



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



NEW PARTNERSHIPS INITIATIVE

August 2020

Yesterday USAID Acting Administrator John Barsa announced five new awards in global health, higher education, youth, and women's economic empowerment under the New Partnerships Initiative (NPI). "I am proud of our Agency and these new NPI awardees for working with us to co-create potentially transformative partnerships," he said in [a statement](#).

Across the Agency, we remain focused on creating additional avenues and opportunities for new and local partners to bring forward their innovative ideas and join us in our effort to save and improve the lives of people everywhere.

Through NPI, we have made a number of awards designed specifically to build the capacity of local partners and mentor them as they work with us to solve development challenges in their communities. One such award—NPI EXPAND: New Partners for Better Health—is the perfect example of how we can leverage the expertise of a seasoned prime partner to do just that. We invite you to read more in our Q&A with [NPI EXPAND's project director](#)—and to read on for more news from NPI and information about the new awards.

[Learn more about NPI](#)

FRESH FROM THE NPI KITCHEN: ACRONYM SOUP



Wondering what are APS, BAA, and CDCS?

So what exactly are APS, BAA, and CDCS? They are just a few of the special ingredients in our Acronym Soup—NPI's simple recipe for partnership success. Watch our short video, then [download our quick reference guide!](#)



Spotlight on Ukraine

Every day, Missions across the world are actively working to engage the innovative ideas of new and underutilized partners while strengthening local capacity. This month, we're highlighting that work taking place on the ground in Ukraine. Read the stories below to see how the approaches of the New Partnerships Initiative work in practice.

Building Economic Resilience in the Eye of Ukraine's Storm

When a vegetable cooperative in Ukraine faced challenges selling its produce because of conflict within the country, USAID partners helped to develop both a successful business strategy and the market connections that put it on track to becoming a national producer. This story highlights the road to building economic resilience, even in the most difficult circumstances.

[Read more](#)

Fresh Tomatoes on the Front Lines of War

"What I and others do—providing food and an income—is crucial to the survival of our people," says Mariana Neshcheret, president of a vegetable collective in eastern Ukraine. Read her perspective on how partnership with USAID helped her business thrive in a conflict zone.

Read more

Co-Creating Cyber Solutions in Ukraine: The Hunger Games

What does a co-creation for cybersecurity in Ukraine look like? As one participant put it, it's like a scene out of *The Hunger Games*. Learn how a process that was both challenging and collaborative resulted in a multi-partner project that will strengthen Ukraine's cybersecurity, improve sector coordination, and expand collaboration between stakeholders.

Read more

Partnerships Incubator Corner

Missions Plan NPI Activities

To date, 63 USAID Missions and operating units have submitted NPI action plans for 75 countries—continued affirmation of the Agency's commitment to capitalize on local leadership and knowledge by engaging with new, underutilized, and local partners. Missions have launched or anticipate to launch more than 950 NPI or NPI-aligned activities over the next three years, with two-thirds currently utilizing or projected to incorporate direct awards to new or underutilized partners, including indigenous groups and locally established partners.

The Partnerships Incubator's analysis of action plans so far reveals that Missions are embracing new approaches to program design such as co-creation, which allows Missions to leverage the expertise and innovation of local partners as they work together to build solutions to complex development challenges. As an example, read how the [Bangladesh Mission's co-creation workshop](#) led to innovative solutions in health-care coverage.

All USAID Missions are required to submit an NPI Action Plan—their road map to expand the Agency's engagement with new and local partners. These plans demonstrate programmatic shifts toward increased local capacity for implementation, the use of co-creation, and the establishment of more diverse and strategic partnerships.

Strengthening the Dynamics of Your Now-Virtual Team

At the Partnerships Incubator's annual planning retreat, we strengthened the bonds across our team through exercises that developed clarity, confidence, and cohesion. Now more than ever, when many workplaces are virtual (including ours), focusing on team building is essential to success.

Here is what we learned from our virtual planning retreat:

- **Incorporate team-building activities** as a priority in your annual planning meetings. For example, we orchestrated an online Incubator trivia quiz, held in real time, that resulted in a spirited (and entertaining!) 15-minute break.
- **Celebrate strengths and contributions.** In our "You Are My Hero" exercise, we used word clouds, poetry, videos, and heartfelt testimonials to recognize each member of the team.
- **Assign an active role to each team member** so everyone has the opportunity to contribute their skills in a tangible way. This leaves all participants feeling involved and valued.
- **Boost team interaction and engagement** by using online tools that offer such features as breakout rooms, drawing boards, screen-sharing, and real-time polling.

Your Opinion, Please

Last December, we asked for your feedback on our "How to Work with USAID" webpages—and more than 550 of you gave it. Most of you thought that it was not easy to find the information you needed, and that you would like to see more resources for new partners.

We heard you! In recent months we have been updating these pages and creating new tools. Tell us what you think: Click the button below to take our online survey (available through September 18). Thank you!

Take the survey



New NPI Funding Opportunities

Communities Lead COVID-19 Response and Oxygen Ecosystem

USAID's Bureau for Global Health (USAID/GH) is pleased to issue this COVID-19 round under the New Partnerships Initiative Global Health Annual Program Statement. Through this round, Communities Leading COVID-19 Response and Oxygen Ecosystem, USAID/GH is seeking concept papers that incorporate interventions to build upon and expand USAID's efforts to better connect communities and health systems, as part of the COVID-19 response. Applications close on Monday, September 14, 2020.

[Learn more](#)

Promoting Religious Freedom in the Middle East/North Africa

USAID's Bureau for the Middle East is seeking concept papers to respond to the President's [Executive Order on Advancing International Religious Freedom](#). This solicitation aims to support local initiatives that will have a sustainable, long-term impact on marginalized religious and ethnic communities in affected areas of the Middle East and North Africa. Applications close on Tuesday, November 4, 2020.

[Learn more](#)



NPI Award Announcements

First-Time Prime Partner to Address Community Health Issues

The NPI Afya award is a three-year, \$15 million fixed amount award (FAA) implemented by the Africa Christian Health Associations Platform, a first-time USAID prime partner. This project will implement evidence-based, locally owned community health interventions designed to reduce maternal and child mortality in Kenya and Uganda.

Award to Advance USAID Learning Priorities

USAID made its SHARE (Supporting Holistic and Actionable Research in Education) award to the University of Notre Dame's Pulte Institute for Global Development. The \$40 million program will advance USAID learning priorities as a global good for the international education sector. SHARE will strengthen partner countries' capacity to achieve quality education and learning outcomes to support their journey to self-reliance.

Youth Organizations Excelling on Journey to Self-Reliance

The International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX) is the recipient of Youth Excel, a five-year, \$30 million NPI award. The award consists of ten planned sub-awards to youth-led and youth-serving organizations. This program is designed to drive local development and strengthen youth networks by shifting decision-making power to youth organizations.

New Award to Support Women's Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) Initiative

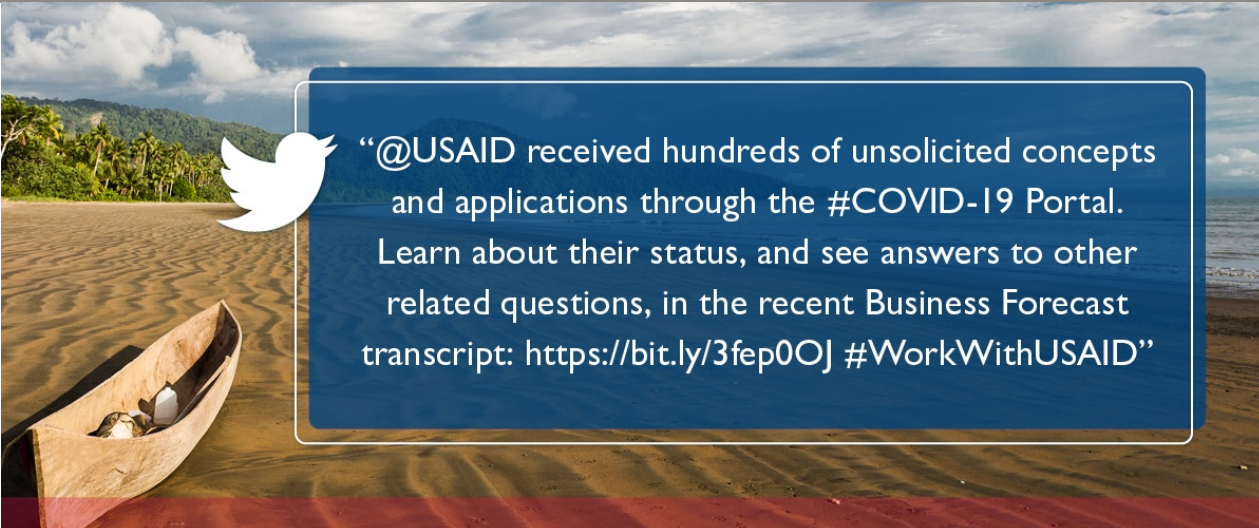
In partnership with the White House-led [W-GDP Initiative](#), USAID issued a \$10 million NPI award to two partners: \$7.5 million to the Rainforest Alliance and \$2.5 million to the Asia Foundation, with the addition of nine sub-awards. This initiative promotes economic empowerment for at-risk and marginalized women—for example, those who survived human trafficking and those affected by conflict.


[Read more](#)

Bethany Christian Safely Uniting Families Amid COVID-19

Despite added challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic, Bethany Christian Services in Ethiopia has found innovative methods to safely place vulnerable children in healthy homes. Read how this faith-based organization used an NPI award from USAID to respond to urgent family needs.

[Read more](#)



 “@USAID received hundreds of unsolicited concepts and applications through the #COVID-19 Portal. Learn about their status, and see answers to other related questions, in the recent Business Forecast transcript: <https://bit.ly/3fep0OJ> #WorkWithUSAID”

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Resources



The NPI Process

Through NPI, we've simplified the process of working with USAID. Applicants can submit a five-page concept note. From there, the Agency works hand in hand with the applicant.



Key NPI Definitions

What's a "new" partner or "underutilized" partner? Read how USAID's New Partnerships Initiative defines the terms that guide funding decisions.



Working with USAID

USAID offers a host of resources available online for businesses and organizations that are new to working with the Agency. Click on the link above to access those resources.

Visit [usaid.gov/NPI](https://www.usaid.gov/NPI) for the latest funding opportunities.

[Subscribe to the New Partnerships Initiative Newsletter](#)