



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

# OFFICE OF LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY

## CO-CREATED RESEARCH INITIATIVES

### Background

In 2016, Local Works asked the leading thinkers in locally-led development two questions:

1. How can USAID more effectively support locally-led development?
2. What are some of the challenges that need to be addressed in order to reach this goal?

### **USAID HAS PARTNERED WITH FOUR CONSORTIA ON THE FOLLOWING RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES:**

**Stopping as Success** (Peace Direct, Search for Common Ground, CDA): study of responsible aid exit strategies, and the characteristic associated with sustainable transitions (or, market distortions from staying around). Focus is on practical implications and developing tools for donors. Currently conducting 20 case studies in 12 countries.

**Local Systems Practice** (LINC, ANSER, AVSI, Practical Action, University of Missouri, and University of Notre Dame): enhancing locally-led development through the application of, and learning from, systems-based tools/approaches in partnership with Local Works missions. Currently working with three missions: Morocco, Philippines, and Macedonia.

**Facilitating Financial Sustainability** (LINC, Peace Direct, Foundation Center): is studying factors influencing financial sustainability of civil society organizations in different contexts to help increase local ownership of development. Completed initial research in six countries, generating lessons learned to share with the broader development community. Topics include: (1) Resource mobilization through social enterprise; (2) financial sustainability in non-permissive environments; and (3) non-financial resources. Continuing applied research in Uganda, Colombia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

**Capacity 2.0** (Root Change, Keystone Accountability): restructuring the development ecosystem from the ground up: how local changemakers can explore, identify, test, and develop the best ideas for how to support, sustain, and measure locally-led development. Focus is on learning through locally-led 'lean experiments' to fix locally-defined problems in Malawi, and tracking changes over time using constituent feedback and social network analysis tools.

### Questions?

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