

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - USAID A&A Strategy and Implementation Plan

Why did USAID release an updated [A&A Strategy](#) in 2023?

USAID's 2018 A&A Strategy outlined multiple priorities related to USAID partnerships and catalyzed several initiatives that the Agency continues to expand upon, such as the [New Partnerships Initiative](#), and the [WorkWithUSAID.gov](#) website. However, the world has changed considerably since 2018 due to the development challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, the increasing push to localize our global assistance, and protracted humanitarian crises. USAID needed to change our business model to adapt to these new challenges and opportunities, and our A&A practices are an important place to start. Released in March 2023, the current [A&A Strategy](#) reflects these changes.

What are the vision and objectives of the A&A Strategy?

The vision of the A&A Strategy is for *USAID and its partners to enable sustainable, inclusive, and locally led development results through acquisition and assistance*. This vision is guided by [three objectives](#):

- **Objective 1:** An A&A workforce enabled, equipped, and empowered to advance USAID's development and humanitarian mission;
- **Objective 2:** A&A that is streamlined and effectively integrated throughout the Agency's development approach; and
- **Objective 3:** A more diverse set of partners engaged to implement locally led development solutions.

How does the A&A Strategy relate to USAID's localization goals and other Agency priorities?

The A&A Strategy provides a roadmap to operationalize elements of the Agency's localization goals, including directing 25 percent of our funds to local partners by FY2025 and institutionalizing local leadership in 50 percent of our activities by 2030. However, USAID's localization goals are broader than just A&A, and are further articulated in other Agency strategies and policies such as the [Local Capacity Strengthening Policy](#) and the [Policy Framework](#). Additionally, the A&A Strategy goes beyond localization to integrate USAID's

partnership goals related to climate change and sustainability, supporting U.S. small businesses, and increasing efficiency throughout our business processes. See the [many Agency initiatives](#) that touch upon the A&A Strategy and its Implementation Plan.

How was the A&A Strategy developed and who was consulted during the process?

Development of the A&A Strategy began in 2020 with a series of consultations with USAID A&A professionals from USAID in Washington and all missions to understand their needs and priorities. Through this engagement, the first objective of the A&A Strategy became focused on making sure the A&A workforce was enabled, equipped, and empowered to further USAID's development and humanitarian assistance mission. Additionally, to inform the development of the A&A Strategy, USAID held 15 briefings with partner associations on the A&A Strategy, in addition to regular ongoing engagement such as Reverse Industry Days. USAID's first Partnering Experience Survey in October 2022 received more than 1,800 responses, which were used to inform the A&A Strategy and associated Implementation Plan.

How is the A&A Strategy being implemented?

Implementation of the A&A Strategy is an ongoing, collaborative effort among various USAID stakeholders and the &A partner community. USAID has sought and received policy and regulatory changes to remove barriers in our A&A processes, and improve the recruitment and retention of A&A professionals. We also continue to promote awareness to the USAID workforce and partners of existing tools and flexibilities to enhance the impact of our awards. In addition, we regularly seek feedback from our partners and are developing and sharing tools, strategies, and approaches to streamline and reduce burdens for A&A staff and partners. You can review many of these improvement actions tied to the A&A Strategy's three objectives outlined in the [2023 Implementation Plan](#) and the [2024 Implementation Plan Update](#), released in the fall of 2024. Updates on the implementation of the A&A Strategy will be released annually.

What are the metrics for success of the A&A Strategy (via Implementation Plan actions)?

USAID will continue previous years' efforts in monitoring the actions under the implementation of the A&A Strategy through eight indicators linked to the three A&A Strategy objectives, which can be found in [Annex 4 of the A&A Strategy Implementation Plan Update 2024](#).

The core team responsible for implementing the A&A Strategy will monitor indicators quarterly and report on high-level indicators annually. The M/OAA Strategy team will be primarily responsible for collecting indicator data in collaboration with other M/OAA and Agency stakeholders, such as M/OAA Systems Support, the M/OAA GLAAS Team, and the M/OAA

Professional Development and Training (PDT) Team, in addition to the Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management (PLR's) COR/AOR Hub and the Agency burden reduction team.

Where can I go to see the A&A Strategy and Implementation Plan and provide feedback?

You may view the A&A Strategy and 2024 Implementation Plan on the [A&A Strategy public website](#). We encourage your feedback. Please email your comments to moastrategy@usaid.gov.