

USAID's Approach to Measuring Locally Led Development

USAID knows that the ability to exercise meaningful influence over decision-making in one's own organization or community is foundational to locally led development, and that results are more likely to be sustained when local actors lead, resource, and experience genuine ownership over development efforts. USAID is committed to engaging local partners, communities, and change agents across its programs and in a wide range of relationships, including as direct recipients of USAID funding, sub-partners or participants in a USAID program, or members of a community affected by USAID programming.



USAID developed the Locally Led Programs indicator to hold ourselves accountable for these results. The Locally Led Programs indicator is reported alongside the Direct Local Funding indicator, which measures the percentage of acquisition and assistance funding that goes directly to local partners in a given fiscal year. Taken together the two metrics track USAID's progress on localization. Find out more about how [USAID measures progress on localization at our website](#).



The Locally Led Programs indicator measures the percentage of active USAID-funded development and humanitarian programs that demonstrate the use of at least two good practices for local leadership across at least two categories in a given fiscal year. The modular nature of the indicator provides a broad menu of options to guide and inspire USAID staff to promote local leadership and elevate local voices across all types of programming and contexts.

The indicator was developed based on wide consultations with stakeholders representing around 50 countries, more than 300 organizations, and spanning all sectors and geographic regions in which USAID works. These included community-based organizations, current and former USAID local partners, US-based and international partners, USAID staff, and advocacy networks focused on advancing locally led development. This [Learning Lab blog post](#) shares more details about the consultation and indicator development process.

Good Practices for Local Leadership

Category	Good Practices
 <p data-bbox="365 541 662 615">Working Directly with Partners</p>	<p data-bbox="743 541 1414 579">1. Partnering directly with local or regional partners</p>
 <p data-bbox="365 678 673 751">Creating Effective Local Partnerships</p>	<p data-bbox="743 678 1328 716">2. Co-creating with local or regional partners</p> <p data-bbox="743 741 1438 814">3. Making descriptive, not prescriptive awards to local and/or regional partners</p> <p data-bbox="743 846 1438 919">4. Helping local and regional partners achieve full cost recovery</p>
 <p data-bbox="365 993 621 1129">Recognizing, Leveraging, Strengthening Local Capacity</p>	<p data-bbox="743 993 1341 1056">5. Using demand driven capacity strengthening approaches</p> <p data-bbox="743 1087 1398 1161">6. Advancing local and regional actors' readiness to work directly with USAID</p> <p data-bbox="743 1192 1360 1266">7. Measuring programmatic success using locally defined measures</p> <p data-bbox="743 1297 1304 1335">8. Making local subawards and subcontracts</p> <p data-bbox="743 1367 1382 1440">9. Including the transition award process in prime assistance awards</p> <p data-bbox="743 1472 1333 1497">10. Conducting evaluations with local experts</p>
 <p data-bbox="365 1570 662 1644">Engaging Communities Directly</p>	<p data-bbox="743 1570 1455 1608">11. Conducting listening tours to inform activity design</p> <p data-bbox="743 1640 1373 1713">12. Co-creating with stakeholders, including local communities</p> <p data-bbox="743 1745 1425 1818">13. Institutionalizing feedback and accountability with local communities</p> <p data-bbox="743 1850 1438 1906">14. Implementing participatory monitoring, evaluation and learning</p>