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OFFICE OF LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Journey to Self-Reliance Begins with Locally Led Development



PHOTO CREDIT: USAID IPAC

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**AZERBAIJAN: GENERATING MOMENTUM FOR
PRIVATE SECTOR PARTNERSHIPS**

Through [Local Works](#), USAID/Azerbaijan is looking to strengthen partnerships with the government, civil society, and the private sector (focusing on business and professional associations) to achieve shared economic goals. In looking for creative ways to engage with these new partners, the Mission decided to host a "Partnership Summit" last month. The event featured networking opportunities for more than 160 attendees, laying the groundwork for future collaboration. The Mission's active participation in the Summit confirmed to participants its role as both a collaborative partner and donor.



ETHIOPIA: EXPANDING RURAL ELECTRICITY FOR MAJI

PHOTO CREDIT: NRECA INTERNATIONAL

Under the [Cooperative Development Program](#) (CDP), National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International is working with the Maji Development Coalition and community members to form an electric cooperative in Maji, an area in Southwestern Ethiopia. After the community voted to establish the Maji Clean Energy Cooperative last year, more than 1,000 residents – nearly one-third female – indicated interest in joining. Now, NRECA is helping the cooperative draft a business plan and establish governance structures. Knowing that developing a self-reliant, financially stable cooperative takes patience and commitment, NRECA is also initiating awareness campaigns throughout Maji. Once fully established, the cooperative will provide affordable and reliable power to more than 17,000 households. [Watch the work in action.](#)

"I see the electric co-op as a bridge that will help us cross from a time of darkness to a time of light."

Germaye Korena, a Maji community member

Uganda: Making Use of Overabundant Avocados



PHOTO CREDIT: PEACE CORPS

In Uganda, a Peace Corps Volunteer and a local Ugandan organization started a [Small Project Assistance](#) (SPA) project to increase farmers' incomes through avocado oil production. In many parts of the country, there is an avocado tree in almost every home, but avocados are so abundant during harvest seasons that much is wasted and the markets are flooded with the fruit. The SPA project taught local farmers how to make and market avocado oil, and how to use the avocado peels as an alternative biofuel. While the official SPA project has ended, the farmers who participated continue to create and sell avocado oil.

Stopping As Success: Refining Tools for Development Practitioners



PHOTO CREDIT: PEACE DIRECT

Stopping As Success (SAS), an E3/LS [co-created research initiative](#), convened a close-out event to discuss lessons learned, collect feedback on tools and resources, and outline next steps for its findings. With participation from local and national organizations, donors, and civil society, the event helped the SAS consortium further refine their resources - from consolidating information (with a book forthcoming), to suggestions for additional online resources. [Learn more.](#)

Philippines: Growing Rural Cooperatives

In January, USAID/Philippines launched Generating Rural Opportunities by Working with Cooperatives (GROW-Coop), a [Local Works](#) activity to build capacity in agriculture cooperatives. By employing a “big sister” approach, GROW-Coop connects smaller agriculture cooperatives to large, established Filipino cooperatives for mentorship and capacity building. In February, GROW-Coop established an advisory group and co-developed its first-year work plan. With representatives from the national

What is a cooperative?

An association of people united to meet common economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.

government, cooperative unions, chambers of commerce, and international organizations, the advisory group will look at policy reform in support of the sector.

[Learn more.](#)

Questions on how the Agency partners with cooperatives?

Contact

localsustainability@usaid.gov.

Announcements



Locally Led Development in Action: For the next several months, the Office of Local Sustainability (E3/LS) will be featuring videos of its programming. This month: [Local Works](#). See how USAID/Burma is using locally led development to address the drug crisis in Kachin state.

[Watch the video.](#)



Spotlight on SPA: Last week was Peace Corps Week. Check out this blog post from the 35th Anniversary of the SPA program, which remains relevant today with great examples on the impact of community-led development.

[Read the blog post.](#)



Connecting human rights, peacebuilding, and sustainable development: The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation examines what these processes have in common and how they can better align. [Read the report.](#)

A “grand challenge” for development: USAID and the Governments of the Netherlands, Sweden, and South Africa share reflections on Securing Water for Food - including the approach to experimentation and partnerships that allowed it to be successful. [Read the report.](#)



@USAIDMBekkering: #DemocracyIs: Local Sustainability. □ Empowering local communities boosts citizen engagement and supports more locally responsive governance. That’s why the #JourneytoSelfReliance begins with locally led development. [Retweet this.](#)

Resources for resilience: With ResilienceLinks, USAID provides a host of training, reports, and other learning for development practitioners working on resilience. [Check it out.](#)



Resources on community philanthropy: USAID's Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG) has a new report on the role of local philanthropy in self-reliance. [Check it out.](#)



USAID/Mexico: Seeking partners to research, develop, test, and evaluate innovative approaches to increase access to finance to reduce deforestation and forest degradation. Closing date is March 27, 2020. [Learn more.](#)

USAID/West Africa: Call for locally led development concepts on building effective, reliable, and sustainable private sector associations. Closing date is April 30, 2020. [Learn more.](#)



E3/LS Job Openings:

[Training Coordinator](#)

[Knowledge Management and Learning Specialist](#)

[Mission Support Program Analyst](#)

[Program Assistant/Administrative Manager](#)

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