



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Strengthening Country Systems: An Experience Summit

Washington, DC | November 27-28, 2012

OBJECTIVES

1. Bring together USAID staff and partners to share their experiences related to past and present efforts to strengthen country systems.
2. Distill the lessons from those experiences and build consensus on the most important lessons learned.
3. Identify the opportunities and challenges that USAID should bear in mind as it develops an Agency strategy for strengthening country systems.

AGENDA

Tuesday, November 27

8:30 am **Registration and Breakfast**

Opening Sessions: Articulating the Vision

9:00 am **Welcome**

9:10 am **Overview of Agenda**
(Tjip Walker, USAID/PPL/LER)

9:30 am **Country Ownership and Country Systems Before and After Busan**
A discussion about country ownership before and after the Busan Forum
(Dirk Dijkerman, OECD)

10:00 am **Country Systems Strengthening: A USAID Perspective**
Presentation on why USAID is focusing on country systems strengthening and the role of the Experience Summit in informing the development of an Agency strategy
(Larry Garber, USAID/PPL)

10:30 am **Break**

11:00 am **Panel Discussion and Q&A**
(Susan Reichle, USAID/PPL; Larry Garber, USAID/PPL; Dirk Dijkerman, OECD; Bill Hammink, USAID/India; Cheryl Anderson, USAID/Ghana; Emmy Simmons, Partnership to Cut Hunger and Poverty in Africa; Gregory Adams, Oxfam America)

12:00 pm **Lunch**

Working Sessions: Exploring the Experience

12:45 pm **Country Systems Strengthening: USAID Experience and Lessons Learned**
An examination of past and contemporary experience of country systems strengthening through a series of three moderated discussions followed by audience contributions through a World Café conversation.



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- 1:00 pm Moderated Conversation 1 with World Café Discussion
(Gary Russell, USAID/PPL/LER; Dr. Ronald Oakerson, Houghton College; Elizabeth Dunn, Impact, LLC; Allan Best, InSource)
- 2:00 pm Moderated Conversation 2 with World Café Discussion
(Laura Schulz, USAID/IDEA; John Gillies, FHI 360; Dr. Derick Brinkerhoff, RTI International)
- 3:00 pm **Break**
- 3:30 pm Moderated Conversation 3 with World Café Discussion
(Cindy Clapp-Wincek, USAID/PPL/LER; Dayna Brown, CDA Collaborative Learning Projects; Thomas Dichter, Independent Consultant)
- 4:30 pm **Report-outs**
Capturing connections, lessons, opportunities, and challenges
- 5:00 pm **Closing and Preview of Day 2**
(Tjip Walker, USAID/PPL/LER)

Wednesday, November 28

- 9:00 am **Opening**
(Tjip Walker, USAID/PPL/LER)
- 9:10 am **Stakeholder Panel**
Reactions to Day 1 and perspectives on the primary challenges that USAID should bear in mind as it develops a strategy to guide its support to country systems
(Erin McKee, USAID/Central Asia; Jonathan Glennie, Overseas Development Institute; John Niemeyer, USAID/IGC; David Ostermeyer, USAID/CFO)
- 10:30 am **Break**
- 11:00 am **Identifying and Prioritizing Challenges**
Exercise to identify key challenges from among those raised during the Summit
- 12:00 pm **Lunch**
- 1:00 pm **Approaches to Addressing Challenges**
Small groups will work on priority challenges identified and consider how they can best be addressed
- 2:15 pm **Report-outs**
- 3:00 pm **Break**



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Closing Sessions: Charting the Way Forward

- 3:30 pm **Reflections on Summit Discussions and Outcomes**
- Recap of Summit sessions, continuing themes, and preliminary conclusions
 - Observations from Agency staff and key stakeholders on what has occurred over the two days and perspectives on what needs to be taken into account in developing a strategy for strengthening country systems over the next few months
- 4:15 pm **Executive Panel**
Reaction and comments from Agency senior leadership
- 5:00 pm **Closing**