

# LASER PULSE

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



## Year 4 Bi-Annual Report (2022)

Higher Education Solutions Network (HESN) 2.0 Programs

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**AOR Name:** Kevin Roberts

**Submitted by:**  
Arvind Raman  
Purdue University  
1281 Win Hentschel Blvd., Suite 2341  
West Lafayette, IN 47906  
Email: raman@ecn.purdue.edu

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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:	International Development Partners
INGO:	International Non-Governmental Organization
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
PIRS:	Performance Indicator Reference Sheets
PSE:	Private Sector Engagement
QA:	Quality Assurance
RAN:	ResilientAfrica Network
RF:	Results Framework
R4D:	Research for Development
RFA:	Request for Applications (also referred to as core awards)
RFSA:	Resilience Food Security Activities
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

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

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 2,700-plus researchers and development practitioners in 62 countries. LASER PULSE currently manages 32 projects in 16 countries.

The Innovation, Technology, and Research (ITR) 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

There is no major deviation from the original application.

### 2b. Elements in LASER's Theory of Change that are working best or are challenging

Embedded Research Translation (ERT) as a model to conduct collaborative development research is working well: LASER initially articulated it as the 'Research Translation Value Chain', but later recognized the need to emphasize the integrated, iterative, and collaborative nature of research translation in its funded projects and built this approach into its current form as ERT. As noted in the FY21 annual report, we further developed the four key components of ERT - partnership, process, product and dissemination via [an overview of the ERT model](#) as well as training on [Introduction to Embedded Research Translation](#). Since FY20, LASER has been providing direct support to all the project teams in codesigning their ERT strategies. This approach of incorporating ERT into projects' design and execution plan speaks directly to our theory of change, and has been working well. The success of incorporating ERT in research translation is visible in USAID's and OU's approvals of recommendations and knowledge products.

Building capacity in institutions and concurrently managing the quality of research products is challenging: LASER is working with groups of HEIs, practitioners, and researchers across countries. Many of the project teams have some experience working with USGs, while others are newer partners. In such cases, LASER holds the responsibility of strengthening capacity and supporting high-quality products with newer project teams. Building ongoing capacity is hard work and can be challenging as it requires conducting reviews and providing recommendations, while simultaneously building the capacity in the project teams to produce quality outputs. In FY22, LASER repurposed its work plan to institute a 'review team' to review the knowledge products and provide revision recommendations to assure the quality of all products delivered. As part of the review process, LASER's review team provides detailed feedback and shares relevant templates and examples as a way to build capacity in the project team for the future. We began conducting the in depth review in FY22 and have already received multiple positive feedbacks across the projects that shows the effectiveness of our review process and revision recommendations. For example "...those comments have a 'fresh eyes' perspective and they've helped me catch problems and make it useful for a general audience. They're great." (Margaret Roper, PI of the South Africa TIP project). The quality of review and revision recommendations was also acknowledged by the Director of International Cooperation and Resources, Department of Science and Innovation, South Africa, when he mentioned that he wished he had a review team like LASER's in his group.

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

- LASER will further strengthen the review process to support quality assurance of the research products and through detailed feedback on both the technical and the translational aspects of the deliverable, build capacity in the research teams. We will update the process based on the feedback received from the research teams.
- We have observed that while members are active in utilizing LASER's content - training, tools, courses and templates, the interaction amongst the members themselves continues to be low. To promote interactivity, we incorporated [Circle](#) functionality on our website, inviting network members to join Circle in order to communicate with other members, share knowledge and opportunities as well as collaborate on research and proposals. In spite of our efforts, however, the interaction amongst the members remains low. We continue to probe the cause behind it and intend to launch a promotional email campaign inviting network members to join Circle. Since we have seen high engagement over emails, as evidenced by the newsletter 'open rate', discussed later, we think that through an email campaign we will be able to nudge more members to join Circle and connect with each other.

## 3. MAJOR MILESTONES/ACHIEVEMENTS

### 3a. Top achievements for LASER in F4 Q1/Q2

- Five-year extension of LASER PULSE: We have received a five-year No-Cost Extension (NCE) from USAID, extending the date of the LASER's performance period to July 2028. This will give LASER five more years to continue the important work in evidence-based development research, while strategically building the program further. We intend to pursue that goal by transitioning under the Global Development and Innovation (GDI) division of [Purdue Applied Research Institute \(PARI\)](#). The details are being worked on in conversation with PARI, Purdue, and the USAID, and will be included in the annual report.
- USAID Higher Education Global Evidence Summit, Engaging Higher Education for Change through Employability, Innovation, and the Private Sector: LASER has four presentations selected in the [USAID Higher Education Global Evidence Summit](#). Two under the Summit's [Private Sector Engagement theme](#) are 1- "Demystifying private sector engagement: Lessons learned from USAID's partnering processes". In this session the research team, along with Senior Director of Evidence, Learning, and Data, Private Sector Engagement Hub, USAID and Senior Private Sector Engagement Advisor, USAID, will share the findings from the PSE buy-in - [USAID Process Analysis Study](#). 2 - "Meaningful Partnership for Context-Driven Knowledge Production: Evaluating USAID Inclusive Education Projects," where LASER's [Multi-Country Study on Inclusive Education](#) buy-in research team will share the findings and lessons from their work; and two under the [Innovation theme](#), LASER's team will present 3- "Embedded Research Translation - an Innovative Model for Collaborative Research Impact" and 4- "Incentivising Research & Innovation Among African Higher Education Institutions in Conflict-Settings."
- Minority Serving Institutions Request for Application (MSI-RFA): In view of USAID's [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion \(DEI\) Strategy](#), Administration's Executive Order (E.O.) 13985 [On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government](#), aligning with USAID Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access priorities and LASER's own commitment towards supporting research led by MSI HEIs, in FY22, LASER issued a [MSI RFA](#). The RFA invited MSIs to conduct or further their development



research in partnership with development stakeholders in UPCs, expanding collaboration and access by MSI across the LASER network. We received twelve applications, five of which were recommended to USAID after going through our selection process.

- New Buy-ins from BHA: LASER received new buy-in from BHA/TPQ/SPADe with an objective to provide critical information products and studies to support BHA RFSA Activities. LASER worked closely with the BHA team to devise a special rubric and process for selection and released the [RFSA Buy-in call](#). In response to the call, we received 68 applications across RFSA countries.

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

Embedded Research Translation (ERT) model: In addition to direct support to all funded projects (RFA/core awards and buy-ins) in incorporating ERT into their project design, execution and translation, in FY22, we are also focussing on disseminating ERT through multiple conferences and relevant platforms. We are already scheduled to present ERT at the [USAID's Higher Education Global Evidence Summit](#). In FY21, LASER applied USAID's CLA (Collaborate. Learn. Adapt) approach in developing the ERT model which was published in a [case study on the USAID Learning Lab website](#). We also continue to monitor and report on our ERT training usage numbers. So far, of the 755 members that enrolled in the training, 747 have cleared the requirements.

LASER's network: Over the past three and a half years, LASER has built a large network of 2700-plus members from 62 countries. The members of the LASER network span across USAID focus sectors in their expertise. 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. The top representative sectors on the LASER's network are Education (15 percent), Environment (13 percent), and Agriculture (12 percent). The other sectors are more or less evenly split, ranging from 8 percent-11 percent. Disaggregated by gender, approximately 38 percent of our members have identified themselves as female, 48 percent as male, and 14 percent preferred not to answer.

## **4. SUMMARY OF KEY ACTIVITIES FY22 Q1/Q2**

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

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

- Based on the gaps identified in the study report, '[Assessment of the research context and research capacity in HEIs in Africa](#)' delivered in FY20, in FY21, we developed two online courses - one on 'Research Leadership' and another on 'Research Project Management'. We have published the '[Research Leadership](#)' course in four modules. Module 1 - '21st Century Development Research Leadership for Low-Income Country Higher Education', covers understanding the elements of a successful research and innovation ecosystem in LMIC HEIs, assessing research and innovation gaps, and delivering an action plan. Module 2, 'Leadership Challenges in Low-Income Higher Education Research Ecosystems' covers the common challenges and gaps in research ecosystems in LMIC institutions. Module 3 - 'Intervening to Address Research Ecosystem Challenges in LMIC HEIs and discussing the elements of a successful research ecosystem' and Module 4 'Taking your HEI's Research Ecosystem to Another Level' cover considerations for building vibrant innovation ecosystems in Low-Income Country HEIs, building effective research networks and leading change. The target enrollment numbers for each course were 50, and we have already received 90 enrollment for the first course out of which 62 are active. We will be publishing 'Research Project Management' soon.

- Based on the gap analysis on HEI’s research infrastructure in Ethiopia reported in [“Understanding Ethiopia’s Higher Education Institution Research Infrastructure, Research Translation, and Sustainability Mechanisms”](#), LASER extended the study to South Sudan and Somalia for a comprehensive analysis specific to conflict settings. This report is under internal review.

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

- In FY22, we launched [ERT Community of Practice](#) (CoP), to create a peer-to-peer learning environment across LASER projects. To promote the ERT CoP and encourage the project teams to join online, the ERT team has made presentations to each project team. More information can be found in the [ERT CoP charter](#).
- LASER is in the process of publishing a capacity-building workbook on guiding questions for Research Translation. Additionally, we have also completed ‘Promising Practices for Embedded Research Translation: A toolkit to improve partnerships, processes, products, and dissemination’. We will be publishing this report in the coming months.

**IR 3: Increase dissemination of translated research results for evidence-based solutions**

- LASER has made concerted efforts in disseminating research products, produced across its core awards and buy-ins. Our dissemination strategy includes two channels: 1) an easily searchable website with targeted outreach functionality and 2) virtual engagement of members on promotional webinars. Towards making the products easily searchable on the website, we are currently redesigning our [Research Page](#). Enhancements that we have already made include - the capability to search research projects by region and practice area and an [‘output’ section](#) on each project page showcasing its research and translation products. We are also in the process of embedding a customer relationship management (CRM) tool in the backend to allow more effective communications with emails, newsletters, and targeted email campaigns. Virtual engagement of members is conducted as part of our network engagement series called [LASER Focused](#), detailed in IR4.
- The *LASER PULSE Newsletter*, since its launch in December 2019, has been released every quarter. The Oct 2021 open rate was 35.5 percent (880 out of 2479) and January 2022 was 34.9 percent (958 out of 2748) - this is outstanding when compared to an average of approximately 24 percent open rate for Government (19.4 percent), Non-profit (26.6 percent) and Education (28.5 percent) sectors ([source](#)). All the newsletter articles are available on our website under [blog](#).

**IR4: Sustainability of LASER PULSE approaches, activities, and targeted collaborations**

LASER designed specific activities to work towards its sustainability in three areas - 1) sustainability of the impact created and/or intended by our research projects 2) sustainability of the LASER network and 3) sustainability of the LASER program.

- Sustainability of our projects through promotional activities: we are working towards the projects’ sustainability beyond the funding period by promoting their research findings through regular check-ins with the operating units, and other relevant stakeholders as well through our [newsletters and blog](#), [network engagement events](#), and extensive project information on our [website](#). We are also building an easy-to-navigate LASER ‘resource page’ that will house all the knowledge products produced across LASER-funded projects and mapped across geography, thematic focus, research output, and category of output. Additionally, to promote the projects through our post-award R4D conferences, we have designed the agenda to include a dedicated presentation space for projects to share their



- findings in front of an audience of regional policymakers, corporate representatives, USAID Mission, and interested donors. We are working on outreach for the said audience.
- **Sustainability of our network:** In FY22, LASER launched a network engagement series called '[LASER Focused](#)' to explore research translation, disseminate projects' findings, and to create space for network members to exchange ideas virtually. To date we have hosted four such webinars on topics including 'New Tools and Trainings for Research Translation: Overview & Demonstrations,' 'Psychosocial Support in South Sudan,' and 'Maximizing the potential for your academic-practitioner collaboration.' Across these sessions, we have engaged 152 individuals.
  - **Sustainability of the LASER program:** We received a five-year No-Cost Extension (NCE) from USAID, extending the date of the LASER's performance period to July 2028. We are also working on the execution plan for post-award R4D events as well as an additional 'partner engagement event' to highlight LASER's experience across regions and thematic sectors and to explore potential opportunities with donors, private sectors, and government stakeholders.

### **Sub IR 5: Enhance systems and structures for gender and minority considerations in the HEI network that enable women and minorities to conduct research**

LASER's online gender training was required for all applicants of the LASER MSI RFA. LASER incorporates gender considerations in research questions, design, analysis, and dissemination through the co-creation process with research teams across core awards and buy-ins, to strengthen their applications. To date, LASER has 1,099 members enrolled for the gender training of which 995 have cleared (90.5 percent pass rate).

## **5. ENGAGEMENT WITH PARTNERS FY22 Q1/Q2**

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

Through the RFA and new buy-ins, we have developed new partnerships as well as continued previous ones throughout the award management cycle. Some of the activities that are supporting the continuation of partnerships include East Africa, Colombia, Vietnam, Ethiopia, and the Global Research Challenge for Development (GRCD) RFA Award. All ongoing, new and potential partnerships can be found [here](#).

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

- We have continued capacity building with the previously awarded projects in East Africa, Colombia, Vietnam, Ethiopia, and GRCD by conducting regular catch-up meetings and providing them with needed support in accomplishing the deliverables as per the work plan.
- The LASER team held webinars for potential MSI applicants. We also held co-creation meetings with the applicants recommended for funding by the consensus panels. During these co-creation meetings, we provided extensive feedback to the applicants, supporting them in strengthening their applications, especially on research translation methodologies and gender mainstreaming. We also assisted them with Initial Environmental Examination forms. All U.S. HEIs and developing country partnerships and financial support can be found [here](#).

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

### 6a. Progress against indicators

**Table I. Performance Indicator Table for LASER PULSE Year 4 Mid-Year Reporting \***

Key Result Area (Intermediate Result)	Indicator # & Code	Indicator Name	Life of Project		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4		Data Collection Method	Comments
			Target	Achieved to Date	Target	Achieved	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 public sector, private sector, or other dev. actors influenced by Lab-funded research results or related scientific activities	20	9	2	0	3	4	3	3	7	2	PPC Reporting Form*	LASER Core (1) D'Sa Award (1)
IRI: Increased HEI delivery of collaborative and effective development-focused research	(2) L3.S.1_in2	# of research products produced with LASER-supported funding	92	75	2	5	15	22	20	29	28	19	BIDRF** RADRF*** Deliverables Tracker	LASER buy-ins (14); LASER awards (5) Lead author: 18 F, 1 M

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

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

LASER PULSE has 19 performance indicators in total; they are numbered from 1-18, with Indicator LP-4 being repeated (as LP-4b) under a different sub-IR. To assess the life-of-project (LoP) trajectory of LASER’s performance indicators, LASER created a quasi-dashboard of [performance graphs](#) in which the targets of 14 indicators are graphed in cumulative percentage terms, against which the actual reported values are displayed. The remaining five indicators are not conducive to being shown in this format (i.e. cumulatively), so they depict discrete values in absolute terms versus their respective targets.

Nine of LASER’s cumulative indicators are shown, in their respective graphs, to have a great trajectory – six, in fact, have already exceeded their LoP targets: LP-6, LP-7, LP-10, LP-13, LP-15, and LP-17. These include several key indicators that measure a couple of the core aspects (i.e. collaboration and translation) that represent the *raison d’etre* of LASER. Another two indicators (LP-3 and LP-18) are on the cusp of achieving their LoP targets, and the other (LP-2) is fully expected to reach its LoP target by the end of FY23.

Three of the discrete-value indicators (LP-4, LP-4b, and LP-11) are also above their targets, and we anticipate them to remain there through the end of the Program. Although LP-5 and LP-9 (another two discrete-value indicators) started out poorly, their graphs show that they are now performing above their FY21-FY22 targets, respectively. So the trends there are observed to be very positive, and LASER fully expects these two indicators to end the Program above their FY23 targets, as well. As such, we can confidently place 14 of the 19 LASER indicators into either a good (6), great (4), or exceptional (4) category.

Five of the cumulative indicators are currently of concern with regard to their trajectory to date. One of these (LP-12), despite appearing to be way behind, is still expected to achieve its LoP target. The pathway for this is via the ERT Community of Practice webinars planned for Q3/Q4 of FY22, as well as the Ethiopia, Vietnam, and Colombia post-award R4D conferences that are currently being planned. Should LP-12 indeed recover and exceed its cumulative LoP target, then this would increase the performance rate from 74 percent to 79 percent.

It is noted here that one of the other five indicators of concern, LP-16, will not reach its LoP target. Doing so would require LASER to procure 18 buy-ins in the next 14 months, which is unlikely.

LP-1, LP-8, and LP-14 are the remaining laggards, and each has the possibility – to various degrees – of achieving its LoP target. The most likely candidate is LP-14, which would require each project to participate in 2.6 (on average) convenings to disseminate results. This seems eminently feasible, especially since LASER is, and will continue to, prompt its project teams to ensure that they are presenting their work at multiple appropriate fora. LP-1 would require each current and completed buy-in (15 in total) to, on average, report 0.75 program or policy changes resulting from their work. Although not as likely as LP-14 to do so, it is certainly possible that LP-1 will reach its LoP target. The least likely to close the gap is LP-8; doing so would require the enrollment of nearly 1,300 new members into the LASER PULSE Network in the next 14 months. Although possible, this seems rather unlikely given the trend in new registrations over the past year and a half – especially in the absence of any further RFA awards, which has been the biggest driver of new registrants since the R4D conferences in FY19 and FY20 .

### **6c. Deviance from M&E targets FY22**

[Table 1](#) above consists of the 19 LASER PULSE indicators, listed in red text from 1-18 and, as mentioned previously, Indicator 4 is employed twice (the second time as LP-4b). At the midpoint of FY22, 11 indicators have exceeded their half-year target values by more than 10 percent, one is exactly half of its FY22 target, one is within +10 percent of its half-year target, and six have underachieved by more than 10 percent of their respective half-year target. Thus, a total of 17 LASER PULSE indicators comprise the following bullet points, in which some context of their performance is provided:

- **Indicator 1** L3.S.2\_in1 *# of program or policy changes made by the public or private sector*
  - Thus far in FY22, LASER reports two program and policy changes (PPC): one derived from LASER core activities (the USAID Higher Education Global Evidence Summit website referenced the LASER ERT model as a tool to assist in preparing for abstracts to be submitted by applicants; both the ERT model and ERT resources on LASER PULSE's website were listed as suggestions that interested parties could reference to prepare their Summit abstracts for submission), and one from the D'Sa - Be Well, Teach Well project (East Africa RFA round). We anticipate the PSE-2 buy-in and the South Africa TIP buy-in to report one or more PPC in Q3/Q4; the former is an ongoing buy-in that has generated a lot of interest within USAID, and the latter (just completed) is likely to drive important policy decisions in South Africa. Many translation outputs have been produced from these projects (especially TIPS in this reporting period), and LASER expects both of these buy-ins to induce the type of impact for which this indicator exists. We will continue to query PIs, co-PIs, and relevant M/B/IOs' activity managers to determine any reportable PPC for the FY22 Annual Report.
- **Indicator 2** L3.S.1\_in2 *# of research products produced with LASER-supported funding*
  - + LASER has already exceeded two-thirds of the FY22 target for LP-2 by reporting 19 research products, including two journal articles and seven datasets. The recently completed South Africa TIP buy-in accounts for nearly half (nine items) of the reported value; note that this buy-in operated as two independent teams, which contributed to a higher than expected number of research products delivered. For example, targets generated for LP-2 were based upon the assumption that each project (i.e. buy-in or RFA award) would produce, on average, one dataset and one technical report per project. LASER is pleased to report a higher rate of productivity for some of our managed projects. Noteworthy also is that the lead author on 95 percent of the research products reported for Q1/Q2 is female.

- **Indicator 3** Custom LP.1 *# of tertiary-level educators and faculty who complete professional development activities with US Government (USG) assistance (e.g., R4D conferences and LASER's online training modules)*
  - The data for LP-3 currently comprises, in the absence of in-person sessions at R4D conferences, only the research translation, and gender online training modules. So far in FY22, the participation rate observed is on pace with the total observed in FY21. Nevertheless, this is much less than the trend observed in FY20, which significantly skewed the numbers upwards, prompting a revision of the targets. As described in previous reports, this indicator was originally created to capture participation in training sessions at LASER R4D conferences, and lacking these in the last two years has impacted the performance of LP-3. This, of course, was due to the travel restrictions that most governments imposed as a response to the Covid scare. Looking forward, however, learning sessions from the ERT Community of Practice will surely contribute to LP-3 in Q3/Q4, as will the post-award R4D conferences (tentatively planned to be completed in FY22). Thus, LP-3 is very likely to reach this year's target by the end of September. Note also that LASER is currently within 3 percent of the life-of-project target for this indicator.
- **Indicator 4** Custom LP.2 *Percentage-point improvement on research readiness assessment score*
  - + LP-4 (and the related LP-4b) measure the scoring of researchers and development practitioners, respectively, that completed the research translation and gender online training modules. So far, both of these indicators have exceeded the FY22 targets by more than 13 percent.
- **Indicator 5** Custom LP.3 *% of research proposals with adequate gender and translation components*
  - + This indicator scored perfect for the MSI RFA applications, exceeding the target by nearly 18 percent. The salient point to note for LP-5 is that there has been an improvement in every RFA round: from East Africa (36 percent) and Colombia (58 percent) in FY20; to Vietnam (78 percent), Ethiopia (88 percent), and the GRCD Round (100 percent) in FY21; to the present MSI Round (100 percent).
- **Indicator 6** Custom LP.4 *# of development practitioners engaged in research for development*
  - For Q1/Q2, we report 41 development practitioners against the 107 targeted for the year. While this is somewhat less than half the target, we anticipate covering the gap during Q3/Q4 via one GRCD award that remains to be initiated, likely two of the buy-ins that are in the pipeline, and the planned post-award R4D conferences. Regardless, though, LASER has already exceeded the life-of-project target for LP-6, since a huge number for this indicator was reported in FY21.
- **Indicator 7** L3.S.2.2\_in1-num *# of collaborative research initiatives resulting from engagement between researchers and development/policy actors*
  - + LASER reports three new research awards in this reporting period, which is one more than targeted. These projects represent one award from the Colombia RFA, and two awards from the GRCD RFA. The third award from the GRCD RFA will be counted in Q3/Q4, as they had yet to finalize all of the paperwork before the end of the current reporting period.
- **Indicator 8** L3.S.1.2\_in3 *# of institutions or affiliated individuals associated with CDR research networks*
  - In this reporting period, we report 207 new LASER Network members. While this is approximately a third of this year's target, it nearly matches the total enrollment for FY21, which was 231 people. We, therefore, remain hopeful that we can close the gap by the end of Q3/Q4,

and we note that holding the post-award R4D conference as planned would significantly increase the likelihood of doing so.

- Indicator 9 L3.S.1.1\_in3 *% of research projects led by UPC or MSI HEIs/research institutions (includes LASER buy-ins)*
  - + LASER reports four new projects (three RFA awards and one buy-in) in Q1/Q2, with each of the awards (one in Colombia, one in Nepal, one in Rwanda) being led by a UPC HEI. While the yearly target for LP-9 is already exceeded by 50 percent, the addition of a few additional buy-ins in Q3/Q4 of FY22 will likely moderate the current overachievement for the year somewhat.
- Indicator 10 Custom LP.10 *# of research products translated for use*
  - + This indicator has already nearly reached the yearly target for FY22. Similar to last year, the reporting to LP-10 is dominated by a couple of projects – in this case, the South Africa TIP buy-in, and the Hall - Blockchain award (East Africa RFA round). Both have completed their work and each reported eight translated research products, which far exceeds the average number expected from a given project.
- Indicator 11 Custom LP.5 *Partnership scorecard to measure deep collaboration between researchers and development practitioners*
  - + The calculated value of 92 (out of 100) derived from the partnership scorecard exceeded the target value of 80 by 15 percent, with a breakdown by project type as follows: 95 for RFA awards, and 87 for buy-ins. As this indicator tracks the strength and cohesion of our managed projects, the repeated and steady high scores from FY20 to the present strongly suggests that LASER’s focus on early and continuous collaboration is quite robust.
- Indicator 12 Custom LP.6 *# of development actors trained on translation (at R4D conferences and online modules)*
  - Except for counting development practitioners (instead of researchers) trained on research translation, this indicator is very similar to LP-3. It is therefore also currently reliant solely upon the online research translation course. The online participation rate observed so far in FY22 has nearly matched the total observed for FY21, so this is a nice improvement over last year. LASER can likely close the gap in LP-12 in Q3/Q4 through the introduction of one or more ERT Community of Practice webinars, and/or an in-person training/learning session at the planned post-award R4D conferences.
- Indicator 13 Custom LP.7 *# of LASER-produced research translation materials (e.g. toolkit) utilized by researchers*
  - + Of the various research translation tools/templates housed on the LASER PULSE website, three were observed to have 15 downloads (total) since January 2022 when the new website hosting platform began recording this user-directed action. This amount means that LP-13 is already 75 percent to the FY22 target; in addition, LASER has already surpassed the life-of-project target for LP-13 due to the robust number of resource downloads reported in FY20 and FY21.
- 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 (1,182 persons) are 48 percent above the half-year target value for FY22. Both buy-ins and the RFA awards held 12 convenings thus far in FY22, but the number of participants for the latter (788) was much greater than for the former (349). This was because the Hall - Blockchain project (East Africa RFA round) reported one-third of all of the convenings participants reported here, from a total of five convenings where they presented

their results. LASER anticipates that this imbalance will even out somewhat in Q3/Q4, since several buy-ins are nearing their completion (or are in their later stages) and should thus be conducting more convenings and/or participating in workshops/webinars. Note that one LASER convening (a *LASER Focused* webinar) contributed 45 participants to the LP-15 total, as well.

- **Indicator 16** L3.S.2\_in2 # of instances of USAID OUs using CDR-supported research tools, approaches or mechanisms
  - There is only one new buy-in (BHA PSE Evidence Gap Map) to report in Q1/Q2. However, there are three in the pipeline and it is virtually assured that two of them (i.e. BHA/SPADe, CBDRM) will be initiated during the next reporting period. The underachievement here is due to the fact that, when the targets were set in FY19, (i) the total number was overestimated, and (ii) they were more or less evenly distributed over the first four years of the Program. However, the vast bulk of LASER's buy-ins were contracted in that first year, and since then the acquisition of subsequent buy-ins has been sporadic and less than originally anticipated.
- **Indicator 18** Custom LP9 # of female researchers, and U.S. minority researchers, conducting LASER-funded research (includes LASER buy-ins)
  - + LP-18 is currently at double its yearly target value. This over-achievement is due to the ripple effects of various delays in conducting RFA award rounds at the beginning of LASER, as the targets in the out-years of the Program reflect little activity (i.e. 2 in FY22, and 0 in FY23), and the GRCD round of awards are just now becoming active. One of the projects contributing to these values is a much-postponed (mission concurrence issues) Colombia RFA award (the Hillón project) that has finally initiated its work. We note, however, that the excess in FY22 does counteract the under-achievement reported in both FY19 and FY20 that resulted from the aforementioned delays early in the Program's life cycle. Additionally, LASER will achieve the life-of-project target for LP-18 in Q3/Q4 when the Panta award (GRCD RFA round) begins reporting since the PI is a woman researcher in Nepal.

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

Following the revision of the LASER RF last year, in the current fiscal year we have revised the LASER Learning Agenda to (i) streamline it both structurally and with a reduced number of learning questions, and (ii) ensure that the revised list of questions is relevant and useful to USAID. As such, the revised LASER Learning Agenda is now presented in three distinct sections (blocks), with the number of questions overall reduced to eight (from 17), and the questions restructured and renumbered. The first two questions (Block 1), focusing on collaboration and translation, are now featured upfront because they represent the demonstrable action(s) within LASER's Theory of Change.

The remaining six learning questions represent the main program components around which key activities are planned and implemented. In general, most of these examine the provision of LASER services to USAID and our other key stakeholders (e.g. researchers, development practitioners). Draft changes were presented to USAID for review and comments, which helped to finalize the revised version. Final approval will be sought from the LASER AOR in Q3/Q4 as part of required updates to the LASER MEL Plan, which shall consist of (in addition to the revised Learning Agenda) the revised RF, its associated new indicators, and their performance indicator reference sheets (PIRS).



## 7. USAID ENGAGEMENT FY22 Q1/Q2

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

The summary of the current buy-ins is summarized [here](#).

### 7b. Potential USAID buy-ins to program FY22

Provide critical information products and studies to support BHA RFSAs Activity Design Processes.

*USAID operating unit/mission:* BHA/TPQ/SPADe

*Buy-in amount:* \$2,700,000 (total ceiling) of which \$1,277,172 has been obligated

*Duration:* September 2021 - December 2023

*Lead Implementer:* Selection in process

*Overall objective:* BHA provides funding for Resilience Food Security Activities (RFSAs). During the activity design process for RFSAs, BHA and potential implementing partners need information products to inform activity design choices. This buy-in seeks to conduct Desk review and Market Study (DRMS), Political Economy Analysis (PEA), and Secondary Data Analysis (SDA) on one or more selected RFSAs country(ies), to inform 2023-24 Activity Design in the country.

### Evaluations of BHA's COVID-19 Response

*USAID operating unit/mission:* BHA/TPQ/M&E

*Buy-in amount:* \$1,500,000.

*Duration:* March 2022-March 2024

*Lead Implementer:* Not selected yet

*Overall objective:* BHA seeks to evaluate and record the program performance of BHA's FY21 COVID-19 response portfolio as well as evaluate specific technical or sectoral aspects of BHA's COVID-19 response across FY20-FY22. The purpose of these evaluations is to improve USAID's and humanitarian actor's understanding of the performance of the Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA)-funded response to COVID-19 in the humanitarian space and to identify detailed and targeted future recommendations and learning from BHA's COVID-19 response, contributing to improved BHA future programming in outbreak response in humanitarian contexts.

Additionally, USAID BHA is working with LASER to obligate funding for an additional buy-in namely - Evaluation of Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) Programs for BHA/East Asia and the Pacific (EAP) Region - Phase I Study. We are currently working on the co-creation of the call for the concept note.

### 7c. Other engagements with USAID FY22 Q1/Q2

Through RFAs, LASER has engaged with the USAID Missions in Colombia, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Nepal, and Rwanda. With the MSI RFA, and based on the recommended applications, we plan to engage with USAID Missions in Bangladesh, Zambia, and Brazil, in addition to a previous engagement with Rwanda via GRCD RFA. Additional information on core awards engagement can be found [here](#).

## 8. LESSONS LEARNED/BEST PRACTICES FY22 Q1/Q2

### Internal LASER operations:

- LASER's activity-based organization of work plans, in the initial three years, inadvertently resulted in siloed operations and missed opportunities for capturing cross-cutting

knowledge. In FY22, LASER created four ‘working groups’, with members that cut across groups, thereby bringing in the information that was previously missed. This strategy has been immensely successful as teams mentioned that the Working Group structure has “improved understanding of consortium members and team mentality” and that “Working groups are really helping reduce handoff and communication gaps among different entities” during our internal quarterly meeting.

#### Awards and Buy-ins

- For the BHA/TPQ/SPADe (outlined in section 7b) buy-in opportunity, LASER had to approach Purdue University’s Research Leadership office to seek ‘Institutional Recusal’ for FY23 and FY24 Resilience Food Security Activities (RFSA), which turned out to be a protracted process.. To receive institutional recusal, LASER’s Director had to first reach out to Purdue’s Sponsored Program Services (SPS) office, discuss with multiple heads of the colleges and promote the importance of SPADe activity across departments to finally receive the institutional recusal from Purdue’s Executive Vice President of Research and Partnership (EVPRP). The requirement for institutional recusal was also embedded in our call for concept note, resulting in multiple followup calls with applicants. Our learning from this whole process is that obtaining institutional recusal is a complex task, especially for HEIs, as the impact of such recusal is spread across colleges/departments, faculty and research centers. This is further complicated by the difference in organizational setup, hierarchy and associated bureaucracies across institutions. This will likely be a common problem in university-wide initiatives.
- LASER is working on building capacity in the awardee institutions while concurrently managing the quality of the translated products. Given that we manage 40 plus individual studies, this continues to be a challenging task.

#### COVID-19 Impact

- LASER’s inability to hold on-the-ground R4D conferences has impaired progress towards engaging local government stakeholders and other decision makers. Travel and gathering restrictions have resulted in fewer convenings with decision makers that are needed to disseminate research for use and/or to develop policy recommendations. In FY22 we are planning on executing hybrid post-award R4D events in Ethiopia, Colombia and Vietnam.
- While the various COVID-19 related restrictions in FY22 have thus far had minimal impact on our core activities, we have however, noticed the pandemic’s impact on project activities, especially the ones that required travel to the field for project visit and/or data collection purposes. Please refer to [Table 2](#) and [Table 3](#) (also under Section 7a and 7c, respectively) for specific instances.

### **9. PIVOT POINTS/CHALLENGES FY22**

- In FY22, we are witnessing hesitation across a couple of projects in accepting our revision recommendations. We are approaching such cases carefully, and in discussion with the USAID team. Our strategy includes managing such situations by utilizing ITR/AMs’ support to reinstate the importance of high-quality research products and LASER’s support towards achieving that; and adding time needed for the review and revisions into the work plans of all new projects.
- To embed sustainability into our operations and account for it into our Results Framework, in FY21, we added IR4 “Sustainability of LASER PULSE approaches, activities, and targeted collaborations”, along with Sub-IRs 4.1 to 4.4, and Sub-IR 3.2 “Increased generation and dissemination of internal LASER learning through research products and translated research

outputs.” Our FY22 work plan reflects these changes. Once we finalize the new indicators, we will reach out to the AOR for the requisite approval to the updated MEL Plan.

## 10. KEY ACTIVITIES FOR NEXT REPORTING PERIOD

LASER’s FY22 activities are planned, keeping the sustainability of the program in mind. Some of the relevant activities to look forward to are as below:

- To ensure the sustainability of the research and partnership, LASER will continue to deepen our engagement with the Missions via regular quarterly meetings. We expect that this will result in higher uptake of the research products.
- To promote our collaborative research model - ERT, LASER will engage the USAID ITR team and the representatives from the Operating Units in the ERT’s Community of Practice (COP).
- LASER is also on track to fund five projects under MSI awards, and begin the co-creation with the selected team under the BHA/SPADe buy-in.
- LASER hopes to finalize the five year No Cost Extension (NCE) discussions with USAID ITR and begin its transition under the Global Development and Innovation division of [Purdue Applied Research Institute \(PARI\)](#), which was specifically created keeping LASER’s sustainability in mind.

## 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 FY22 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 been submitted.
- Decentralized water resource circulation as a sustainable solution for plantations. PI: Hoang (Hanoi University of Science and Technology, Vietnam). The IEE and EMMP for the project were approved by the BEO in August 2021. The Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Report ( [EMMR](#)) for the current reporting period has been submitted
- Diversity, Memory and Biocultural Rights: Mechanisms for Common-Unity Protection and Ethnodevelopment Study case of the municipality of Nuqui (Choco, Colombia). PI: Hillón (Universidad EAFIT, Medellín, Colombia). The IEE and EMMP for the project were approved by the BEO in December, 2021. The Environmental Mitigation and Monitoring Report ( [EMMR](#)) for the current reporting period has been submitted.

## 12. GENDER/SOCIAL INCLUSIONS CONSIDERATIONS FY22

In the application review stage for Vietnam and Ethiopia RFAs, LASER ensured inclusiveness in viewpoints from both genders in the review process, with a total of 29 female and 23 male reviewers

(Vietnam: 17 F and 13 M, Ethiopia: 5 F and 7 M and GRCD: 7F and 3M). Similarly, for the review of MSI applications, we had a total of 12 reviewers - 9M and 3F.

Furthermore, LASER's gender expert continues to participate in the co-creation process of MSI applications. The co-creation process requires that all the proposals integrate gender concerns in the research questions and methodology design, thereby ensuring that project implementation employs a methodology that conforms to the gender analysis.

### **13. DELIVERABLES COMPLETED IN Q1 AND Q2 FY22**

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

- 1. The RESET (WesteRn capE Stop ExploiTation) community survey study: Policy Brief** Completed by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: E. Rich, University of Western Cape) in January 2022; upload to the DEC pending USAID review and approval.
- 2. The RESET Community Survey in Cape Town, South Africa: A Summary of Trafficking-in-Persons (TIP) Screening Tool** Guidance tool created by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: R. Price, Washington University in St. Louis) in March 2022; upload to the DEC pending USAID review and approval.
- 3. Legislation Robust but Implementation Limited** Evidence brief produced by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: M. Roper, Khulisa Management Services) in March 2022; upload to the DEC pending USAID review and approval.
- 4. Partnerships and Collaboration are Essential to the TIP Response** Evidence brief produced by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: M. Roper) in March 2022; upload to the DEC pending USAID review and approval.
- 5. Victim Voices are Crucial to Preventing and Combating Trafficking** Evidence brief produced by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: A. Warria, University of Witwatersrand) in March 2022; upload to the DEC pending USAID review and approval.
- 6. Strengthen Trafficking in Persons Policy Implementation Efforts** Policy brief produced by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: S. Marx) in March 2022; upload to the DEC pending USAID review and approval.
- 7. Optimise Criminal Justice Response, Prevalence Data, and Research** Policy brief produced by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: M. van der Watt, University of the Free State) in March 2022; upload to the DEC pending USAID review and approval.
- 8. Take Action to Strengthen Counter-trafficking Efforts** Policy brief produced by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: M. Roper) in March 2022; upload to the DEC pending USAID review and approval.
- 9. LASER BAB Baseline Evaluation: Preliminary Results** PowerPoint presentation by the Bar Ama Baro Somalia buy-in (Lead Author: W. Burgess, Purdue University) for the USAID/Somalia mission at an online workshop held on March 10, 2022; DEC upload pending.

#### **13b. Translated research products from LASER core (RFA) awards and LASER core activities**

- 1. [To Block or Not? Exploring the Use of Blockchain in Last Mile Agriculture Communities](#)** Webinar video by the Hall - Blockchain for Food Security Award (Lead Author: R. Hall, Virginia Tech) created on October 26, 2021. No DEC upload; the link provided is to the YouTube channel of the project's Co-PI (J. Agnew).
- 2. State of PM2.5 in Vietnam in 2019-2020, Based on Multisource Data** PowerPoint presentation by the Nguyen - Air Pollution Monitoring Award (Lead Author: T. Nguyen,

- Vietnam National University, Hanoi) for an Air Pollution Monitoring and Research workshop held on December 1, 2021; DEC upload pending.
3. **Exploring the Use of Blockchain Technology to Improve Food Security in Western Kenya** PowerPoint presentation by the Hall - Blockchain for Food Security Award (Lead Author: J. Agnew, Virginia Tech) for the Center for Food Systems and Community Transformation.
  4. **Women, Smartphones, and Leafy Greens: How ICTs support women producers in Western Kenya to secure their position in commercializing value chains for indigenous vegetables** PowerPoint presentation by the Hall - Blockchain for Food Security Award (Lead Author: J. Agnew) for the Women and Gender in Development Discussion Series.
  5. [Exploring the Use of Blockchain Technology to Improve Food Security in Western Kenya - Short Video](#) Created by the Hall - Blockchain for Food Security Award (Developer: B. Teague, Virginia Tech). No DEC upload; the link provided is to a Virginia Tech-owned YouTube channel.
  6. **AgUnity Trainer Guide: AgUnity App & Smartphone Guide** Manual produced by the Hall - Blockchain for Food Security Award (Lead Author: N. Kristofikova, AgUnity) completed in February 2022; upload to the DEC pending USAID review and approval.
  7. [Kenya Turns to Blockchain to Improve Farmer Incomes, Food Supply Chains](#) Media article about the Hall - Blockchain for Food Security Award (Author: D. Whitehouse), published online in *Disruption Banking Magazine* on February 28, 2022. No DEC upload, as the link provided is for the article.
  8. [Blockchain in Agriculture - ASNET Briefing](#) Video presentation by the Hall - Blockchain for Food Security Award (Lead Author: J. Agnew) to the Agriculture Sector Network (ASNET) Technical Committee on March 4, 2022. No DEC upload; the link provided is to the YouTube channel of the author.
  9. **The Use of Blockchain Technology in Kenyan Agri-food Value Chains** PowerPoint presentation by the Hall - Blockchain for Food Security Award (Lead Author: J. Agnew) for the USAID-Funded Kenya Investment Mechanism Project.
  10. [Laser Pulse East Africa Water Security Project Webpage](#) Project webpage for the Gitau - East Africa Water Security Award (PI: M. Gitau, Purdue University), hosted by one of the project's research translations partners (Resource Plan Ltd., Nairobi, Kenya).
  11. **Consultation for the Outline of the "Status Of PM2.5 and Its Impact on Public Health in Vietnam 2021"** PowerPoint presentation by the Nguyen - Air Pollution Monitoring Award (Lead Author: T. Nguyen, Vietnam National University, Hanoi) at an expert-panel workshop the project organized on March 2, 2022; DEC upload pending.
  12. **Scaling Up ParentCorps-Teacher Professional Development Program for Promoting Child Mental Health in Ugandan Primary Schools** PowerPoint presentation by the Huang - Uganda SEL Award (Lead Author: K. Huang, New York University) at a Uganda Ministry of Education conference held on March 11, 2022; DEC upload pending.
  13. [Research Translation Dissemination Planning Tool](#) Manual produced by LASER PULSE in November 2021 to facilitate research translation (Lead Author: M. Aalsma, Indiana University). No DEC upload, as this resource resides on the LASER PULSE website.
  14. [Dissemination Planning: A Community-Based Approach](#) Online training module produced by LASER PULSE in December 2021 to facilitate research translation (Lead Author: M. Aalsma, Indiana University). No DEC upload; the link is to this training module's

page on the LASER PULSE website.

15. **Promising Practices for Embedded Research Translation: a Toolkit for Improving Partnerships, Processes, Products, and Dissemination** A guide/toolkit produced by LASER PULSE to facilitate research translation (Lead Author: L. Riddering, Catholic Relief Services). Upload to the DEC pending USAID review and approval.

### I3c. Research products from LASER buy-ins

1. **Literature Review on Private Sector Engagement: A Generalizable Framework** Completed by the PSE-2 buy-in (Lead Author: J. Sdunzik, Purdue University); uploaded to the DEC, under embargo, on November 5, 2021.
2. [USAID PSE Process Analysis – Executive Summary](#) Completed by the PSE-2 buy-in (Lead Author: P. Brunese, Purdue University); uploaded to the DEC on January 10, 2022.
3. **USAID PSE Process Analysis – Detailed Report** Completed by the PSE-2 buy-in (Lead Author: P. Brunese); uploaded to the DEC, under embargo, on February 1, 2022.
4. **Impact of COVID-19 on high-risk persons in South Africa: mixed methods** Created by the TIP buy-in (Lead Author: E. Koegler, University of Missouri, St. Louis); conference poster presented on November 5, 2021, no DEC upload.
5. [Creating a Tool to Measure Wellbeing: A PSS Intervention in South Sudan](#) Journal article published in *Journal for Education in Emergencies* by the South Sudan Psychosocial buy-in team (Lead Author: M. Olayemi, Purdue University); uploaded to the DEC on March 11, 2022.
6. **Multi-Country Study on Inclusive Education (MCSIE): Cambodia Interim Report** Completed by the MCSIE Buy-In (Lead Author: H. Niad, IDP); no DEC upload – approved by USAID for internal use in November 2021.
7. **Exploring Methods of Recruitment and Exploitation Using Social Media and the Internet for Trafficking in Persons (TIP) in South Africa** Technical report completed by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: L. Meyer, Human Trafficking Intelligence Project) in November 2021; upload to the DEC pending USAID review and approval.
8. [Mental Health and Substance use Concerns Among Transgender Individuals Living on the Margins in Cape Town, South Africa: Preliminary Selected Findings From the Western Cape Stop Exploitation \(RESET\) Study](#) Journal article published in *HPHR* by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: A. Bender, Washington University in St. Louis) on January 31, 2021; no upload to the DEC as it was published online (see link above).
9. **Research into the Nature and Scope of Trafficking in Persons in South Africa: Final Research Report** Completed by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: M. Roper) in February 2022; upload to the DEC pending USAID review and approval.
10. **The RESET Community Survey in Cape Town, South Africa: An Overview** Technical report completed by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: E. Koegler) in March 2022; upload to the DEC pending USAID review and approval.
11. **Trafficking-In-Person (TIP) in the Western Cape, South Africa: Provider Survey Report** Technical report completed by the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: E. Koegler) in March 2022; upload to the DEC pending USAID review and approval.
12. **Nature and Scope of Trafficking in Persons in South Africa, Community Survey Data** Project dataset from the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: E. Koegler) in March 2022; upload to the DDL, under embargo, pending.
13. **Nature and Scope of Trafficking in Persons in South Africa, Provider Survey Data** Project dataset from the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: E. Koegler) completed in March 2022;



upload to the DDL, under embargo, pending.

- 14. Nature and Scope of Trafficking in Persons in South Africa , Legal and Policy Review Electronic Survey Data** Project dataset from the TIP Buy-In (Lead Author: M. Roper) completed in 2021; upload to the DDL without embargo is pending.

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

- 1. The Impact of Blockchain Technology on Food Insecurity through African Indigenous Vegetables in Western Kenya** Technical report completed by the Hall - Blockchain for Food Security Award (Lead Author: J. Agnew) in February 2022; upload to the DEC pending USAID review and approval.
- 2. Kenyan African Indigenous Vegetable Value Chain Data** Project dataset from the Hall - Blockchain for Food Security Award (Lead Author: J. Agnew) completed in March 2022; upload to the DDL is pending.
- 3. Blockchain for Food Security in Kenya Survey Data** Project dataset from the Hall - Blockchain for Food Security Award (Lead Author: N. Kristofikova) completed in March 2022; upload to the DDL is pending.
- 4. Vietnam Daily PM2.5 Data for 2019** Project dataset (collection of GeoTiff files and PNG files) from the Nguyen - Air Pollution Monitoring Award (Lead Author: T. Nguyen); upload to the DDL is pending.
- 5. Vietnam Daily PM2.5 Data for 2020** Project dataset (collection of GeoTiff files and PNG files) from the Nguyen - Air Pollution Monitoring Award (Lead Author: T. Nguyen); upload to the DDL is pending.