



PHOTO: USAID/UGANDA

# SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS

## INCREASING REFUGEE AND HOST COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN UGANDAN MARKET SYSTEMS

### THE LOCALLY LED OPPORTUNITY

Uganda, which hosts the most refugees of any country in Africa, continues to seek ways to integrate refugees into their economy in a sustainable way. This highlights the need to recognize complexity when integrating refugee livelihoods into broader market systems. During a five-day, virtual co-creation workshop, staff from USAID/Uganda, the USAID/Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), and USAID/Local, Faith and Transformative Partnerships Hub convened coalitions of approximately 80 local and international stakeholders to collectively design solutions to meet refugee and host community needs. These solutions looked to leverage the strengths of both development and humanitarian systems to increase the integration of refugees and their host communities in market-driven, sustainable livelihoods.

### A FRAMEWORK FOR LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT

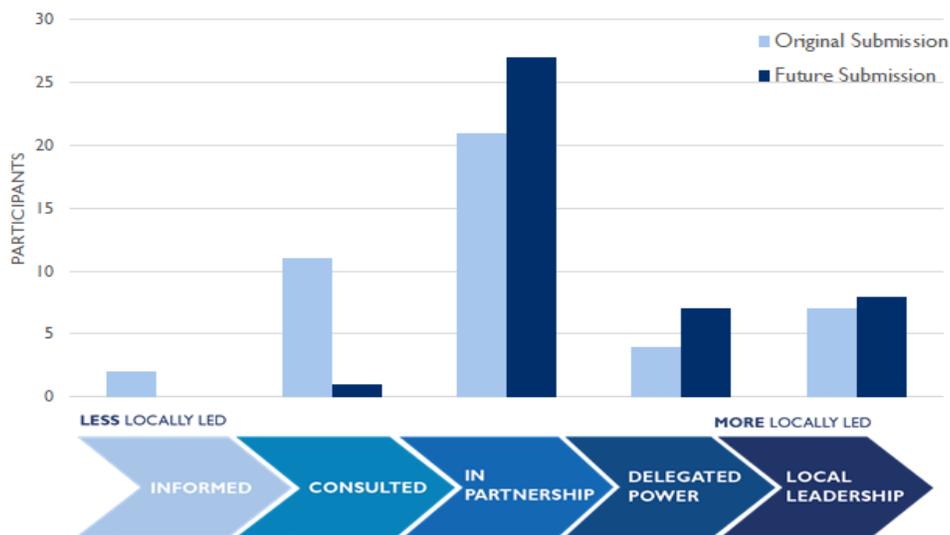
Throughout the co-creation workshop, the [Locally Led Development Spectrum](#) provided a common framework for understanding how potential partners might engage with activity participants and community stakeholders during the design, implementation, and evaluation of their proposed market-system approach. Locally led development is the process in which local actors – encompassing individuals, communities, networks, organizations, private entities, and governments – set their own agendas, develop solutions, and bring the capacity, leadership, and resources to make those solutions a reality. The Locally Led Development Spectrum was introduced early in the co-creation orientation as a

framework, and participants were encouraged to think about how they would apply it to their own engagement with stakeholders. During breakout sessions, participants were encouraged to think about where their proposed approach would be situated on the Locally Led Development Spectrum, how they might make their approach more locally led, and what constraints they might face in doing so.

### WHAT DID WE LEARN?

Participants at the co-creation workshop found the Locally Led Development Spectrum to be a useful framework to think about their own work, and a way to ensure shared definitions of community engagement between different approaches and stakeholders. Toward the end of the workshop, participants were asked where they believed their original ideas and approaches would be situated on the Locally Led Development Spectrum. They were then asked where – given the discussions and co-creation over the past week – they believed their future proposed approaches would be situated on the Locally Led Development Spectrum. Overall, participants shifted considerably toward the right of the Spectrum: while more than 28% (n=45) of the original submissions were self-rated on the less locally led end of the Spectrum (where the community is “informed” or “consulted”), by the end of the workshop, only one respondent anticipated their work would fall under “consulted”, and the remaining 98% anticipated their work would fall under “In Partnership” or further to the locally led end of the Spectrum (n=43).

### Where would you place your approach on the Locally Led Development Spectrum when you submitted it originally? Where do you anticipate it will be in your final submission?



**ABOUT** | The Locally Led Development Spectrum and Checklist were adapted from Oxfam America and Save the Children’s [Local Engagement Assessment Framework](#) by USAID’s [Local, Faith, and Transformative Partnerships \(LFT\) Hub](#). The spectrum, and its related tools, are currently being pilot tested across various contexts, sectors, and programming in which USAID works. We value your feedback and invite you to share your questions, experiences using these tools, and suggestions for improvement with us at [localsustainability@usaid.gov](mailto:localsustainability@usaid.gov).