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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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NORTH MACEDONIA: EVALUATING THE SMALL PROJECT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

PHOTO CREDIT: PEACE CORPS/NORTH MACEDONIA

USAID/North Macedonia and Peace Corps/North Macedonia conducted an evaluation of their [Small Project Assistance](#) (SPA) Program. By using a local youth network for the evaluation, they ended up with a cost-effective (as well as highly insightful) final product.

In line with the [global SPA evaluation](#), this report provides more evidence on the effectiveness of community-led development: more than 95% of the projects were completed, while 70% were fully sustained by the community - and 25% were *expanded* upon by the community. This joint evaluation is also an example of

“What separates the most successful projects from the rest is the direct involvement of the community in the project implementation.”

National Youth Council of

shared learning between USAID and Peace Corps - not just with the SPA Program, but around locally led development more generally.

Macedonia: "Evaluation Report: Field-level Evaluation of Small Project Assistance Grants Implemented Throughout North Macedonia."

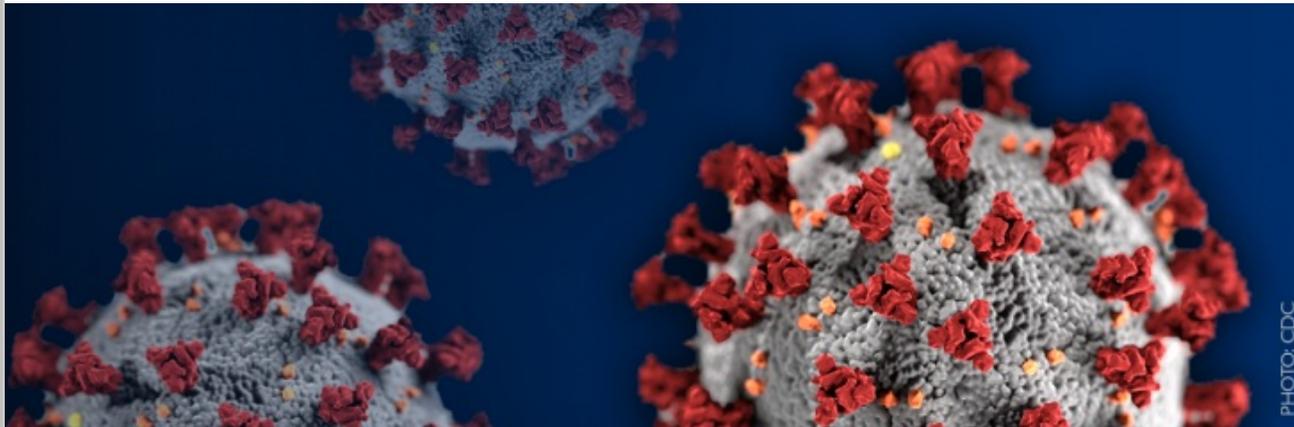


GUATEMALA: INCREASING ACCESS TO FINANCE FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

PHOTO CREDIT: WORLD COUNCIL OF CREDIT UNIONS (WOCCU)

Under USAID's [Cooperative Development Program](#) (CDP), the [World Council of Credit Unions](#) (WOCCU) is introducing new methods to increase financial inclusion and build the capacity of credit unions and national associations in Guatemala. Guatemalan credit unions face a unique challenge: they are legally prohibited from lending to registered businesses. Consequently, there is an \$18 billion dollar gap in financing to small and medium enterprises. Through the CDP, WOCCU is developing a credit union service organization, or CUSO, to lend directly to local businesses. Leveraging the national credit union's network of more than 1.5 million members,

this new entity will expand access to finance and business development services across Guatemala. [Why credit unions? Learn more.](#)



COVID-19: GUIDANCE FOR USAID PARTNERS

PHOTO CREDIT: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

This landing page will be regularly regularly updated with resources for USAID Implementing Partners. [Check it out.](#)

Cambodia: Building Capacity for Community Health



PHOTO CREDIT: PEACE CORPS/CAMBODIA

In Cambodia, a [Small Project Assistance](#) (SPA) Program project is supporting better hygiene and sanitation by training midwives, health center staff, and village health volunteers. The project, “Scrub to Shine,” started with monthly outreach events - with health center staff showing more than 400 patients and members of their family proper handwashing and hygienic practices. Then, village health volunteers from the original project expanded their efforts by training neighboring communities - 11 villages in total - in how to implement their own version of the

Dominican Republic: Mapping Donor Activities



PHOTO CREDIT: OBSERVATORIO DE LA ZONA FRONTERIZA

Through [Local Works](#), USAID/Dominican Republic is working with the government-run Border Observatory to support development in the Dominican Republic-Haiti border region. Following an initial donor coordination workshop convened by USAID, the Border Observatory created a [report](#) mapping regional investments by donors and other groups and identifying recommendations for collaboration. The report has been shared widely and will serve as the groundwork for future donor coordination and a joint action proposal to benefit the border region.

Co-Created Research Initiatives: Closing a Feedback Loop



PHOTO CREDIT: DAN GRANT, USAID E3/LS

The Office of Local Sustainability (E3/LS) convened its four [Co-Created Research Initiative](#) consortia for a close-out workshop. Two key takeaways related to E3/LS' facilitating and convening role were the importance of ongoing, informal communication and prioritizing discussions around power dynamics. [#ShiftThePower](#) also proved an important topic, with attendees discussing how these principles help advance locally led development.



Locally Led Development in Action: Through the [Cooperative Development Program](#) (CDP), U.S.-based worker cooperative Equal Exchange is partnered with the Peruvian cacao cooperative ACOPAGRO to support sustainable livelihoods. [Watch the new video.](#)



Why Cooperative Law Reform Matters: [CDP](#) implementing partner [National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International](#) (NCBA CLUSA) highlights the importance of cooperative legal and regulatory reform for inclusive, locally led development. [Read the blog post.](#)

COVID-19 and Locally Led Development: DevPolicyBlog speaks to the role of locally led development in addressing the COVID-19 crisis. [Read the blog post.](#)



Expect to Fail: This interview with non-profit organization CARE highlights the importance of failure - and the learning that comes from that - in advocacy work. [Listen to the podcast.](#)



Systems thinking and secondary cities: The Urban Working Group has a new booklet on how infrastructure plays a role in economic growth. [Read the report.](#)

The impact of Western-driven development frameworks: The London School of Economics shares examples from South Sudan to show how Western definitions of "civil society" affect local non-governmental organizations (NGOs). [Read the blog post.](#)

Driving donor accountability: The Center for Global Development highlights a paradigm called "Navigating by Judgement" that elevates the judgement of field staff in decision-making. [Read the report.](#)



Spotlight on the New Partnerships Initiative (NPI): Through NPI, USAID is engaging new and underutilized partners. Want to learn more?

[Watch the video.](#)



USAID/Bosnia and Herzegovina: Looking for local and regional actors to improve the legal and policy environment for community philanthropy. Closing date is April 20, 2020. [Learn more.](#)

Youth Power 2: The [YouthPower 2 Annual Program Statement](#) is seeking to incorporate a Positive Youth Development approach in cross-sectoral programming. The Youth Excel Addendum is currently accepting concept notes to build the capacity of youth-led and youth-serving organizations. Closing date is April 30, 2020. [Learn more.](#)

Higher Education for Leadership, Innovation, and Exchange

(HELIX): [HELIX](#) is looking to engage the higher education community in building the capacity of individuals, higher education institutions, and systems to solve development challenges across sectors. The Supporting Holistic and Actionable Research in Education (SHARE) Addendum is currently seeking concept notes to advance learning priorities in the global education sector to improve education and learning outcomes. Closing date is May 1, 2020. [Learn more.](#)

USAID/Philippines: Seeking locally led development concepts from local organizations on using a systems approach to facilitate coalition-building and collaborative action among stakeholders from different technical sectors. Closing date is May 15, 2020. [Learn more.](#)

USAID/Philippines: Looking for locally led development concepts from local actors on strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations and networks. Closing date is May 15, 2020. [Learn more.](#)

USAID/Philippines: Soliciting concepts from local actors on market-based

solutions to development challenges. Concept submissions will be accepted in three cycles. The first closing date is June 30, 2020. [Learn more.](#)

BetterTogether / JuntosEsMejor Challenge: This joint initiative from USAID and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) is looking to crowdsource, fund, and scale solutions that improve the lives and livelihoods of Venezuelan communities across Latin America. [Watch the explainer video](#) and [learn more.](#)



E3/LS Job Openings:
[Program Assistant](#)



Movement for Community-Led Development (10:30 AM - 11:30 AM EDT):
This month's standing call on community-led development features Mercy Corps, which will present its new toolkit to measure social capital and social cohesion. [Join the webinar.](#)

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