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OFFICE OF LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Journey to Self-Reliance Begins with Locally Led Development



PHOTO CREDIT: FLAVIO BORGES, USAID/TIMOR-LESTE

LOCAL WORKS PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

USAID/TIMOR-LESTE LOCAL WORKS TEAM INTERVIEWING YOUTH ON THE STREET IN THE LIQUICA MUNICIPALITY

July 2020

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MOROCCO: RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE DURING COVID-19

PHOTO CREDIT: ENNAKHIL ASSOCIATION

MEMBERS OF THE ENNAKHIL ASSOCIATION PARTICIPATING IN AN EVENT TO PROMOTE GENDER EQUITY

Vulnerable groups in Morocco are facing critical challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic, including a [rise in violence against women](#) and the interruption of services to persons with disabilities (PWDs). Local civil society organizations under the [Local Works](#) program, including Ennakhil Association and the White Dove Association, are taking steps to respond to these immediate needs, while not losing sight of long-term change. Ennakhil Association is providing staffing and resources to centers that support women, while simultaneously providing shelter and vocational training in severe cases of abuse. The White Dove Association is supporting PWDs in accessing key health information and services, in parallel with its work to continue education and skills development during the crisis. Both organizations are also advocating for improved legislation and policy implementation that reflects the needs of these vulnerable groups.

[Learn more.](#)



MEXICO: LEADING CLIMATE ACTION

PHOTO CREDIT: DANIELA FLORES, EQUAL EXCHANGE

EL TRIUNFO BIOSPHERE RESERVE IN THE SIERRA MADRE MOUNTAINS OF CHIAPAS, MEXICO

Every July 4th, the world celebrates [International Day of Cooperatives](#). This year's theme, "Cooperatives for Climate Action," highlights cooperatives as leaders in the fight against global climate change. Through the [Cooperative Development Program](#) (CDP), implementing partner [Equal Exchange](#) is working with coffee cooperatives in Mexico to protect one of the most biodiverse places on earth: El Triunfo Biosphere Reserve. Located in the Sierra Madre mountains in Chiapas, the reserve contains cloud forests and rainforests - two of the most

threatened ecosystems in Mexico. El Triunfo is also home to endangered species, with birds like the horned guan and quetzal, as well as jaguars and tapirs. Coordinated conservation efforts are critical to protecting habitats and to capture the carbon needed to slow climate change. The CDP-supported cooperatives are protecting El Triunfo by growing organic coffee through sustainable methods, while also leading environmental education workshops for the local communities. As community-owned and operated businesses, cooperatives like those in El Triunfo are conscious stewards of the environment.

THE GAMBIA: COOPERATING FOR RURAL EMPOWERMENT



PHOTO CREDIT: PEACE CORPS
FARMERS AND PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS IN THE GAMBIA
PARTICIPATING IN A HANDS-ON TRAINING WITH MORINGA TREES

The [Office of Local Sustainability](#) (E3/LS) salutes Peace Corps Volunteers (PCVs) who were evacuated from their posts in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In honor of [International Day of Cooperatives](#) (July 4), E3/LS is pleased to showcase a completed [USAID-Peace Corps Small Project Assistance Program](#) training from The Gambia. This activity empowered rural communities to collaborate more effectively through the cooperative business model. More than 45 Gambian farmers and PCVs received the training needed to establish more than 20 cooperatives across the country. Upon returning to their respective communities, these trained farmers shared technical knowledge on nutrition-sensitive agriculture and supported local cooperative development.

KENYA: PROMOTING PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL HEALTH DURING COVID-19

In eastern Kenya, a savings and credit cooperative (SACCO) supported by the [World Council of Credit Unions](#) (WOCCU) through USAID's [Cooperative Development Program](#) (CDP) is working diligently to ensure both the physical and economic health of its 75,000 members. To prevent the spread of the virus, the SACCO has equipped its branches with personal protective equipment, set up hand-washing stations, and donated hand soap and face masks to the local communities it serves. The SACCO is also using SMS texts to assure members that their deposits are safe (preventing unnecessary “panic withdrawals”)



[Cooperative Development Program](#) (CDP) and [Local Works](#) highlight the unique role that cooperatives and credit unions play in enabling communities to adapt and address the ongoing challenges from the pandemic.

[Check it out.](#)

Public-Private Partnerships and International Cooperative Development:

The [U.S. Overseas Cooperative Development Council](#) (OCDC), a CDP partner, makes the case for investing in cooperatives and credit unions around the world to advance self-reliance and local ownership through public-private partnerships. [Read the article.](#)

The New Normal in the Philippines: The current emergency situation has disrupted food distribution and access around the world. Through [Local Works](#), USAID/Philippines is working with implementing partner [Agriterria](#) to promote trading among cooperatives - ensuring essential food supply chains can continue. [Check it out.](#)

Equity in the International Development Sector: On Devex, international development consultant Blessing Omakwu shares her perspective on the role of “intravism” (internal efforts to change organizational structures) in achieving equity. [Check it out.](#)

International Development and Localization: Oxfam looks through recent reports to summarize progress made in advancing locally led development. [Check it out.](#)



COVID-19’s Impact on Agricultural Cooperatives: [CDP](#) partners [Venture37](#), [Global Communities](#), [Equal Exchange](#) and [NCBA CLUSA](#) are collaborating to collect data on how COVID-19 is impacting agricultural cooperatives in eight CDP countries. Their second research brief is now available. [Check it out.](#)

Operationalizing Self-Reliance: Are you curious about how implementing the Program Cycle can help inform USAID’s [Journey to Self-Reliance](#) (J2SR)? Take a look at the [Self-Reliance Learning Agenda’s](#) (SRLA) newest product, “Operationalizing Self-Reliance through the Program Cycle: Insights from the Program Cycle Learning Study.” [Check it out.](#)

Local Systems Practice User’s Guide: The Local Systems Practice consortium, an E3/LS former [co-created research initiative](#), developed a guide with insights on methodologies to assist locally led development practitioners and local organizations looking to apply a systems lens to their work. [Check it out.](#)

COVID-19 Digital Classroom: The COVID-19 Digital Classroom is a global initiative to provide high-quality, medically reviewed, multimedia content and training courses for community-based health workers and local communities globally, with an eye to health workers in low-income countries. [Check it out.](#)

Feedback 101: Non-profit organization Feedback Labs has created a six-part tutorial introducing the concepts and practices of feedback across sectors and contexts, helpful for aid workers, philanthropy, and government alike. [Check it out.](#)

Multi-Sector Collaboration for COVID-19: USAID partner CollaborateUp highlights 7 key takeaways for multi-stakeholder collaboration in response to the ongoing pandemic. [Check it out.](#)

Local Aid Professionals and COVID-19: As Devex tracks the impact of the pandemic on the aid sector, one of the key findings that emerged is the increased reliance on local aid workers. [Learn more.](#)



USAID Evidence Summit on Strategic Religious Engagement: The USAID [Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives](#) is seeking presentation proposals for the upcoming Evidence Summit. Deadline is this Friday, July 17, 2020. [Learn more.](#)



USAID/West Africa: Calling for locally led development concepts on building effective, reliable, and sustainable private sector associations. Deadline is August 3, 2020. [Learn more.](#)



E3/LS is recruiting three Virtual Student Federal Service e-Interns for the 2020-2021 academic year:

- [Locally Led Development Research and Knowledge Management Intern](#)
- [Social Network Mapping and Analysis Intern](#)
- [Assessing Evidence to Strengthen Locally Led Development in Conflict and Post-Conflict Environments Intern](#)

Deadline is July 31, 2020.



Advancing Women's Economic Opportunity through Member-Owned Enterprises: Join the Offices of Local Sustainability and Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment for a virtual discussion of women's economic opportunity through member-owned businesses. Speakers will join us from the International Cooperative Alliance, Land O'Lakes Venture37, Equal Exchange, and more. [Join the webinar.](#)

We want to hear from you! Share your thoughts and ideas for future stories:

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