



OFFICE OF LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY

Leading USAID's locally led development efforts

November 2019



Photo: Helen Moser

Bangladesh: Co-Developing Locally Led Approaches for Host Communities

In October, USAID/Bangladesh hosted a co-development workshop for its [Local Works](#) activities with facilitation support from the [Office of Local Sustainability](#) (E3/LS). The activities will strengthen existing co-management structures to rehabilitate deforested areas and generate alternative livelihoods in host

communities affected by the Rohingya humanitarian crisis. Over three days, staff from three local organizations and the Mission worked together to discuss, validate, and reach consensus on the technical approaches of the activities - and to ensure prospective partners feel prepared to work with USAID. As part of the activity, the implementing partners will identify their organizational capacity strengthening challenges and then be paired with a local services provider to address those needs. One participant said that he has worked on “hundreds of projects, but [Local Works](#) is the only one that provides resources to strengthen the capacity of the implementing organizations.” E3/LS, the local organizations, and USAID/Bangladesh also conducted a site visit to Cox’s Bazar to observe livelihood and conservation activities.



Photo: Peace Corps/North Macedonia

North Macedonia: Addressing Chronic Hunger

In October, Kimberly Rosen, USAID's Acting Assistant Administrator (A-AA) for the Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment (E3), and



Photo: NRECA International

Uganda: Strengthening Electric Cooperatives

To support and strengthen rural electric cooperatives in western Uganda under the [Cooperative Development Program](#)

E3/LS staff visited a legacy North Macedonia [Small Project Assistance](#) (SPA) activity that addressed chronic hunger. Through a combination of SPA funding of less than \$5,000 and additional community contributions, community members launched an online platform to connect food distributors to social service centers.

A year after the launch, the platform has distributed more than 100 tons of food to homeless people, street children, daily centers for people with disabilities and special needs, and other vulnerable populations. Ajde Makedonija, the partner organization, estimates that there has been a total social benefit of \$105,000 from the project to date. Now, more than a year after SPA funding has ended, Ajde Makedonija is preparing to scale the platform to the national level.

(CDP), NRECA International provided technical assistance and institutional strengthening to four electric cooperatives. Following an assessment of these groups last year, technical experts recommended a range of reforms to enhance warehouse and materials management, financial reporting, commercial systems practices, and lineman skills. A team led by U.S. electric cooperative leaders traveled to Uganda to deliver a two-day governance training to nearly 40 cooperative directors and managers. Topics ranged from hiring staff to evaluating performance. In July, the team returned to Uganda to review each cooperative's progress and to attend their board meetings. NRECA found that the cooperatives had introduced key performance indicators, established performance goals, and drafted comprehensive action plans. Learn more about the findings, developments, and outcomes of this trip, plus next steps for NRECA in Uganda, [here](#).



Photo: USAID|Framework for Giving

Serbia: National Giving Day Campaign

On October 23, USAID/Serbia's Framework for Giving Project, funded through E3/LS' [Local Works](#) program, organized a ceremonial event to celebrate the success of this year's National Giving Day campaign and the Serbian Philanthropy Forum. Thanks to more than 60 donors and partners, 8.2 million dinars (nearly \$81,000) have been

raised to date. Throughout the campaign, citizens, companies, non-profit organizations and public sector institutions donated funds towards the purchase of modern learning tools, such as robots and electronic white boards, that will benefit 10,000 students at 60 schools throughout Serbia. At the event, Kimberly Rosen, USAID's A-AA for the E3 Bureau, joined Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabić, Minister of Education, Science and Technological Development Mladen Šarčević, State Secretary Viktor Nedović, and Serbian Philanthropy Forum Executive Director Dragana Jovančević in celebrating the success of the campaign and the philanthropic values embodied by the National Day of Giving.

Co-Creating Solutions to Locally Led Development Challenges

E3/LS recently hosted three [Broad Agency Announcement](#) (BAA) co-creation workshops associated with its BAA [Addendum](#), "New Directions in Advancing Locally Led Development." These gatherings have convened representatives from government, civil society, academia, and the private sector to discuss solutions to challenges associated with the "Changing Role of the Donor," "Local Giving, Philanthropy, and Other Private Resources," and "Engaging the Local Private Sector." Two additional workshops will take place soon: "Conflict, Post Conflict, and Non-Permissive Environments" and "Effective Partnerships." E3/LS appreciates the fulsome participation of its external partners and colleagues from around the Agency in these events!

E3/LS continues to learn from our experience working with [four co-created research initiatives](#) over the past several years. The Office recently conducted a survey of its partners to garner insights into the quality of E3/LS' technical and grant assistance - and the value of the overall partnership, including the ability to further research goals. E3/LS will apply these lessons learned to future research and development partnerships.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

From the Field

- Kimberly Rosen, A-AA for USAID's E3 Bureau, and E3/LS staff conducted a four-country [Local Works](#) program tour that included engagements with USAID/Kosovo, USAID/North Macedonia, USAID/Serbia, and USAID/Bosnia and Herzegovina. The delegation explored numerous [Local Works](#) projects and activities and visited a [Peace Corps SPA](#) site, in addition to meeting with local stakeholders. The group also participated in Serbia's National Day of Giving, designed to celebrate and raise awareness about the importance of philanthropy.
- E3/LS staff and [CDP](#) partners participated in the International Cooperative Alliance's global conference in Kigali, Rwanda. Over the course of three days, the "Cooperatives for Development" event convened more than 1,000 cooperative leaders from 94 countries to communicate ideas and best practices for sustainable cooperative development. E3/LS also met with USAID/Rwanda to share highlights from the conference.
- E3/LS staff travelled to Belarus and Ukraine to support the kickoff of Belarus' [Local Works](#) program planning. This program will focus on strengthening philanthropy systems and improving connections between local actors. Staff met with members of civil society and local stakeholders at the USAID/Belarus Country Office and the USAID/Ukraine Regional Mission to inform initial Local Works activities and learning questions. E3/LS staff also met with the Ukraine [SPA Program](#) representatives from Peace Corps and USAID to discuss best practices.

Locally Led Development Opportunities

- USAID/Burma released an [Addendum](#) to E3/LS' [Locally Led Development APS](#) seeking concepts from local organizations on addressing drug abuse and addiction in Kachin State. The Addendum reflects the priorities shared by local stakeholders at the May 2019 Whole System in the Room workshop in Myitkyina, Burma. Concept submissions are due January 31, 2020.
- USAID's [Engendering Utilities](#) is now accepting applications for new utility partners - and is expanding to the water sector. Engendering Utilities is a key partnership under the U.S. Government-wide [Women's Global Development and Prosperity Initiative](#) that fosters enterprise-driven innovation, inclusive economic growth, and gender equality and women's economic empowerment by expanding women's participation in the energy and water sectors. USAID Mission colleagues interested in learning more should contact E3/GenDev Corinne Hart at cohart@usaid.gov.

What We're Reading

- *Stanford Social Innovation Review* has put out a number of articles on the benefits of collective action to address large-scale social change:
 - ["Collective Impact"](#) (Winter 2011)
 - ["Collective Insights on Collective Impact"](#) (Fall 2014)
- [Mapping food systems: A participatory research tool tested in Kenya and Bolivia](#), in Mountain Research and Development, highlights the effective use of participatory research and systems mapping to understand value chains in key regions of Bolivia and Kenya.
- [SPRING](#) is a business accelerator program focused on the empowerment of adolescent girls in East Africa and South Asia. The [SPRING Accelerator Impact Summary](#) highlights

how the program is gathering evidence and learning.

Staffing

- E3/LS is pleased to welcome two new staff to the Office:
 - Hannah Bottum, Communications Associate, Capacity, Culture, and Communications Team
 - Amanda Satterwhite, Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Specialist, Evidence and Learning Team
- E3/LS is hiring! Learn more about opportunities with the Office:
 - [Training Coordinator](#)
 - [Mission Support Program Analyst](#)
 - [FSN Fellow](#) (*USAID only) -- E3/LS is looking for an FSN Fellow for a 60-day rotation between January and April 2020. Applications are due by November 25th.

SAVE THE DATE

Locally Led Development Week is December 2-6, 2019! E3/LS will be coordinating a number activities to celebrate Locally Led Development Week, so stay tuned for more information. There are several ways you can get involved:

December

2-6

- Let E3/LS know how your Mission or Operating Unit is promoting locally led development. Throughout the week, E3/LS invites you to send your photos and stories to localsustainability@usaid.gov.
- Please tweet and tag E3/LS throughout the week! Be sure to use our new hashtag #LeadwithLocal - and tag @USAIDeconomic and @USAID in any posts.



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about our office!



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locally led
development
**For internal USAID staff*



Questions?
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