other U.S. government agencies, make major investments in research that can improve development outcomes in USAID-presence countries. The PEER program was designed to leverage NSF and NIH funding by directly supporting developing country scientists working with current or new colleagues supported by these agencies. Together these scientists will conduct research that contributes to the development objectives of USAID Missions and Bureaus.



PEER was designed to assist Missions in elevating their use of science and technology to address local and global development challenges, one of the pillars of the Administrator's USAID Forward agenda. Not only does PEER support research relevant to USAID's development objectives, it establishes long-lasting research relationships that build capacity and enable collaborators to become better partners in development.

PEER's impact on development programs and policies:

In less than one year, the Cycle I PEER Science projects have achieved the following:

- **Indonesia:** Improving the resilience of Indonesia's reefs and associated habitats to climate stress by quantifying the efficacy of marine protected areas in reducing coral disease outbreaks. This work is linked to the Coral Reef Rehabilitation and Management Program (COREMAP) that was initiated by the government of Indonesia and funded by the World Bank to develop community-based marine protected areas.
- **Mongolia:** Measuring air pollution in Ulanbataar to assess impact of climate change mitigation efforts. Expanding public awareness and involvement in Ulaanbaatar on air quality data. The work has been featured in international and local media such as the UB Post, National Geographic-Mongolia, Bloomberg Mongolia, and Huffington Post.
- **Ethiopia:** Developing appropriate watershed and farmer-based erosion control practices for the Ethiopian highlands through a new PhD program in hydrology at in the School of Civil and Water Resource Engineering at Bahir Dar University in Ethiopia. The international partnership will train future scientists and managers for managing the soil and water resources in Ethiopia.

The newly launched PEER Health program is focused on Child Health. In response to the Obama Administration's Call to Action on Child Survival, the PEER Health Program, is funding implementation research projects in countries in which 80% of the global child mortality resides. These

projects are filling critical knowledge gaps in diverse areas such as nutrition, HIV treatment follow-up, as well as Mission specific needs around TB and infectious diseases.

Missions and Bureaus can become involved in PEER Science or PEER Health in a number of ways:

- **Funding PEER at the Mission and Bureau Level**

Funding for first two rounds of PEER Science and the first round of PEER Health was provided largely by the Office of Science and Technology and the Global Health Bureau to support a broad range of competitively-selected research topics.

However, Missions and Bureaus may also contribute funds to award meritorious proposals from scientists involved in research relevant to their countries and/or disciplines of interest. For example, Missions in Indonesia, Lebanon, Brazil, and Philippines, have all supported PEER Science and/or PEER Health research projects in their country. Missions that provide funding will have those dedicated funds promoted in the PEER solicitation, and receive support in reviewing the applications, disbursing the funds and managing the grants. PEER offers a way for Missions to sustainably expand their use of science and technology in development by addressing the global challenges of today while also building local research capacity that will allow countries to develop their own ability to respond to major development challenges in the future.



- **Participating in the PEER Proposal Review Process**

During the proposal review process, all Missions are asked to identify proposals highly relevant to their development objectives and any that may involve a high political or security risk. The goal of receiving this feedback is to ensure that projects are not only selected for their strong science, but also for their usefulness to achieving the development goals of the USAID Mission and country. Mission feedback, along with panel recommendations and NSF and NIH award status, is strongly considered in final funding decisions for PEER.

- **Hosting an In-Country Workshop**

Missions interested in increasing the number and quality of PEER proposals submitted from their countries and/or region or providing additional capacity-building opportunities for researchers in their country can collaborate with the Office of Science and Technology to host a workshop. By bringing together local PEER awardees, prospective PEER applicants, implementing partners, USG agencies and researchers supported by these agencies, workshops are a great venue to share the Mission's development objectives, discuss the research and its implication on local or global development programs and policies, build capacity , and form new partnerships.

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For general information on the program, please visit www.nas.edu/peer.