



LOCALIZATION AND USAID

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What We Do

USAID is the world's premier international development agency and a catalytic actor driving development results. USAID's work **advances U.S. national security and economic prosperity**, demonstrates **American generosity**, and promotes a path to **resilience**.

Through our work we:

- Provide humanitarian assistance
- Promote global health
- Support global stability
- Empower women and girls
- Catalyze innovation and partnership



Photo Credit: Fintrac Inc.

Today's Development Challenges Demand Local Approaches

Localization must support:

- Local leadership
- Systems
- Capacity



Adapting to Meet Local Needs

USAID's policies and programs must use incentive-driven design to foster locally sustained change that is grounded in the conditions, drivers of change, and barriers to progress unique to each context through:

- Locally led development
- Local systems practices
- Local capacity strengthening

Locally Led Development

A process by which local actors set their own development agendas; develop and implement solutions; bring the capacity, leadership, and resources to promote equitable change; and ensure that positive outcomes can be sustained by local people, for local people.



Local Systems Practices

A lens we use to understand development outcomes and propose interventions to achieve sustainability by deepening interrelationships among local actors, improving equity, and aligning the incentives that shape sustainable development systems.



Local Capacity Strengthening

A set of approaches that support local actors to achieve their own goals, take action to design and implement equitable responses to local challenges, learn and adapt, and innovate and transform over time.

A new *Local Capacity Strengthening Policy* will inform work across sectors to sustainably support capacity-building at the local level.



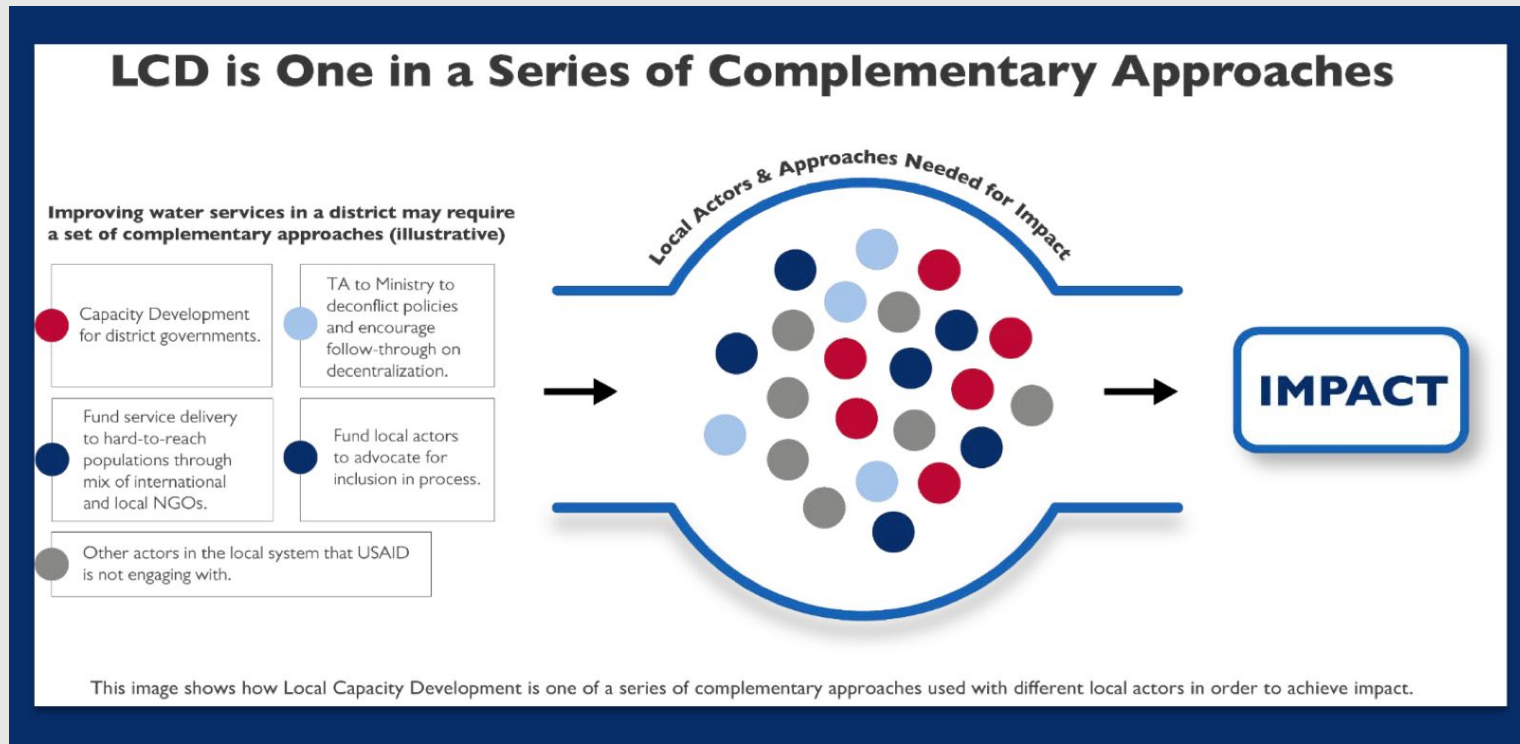
Photo Credit: Fintrac Inc.

Guide to Effective Local Capacity Strengthening

Principles:

- 1) Start with the local system
- 2) Develop diverse capacities through diverse approaches
- 3) Align capacity development with local priorities
- 4) Appreciate and build on existing capacities
- 5) Be mindful of and mitigate the unintended consequences of our capacity development
- 6) Practice mutuality with local actors
- 7) Measure performance improvement in collaboration with local actors

Local Capacity Development (LCD) as a Component of Local Systems Practices



A Commitment to Change

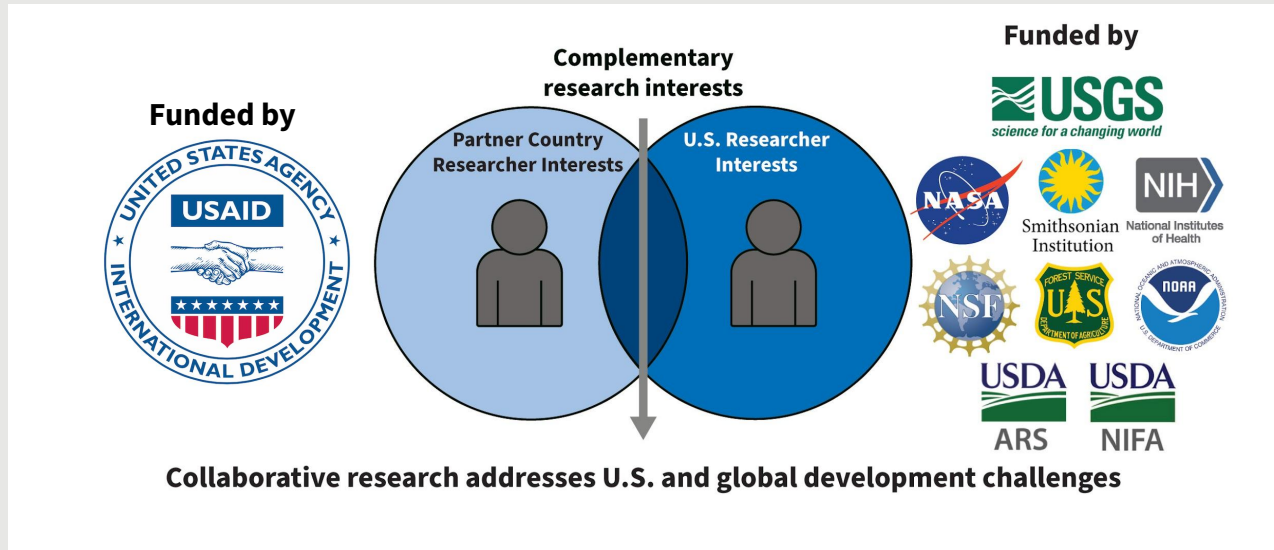
- 1) **Change the power dynamics** with USAID staff, intermediaries, and other donors to ensure a meaningful seat at the table for local actors
 - a) Focus on marginalized, underrepresented populations and local professionals
 - b) Devolve more leadership and ownership to local actors
 - c) Reposition USAID as a champion of and catalyst for inclusive and locally led development
- 2) **Channel a higher portion of assistance** directly to credible and accountable local partners while ensuring accountability
- 3) **Serve as a global advocate and thought-leader**, using development diplomacy and its partnerships to shift thinking, redefine roles, and reform practices across the development community.
 - a) Ensure that resource requests reflect this vision

Benefits of Localization and Higher Education Institutions

- 1) Established
- 2) Well-known
- 3) Respected
- 4) Well-connected

Current Efforts in Research for Development

USAID Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER) Program: International research awards that directly support scientists and engineers in USAID-presence countries who partner with U.S. government-funded researchers to address global development challenges.



Today's Development Challenges Demand Diverse Perspectives

USAID must be open to new partners, new insights, and new voices to support and sustain progress, especially local ones.

- **Diversify our partners** and partnerships, especially locally.
- Be more **responsive to people's needs and feedback**.
- Advance **equity, equality, and inclusion** everywhere we work.



Photo Credit: © WFP/Amara Bashizi

Equity, Equality, and Inclusion

- Women
- Youth
- Marginalized Groups
- Indigenous Populations

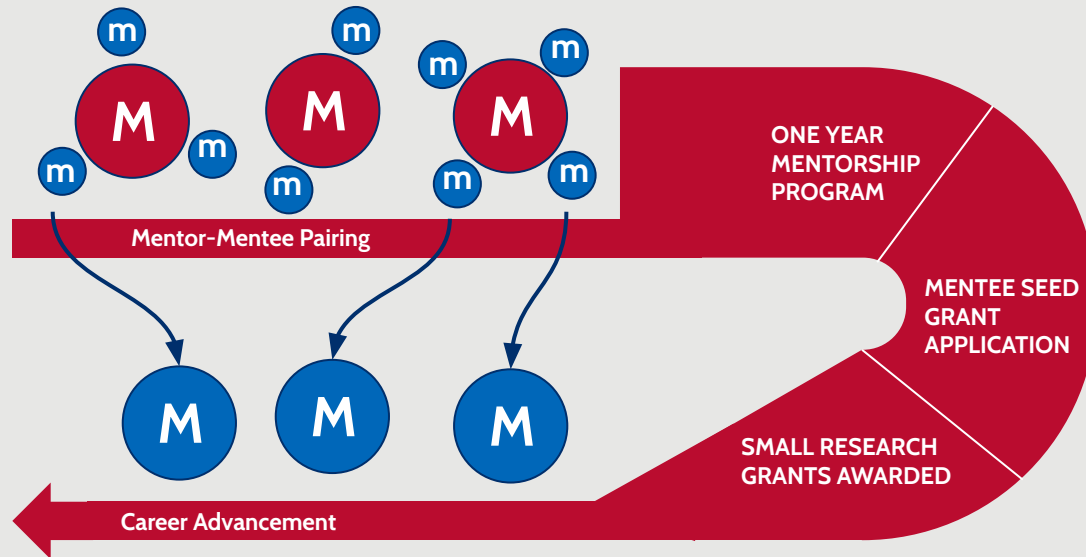


Photo Credit: BRIDGE-U

PEER Women's Science Mentorship Program

Focus on supporting early career women scientists to remain in academia.

Two cycles in Africa and South Asia include 55 mentees and 19 small grant winners.



LASER PULSE and Localization

- The Long term Assistance and Services for Research (LASER) Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine (PULSE) Program hosts a network of over 3,000 researchers across disciplines and geographies, representing an incredibly diverse range of partners ready to engage with USAID.
- Systems Level Analysis (SLA) is a systems-level process designed and employed by LASER that deliberately engages local researchers and stakeholders in development challenge identification to inform future research.
- LASER also recently announced five research awards to US Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) to build partnership with non-traditional partners.

Challenges

- Local government and donor priorities can get in the way of localization
- New partners are unable to 'hit the ground running'
- Local development is not the easy or fast path
- Local capacity strengthening will come at a higher cost





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

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