



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



OFFICE OF LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY

USAID’s Office of Local Sustainability (E3/LS) leads the Agency’s work on locally-led development. Its innovative and flexible programs strengthen the capacity of USAID missions to better serve and partner with local communities. As a result, USAID is able to help reduce dependence on foreign aid.

USAID strongly believes that partnering directly with local leaders, networks, and institutions better enables and empowers communities to respond to complex development challenges with smarter, more resilient, and home-grown solutions. E3/LS promotes locally-led development principles throughout the Agency’s programming, policies, and operations.

OUR WORK

E3/LS provides capacity, material support, and funding to U.S., international, and local organizations to help address complex development challenges. The office aligns its work with that of the entire Agency—and the broader development community—to promote flexible programming and operations that prioritize locally-led development. E3/LS’ client-centered approach equips missions with the knowledge, skills, tools, and resources to: leverage local capacities and resources; engage with local systems in ways that build upon and strengthen local leadership, capacity, and self-reliance; and be inclusive of marginalized populations.

PHOTO: DU AN RUNG VA DONG BANG

PROGRAMS

LOCAL WORKS

USAID's Local Works is a unique program designed to advance locally-owned development and enhance the Agency's ability to empower local actors to take the lead in identifying and addressing development challenges. Current Local Works missions include: Armenia, Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Macedonia, Malawi, Morocco, Philippines, Serbia, Uganda, Vietnam, and West Africa.

COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CDP)

USAID's Cooperative Development Program uses U.S. cooperatives and cooperative development expertise to advance locally-owned and led development objectives. Through CDP, cooperative development organization partners strengthen the capacity of local cooperatives and improve in-country enabling environments to help cooperative businesses meet the evolving needs of their members. CDP is currently working in agriculture, finance, health, energy, and information technology in Burkina Faso, Colombia, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Kenya, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mexico, Mongolia, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Uganda.

PEACE CORPS SMALL PROJECT ASSISTANCE (SPA) PROGRAM

The Small Project Assistance Program is a 35-year-old collaboration between USAID and Peace Corps to support local community development. SPA is driven by the two agencies' shared commitment to reaching motivated communities—especially those beyond the reach of traditional development organizations—with locally-driven, effective, sustainable interventions led by trained Peace Corps Volunteers living and working in hard-to-reach communities. SPA empowers local leaders to lead and own development solutions and processes. USAID and Peace Corps support community-level development projects in several sectors, including: health, education, agriculture, gender equality, and small enterprise development.

CO-CREATED RESEARCH INITIATIVES

USAID is investigating better ways of supporting locally-led development through four awards that it co-created with a range of development organizations. Partners are focusing on ways to strengthen networks of local actors, increase access to domestic resources, map local networks, understand constituent perspectives, monitor complex social changes, measure and track shifts in social capital, and facilitate multi-stakeholder processes.

CONTACT

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