



OFFICE OF LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Leading USAID's locally-led development efforts

December 2018

USAID/Armenia Announces Local Works Participation

USAID/Armenia received favorable feedback when news of its Local Works program was communicated to the Government of Armenia during the Mission Director's meeting with the First Deputy Prime Minister. USAID/Armenia's [Local Works program](#) will facilitate citizen-driven and locally-led development in communities that were recently consolidated during Armenia's Territorial Administration Reform.



Celebrating 35 Years of Locally-led Development

USAID and Peace Corps co-hosted [an event](#) on November 26 commemorating 35 years of the [Small Project Assistance Program \(SPA\)](#). This joint collaboration has supported more than 25,000 projects and 3,000 training activities in 116 countries during this time. USAID Counselor Chris Milligan, Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment (E3) Michelle Bekkering, and Peace Corps Director Jody Olsen spoke and ceremonially signed a new SPA agreement for continued USAID collaboration with Peace Corps. "I'm proud to count more than 400 Returned Peace Corps Volunteers among our staff," said the Counselor. "We are a better organization because of them!" To commemorate this milestone, the Peace Corps published two blogs: one featuring [six SPA projects](#) and another highlighting [SPA's sustainable impact](#). Take a look at USAID's [social media](#) channels for more stories from the event!



New Cooperative Law and Regulation Assessment Tool

Through the Office of Local Sustainability's (E3/LS) [Cooperative Development Program \(CDP\)](#), implementing partners have developed the [CLARITY cooperative law and regulation assessment tool](#). The project has more than 15 years of experience implementing and validating the CLARITY framework, which has been utilized by local governments, local cooperatives, donors, and implementing organizations to assess the regulations and identify areas for improvement. Under the CDP, local cooperatives address issues in the enabling environment in more than 15 countries. CDP has successfully helped reform law and regulation in ten of these countries to date.

Unconference Success

LINC and Root Change, two of E3/LS' [Co-Created Research Initiative](#) awardees, hosted a participant-led "Unconference" from November 19-20 to facilitate knowledge sharing, learning, and collaboration among Local Works' four research consortia. More than 40 participants representing 15 organizations in the Local Works ecosystem participated and discussed their active implementation and research of locally-led development activities, including topics such as aid exit strategies, systems and feedback tools, and civil society organization financial sustainability.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

Workshops

- E3/LS facilitated a [Broad Agency Announcement](#) co creation workshop in Jordan in November for USAID/Yemen to produce breakthrough development innovations by sourcing, testing, and scaling proven solutions to reach Yemenis most in need with interventions that will improve their short and long term health outcomes. For more on co creation and facilitation support, contact localsustainability@usaid.gov.
- Last month, [E3/LS](#) supported colleagues from USAID's Democracy, Rights and Governance Center and the Office for Learning, Evaluation, and Research to bring a unique workshop on Adaptive Management to USAID/Serbia. Bringing mission staff together with local and international implementing partners, this workshop integrated elements of thinking and working politically, collaborating, learning and adapting, and locally led development to enhance working processes and relationships within and among USAID programs.
- E3/LS' [CDP](#) facilitated an inter agency workshop on December 10 about the enabling environment for cooperative businesses. This half day exercise focused on cooperative law, regulation, sustainability, and relevant USAID created tools and resources. The event also promoted continued engagement and improved coordination among various JSG agencies and partners working with cooperative businesses abroad.

From the Field

- [E3/LS](#) staff traveled to Kampala, Uganda this month supporting USAID/Uganda as it launches its new [Local Works](#) program. Stay tuned for more on these activities.
- During the week of November 26, E3/LS supported the Local Works team at USAID/Honduras to conduct three workshops in San Pedro Sula, Tela, and La Ceiba with approximately 80 cross sector local stakeholders. Using a systems approach, the workshops identified opportunities for local actors to work together to reduce solid waste and create jobs as part of a forthcoming [Local Works](#) activity.
- With support from USAID's [Local Works](#), [World Connect](#) invited grant applications to advance locally led development in partnership with grassroots leaders and organizations in Malawi.

Relevant Blog Posts

- This [blog](#) from Equal Exchange explores how its partnership with cacao cooperatives in Peru and Dominican Republic, supported by E3/LS' [Cooperative Development Program](#), empowers local enterprises in the global marketplace through the democratization of pricing information.

SAVE THE DATE

December

19

International Cooperative Development Forum
9:00am 3:00pm RSVP at researchgroup@ocdc.coop



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