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OFFICE OF LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Journey to Self-Reliance Begins with Locally Led Development

PHOTO CREDIT: USAID IPAC

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UGANDA: INCREASING ACCESS TO INFORMATION DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

In northern Uganda, one Cooperative Development Program (CDP) partner is supporting health care workers responding to COVID-19 in an innovative way. "People in our communities ask lots of questions that at times we can't answer, because this whole situation is new to us and we have not yet gathered enough convincing information to give them back," noted Margaret, a health care provider in northern Uganda. To address this, HealthPartners, a U.S.-based health cooperative supported by USAID's CDP, launched a two-way text-messaging campaign. More than 1,000 recipients receive Ministry of Health-approved information on symptoms, prevention measures, and what to do if someone falls ill - all in local languages. The cooperative is also printing informational posters for health facilities and hosting radio shows with health officials and local leaders to debunk the myths and rumors surrounding COVID-19. The USAID-supported campaign enables the cooperative's staff to provide support, accurate information, encouragement, and empathy to its broad network. As Margaret boldly commented, "It will allow us to push further!"
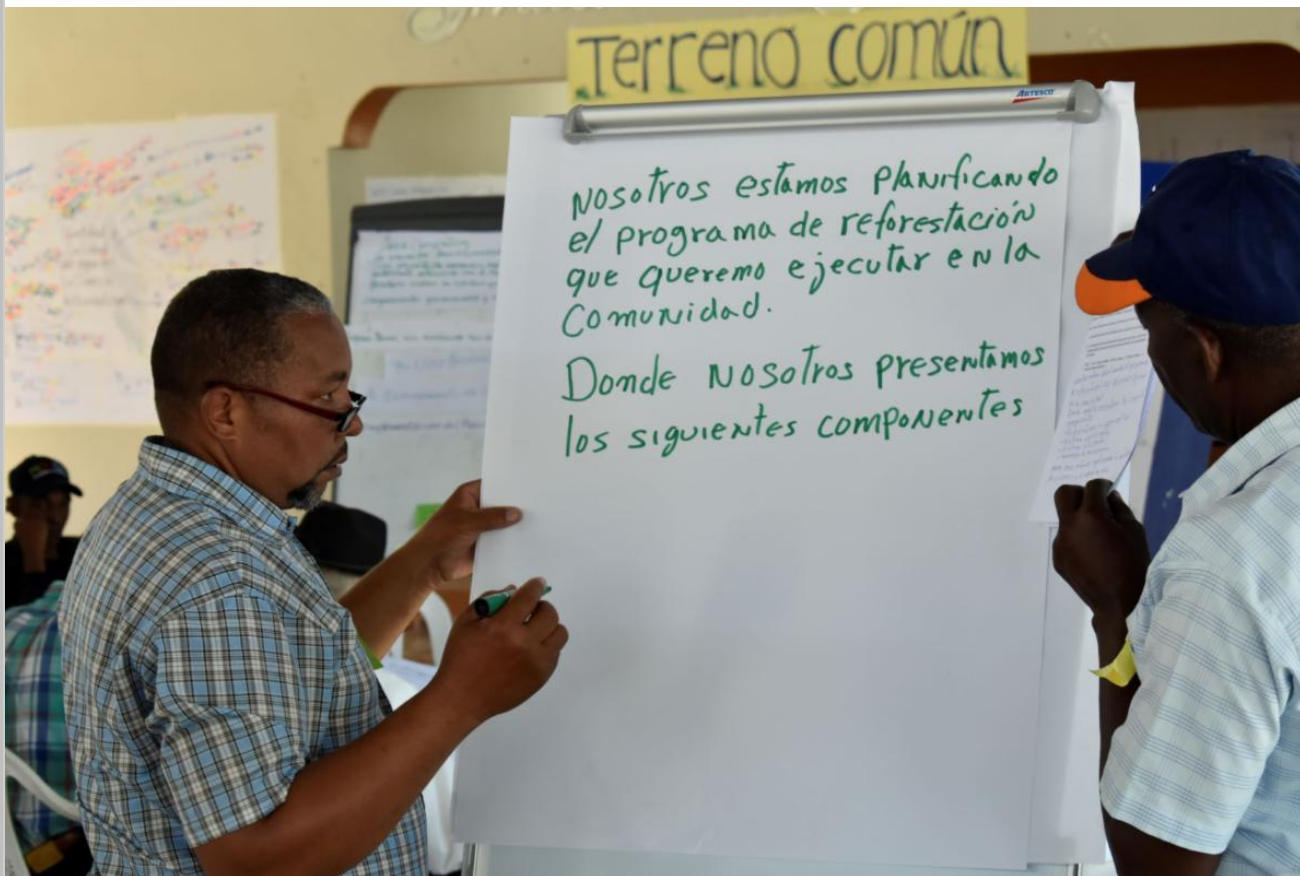
PHILIPPINES: SUPPORTING COOPERATIVES IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

PHOTO CREDIT: AGRITERRA

Through the Local Works program, USAID/Philippines launched "Generating Rural Opportunities by Working with Cooperatives" (GROW-Coop) to build the capacity of agriculture cooperatives. In light of the current emergency situation, food distribution and access have been severely disrupted. Farmer producers in the provinces cannot sell their products, while consumers in key cities are having a hard time getting enough food supplies. To address this, GROW-Coop and GROW-Coop implementing partner Agriterra are working with cooperatives to encourage "coop to coop" trade. By connecting cooperatives, as well as relevant civil society organizations, GROW-Coop and Agriterra are supporting solutions that will ensure the supply and sale of food products continues. This past week, the pilot program enabled 1.6 metric tons of fresh produce from a cooperative in the northern part of the country to reach the largest agriculture cooperative in the country, located in just South of Metro Manila, the country's capital - thus supporting the livelihoods of farmers, while also making fresh and cheaper produce available to the 39,000 cooperative members. More farmer cooperatives and consumers are expected to benefit from

these trading mechanisms in the coming weeks and months. Learn more.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AND HAITI: CONVENING BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER TO IMPROVE WATER ACCESS

PHOTO CREDIT: REDDOM

In the Dominican Republic, communities on the border with Haiti lack access to clean water for household consumption and adequate water for agricultural production. Deforestation and contaminating activities on both sides of the border make management of the watershed difficult. The Local Works team convened community members, local non-government organizations (NGOs), and local government ministers for a two-day "Whole System in a Room" (WSR) workshop, in which actors collectively envisioned a future with clean water resources. WSR is a locally led experience in which diverse actors with a shared problem undertake a facilitated journey to understand the past, focus on the present, envision the future, find common ground, and develop action plans to drive change in the system. Featuring spirited skits and original

songs, the workshop ended with enthusiasm around locally designed plans of action.

Zambia: Learning the Art of Beekeping

PHOTO CREDIT: PEACE CORPS

The Office of Local Sustainability (E3/LS) salutes Peace Corps Volunteers who were evacuated from their posts in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In honor of World Bee Day (May 20), E3/LS is pleased to showcase a completed USAID-Peace Corps Small Project Assistance (SPA) Program project from Zambia. This SPA project supported beekeeping training for youth in a rural community of the Mufumbwe district. The goal was to build skills in beekeeping (a lucrative enterprise in high demand), boost entrepreneurship, and empower young people to protect the environment. Through SPA, the Mufumbwe Youth Resource Center taught 25 students - who then went on to train an additional 175 farmers - in the art of beekeeping. The community, in turn, contributed the venue for the training and meals for the trainees and staff. Want to learn more? Check out this manual on training small-scale beekeepers.

Bangladesh: Restoring the Environment and Building Local Capacity

In Cox's Bazar, the influx of nearly one million refugees from the Rohingya humanitarian crisis into already impoverished communities has led to a complex emergency. This has depleted environmental resources both inside and outside of refugee camps, impacting the

PHOTO CREDIT: USAID IPAC

communities that depend on these resources for their livelihoods. Through [Local Works](#), USAID/Bangladesh is working with local organizations and community management groups to address this issue. Three new activities implemented by Arannayk Foundation, Community Development Centre, and Nature Conservation Management will support reforestation and conservation efforts - targeting 1,800-3,000 resource-dependent households each. This work will also build the capacity of local communities and organizations, with technical training in farming, savings, and more for community members, and resource mobilization support for community-based organizations.

COVID-19: Examining the Impact on Civil Society Organizations

[LINC](#), a former E3/LS [co-created research initiatives](#) partner, conducted a survey of civil society organizations (CSOs) across Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Southeastern Europe on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Every CSO surveyed had been negatively affected in some way. Funding is the primary challenge: nearly half of CSOs surveyed (even well-established organizations) reported they would have to close within three months without additional funding. At the same time, nearly 65% of CSOs surveyed reported undertaking activities in direct response to the pandemic. The report
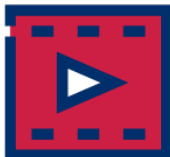
also offers insights from CSOs into how best to support them in times of crisis.
[Read the report.](#)

Meeting with the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network on Civil Society

Last week, USAID and the [Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network](#) (MFAN) held a virtual meeting. MFAN shared [recommendations](#) with USAID on developing an Agency-wide strategy for engaging with civil society in partner countries. MFAN highlighted [Local Works](#) and the [New Partnerships Initiative](#) as two positive examples of how USAID is already doing this work well. E3/LS welcomed MFAN's strong focus on elevating local civil society as a core element of the [Journey to Self-Reliance](#) - and emphasized the importance of empowering local civil society to address local development challenges.

Announcements

Locally Led Development in Action: The Office of Local Sustainability (E3/LS) is pleased to showcase USAID/Armenia and Peace Corps/Armenia, commemorating 25 years of partnership with USAID and Peace Corps through the [Small Project Assistance](#) (SPA) Program. By featuring the

opening of a youth development project at the YMCA in Vardenis, Armenia, the video illustrates how SPA supports sustainable, community-led capacity-building one project at a time. Watch the new video.

Case Study on Using a Systems Approach: Through Local Works, USAID/Myanmar is using a systems approach to engage local actors and address the drug epidemic in Kachin State. Check it out.

Private Sector Engagement (PSE) Evidence Gap Map: Looking for evidence to inform how you engage the private sector in your work? USAID's new Evidence Gap Map is an interactive, visual map that allows users to explore the evidence on PSE and filter by criteria like region and sector. Check it out.

COVID-19 Guide for Credit Unions: Cooperative Development Program (CDP) partner World Council of Credit Unions (WOCCU) highlights the various responses taken by key regulatory authorities and credit unions worldwide. Read the guide.

Feedback in the COVID-19 Response: Feedback Labs shares tips, tools, and events to help organizations better listen and respond to constituents and stakeholders. Check it out.
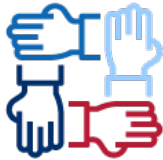
What Can Cooperatives Do for Youth?: In partnership with USAID's YouthPower initiative, CDP partners National Cooperative Business Association CLUSA International (NCBA CLUSA), Global Communities and Equal Exchange shared best practices in youth cooperative development. Watch the webinar recording.

The Kenyan Cooperative Sector Tackles COVID-19 Head-On: In Kenya, as in many other countries, cooperatives are playing an important role in addressing COVID-19. Read the article.

The Role of Civil Society in the Fiscal Response to COVID-19: The Center for Global Development emphasizes the importance of local civil society and citizen participation in the fiscal policy response to COVID-19. Read the blog post.

Lessons From Brazil's Poor to Fight the Coronavirus: With an emphasis on grassroots, community-led efforts, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace provides examples from Brazil to address the disparate effects of COVID-19. Read the article.

Putting the Seven Cooperative Principles Into Action: NCBA CLUSA highlights their CDP project in Madagascar to unpack the seven cooperative principles - from the perspective of local co-op members. Watch the video.

@USAID: Happy first anniversary to USAID's New Partnerships Initiative! We are celebrating stories of success, innovation, & collaboration with our implementing partners with a special edition newsletter. Also, go to usaid.gov/npi to check out our new look! Share this Facebook post.

USAID/Philippines: Seeking locally led development concepts from local organizations on using a systems approach to facilitate coalition-building and collaborative action among stakeholders from different technical sectors. Closing date is May 15, 2020. Learn more.

USAID/Philippines: Looking for locally led development concepts from local actors on strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations and networks. Closing date is May 15, 2020. Learn more.

USAID's Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG): Addendum to the E3/LS Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for Locally Led Development Innovation. Seeking strategic innovative approaches to reach

low-wage and vulnerable workers, including those who have been excluded from formal union membership. Closing date is June 4, 2020. Learn more.

USAID/Philippines: Soliciting concepts from local actors on market-based solutions to development challenges. Concept submissions will be accepted in three cycles. The first closing date is June 30, 2020. Learn more.

USAID New Partnerships Initiative (NPI): Features a range of opportunities that are relevant to new and underutilized partners. Learn more.

E3/LS welcomes three new hires:
Shannon Meehan, Mission Support Program Analyst
Jennifer Page, Training Coordinator
Cydney Gumman, Knowledge Management and Learning Specialist

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