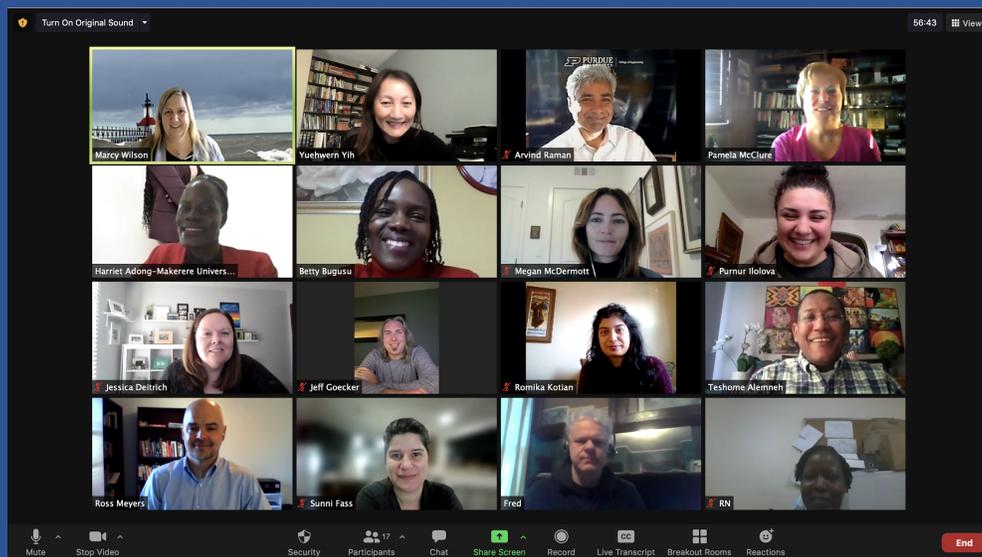


# LASER PULSE

Long-term Assistance and Services for Research (LASER)  
Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine (PULSE)



## Year 3 Bi-Annual Report (2021)

**Awardee:** Purdue University  
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**KEY ACRONYMS**

AOR:	Agreement Officer's Representative
AM:	Activity Manager
BEO:	Bureau Environmental Officer
CRS:	Catholic Relief Services
CSFA:	Comprehensive Success Factors Analysis
DDL:	Development Data Library
DEC:	Development Experience Clearinghouse
ERT:	Embedded Research Translation
FGD:	Focus Group Discussion
FY:	Fiscal Year
GRCD:	Global Research Challenges for Development
HEI:	Higher Education Institution
IDP:	Inclusive Development Partners
INGO:	International NGO
IR:	Intermediate Result
IU:	Indiana University
KM:	Knowledge Management
LASER PULSE:	Long-term Assistance and Services for Research: Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine (LASER in most instances in this report)
M/B/IO:	Mission/Bureau/Independent Office
MEL:	Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
MSI:	Minority Serving Institution
NGO:	Non-Governmental Organization
PI:	Principal Investigator
PSE:	Private Sector Engagement
RAN:	ResilientAfrica Network
RF:	Results Framework
R4D:	Research for Development
RFA:	Request for Applications
SLA:	System-Level Analysis
SRLA:	Self Reliance Learning Agenda
Sub-IR:	Sub-Intermediate Result
TOC:	Theory of Change
UPC:	USAID Partner Countries
UND:	University of Notre Dame
USAID:	United States Agency for International Development

## I. BACKGROUND

The Long-term Assistance and Services for Research (LASER) Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine (PULSE) is a five-year, \$70-million program funded through USAID's Innovation, Technology, and Research Hub in the Bureau for Development, Democracy, and Innovation, that delivers research-driven solutions to field-sourced development challenges in USAID partner countries.

A consortium, led by Purdue University, with core partners Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Indiana University (IU), Makerere University, and the University of Notre Dame (UND), implements the LASER PULSE program through a growing network of more than 2,500-plus researchers and development practitioners in 61 countries. LASER PULSE currently manages 16 research awards in 14 countries.

The Innovation, Technology, and Research Hub leads USAID in original experimentation, using data and evidence in decision-making, harnessing scientific and technological advances, open innovation, and digital technology to transform development.

## 2. MID-TERM AWARD REFLECTION

### 2a. Differences between award implementation and original application

Large database network, but most networking in-person. The LASER network is unique in that: (a) it offers its members the ability to find and connect with thousands of HEI researchers and practitioners worldwide in most USAID development sectors of interest and in most USAID partner countries, and (b) it offers its members access to LASER's online resources, newsletters, and funding opportunities. In comparison, other HEI researcher networks such as [ResearchGate](#) are not development research focused, and yet others such as [Life Science Network](#) are focused on one specific technical sector. Thus, LASER expected members to actively network with one another and identify new research and translation partners by searching the LASER member database filtered by technical and regional expertise. Yet the only networking LASER observed has been through the in-person Research for Development (R4D) conferences, which were suspended due to COVID-19 pandemic; LASER is unable to determine if members are connecting through the database because the platform we have is not capable of tracking such interaction. Moving ahead in Year 4, LASER will create and implement a strategy for active and engaged networking/virtual networking among members based on their unique assets and programs, and attempt to measure the networking.

USAID Missions should be closely involved in identifying research problems. The LASER Request for Applications (RFA) ([Synopsis 6](#)) asked for research problems to be sourced independently *and* in partnership with USAID Mission/Bureau/Independent Offices (M/B/IOs). This included identifying both the research theme and research question in order to form a complete RFA. As such, for LASER's buy-in opportunities LASER sourced research questions from the relevant M/B/IOs, while for the core RFAs, LASER utilized the Comprehensive Success Factor Analysis (CSFA) process to identify key research questions independently of USAID M/B/IOs. CSFA is an innovation science based approach, developed by Professor Sinfield at Purdue University, that provides a systems framework to identify bottleneck issues that need to be addressed to solve complex development challenges. CSFA engages vital development actors and analyzes hundreds of published reports/research to identify key research questions. For the first RFA - East Africa RFA, LASER used CSFA to identify research themes *and* questions independently of the Uganda, Kenya, and Tanzania Missions, engaging them minimally in process. For the second RFA in Colombia, however, LASER worked closely with the Mission staff, engaging them frequently to identify the overall research themes (youth, Venezuelan migration crisis, integrated rural development). This resulted in

strengthening the relationship with the Mission which was visible in the high participation of the Mission staff in our R4D conference, in the CSFA process that resulted in final research questions, and in the Venezuela migration hackathon challenge undertaken by LASER in collaboration with the Colombia Mission. LASER utilized the learning from the second RFA and replicated the close engagement process with the Vietnam mission during the third RFA, albeit virtually instead of in-person R4D workshop. LASER took our learning even further during the fourth RFA in Ethiopia, where LASER not only engaged the Mission staff, but co-created the RFA document with them, modifying the research questions post-CSFA to align them with the Mission priorities. The experience of close engagement with the Mission, via CSFA and co-creation has enabled LASER to build a strong partnership with them. This is visible in the working relationship with them, and the appreciative notes and emails that LASER has received from them. LASER is hoping to replicate the learning on collaboration and co-creation in an in-person R4D workshop in future.

Response to RFAs/buy-in opportunities surpassed LASER's initial expectations. At the start of the project LASER had three concerns: (a) while LASER was confident of attracting a pool of strong concept notes and applications for our RFAs, it did not have a sense of how deep the pool would be, given the limited time to promote LASER to in-country HEIs and development organizations. This concern got amplified as COVID-19 necessitated the postponement of several R4D conferences; (b) LASER was unclear on whether its network would be wide and diverse enough to secure excellent teams to lead buy-in research projects; and (c) LASER was unsure if women would be well-represented among LASER awardees since women are underrepresented among researchers in several USAID regions ([UNESCO Institute of Statistics report, 2019](#)). As it turned out, LASER received between 49 and 66 concept notes (average 57.5) for its first four RFAs and made awards to roughly 1 in 10 applications/concept notes. The pool of strong applications for LASER's RFAs has been deep and LASER has rejected many applications that were well-rated by the consensus panels. LASER also has been able to identify and engage excellent research teams for buy-in projects, with projects widely varying in technical and regional focus. This positive response likely stems from existing trust and prior partnerships between the LASER consortium institutions and in-country HEIs. Furthermore, 49 percent of PIs/co-PIs of all core awards and 51 percent of PIs/co-PIs of all LASER buy-ins are women. Besides requiring gender training to apply for LASER RFAs, LASER made a conscious effort to meet with multiple women researchers during visits to HEIs in the RFA countries. It is difficult to establish causality of these efforts, but the LASER team is delighted to see a strong representation of women researchers among awardees.

Research translation requires intentional process with dedicated resources. In its original application, LASER anticipated that its online resources and support would facilitate a close partnership between researchers and their translation partners along the "research translation value chain," from problem identification to research product uptake. Left undetermined was how this might be implemented across very different research translation partnerships, spanning all LASER-funded research projects. LASER now formally defines embedded research translation (ERT) as an iterative co-design process among academics, practitioners, and other stakeholders in which research is intentionally applied to a development challenge. LASER developed a new general framework for ERT with four pillars: partnership, process, product, and dissemination. LASER has integrated ERT training and support, using many [specifically designed ERT resources](#), into all LASER core and buy-in projects by: (a) training during project kick-off meetings; (b) building ERT capacity through training on tools, such as a research translation implementation template, a communications strategy template, and ERT stakeholder analysis; and (c) providing feedback to research project principal investigators (PIs) on their research translation plans.

## 2b. Elements in LASER's Theory of Change that are working best/not working so well

Based on LASER's progress indicators in [Table 1](#) of Section 6, the following elements are working especially well relative to the LASER Results Framework (RF)/Theory of Change (TOC):

- IR 1: Increased HEI delivery of collaborative and effective development-focused research, and IR 2: Increased HEI synthesis, exchange, and translation of research results into usable development products and practices (indicators LP-2 and LP-10): Both the number of research products and the number of research products translated for use are on track to well exceed FY 2021 targets. The bulk of research products thus far are from buy-in projects, and the vast majority of lead authors on research products and translated research products are women. This could reflect the quality of the research teams selected for LASER awards and LASER's capacity-building efforts.
- Sub-IR 1.3: Increased inclusion of private sector, government, NGOs, and others in research for development translation partnerships, and Sub-IR 2.1: Increased HEI collaboration with field-level development actors throughout the research-to-translation value chain (LP-6 and LP-11): Both the number of translation stakeholders engaged in LASER-funded research projects and the translation partnership scorecard are on track to exceed 2021 FY targets. This likely reflects attention to intentional and formal processes for ERT with dedicated resources.

The following elements need attention/correction relative to LASER's RF/TOC:

- Percentage of research projects led by UPC or MSI HEIs/research institutions (under Sub-IR 1.4, LP-9): To date, no U.S. Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) are leading (or have led) a LASER project. While LASER has made strong efforts to engage HEIs in UPCs, it has not yet made a concerted effort to engage MSIs on a buy-in or research award. However, it may be worth noting that 27 persons from 15 MSIs are registered members of the LASER PULSE Network. On a separate note, to date, the lead author of 40 percent (17 of 45) of LASER research products is affiliated with a UPC. Moreover, currently 2 buy-in projects, and one pending buy-in project (Tanzania buy-in) are led by PIs from UPC HEIs and 10 out of 20 LASER core RFA awards recommended to USAID for funding were led by PIs from UPC HEIs. However, many of the UPC HEI PI led applications recommended by LASER to USAID for funding were either eventually denied or are currently under consideration by USAID.
- IR 3: Increased dissemination of translated research solutions and policy (LP-14/LP-15): There is some concern with (a) the number of convenings with decision-makers to disseminate research, and (b) the number of participants in such convenings -- mainly in terms of projected performance in the out-years of LASER (i.e. Years 4 and 5). Currently, the number of participants across convenings is actually above the cumulative target (at Year 3), but looking ahead the targets for both indicators ramp up significantly due to our assumptions that both the buy-ins and RFA awards would be winding down then. It will be a challenge to meet these targets, but in order to do so LASER will strongly encourage all buy-ins and RFA awards to conduct as many convenings as possible to disseminate their findings.

## 2c. Adapting approaches for next year's work planning

LASER expects to pay special attention to the following activities in Year 4 work planning, leveraging elements that are working well and addressing those that are not. The associated progress indicators for each activity are in parentheses:

- Improving Project management and technical reports quality (LP-1).
- Increased networking among LASER network members, potentially through the new LASER website platform or through other means (will directly help with LP-14 and LP-15).

- Continued ERT support of LASER-funded projects, ensuring that funded projects have significant impact on development policy or practice (LP-1, LP-14 and LP-15).
- Hosting of post-award R4D conferences in Colombia, Vietnam and Ethiopia to disseminate LASER-funded research results to key stakeholders and decision makers; to engage the local USAID mission and local government, private sector stakeholders, and bilateral development donors; and to set the stage for future funding opportunities for LASER (LP-3, LP-12).
- If LASER has sufficient resources after its Global Research Challenges for Development (GRCD) RFA and finalization of Ethiopia RFA awards, it would like to pilot an RFA for 12-month research targeting U.S. MSIs and their partnerships with practitioners and other UPC HEIs (LP-9).
- Finally, as mentioned in Section 6d of this report, LASER plans to create a new IR in its RF with the goal to build LASER sustainability beyond USAID funding. LASER expects to undertake some activities in Year 4 to align with this new IR.

### 3. MAJOR MILESTONES/ACHIEVEMENTS

#### 3a. Top achievements for LASER in Q1 and Q2 FY 2021

Below we highlight three key LASER accomplishments during Q1 and Q2 FY 2021.

Speed, scaling, and quality of LASER awards. To speed up the timeline for making awards and enable RFAs to be issued without a prior in-country R4D conference, the RFA process for Ethiopia and Vietnam moved from a two-step review of a concept note and a full application to a one-step review of the full application alone. This reduced the time from RFA issuance to funding recommendation to USAID from eight months to four months.

To ensure good project management and support for the rapidly increasing number of core and buy-in awards, LASER added research project managers Ross Meyers and Rhonda von Werder to augment Pamela McClure's work and establish a research management team. The research management team aims to provide high-quality support for all research projects and work closely with LASER's technical director, Betty Bugusu.

To ensure consistent quality of applications recommended for funding to USAID, LASER made several important changes for the Vietnam/Ethiopia RFA process compared with the Colombia RFA process: (a) A sub-criterion on "Attention to local context and leveraging local capacity" was included under the Research Merit criterion to explicitly take into account the significant strengths that in-country HEIs bring to an application; (b) LASER switched from Qualtrics forms to an online database system for securing reviews for the applications, which allowed for better quality and timely reviews since reviewers had all the information in one secure website and could edit their reviews online and at any time; and (c) Before recommending applications for funding to USAID, LASER implemented an intentional co-creation phase. In this phase, LASER worked closely with final-stage applicants to improve their applications based on reviewer and LASER's feedback on technical writing, clarity, organization, research translation, budget, gender analysis, and environmental impacts.

The Self-Reliance Learning Agenda (SRLA) project, commissioned by the USAID Office of Learning, Evaluation, and Research (LER) and the Bureau of Policy, Planning, and Learning (PPL), concluded in this reporting period was led by Texas A&M (Sylvie Hamie and Khalil Dirani) and UND (Tushi Baul and Lila Khatiwada), in collaboration with a local Uganda NGO, Just Like My Child Foundation. The project focused on measuring local-level capacity and commitment to self-reliance. The researchers found no standard indicators, and determined it was necessary to develop context-specific indicators. Through extensive co-creation, the team developed an annotated literature and

measurement matrix, and identified points for USAID to discuss what to measure and how to measure changes to capacity and commitment in different technical areas and at different levels of scale. Then the team developed a step-by-step participatory process to identify context specific commitment to self-reliance indicators. Even though there is a shift away from the term “journey to self-reliance”, USAID Activity Managers (AMs) reported that the matrix is relevant and valuable because it examines what capacity development means locally. The buy-in brought together researchers and practitioners to co-create these products. The USAID AMs reported that they were pleased with the deliverables and that “the value we see in working with a mechanism like LASER PULSE is we want to think about analytic rigor and that lives in academia.”

The project produced six main deliverables, including a full report and guidance manuals that represent translated research outputs:

1. [Full Report: “Developing Locally-Relevant Measures of Commitment”](#)
2. [“Measurement Matrix of capacity and commitment”](#)
3. [“Personas for Understanding Commitment in a Ugandan Community”](#)
4. [“Possible Research and Evaluation Questions, and Candidate Indicators to Consider When Attempting to Measure Commitment in a Ugandan Community”](#)
5. [“Participatory Process for Developing Locally Sensitive Commitment Measures”](#)
6. [“Research Findings: Measuring Capacity & Commitment as Programmatic Outcomes”](#)

These documents have been disseminated widely on the [LASER website](#), and via the following USAID channels:

- These outputs were disseminated to the Uganda USAID mission.
- Item #6 above is a PowerPoint presentation prepared by the SRLA Buy-In team and presented at the USAID Self-Reliance Learning Week, Session 7 in October 2020.
- ProgramNet (USAID internal audience) on the Agency-wide Learning Agenda (ALA) Q12 webpage.
- [LearningLab](#) ALA Q12 page (currently being updated, it will contain the same content as on ProgramNet, but be accessible to the public).
- USAID Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC).
- Emails to all USAID stakeholders who participated in consultations, as well as to *USAID ALA Snapshot* newsletter (biweekly distribution to all ALA question coordinators).
- Email to USAID staff in the ALA Mission Advisory Group (MAG) and to the ALA Q12 team.

Making Comprehensive Success Factors Analysis (CSFA) Portable: Professor Joseph Sinfield (Purdue) developed CSFA as a systematic method to determine key success factors required for achieving positive development outcomes. However, the process took weeks, as it relied heavily on surveys and required daylong, face-to-face discussions among researchers and practitioners working on that subject matter. As such, LASER perceived a need to make the process more “portable” in an effort to empower individual development researchers and field practitioners with tools they can use themselves to identify structural gaps in knowledge in their work.

The new, streamlined process is referred to as [System-Level Analysis \(SLA\)](#); it comprises a 40-minute video (see previous link) narrated by Sinfield, various activity worksheets, and a [guided-step tutorial](#) developed by UND. Staff from UND also deployed the tutorial during two

LASER RFA webinars, in January and February 2021, with the goal of providing SLA training for parties interested in applying through LASER's GRCD RFA.

### **3b. Top two cumulative LASER achievements since project start**

- Selection process to ensure excellent research teams: The productivity of funded research teams is very high, as evidenced by LP-2 and LP-10. LASER believes that excellence of LASER-awarded research teams stems from several key steps: (a) For buy-ins, LASER was able to assemble excellent interdisciplinary teams across diverse technical sectors, and also with deep experience from both academic research and development professional communities (of the buy-in teams that are not led by consortium partners, 20 percent are led by PIs that were identified through a search of the LASER PULSE Network, the rest were identified in other ways and then brought into the LASER network), (b) For core RFAs, LASER processes led to high selectivity of awards, with roughly 1 in 10 initial submissions (concept notes and full applications) being recommended for funding by LASER to USAID ; (c) For core RFAs, the applications/concept notes go through a rigorous consensus panel review and discussion, with attention paid to all evaluation criteria; and (d) Overall, LASER processes ensure a strong representation of women researchers among PIs/co-PIs.
- ERT model and implementation: As evidenced in LP-6 and LP-11, LASER strategy for building the capacity of buy-in and core-funded research teams for ERT is bearing positive results. LASER's ERT support strategy trains and supports LASER-funded awardees using many [specifically designed ERT resources](#).

## **4. SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIVITIES FY 2021**

This section is organized according to the objectives and intermediate results of LASER's RF.

### **4a. IR 1: Increase HEI delivery of collaborative and effective development-focused research**

- Gap analysis: ResilientAfrica Network (RAN) completed the gap analysis on HEI's institution research infrastructure in Ethiopia and summarized its findings in the report "[Understanding Ethiopia's Higher Education Institution Research Infrastructure, Research Translation, and Sustainability Mechanisms](#)". Further data collection is extended to Somalia and South Sudan for a comprehensive gap analysis report.
- Training courses: Based on the findings of the gap analysis, IU is developing two courses (Development Research Leadership in LMIC HEIs and Research Project Management in LMIC HEIs). IU is also developing casebook entries that feature Project Focus & Context, Notable Activities & Key Findings, Implications for and Best Practices in Research Translation, Lessons Learned, and Long-Term Impact.
- Network web platform: A soft launch of the new [laserpulse.org](http://laserpulse.org) website (with better search engine optimization and user interface design) was completed in March 2021. Transfer of domain and back-end member information is in progress.

### **4b. IR 2: Increase HEI synthesis, exchange, and translation of research results into usable development products and practices**

- RFAs: LASER prepared and released RFAs for [Vietnam](#), [Ethiopia](#) and [GRCD](#) in July 2020, November 2020 and January 2021, respectively. Applications were received and underwent or are undergoing the review process, including a consensus panel meeting to select applications to recommend to USAID for funding. For Vietnam, five applications received mission concurrence. The applications are currently under USAID gender and environmental reviews. This review

process has been delayed in part due to changes in internal USAID operational structures. For Ethiopia, four applications, recommended for funding, completed the LASER co-creation process and will be submitted for USAID mission concurrence and gender and environmental reviews. For the GRCD, LASER received five applications and will send those for panel review.

- **Democratization of the CSFA Process:** The Innovation Science team supported the Pulte Institute for Global Development in democratization of the CSFA and [System-Level Analysis \(SLA\) training](#), designing and testing related materials to assist with the GRCD RFA process.
- **Problem to Context (P-C) Training:** The learning objectives for the training have been defined, drawing on Innovation Science theory and LASER translation objectives. The first module is intended to convey fundamental concepts underlying P-C maps. The second module will demonstrate the value of the P-C maps through selected case studies, and the third module will guide participants through a step-by-step process to help them construct their own P-C maps for any challenge they may be attempting to address. Consistent with past trainings developed by the Innovation Science team, the content will be modular to facilitate self-guided study for anyone in the LASER network.
- **Literature Review on Research Translation:** CRS led a rapid systematic review of literature on research translation over archived academic journal publications. LASER found that there are no consistent terminologies and standard processes in research translation (report embargoed for the time-being). A key conclusion is that the existing translation models such as technology transfer and integrated knowledge translation are sector specific (agriculture and global health, respectively). A second conclusion was that LASER's proposed ERT model, where research translation starts from the research question identification and continues throughout the life cycle of research activities, is unique compared to other translation models in terms of its defined pillars (partnership, process, product and dissemination), as well as associated supporting training materials and tools.

#### **4c. IR 3: Increase dissemination of translated research results for evidence-based solutions**

- **Communication strategies:** IU led the development of a communication strategies report, based on a synthesis of primary research findings across LASER from 13 sources (including KIIs and focus groups in Colombia, Vietnam, and Ethiopia; surveys; literature reviews); a situation analysis of existing researcher-practitioner collaborations; a SWOT analysis for LASER, including its goals, objectives and key messages for researchers and practitioners; and an implementation plan.
- **LASER PULSE quarterly newsletters:** The *LASER PULSE Newsletter* was launched in December 2019 and is released every quarter. On average, the newsletter has a 30 percent open rate (745 of 2,465 and 875 of 2,568 opened for the December 2020 and March 2021 newsletters respectively). This 30 percent open rate is very good compared to an average of 17.1 percent email open rate ([data source](#), April 2021)

#### **4d. Sub IR 4: Enhance systems and structures for gender and minority considerations in the HEI network that enable women and minorities to conduct research**

As in past years, LASER's online gender training was required for all wishing to apply for LASER RFA's in FY 2021. LASER incorporates, in addition to research translation, gender considerations into the co-creation process to help research teams strengthen their applications.

### **5. ENGAGEMENT WITH PARTNERS FY 2021**

#### **5a. LASER partnerships with institutions of higher education**

- New HEI partnerships through Colombia RFA awards:

- The New School (New York, USA): \$124,883
- Universidad del Norte (Barranquilla, Colombia): \$10,000
- Pending: Universidad EAFIT (Medellín, Colombia): \$123,925
- Pending: Fundación ACUA (Bogota, Colombia): \$142,737
- LASER anticipates the following new HEI partnerships via Vietnam RFA awards, pending final approvals:
  - University of Engineering and Technology, Vietnam National University - Hanoi (Hanoi, Vietnam): \$165,321.75
  - University of Maryland - College Park (College Park, Maryland, USA): Cost share
  - Duke University (Durham, North Carolina, USA): \$217,418
  - Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences (Hanoi, Vietnam): \$154,124
  - University of Medicine and Pharmacy (Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam): \$100,044
  - Hanoi University of Science and Technology (Hanoi, Vietnam): \$171,958
- LASER's most recent pending buy-in activity, Tanzania Early Grade Social and Emotional Skills and Phonics-Based Literacy Learning Agenda, comprises one new HEI partnership:
  - University of Dodoma (Dodoma, Tanzania): \$849,984
- [Current HEI Partnerships](#)

### **5b. New and ongoing partnerships for human and institutional capacity building**

- East Africa post-award capacity building (ongoing): LASER has continued capacity building with the previously awarded projects in East Africa by holding inaugural and regularly scheduled meetings, as well as helping research teams complete their annual workplans and data management plans.
  - University of Dar Es Salaam: \$24,068
  - Makerere University: \$31,999
  - UND: \$85,273
  - Luigi Giussani Institute: \$79,563
  - Virginia Tech: \$104,152
  - Egerton University: \$47,768
  - New York University School of Medicine: \$80,988
- The LASER Research Management team held webinars for potential RFA applicants and co-creation meetings with applicants for research projects recommended for funding by their respective consensus panels. The co-creation meetings utilized support from LASER teams (Research Management, Embedded Research, Gender, and the Business Office) to provide feedback to strengthen applications before submission to USAID. Applicants also received assistance with Environment forms. Communications with these potential awardees included frequent email exchanges with LASER project managers. Institutions that have completed or are currently undergoing the co-creation process during this reporting period include:
  - The New School, USA (completed)
  - Universidad del Norte, Colombia (completed)
  - Universidad EAFIT, Colombia (ongoing)
  - University of Engineering and Technology, Vietnam National University, Vietnam (ongoing)
  - Duke University, USA (ongoing)
  - National Economics University, Vietnam (ongoing)
  - Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Vietnam (ongoing)
  - University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Vietnam (ongoing)
  - University of Natural Resources and Environment, Vietnam (ongoing)

- Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Vietnam (ongoing)
- LASER also has various USAID M/B/IO partners through buy-in projects, including:
  - Center for Conflict and Violence Prevention, housed in Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization (CPS/CVP): Co-creation of a bureau-wide learning agenda that establishes the evidence base for effective approaches to armed conflict and violence prevention
  - Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, Office of Technical and Program Quality, Design, Monitoring, and Evaluation, for Accountability and Learning (BHA/TPQ/DMEAL): Co-creation of the multi-year emergency program impact evaluation in South Sudan
  - USAID Ethiopia: Refinement of research gaps for the RFA
  - USAID Tanzania: Co-creation of the Tanzania Early Grade Social and Emotional Skills and Phonics-Based Literacy Learning Agenda (Pending activity)
  - USAID/BHA: A recent collaboration to initiate a buy-in to develop an evidence gap map regarding Private Sector Engagement (PSE) in Humanitarian Assistance, to provide additional research and analysis for LASER’s current PSE Evidence Gap Map project.

## 6. MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING (MEL)

### 6a. Progress against indicators

*Table 1. Performance Indicator Table for LASER PULSE Year 3 Mid-Year Reporting\**

Key result Area (Intermediate Result)	Indicator # & Code	Indicator Name	Life of Project		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Data Collection Method	Comments
			Target	Achieve. to Date	Target	Achieved	Target	Achieved	Target	Q1/Q2 Achieved		
Objective: Enhanced discovery and application in policy and practice of university-sourced, evidence-based solutions to development challenges	(1) L3.S.2_in1	# of program or policy changes made by the public sector, private sector, or other dev. actors influenced by Lab-funded research results or related scientific activities	20	4	2	0	3	4	3	0	PPC Reporting Form*; Outcome Mapping Journal	No PPC to report thus far in Y3
IRT: Increased HEI delivery of collaborative and effective development-focused research	(2) L3.S.1_in2	# of research products produced with LASER-supported funding	92	27	2	5	15	22	20	18	BIDRF**; Deliverables Tracker	LASER buy-ins (14); LASER Awards (4) ^ Lead Author: 16 F, 2 M

\* Click on the table graphic, or the “Table 1” link above it, to access the full table

### 6b. Summary of progress toward life-of-project targets (cumulative)

To assess the life-of-project trajectory of LASER’s performance indicators, LASER has created [charts](#) for most of the official indicators in which targets are graphed in cumulative percentage terms, against which the actual reported values are displayed. Since not all indicators are conducive to being shown in this format, a few are not represented. Seven of LASER’s indicators are shown to have a good trajectory, with every expectation that they will continue to perform well through the end of the project. LP-2, LP-6 and LP-10 look particularly strong and represent some key output and outcome indicators. While LP-3 and LP-8 appear to be concerning, LP-8 is in fact on track at present rate to reach or exceed target by end of the FY 2021 Q3/Q4 reporting period. LP-3 on the other hand looks unlikely at present rate to meet target by end FY 2021. One potential reason for this under-performance may be the lack of in-person R4D conferences in Vietnam and Ethiopia. In-person R4D conference allowed LASER to directly interact with a good number of UPC researchers and provide training to them in conference sessions on gender and research translation. Also, the dearth of GRCD RFA applicants impacted the number of persons taking the online versions of the training modules, since that is a requirement for those who submit applications.

Indicators LP-1 and LP-18 are currently underperforming somewhat, due to programming delays that extended the completion dates of some buy-ins (LP-1), and pushed RFA award implementation back (LP-18). However, LASER expects them to perform well by the end of the project. This is because “Program and Policy Changes” (i.e., impacts) that LP-1 measures will take time to manifest; therefore, LASER expects good results here as more buy-ins are completed and the research awards are completed in FY 2022 and FY 2023. LP-18 will also benefit from making many additional core research awards that remain (currently this indicator has reported results from only six awards); buy-ins have also been added as a data source (see the note in Section 6d below). We do note, however, that cumulatively since the beginning of the project, 49 percent of PIs/co-PIs of all core awards and 51 percent of PIs/co-PIs of all LASER buy-ins are women.

Finally, LASER is concerned with the performance of LP-12, LP-14, LP-15 and LP-16. LP-12 is impacted by the cancellation of the LASER R4D conferences where it trained development practitioners on ERT. Hopefully, the resumption of in-person conferences (most likely in FY 2022 and FY 2023) will allow this indicator to resume a good trajectory (that they initially displayed in FY 2019 and FY 2020), but LASER is also anticipating a webinar can contribute here, as well. Discussed previously in Section 2, LP-14 and LP-15 (convenings, number of participants) concern LASER because of the large targets in the out years of the program. As such, LASER will ensure that buy-ins and core research award teams are strongly encouraged to conduct as many convenings to disseminate their research as possible. LP-16 tracks the number of buy-ins that LASER manages; while LASER hopes to engage with more M/B/IOs in the next year or so, securing buy-in opportunities is based upon demand from USAID’s M/B/IOs, and is therefore outside of LASER’s control.

### **6c. Deviance from M&E targets FY 2021**

Table 1 above consists of the 19 LASER PULSE indicators, listed in red text from 1-18, with Indicator 4 being repeated (as 4b) under a different sub-IR. At the midpoint of FY 2021, 10 indicators have exceeded or are within 10percent of their half-year target values, 2 have no data to report thus far in FY 2021, and 6 have underachieved by more than 10percent of their respective half-year target. The following bullet points provide some context for indicators in the latter two categories:

- **Indicator 1** *L3.S.2\_in1 # of program or policy changes made by the public or private sector*  
No data to report so far in Y3. Perhaps the SRLA, PSE-1 and/or Uganda Indigenous Peoples (UIP) buy-ins will have data to report in Q3/Q4 for this indicator; the former is complete, and the other two are nearing their end. Several outputs have been produced from all these buy-ins (especially SRLA and PSE-1), and it is fully expected that at least one (if not all) of them will generate the type of impact toward which this indicator is geared. For example, the primary co-PI of UIP reported “the prospects are high given the level of stakeholder engagements that are happening between the researchers, USAID, local and central governments.” LASER will continue to query PIs, co-PIs, and relevant M/B/IOs’ activity managers to determine any Policy and Program Change (PPC) reporting for the FY 2021 Annual Report.
- **Indicator 3** *Custom LP.1 # of tertiary-level educators and faculty who complete professional dev. activities with US Government (USG) assistance (e.g., R4D conferences and LASER’s online training modules)*

The data for this indicator currently comprise only the research translation and gender online training modules; so far in FY 2021, the participation rate observed is much less than in the mid-year reporting period for FY 2020. The absence of the Ethiopia R4D conference (planned for Fall 2020 before the government response to COVID-19 intervened) certainly affected the reporting here, as training sessions at R4D conferences are a key component of LP-3. Moreover,

the challenges of organizing a Vietnam post-award conference in Summer or Early Fall 2021 makes it uncertain that LASER will meet the overall FY 2021 target for this indicator.

- **Indicator 9** L3.S.1.1\_in3 *percent of research projects led by UPC or MSI HEIs/research institutions (includes LASER buy-ins)*

Although LASER certainly would like to have most buy-ins led by UPCs, this is not always possible for a variety of reasons. Often this is because a US based team was evaluated as most qualified among those submitting expressions of interest, based on expertise required for a specific research topic area. In a small number of cases the USAID operating unit (OU) that is sponsoring the buy-in requested that the buy-in's be led by specific institutions due to prior known expertise, for example the University of Notre Dame for the N. Iraq buy-in and Inclusive Development Partners (IDP)/The University of Massachusetts (IDP) for MCSIE buy-in. In addition, 10 out of 20 LASER core RFA awards recommended to USAID for funding were led by PIs from UPC HEI's. However, many of the UPC HEI PI led applications recommended by LASER to USAID for RFA award funding were eventually denied or are currently under consideration by USAID. In Q3/Q4, LASER expects to report an improved number for this indicator since one Colombia award, several Vietnam awards, and at least one buy-in (Tanzania Early Grade Social and Emotional Skills and Phonics-Based Literacy Learning Agenda) will feature UPCs leading research projects that will begin in the period.

No PIs from US MSI's have applied for LASER awards. However, 27 persons from 15 MSIs are registered members of the LASER PULSE Network.

- **Indicator 12** Custom LP.6 *# of development actors trained on translation (at R4D conferences and online modules)*

Similar to LP-3, the data for this indicator is affected by the lack of R4D conferences held in advance of LASER RFAs being issued – thus, LP-12 currently only comprises the research translation online training module. The absence of the Ethiopia R4D conference (Fall 2020) definitely affected the reporting here, as translation training sessions at R4D conferences are a key component of this indicator. Uncertainty over whether or not there will be a Vietnam post-award conference in Q3/Q4 makes it difficult to predict if the overall FY 2021 target for LP-12 will be met.

- **Indicator 14** L3.S.2.2\_in2 *# of convenings to disseminate research for use and/or develop policy recommendations*
- **Indicator 15** L3.S.2.2\_in3 *# of participants at convenings to disseminate research for use and/or develop policy recommendations*

The current reporting numbers here are somewhat below the half-target value for FY 2021. Research awards held slightly more convenings than buy-ins thus far in FY 2021, but the number of participants for the latter was much greater than for the former. LASER expects this will balance out in Q3/Q4, with more buy-ins conducting convenings or participating in workshops/webinars. LASER core personnel will likely conduct one or more webinars as well.

- **Indicator 16** L3.S.2\_in2 *# of instances of USAID OUs using CDR-supported research tools, approaches or mechanisms*

There are no new buy-ins to report in Q1/Q2. However, the Tanzania buy-in is expected to commence in June, so it will be reported in the FY 2021 Annual Report. LASER also hopes to secure more buy-ins in Q3/Q4.

- **Indicator 18 Custom LP.9 # of female researchers, and U.S. minority researchers, conducting LASER-funded research (includes LASER buy-ins)**

This indicator is currently under the half-year target value. However, LASER expects to see a significant increase in Q3/Q4 as the other Colombia award is led by a female researcher, several Vietnam awards will also involve women researchers, and the Tanzania buy-in (pending) includes a female researcher. Part of the current under-achievement shown stems from some Colombia awards not being funded due to the mission concurrence issues. Nevertheless, LASER fully expects to meet or exceed the full-year target at the time of FY 2021 reporting in October.

#### **6d. M&E updates**

LASER proposes to revise its RF in the form of adding a fourth IR and at least three Sub-IRs to represent a path to sustainability for the LASER consortium and the LASER PULSE Network, beyond the period of this award. Shortly after the present reporting period, the draft changes will be finalized and presented to USAID for review and approval.

Additionally, as mentioned in the previous section, it is possible that targets for Indicator LP-17 will be adjusted upward somewhat, and that additional refinement of other indicators and targets will be considered upon further review. For example, USAID had just provided approval to add buy-ins as a data source for LP-18, although this change did not affect the current reporting period's results. Any other changes made will be in consultation with USAID and will be documented in an updated version of the LASER PULSE MEL plan.

### **7. USAID ENGAGEMENT FY 2021**

#### **7a. Summary of current/active USAID buy-ins to program**

LASER has 11 active USAID buy-ins, and the summary of progress is provided in [Table 2](#).

#### **7b. Potential USAID buy-ins to program FY 2021**

The following buy-in Program Description and Budget have been reviewed and approved by the agreement officer representative (AOR).

##### Tanzania Early Grade Social and Emotional Skills and Phonics-Based Literacy Learning Agenda

*USAID operating unit/mission:* USAID Tanzania Education Office

*Buy-in amount:* \$1,061,309

*Duration:* April 2020 - July 2023

*Lead Implementer:* University of Dodoma

*Overall objective:* The USAID/Tanzania Education Office, hereafter referred to as the "Education Office" seeks to partner with USAID/DDI/ITR to co-create a learning agenda with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST) on the Tanzania mainland, the Ministry of Education, and Vocational Training (MOEVT) on Zanzibar, teacher training colleges, and HEIs. The overarching goal is to conduct research on: (a) integrating social and emotional competencies into instruction to improve the quality of teacher-learner relationship and nurture a safe, inclusive classroom environment and (b) identify opportunities in the education ecosystem for integrating a phonics-based literacy approach.

Additionally, USAID BHA is working with LASER to adopt the LASER PSE buy-in's Evidence Gap Map approach for a new buy-in to understand if PSE in humanitarian assistance (HA) has significant amounts of evidence and identify gaps in evidence. Based on the collected evidence and identified

gaps, taxonomy of PSE in HA can be developed to further understand private sector's roles in HA, types of engagement, success models, and lessons learned.

### **7c. Other engagements with USAID FY 2021**

#### RFA- and buy-in-related operating units (OU) engagement

LASER has engaged through RFA's with the USAID missions in Colombia, Vietnam, and Ethiopia. LASER has engaged through buy-ins in FY 2021 with the Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization/Center for Conflict and Violence Prevention (CPS/CVP), South Sudan, and Tanzania.

## **8. LESSONS LEARNED/BEST PRACTICES FY 2021**

Lack of on-the-ground R4D convenings impedes researcher-practitioner networking and dissemination of translated research solutions and policy: As detailed in this report, LASER's inability to hold on-the-ground R4D conferences has impaired progress towards engaging decision makers. Specifically, this has led to a reduction in (a) the number of convenings with decision makers that are needed to disseminate research for use and/or to develop policy recommendations, and (b) the number of participants in convenings with decision makers to disseminate research to use and/or develop policy recommendations. These numbers are tracking well below targets. These convenings usually happened during the R4D conferences, which were postponed due to COVID-19. LASER expects that with the post-award R4D convenings, these numbers will rise.

Online meetings: Due to COVID-19, LASER has not been able to meet in person as a group for discussion and strategic planning. Remote meeting is not as engaging as in-person meeting, especially for brainstorming or open discussion. LASER found that running an online meeting requires longer lead time for preparation, and multiple meetings may be required to accomplish the same goal. For example, for a planning workshop, LASER has conducted: (a) pre-workshop initial readouts to outline the topics that need open discussion; (b) breakout sessions for brainstorming; (c) multiple small working group meetings to refine concepts from brainstorming sessions; and (d) a 3 ½-day workshop session to discuss initial results from working groups, with breakout sessions and/or interactive tools (jamboard, menti, etc.) to gather inputs. LASER found remote meetings are not only more time-consuming but also less cost-effective due to prolonged demand on people's time.

The ERT model, in which researchers and practitioners collaborate on the research question identification and throughout the life cycle of research and dissemination, is a key concept to address LASER's TOC. As LASER operationalized the model in its awarded research projects (both RFAs and buy-ins), the team observed that in order for research translation to be effective, it requires systematic and intentional effort throughout the research life cycle with appropriate allocated resources. As a first step, LASER requires specific criteria and language in RFAs for research translation. In addition, the ERT team in LASER provides reviews and feedback to applicants to ensure that the research translation activities and resources are properly addressed in the scope of work and budget. Once the application is funded, the ERT team continues to support the research team with a formal process of needs assessment, one-on-one consultation, and surveys, along with a series of online resources.

## **9. PIVOT POINTS/CHALLENGES FY 2021**

Re-initiate convening events: As described in Sections 2 and 8, LASER's inability to convene meetings in person or in a hybrid manner between the LASER team and external stakeholders and policy makers has hampered progress on some indicators. LASER aims to hold a virtual workshop on university-corporate partnership for development in FY 2021 that will bring together LASER and

corporate development partners. LASER will plan to hold its next quarterly meeting in an in-person/hybrid format to allow the team to interact more naturally. LASER may hold the Ethiopia R4D in-person/hybrid on the ground in FY 2021, if institutional and government policies allow it.

COVID-19 continues to affect progress in some LASER-funded research projects. Travel restrictions and lockdown within Kenya and surrounding countries delayed initial visits, stakeholder meetings, and training in the field for East Africa research projects. In addition to travel restrictions, buy-in research projects experienced other challenges, such as inability to reach students and teachers due to school closure or city lockdown; slowdown in response by government agencies, and slowed responses by USAID and in-country partners due to relocation, more workload, less staff, and illness. More details are provided [here](#).

## **10. KEY ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD**

LASER looks forward to completing the following activities in Q3 and Q4 of FY 2021 to ensure the awards' continued success:

- Awarding of Vietnam, Ethiopia and GRCD RFA project funding. Year 4 work planning, including a new IR and activities related to LASER sustainability post-USAID support.
- Provision of close attention to project management and reports quality for all awards. ERT support will continue to facilitate the uptake and impact of LASER-funded research.
- Rollout of the new, enhanced LASER network web platform. This platform will help support Year 4 activities to develop online networking and collaboration within the LASER network.

## **11. ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING**

The LASER PULSE Cooperative Agreement was reviewed by the U.S. Global Development Lab's bureau environmental officer (BEO) for potential environmental impacts and received a categorical exclusion pursuant to 22 CFR 216.2(c)(2). Specific FY 2021 activities not enumerated in the Cooperative Agreement, such as buy-ins and RFA grants, were likewise reviewed by the BEO.

LASER also monitors sub-awardees that have Initial Environmental Examinations (IEEs), to ensure that Environmental Monitoring and Mitigation Plans (EMMPs) are being followed, and to address potential environmental or social impacts that may arise during project implementation. To date, this includes one sub-award (East Africa Award Round):

- Building Sustainable Resilient Supply Chains: A Model of Youth Input Resellers in Kenya. PI: Jake Ricker-Gilbert (Purdue). Status: The IEE and EMMP for the project were approved by the BEO in January 2021. The Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Report ([EMMR](#)) for the current reporting period has also been submitted.

## **12. GENDER/SOCIAL INCLUSIONS CONSIDERATIONS FY 2020**

In the application review stage for Vietnam and Ethiopia RFAs, LASER ensures inclusiveness in viewpoints from both genders in the review process, with a total of 22 female and 20 male reviewers (Vietnam: 17 F and 13 M, and Ethiopia: 5 F and 7 M). Furthermore, the RAN gender expert participated in the co-creation process that was convened for the four projects recommended for funding through the Ethiopia RFA. The co-creation process required that all the proposals integrate gender concerns in the research questions and methodology design. This will ensure that project implementation employs a methodology that conforms to gender analysis.

### 13. DELIVERABLES COMPLETED IN Q1 AND Q2 FY 2021

#### 13a. Translated research products from LASER buy-ins

1. [Research Findings: Measuring Capacity & Commitment as Programmatic Outcomes](#): Presentation by the SRLA Buy-In (Lead Author: S. Hamie, Texas A&M) in October 2020 at the USAID Self-Reliance Learning Week, Session 7 ; uploaded to the DEC on Feb. 23, 2021.
2. [Personas for Understanding Commitment in a Ugandan Community](#): Manual created by the SRLA Buy-In (Lead Author: S. Hamie, Texas A&M) in January 2021; uploaded to the DEC on Feb. 10, 2021.
3. [Possible Research and Evaluation Questions, and Candidate Indicators, to Consider When Attempting to Measure Commitment in a Ugandan Community](#): Manual created by the SRLA Buy-In (Lead Author: S. Hamie, Texas A&M) in January 2021; uploaded to the DEC on Feb. 10, 2021.
4. [Participatory Process for Developing Locally Sensitive Commitment Measures](#): Manual created by the SRLA Buy-In (Lead Author: S. Hamie, Texas A&M) in January 2021; uploaded to the DEC on Feb 10, 2021.
5. [HESN SRLA Measurement Matrix](#): Measurement tool created by the SRLA Buy-In (Lead Author: S. Hamie, Texas A&M). No DEC upload; the link is to a Google Sheets file internal to USAID that contains several matrices of capacity and commitment measures to be used as a starting point in discussions of what and how to measure.
6. [Enduring Results Study 3.0 - Findings & Analysis Deck](#): Presentation by the PSE-2 Buy-In (Lead Author: Accenture Development Partners); no DEC upload, as this was designated by USAID for its internal use.
7. [Extract of Findings and Recommendations from MUST & GUCC - March 9th 2021](#): Policy recommendations developed by the UIP Buy-In (Lead Author: J. Ssentongo, Makerere University) for USAID/Uganda; for internal use by the mission (no DEC upload at this time).
8. [Multi-Country Study on Inclusive Education \(MCSIE\) Cambodia Policy Review](#): Completed by the MCSIE Buy-In (Lead Author: M. Schwartz); approved by USAID for internal use on Nov. 12, 2020 (no DEC upload at this time).
9. [Multi-Country Study on Inclusive Education \(MCSIE\) Malawi Policy Review](#): Completed by the MCSIE Buy-In (Lead Author: C. Johnstone, International Development Partners/IDP); approved by USAID for internal use on Nov. 12, 2020 (no DEC upload at this time).
10. [Multi-Country Study on Inclusive Education \(MCSIE\) Nepal Policy Review](#): Completed by the MCSIE Buy-In (Lead Author: M. McCloskey); approved by USAID for internal use on Nov. 12, 2020 (no DEC upload at this time).
11. [Multi-Country Study on Inclusive Education \(MCSIE\) Comparative Policy Review for Cambodia, Malawi, and Nepal](#): Completed by the MCSIE Buy-In (Lead Author: A. Hayes, IDP); approved by USAID for internal use on Nov. 12, 2020 (no DEC upload at this time).
12. [Research on the Nature and Scope of Trafficking in Persons \(TIP\) in South Africa: Trafficking of Children](#): Presentation by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: A. Warri, University of Witwatersrand); DEC upload pending.
13. [Multi-Country Study on Inclusive Education](#): Presentation by the MCSIE Buy-In (Lead Author: V. Karr, IDP) to the USAID Education Sector Council on March 17, 2021..

**I3b. Translated research products from LASER core awards**

1. [AgUnity Blockchain App](#): Created by the Hall - Blockchain for Food Security Award (Developer: AgUnity). No DEC upload, as this is a cell phone application adapted by the research team for a specific deployment in Kenya; the link is provided for more information on the application.
2. [Data-Driven Decision Support for Improved Water Security in East Africa](#): Presentation by the Gitau - East Africa Water Security Award (Lead Author: M. Gitau, Purdue); no DEC upload, as this is internally embargoed at Purdue per the author's request.
3. [Support for Improved Water Security in East Africa - Short Video](#): Created by the Gitau - East Africa Water Security Award (Lead Author: M. Gitau, Purdue); no DEC upload (the link provided is to the author's LinkedIn page).

**I3c. Research products from LASER buy-Ins**

1. [A Desk Review Report of the Voices and Rights of the Batwa, the Ik, and the Tepeth Indigenous Peoples and the Trafficking in People in Karamoja, Uganda](#): Completed by the UIP Buy-In (Lead Author: W. Bazeyo, Makerere University); uploaded to the DEC on Oct. 20, 2020.
2. [Landscape Review: Research on the Nature and Scope of Trafficking in Persons \(TIP\) in South Africa](#): Completed by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: M. Roper, Khulisa Management Services); uploaded to the DEC on Jan. 25, 2021 (under embargo).
3. [Landscape Review: Research on the Nature and Scope of Trafficking in Persons \(TIP\) in South Africa - Executive Summary](#): Completed by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: M. Roper, Khulisa Management Services); uploaded to the DEC on Jan. 25, 2021.
4. [Developing Locally-Relevant Measures of Commitment](#): Report produced by the SRLA Buy-In (Lead Author: S. Hamie, Texas A&M) in January 2021; uploaded to the DEC on Feb. 10, 2021.
5. [Executive Summary: Developing Locally-Relevant Measures of Commitment](#): Created by the SRLA Buy-In (Lead Author: S. Hamie, Texas A&M) in January 2021; uploaded to the DEC on Feb. 10, 2021.
6. [Multi-Country Study on Inclusive Education \(MCSIE\) Cambodia Literature Review](#): Completed by the MCSIE Buy-In (Lead Author: H. Niad, IDP); approved by USAID for internal use on Nov. 12, 2020 (no DEC upload at this time).
7. [Multi-Country Study on Inclusive Education \(MCSIE\) Malawi Literature Review](#): Completed by the MCSIE Buy-In (Lead Author: E. Dombrowski, IDP); approved by USAID for internal use on Nov. 12, 2020 (no DEC upload at this time).
8. [Multi-Country Study on Inclusive Education \(MCSIE\) Nepal Literature Review](#): Completed by the MCSIE Buy-In (Lead Author: S. Pena, University of Massachusetts Boston); approved by USAID for internal use on Nov. 12, 2020 (no DEC upload at this time).
9. [Multi-Country Study on Inclusive Education \(MCSIE\): Comparative Literature Review for Cambodia, Malawi, and Nepal](#). Completed by the MCSIE Buy-In (Lead Author: A. Hayes, IDP); no DEC upload at this time, as this is meant for internal use at USAID.
10. [LASER S. Sudan PSSIE Student PSS Survey Dataset](#): Created by J. DeBoer (Purdue); uploaded to the Development Data Library (DDL) on March 3, 2021.
11. [LASER S. Sudan PSSIE Student EGMA Survey Dataset](#): Created by J. DeBoer (Purdue); uploaded to the DDL on March 3, 2021.
12. [LASER S. Sudan PSSIE Student EGRA Survey Dataset](#): Created by J. DeBoer (Purdue); uploaded to the DDL on March 3, 2021.

13. [Enduring Results Study 3.0: Detailed Report](#): Submitted by the PSE-2 Buy-In (Lead Author: Accenture Development Partners); no DEC upload, as it is for internal use at USAID.
14. [Enduring Results Study 3.0: Summary Report](#): Submitted by the PSE-2 Buy-In (Lead Author: Accenture Development Partners); uploaded to the DEC on April 26, 2021.

### **I3d. Research products from LASER core awards**

1. [Precipitation and Temperature \(1979-2020\) and Annual Streamflow \(1959-2001\) Data for Sasumua River Watershed, Kenya](#): Created by the Gitau - East Africa Water Security Award (Lead Author: M. Gitau, Purdue); no DDL upload as of now (currently embargoed at Purdue).
2. [Precipitation and Temperature \(2000-2018\), Streamflow \(1997-2007\), and Water Quality Data \(2011-2016\) for Murchison Bay Watershed, Uganda](#): Created by the Gitau - East Africa Water Security Award (Lead Author: N. Kiggundu, Makerere University); no DDL upload as of now (currently embargoed at Purdue).
3. [Precipitation and Temperature Data for Simiyu River Watershed, Tanzania \(1972-2019\)](#): Created by the Gitau - East Africa Water Security Award (Lead Author: E. Munishi, University of Dar Es Salaam) no DDL upload as of now (currently embargoed at Purdue).
4. [Precipitation and Temperature Data for Select 12 Stations in Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda \(1979-2020\)](#): Created by the Gitau - East Africa Water Security Award (Lead Author: V. Garibay, Purdue). No DDL upload as of now (currently embargoed at Purdue).