

# LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH



EMILY LONG, SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND. The SAS+ team at their September 2022 retreat in Washington, D.C.

## ACTIVITY: Stopping As Success (SAS+)

**SAS+** is a learning project seeking to make transitions from international to local entities more responsible. By accompanying organizations going through partnership transitions, SAS+ aims to enable development partnerships to be more locally led, transitions to be more effective and sustainable for local people, and development practitioners to be more responsive to local dynamics.

SAS+ facilitates transitions with local and international organizations and USAID Missions and Operating Units using resources developed during the [Stopping as Success activity](#).

## LOCALLY LED TRANSITIONS IN DEVELOPMENT

**Transition** refers to the transfer of responsibility and ownership of an organization, project, or activity from an international to a local organization or network. Transitions are *responsible* when jointly led, planned, and gradual. This ensures that ownership is transferred in a sustainable way for all actors involved, while some form of relationship is maintained.

By engaging in and learning from active transition processes, SAS+ enables partners to shift power through transformative transition processes.


## EVIDENCE BASE

Examples of mutually agreed transition strategies, collaborative decision-making, and transfers of power are rare. Since 2017, SAS+ has filled this gap to equip organizations with good transition practices to make way for local leadership. [Tools and resources include:](#)


### 19 case studies in 13 countries:

 Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Guatemala, India, Kenya, Morocco, Philippines, Thailand, and Timor-Leste.

### Six thematic papers

 on capacity strengthening, communication, financial sustainability, leadership, partnerships, and power & legitimacy.

### 25+ tools and resources

 to support international non-governmental organizations, (NGOs), local NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs), and donors transitioning from a international to local leadership.

## SAS+ SUPPORT FOR TRANSITION PROCESSES

Each transition process is unique. By partnering with SAS+, local and international organizations and networks gain tailored, hands-on support throughout the transition process from an international to local entity. As a learning partner, the SAS+ consortium provides guidance and technical support to facilitate the use of practical tools and resources throughout an engagement with partners in transition. SAS+ provides short- or long-term support, based on transition-related needs. [Learn more.](#)

SAS+ HIGHLIGHT:

### GLOBAL CONSULTATION

Nearly 150 participants from 41 countries joined an online consultation held by SAS+ in November 2021 to discuss effective partnership transitions. SAS+ identified key recommendations from the conversation:

- Enter partnership with an initial transition plan already in place.
- Collaborate directly with local partners throughout every stage of the partnership transition process.
- Tailor capacity strengthening efforts according to existing local capacities.
- Recognize and address inherent power imbalances in the international development system.

[READ MORE](#)

SAS+ HIGHLIGHT:

### TRANSITION PARTNERSHIP

SAS+ has provided **10 partners** with tailored, hands-on support for responsible, sustainable transitions in **more than 25 countries**. SAS+ helps partners operationalize good practice in development transition that centers local leadership.

For example, SAS+ has supported USAID/Nigeria's PARTNER activity from the beginning of the Transition Award. After facilitating transition workshops, the partners co-developed a transition plan SAS+ now supports to implement.

[FIND OUT HOW TO PARTNER WITH SAS+](#)

## CONSORTIUM MEMBERS AND ADVISORY GROUP

The three consortium organizations leading SAS+ were brought together by a common belief in local leadership.

- ✦ **CDA Collaborative Learning** is an action research and advisory organization that bridges the gap between theory and practice to improve the effectiveness of peacebuilding, development and humanitarian organizations, and responsible businesses working in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.
- ✦ **Peace Direct** is an international charity dedicated to stopping wars, one person at a time. They believe that local people have the power to find their own solutions to conflict. In conflict zones around the world, Peace Direct supports local communities to stop violence and build sustainable peace.
- ✦ **Search for Common Ground** partners with people around the world to ignite shared, constructive solutions to destructive conflicts. They work at all levels of society to build sustainable peace through dialogue, media and community.
- ✦ **The SAS+ Advisory Group** provides advice on and support for influencing efforts for SAS+. They support SAS+ through their specific areas of expertise on transitions, locally led development, shifting power in development, and experience with donors, INGOs, and local CSOs/NGOs or networks.

## CONTACT THE LOCALLY LED DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

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