

FACT SHEET

# INVESTING IN RESEARCH TO ACCELERATE DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS

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Solving today's development challenges requires actionable information facilitated by forward-thinking scientific research. USAID's Research Division in the Innovation, Technology, and Research (ITR) Hub invests in research generation and use through higher education institutions and researchers in the United States and partner countries to discover, test, and scale up solutions for greater impact. USAID Bureaus and Missions and other international development practitioners also use our programs and services for better results. The Research Division strengthens the capacity for scientific inquiry in USAID partner countries, increasing the creation and use of knowledge and innovations, and providing decision-makers with the best available, locally informed evidence to develop policies that can benefit and transform society.

## The Research Division Partners with Higher Education Institutions, USAID Bureaus and Missions, and the International Development Community.



Research informs action, not only in the countries in which USAID works, but also in the Agency's practices and policies as a 21st-century development agency. The Research Division ensures that USAID-supported research results are publicly available and helps guide USAID policies and processes related to research and development (R&D). It also partners with other federal agencies and external partners to support researchers, scientists, and engineers in applying their diverse backgrounds and technical knowledge to critical development challenges.

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## Research Division Highlights



**Partnerships for Enhanced Engagement in Research (PEER)** supports research teams in more than 60 partner countries who collaborate with U.S.-based scientists to tackle complex development questions. More than 440 projects have resulted in over 145 evidence-based changes to programs and policies, providing long-term, beneficial impacts to the lives of people around the world.

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**The Higher Education Solutions Network's (HESN's)** Development Labs' research projects have generated more than 2,000 innovations. HESN innovations, products, and workshops have reached more than 19 million people in at least 35 countries.

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**The Long-Term Assistance and Services for Research (LASER) program** and **Research Technical Assistance Center (RTAC)** have a combined global network of more than 3,700 researchers in over 86 countries. Members of this research network support USAID staff in establishing data about complex development challenges and informing approaches to address them.

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Since 1982, **Fellowship Programs** have embedded more than 650 scientists and engineers to provide sector-specific expertise in USAID Bureaus and Missions while allowing those scientists to gain firsthand experience working with USAID.

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The Research Division **leads the development of science policies and spearheads initiatives** critical to ensuring USAID's ability and commitment to supporting research, using scientific evidence in decision-making, and engaging strategically across the U.S. government on research and science policy efforts of importance to the USAID mission.

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