



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

OFFICE OF LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Journey to Self-Reliance Begins with Locally Led Development



LOCAL WORKS PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

USAID/TIMOR-LESTE LOCAL WORKS TEAM INTERVIEWING YOUTH ON THE STREET IN THE LIQUICA MUNICIPALITY.

September 2020

[Subscribe](#)



**CHAMPIONING LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT:
MEET TIM MARLOWE**



TIM MARLOWE, SUPERVISORY EXECUTIVE OFFICER, USAID TIMOR-LESTE

In Timor-Leste, Tim Marlowe is acting on his definition of locally led development: “For the people, by the people.” In addition to supporting local actors outside of USAID through the [Local Works](#) Program, Tim has championed local leadership within USAID. “I really just want to emphasize the dual side of locally led in this initiative [Local Works]. Not only the outward-facing locally led component where the team is working with locally led individuals, but also that the core team itself is composed of Timorese, non-technical office staff members, that are also all women,” he said.

By supporting local staff, Tim sees a benefit to both programming outcomes and sustainability: “It’s incumbent upon us to empower the local staff to lead some of these initiatives, get outside of comfort zones a little bit, offer new ideas and perspectives to bring some of these programs and projects to fruition. Especially since Foreign Service Officers are only at posts for two to five years, whereas Cooperating Country Nationals (CCNs) are often at a Mission for sometimes ten or 20 years (we hope). We need to further support local staff involvement at USAID, and within the interagency - leverage their unique capacities and experiences to inform strategies, and help bring development priorities and objectives to fruition.”

With Tim's support, these local staff have taken on an ambitious listening tour to engage the country’s sizable youth population. The team has employed creative methods to do so, quickly realizing that technology was an effective tool in making their work accessible. This has also proven effective in adapting to the current pandemic: “I think the biggest thing is to keep an open mind and to throw away the business as usual mentality. I don’t think anything about the current state of affairs is ‘state as usual.’ For example, we’re doing approximately 90% of our operations and interactions virtually, and this could be the case for the foreseeable future, so we have to find ways to be effective in an atypical environment. We have to put biases aside, lean less on institutional understanding of the way things are supposed to work in development, and find ways to be more effective. Also, when you have somewhat limited resources, it almost forces you to pursue innovative, outside-the-box approaches. Our Local Works budget/funding in comparison isn’t very large, but it can have a substantial impact if done correctly.”

His advice for others? “Rely less on traditional ways of thinking, look for creative ways to engage subject matter experts on the ground, and help them help us.”

USAID/Timor Leste is part of the [Local Works](#) Program. The Office of Local Sustainability periodically recognizes individuals from USAID Local Works Missions for their exemplary work in advancing locally led development. Interviews with the ‘Locally Led Development Champions’

“For the people, by the people.”

Tim Marlowe,
USAID/Timor-Leste, on
what locally led
development means to him



GUATEMALA: GOING BEYOND BUSINESS AS USUAL

PHOTO CREDIT: WORLD COUNCIL OF CREDIT UNIONS

PRE-PANDEMIC, A GUATEMALAN ENTREPRENEUR WHO RECEIVED SUPPORT FROM HER LOCAL CREDIT UNION IS SELLING FRESH PRODUCE

Given the development of the COVID-19 pandemic, Guatemalan credit union Cooperativa Cobán knew it had to act quickly to support its 60,000 members and local community. Cooperativa Cobán mobilized to donate protective gear to healthcare workers and first responders, while also delivering more than 150 food packages to vulnerable community members. In addition, the credit union developed an online payment system for customers to safely purchase goods from local, small businesses - without handling cash. This effort supports local private sector growth and boosts the well-being of the community by increasing the availability of essential items. And its work hasn't stopped there: Cooperativa Cobán plans to deliver more food packages and protective equipment, and is developing more financial products for businesses that will need additional support during and after the crisis.

[Read the full story.](#)

Cooperativa Cobán is the [World Council of Credit Unions](#)'s (WOCCU) local partner in Guatemala, supported by USAID's [Cooperative Development Program](#).



VIETNAM: A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

PHOTO CREDIT: NGUYEN HAI LINH, LIVE AND LEARN

THE LIVE AND LEARN COORDINATOR EDUCATING CHILDREN ON AIR QUALITY IN HANOI

There's a saying: you can't manage what you can't measure. For citizens of Hanoi, this rings true for issues with air pollution. There's limited access to reliable, real-time information on air quality. Enter [Live and Learn](#), the local non-profit organization that is engaging citizens to collect air quality data. With seminars in schools and engaging members of the media, Live and Learn supports the use of low-cost air sensors to supplement existing data, while also raising awareness about the environmental and health impacts of air pollution. With greater understanding and buy-in from key segments of society, Live and Learn is laying the groundwork for citizens to engage the government for better environmental policies. [Learn more.](#)

This initiative is supported by USAID through the [Local Works](#) Program.

UGANDA: RESILIENT IN THE FACE OF CHANGE

A healthcare center in Uganda was in the midst of installing a rainwater harvesting tank to provide clean, running water for its maternity ward when the COVID-19 pandemic began. A Peace Corps Volunteer had been closely coordinating the installation with community members but was quickly evacuated due to COVID-19. Even with this change of plans, the healthcare center stepped up and completed the construction of the 10,000 liter tank in only three weeks, providing access to clean water, as well as improved sanitation and hygiene for patients at a critical time. With the COVID-19



PHOTO CREDIT: PEACE CORPS/UGANDA
A HEALTH WORKER WASHING THEIR HANDS WITH
WATER FROM THE NEWLY INSTALLED TANK

pandemic, both patients and health workers have access to clean water due to installation of the water tank, which has supported community awareness on hand washing to reduce the spread of the virus.

This project was supported by USAID through the [Small Project Assistance \(SPA\)](#) Program.

Announcements



Addressing Gender-Based Violence during COVID-19: [Cooperative Development Program](#) (CDP) implementing partner Land O'Lakes Venture37 shares its approach to gender-based violence work across eastern and southern Africa amid COVID-19 in a three-part blog series. [Read its third blog.](#)

BetterTogether/JuntosEsMejor Challenge: USAID and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) announced an additional \$1.17 million for five awards to fund solutions that will benefit Venezuelans and their host communities in Brazil, Colombia, and Ecuador. [Learn more.](#)

Kenyan Cooperatives Show Resilience to COVID-19 Shock: [CDP](#) implementing partner Global Communities highlights the resiliency of Kenyan cooperative businesses during the current pandemic in two recent blogs. Read the [first](#) and [second](#) blog posts.



Human and Institutional Capacity Development Desk Review: These new exploratory analyses offer recommendations for improving the effectiveness of capacity development approaches and enhancing development practitioners' own capacities to facilitate local capacity development.

[Learn more.](#)



Center for Faith and Opportunity Initiatives (CFOI) Video Contest:

USAID's [CFOI](#) is collecting footage to illustrate the impact of USAID-funded projects implemented by faith- or community-based organizations. Winners will be featured in a USAID video highlighting the key role these groups play in global development and humanitarian aid. [Learn more.](#)



Office of Local Sustainability Job Openings

[Jefferson Science Fellowship \(JSF\)](#)

[Deputy Team Lead and Senior Communications Specialist](#)

[Front Office Staff Assistants](#)



Office of Local Sustainability Staffing Update

The Office of Local Sustainability bids farewell to its 2019-20 Jefferson Science Fellows, Drs. K.C. Das and Paul Vincelli, and welcomes 2020-21 Jefferson Science Fellow Dr. Surajit Sen. The Office is also pleased to welcome Dr. Catherine Herrold, who will serve as a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow this academic year.



Evidence Summit on Strategic Religious Engagement: This summit will examine the research and evidence on the impact of partnering with faith-based organizations and engaging with religious communities in global development and humanitarian assistance, and will include discussions about the implications for USAID. [Learn more.](#)



National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International (NCBA CLUSA) Co-op IMPACT Virtual Conference - International Track:

The 2020 conference will explore the roles cooperative businesses play in serving member needs as early COVID-19 responders; maintaining food security; contributing to financial stability; and using data and technology to create greater resiliency. The conference will have dynamic breakout sessions and provide unique opportunities to learn from development experts and voices from the field. [Register for free.](#)

We want to hear from you! Share your thoughts and ideas for future stories:

[Content Submissions + Feedback](#)

Visit the Office of Local Sustainability online:



Subscribe

