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NEW PARTNERSHIPS INITIATIVE

February 2020

The [New Partnerships Initiative](#) is well underway with Missions around the world developing NPI Action Plans. A first group of pilot Missions are due to submit their plans by February 28, and all Missions will deliver their plans by May 15.

USAID has made 14 NPI awards to improve health care, address development challenges in conflict settings, and empower youth – and more NPI awards are in the pipeline.

We are excited to work in new ways and with new partners to make the world healthier, safer, and more prosperous for people everywhere.

Read on to learn about the latest updates from the New Partnerships Initiative.



Capacity Development Indicator Webinar

Under USAID's new [Acquisition and Assistance \(A&A\) Strategy](#), the Agency is shifting to focus on the outcomes – not just the inputs – of its work to strengthen the capacity and performance of local entities and locally established partners.

To track Agency-wide progress on this shift, USAID Missions have been asked to set targets and report on the following Standard Foreign Assistance Indicator: Percent of U.S. Government-assisted organizations with improved performance (also known as CBLD-9). The webinar (linked below) explains in detail how this pertains to implementing partners. Additionally, you can find more resources on the Capacity Development Indicator, including the Performance Indicator Reference Sheet, data input worksheet for Missions, data implementing worksheet for implementing partners, and an FAQs document [here](#).

[Watch the Capacity Development Indicator webinar now](#)

Incubator Corner

NPI Action Plan Development

The New Partnerships Initiative Incubator team is supporting USAID on multiple fronts to help operationalize the New Partnerships Initiative and lay the groundwork for easier and more beneficial engagements between USAID and new partners. This month, Incubator staff and members of USAID's core NPI team traveled to Bangladesh, Ghana, and Ukraine to assist these Missions in developing their NPI Action Plans.

Partner E-Learning Series To Go Live in Late Spring

The Incubator's Performance and Learning Director is developing new e-learning content and courses for USAID's online training series for partners. These will cover a range of essential topics such as an introduction to USAID, finding funding opportunities, preparing budgets for assistance applications and acquisition proposals, and branding and marking according to USAID guidelines. The Incubator expects the first set of training modules to go live in late spring.

Partner Organizational Readiness Self-Assessment Survey Developed and Beta-Tested

The Incubator has also been testing a new industry-standard organizational self-assessment survey that helps a prospective partner gauge its readiness to work with USAID. The battery of questions focuses on operations, program design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, staff development, finance, and marketing and communications. Nearly 40 organizations took the beta version of the survey and provided feedback that will inform changes to the next version. The Incubator is finalizing the survey and expects to make it available in March to partner organizations interested in working with USAID.



Mission Plans Update

As outlined in the A&A Strategy, USAID missions are developing NPI action plans by May 2020. The purpose is to help institutionalize and expand USAID's engagement with new and underutilized partners across our programs.

The Mission NPI plans are meant to be short and concise, with five sections:

1. Mission Objectives with NPI
2. Contextual Background and Lessons Learned
3. Programs and Activities Supporting NPI
4. Funding Contributions to NPI
5. Six NPI Indicators

The NPI team is working with a number of pilot Missions to develop three- to five-page plans by the end of February 2020. Based on feedback and input from the pilot, a new guidance document will be issued.



Doing Business with USAID Webinar

Want to learn more about USAID and how we do business? Confused by the many acronyms used by the Agency? Don't understand the difference between acquisition and assistance?

Join us for a webinar to learn the basics on how to do business with USAID. As a follow-up to the [November 26, 2019 NPI webinar](#), please join us for a Doing Business with USAID 101 webinar on Tuesday, March 24th at 9:00 a.m. EST. Learn more about USAID, how we operate, and how we make awards.

Website Survey: Thank You

In December, we asked for your feedback on the “How to Work with USAID” website – and more than 550 of you took our user survey. Thank you!

Here’s what we learned: You found the online trainings, country strategies, and business forecasts most useful, and you liked our videos. But, most of you thought it is not-so-easy to find the information you need, and said that you would like to see more information for new partners.

We heard you! We are working to restructure this website section and to create new tools and resources that will help you connect better with USAID. Would you like to help us test them? Email npi@usaid.gov to sign up for our focus group.



New Funding Opportunity

Water Resource Management for Enhanced Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (Nigeria)

USAID is making a special call for the submission of Concept Papers that incorporates interventions that will build upon and expand USAID’s efforts to reduce water-borne diseases in Nigeria, consistent with U.S. assistance policy. The award(s) will also support stakeholders in identifying and addressing one of the priority areas of water and sanitation, behavior change related to WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) practices, or WASH institutional development and watershed management.

Integrated programs across WASH sectors may serve as a platform for improving linkages between the community and WASH service providers to increase access to water and sanitation, expand watershed protection and restoration to improve water quality and quantity, and reduce vulnerability to water-related risks and stresses.

The award(s) are also intended to enhance water resources management through one or more of the following objectives:

1. Improve water supply and sanitation services delivery, and key hygiene behaviors
2. Protect and improve watershed health and function. [More>>](#)



NPI Award Announcements

USAID/Bangladesh has made its first New Partnerships Initiative award to Relief International. The three-year cooperative agreement, entitled Youth Entrepreneurship and Empowerment Support, will work in host communities in Cox's Bazar.

Relief International will serve in a mentorship role and will pass a minimum of 50 percent of total funding to local subawardees, with a goal of moving them to qualify for direct awards.

Relief International will work with the following local organizations to implement the activity: Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB), Young Power in Social Action (YPSA), and mPower Social Enterprise Limited. [More>>](#)

USAID/Cambodia: Leveraging the power of U.S. small business, USAID Cambodia has made four awards to utilize new technologies, products, services, and scientific applications to track public services, monitor and report on waste-management services and practices, and provide capacity-building assistance that will help local organizations move toward self-reliance. [More>>](#)

Resources



The NPI Process

Through NPI, we've simplified the process of working with USAID. Applicants can submit a five-page concept note. From there, the Agency works hand-in-hand with the applicant.



Key NPI Definitions

What's a new partner or underutilized partner? Read about USAID's New Partnerships Initiative's definition of terms that guide funding decisions.



Working with USAID

USAID has a host of resources available online for businesses and organizations that are new to working with the Agency. Click on the link above to access those resources.

Visit [usaid.gov/NPI](https://www.usaid.gov/NPI) for the latest funding opportunities.

[Subscribe to the New Partnerships Initiative Newsletter](#)