Long-term Assistance and SErvices for Research (LASER) Partners for University-Led Solutions Engine (PULSE)

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USAID’s Global Development Lab
launched in 2014, as innovation hub for USAID

The Center for Development Research (Lab/CDR) increases the use of scientific research to improve development outcomes. The Center partners with other parts of the Agency, federal agencies, universities, NGOs, and the private sector to increase the scientific knowledge and evidence directed toward addressing USAID’s development priorities and improving policy and programming decisions.
Mission: To support the discovery and uptake of university-sourced, evidence-based solutions to development challenges

• A 5-year Cooperative Agreement with Purdue University as Prime with 5 Consortium Members
  • Core funding $20M
    • To date: $11.9M obligated, $2.4M spent, first 2.5 years obligated, overall projected spend 5 years
  • Buy-ins (from Missions, Bureaus, and Independent Offices) up to $50 M max
    • To date: $19.0M obligated, $1.3M spent
      • $3.5M - 1½ - 2½ year projects
      • $15.5M - 3-5 year projects
Delivering practical, research-driven solutions to global development challenges
Embedded Translation Model

Discovery, Learning, Innovation, & Field Tested Solution

Researchers

DEEP COLLABORATION

Practitioners
Policy Makers
Private Sector
Donors

Impact
Wider Application
Replication & Scale
Increased Awareness

Question, Research, Context, and Field Testing
Comprehensive Success Factors and Value Chain

- Security & Safety
- Policy
- Government / Leadership
- Infrastructure
- Equipment / Supplies
- Workforce / Talent
- Capital / Finances
- Practices / Mechanisms
- Awareness
- Motivation
- Enabling Resources
- Adoption / Habit Conversion
- Sustainability
- Measurement / Evaluation
- Resilience
LASER Network

• Connecting researchers and practitioners interested in development research
• **1,300+ Members** from 43 countries (January 2020)
• **BENEFITS**
  • **Collaboration** opportunities with other researchers and practitioners
  • **Visibility** to Donors (USAID, foundations) as domain experts
  • Members have access to resources including **Online training**
  • **LASER funding opportunities** only distributed to LASER network members
  • Receiving info on external (non-LASER) funding opportunities
  • Upcoming: “Market place” for researchers/practitioners/donors
• Join us at [laserpulse.org](http://laserpulse.org)
R4D Conferences
4. Bali, Indonesia, Aug 2020, integrated with conference organized by U. Indonesia, $400K, *Theme: Smart, resilient cities*
### Buy-ins from USAID Missions/Bureaus/Offices

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Voices of the Indigenous People of Uganda</th>
<th>Cultural Restoration Program for Northern Iraq</th>
<th>Applied Nutrition Research Capacity Building Laos</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>USAID operating unit/mission:</strong> USAID/Uganda</td>
<td><strong>USAID operating unit/mission:</strong> USAID/LAB/FO</td>
<td><strong>USAID operating unit/mission:</strong> USAID/RDMA Lao Country Office</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Buy-in amount:</strong> $600,000</td>
<td><strong>Buy-in amount:</strong> $5.1 million</td>
<td><strong>Buy-in amount:</strong> $5.1 Million ($3.5 M+$1.6 M)</td>
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<td><strong>Duration:</strong> May 1, 2019 – May 1, 2021</td>
<td><strong>Duration:</strong> 3 years</td>
<td><strong>Duration:</strong> 4 Years</td>
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<td><strong>Implementers:</strong> Makerere University, Constituent College (GCC); Mbarara University of Science and Technology</td>
<td><strong>Implementers:</strong> University of Notre Dame (Kroc Institute), University of Dohuk; Indiana University (Anthropology); Purdue (IPIA; CLA/Anthropology)</td>
<td><strong>Implementers:</strong> Purdue (IPIA; HHS), Indiana University; CRS</td>
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<td><strong>Sectors:</strong> Economic Growth</td>
<td><strong>Sectors:</strong> Food Security, Agriculture</td>
<td><strong>Sectors:</strong> Agriculture, Food Security, Nutrition</td>
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<td><strong>Objective:</strong> This 2-year project aims to build the capacity of local Ugandan universities and researchers to undertake and translate development research that will inform subsequent interventions to strengthen the voices of Uganda’s indigenous peoples</td>
<td><strong>Objective:</strong> Identify key agricultural products needed for recovery in two districts of Ninewah Province in Northern Iraq, and to assist in re-establishing the production of those agricultural products</td>
<td><strong>Objective:</strong> This five-year project aims to build the capacity of Lao government officials and researchers to tackle the complex challenges of malnutrition and stunting through a food security lens.</td>
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## Buy-ins from USAID Missions/Bureaus/Offices

### Evaluation of Somalia’s Accelerated Quality Learning Project

| **USAID operating unit/mission:** | USAID/Somalia |
| **Buy-in amount:** | $2.15 Million, but seeking additional funding from Missions |
| **Duration:** | 60 months, starting o/a May 2019 |
| **Implementers:** | Purdue (ELRC, College of Education), Makerere; Somali Disaster Resilience Institute (SDRI) |
| **Sectors:** | Education |
| **Objective:** | A five-year adaptive management and evaluation project for effective alternative education models that target out-of-school learners |

### Case Study of Kenya’s Early Grade Reading Program and the Journey to Self-Reliance

| **USAID operating unit/mission:** | USAID/Lab/CTP |
| **Buy-in amount:** | $500,000 |
| **Duration:** | 10/15/2018 – 10/31/2019 |
| **Implementers:** | Makerere, U of Nairobi; CRS |
| **Sectors:** | Education |
| **Objective:** | A one-year grant to examine the process of scaling up of Kenya’s early grade reading program from 2011 to 2018 to enable USAID to better understand the scaling up process and to foster replication |

### Impact Evaluation of Psychosocial Support on Children’s Well-being, Literacy, and Math Outcomes in the Integrated Essential Emergency Education Program

| **USAID operating unit/mission:** | USAID South Sudan Mission |
| **Buy-in amount:** | $1.2 Million |
| **Duration:** | 1 year (10/15/2018 - 3/30/2020) |
| **Implementers:** | Indiana University, Purdue (ENE); CRS; UND; Makerere |
| **Sectors:** | Education |
| **Objective:** | A five-year grant to support USAID’s new policy for private sector engagement with evidence-based learning and best practices |
## Buy-ins from USAID Missions/Bureaus/Offices

### Self-Reliance Learning Agenda (SRLA)

| **USAID operating unit/mission:** USAID/LAB/EIA | **Buy-in amount:** $248,500 | **Duration:** One Year | **Implementers:** Texas A&M University, University of Notre Dame | **Sectors:** Innovation | **Objective:** A one-year meta-analysis on aid effectiveness, specifically focusing on USAID’s contribution to capacity and commitment in its operating countries. This study feeds into a broader research agenda |

### Multi-Country Study on Inclusive Education (MCSIE)

| **USAID operating unit/mission:** USAID/E3/ED | **Buy-in amount:** $3.085 Million | **Duration:** 3.5 years | **Implementers:** International Development Partners, University of Phnom Penh; University of (Nepal); University of (Malawi) | **Sectors:** Education | **Objective:** study on the most effective mechanisms for inclusive education for learners with disabilities in Malawi, Nepal, and Cambodia. (IDP) |

### Building the Evidence Base on Effective Private Sector Engagement, Phase I

| **USAID operating unit/mission:** USAID/Lab/CTP | **Buy-in amount:** $1,012,422 (Phase 1) $1,687,578 (Phase II) | **Duration:** 1 10/15/2018 – 12/31/2020 (Phase I) 5/15/2019 -10/14/2022 (Phase II) | **Implementers:** UND (Phase I), Purdue (CE, ELRC) (Phase II), CRS | **Sectors:** Innovation | **Objective:** Implement a private sector engagement evidence and learning strategy that will enable USAID staff to implement best PSE practices, based on learnings and evidence |
• LASER Network
• RFAs proposal collaboration
• Buy-in opportunities
• Hackathon – Feb 2020
Delivering practical, research-driven solutions to global development challenges

For more information
Please visit laserpulse.org