



# THE JOURNEY TO SELF-RELIANCE

SUPPORTING PARTNER COUNTRIES TO LEAD THEIR OWN DEVELOPMENT

## WHAT IS THE JOURNEY TO SELF-RELIANCE?

USAID is reorienting its strategies, partnership models, and program practices to achieve greater development outcomes and work toward a time when foreign assistance is no longer necessary. It's called the Journey to Self-Reliance. As partners on this journey, USAID is working with host country governments and our partners to achieve locally-sustained results, helping countries mobilize public and private revenues, strengthening local capacities, and accelerating enterprise-driven development. This approach fosters stable, resilient, and prosperous countries that are more self-reliant, and prioritizes enduring partnerships. It is an approach that is good for our partner countries worldwide, U.S. national security, and the American taxpayer.

## OPERATIONALIZING THE JOURNEY TO SELF-RELIANCE

USAID's [Policy Framework](#) articulates how the Agency's Journey to Self-Reliance approach directly contributes to the United States' [National Security Strategy](#) and the [Department of State and USAID Joint Strategic Plan](#). With its focus on fostering self-reliance, the Policy Framework presents a new vision for development and humanitarian assistance: building a country's **capacity** to plan, finance, and implement solutions to local development challenges, and ensuring that there is a **commitment** to see these solutions through effectively, inclusively, and with accountability.

The components of J2SR are implemented in a way that is centered on each country's unique context. This holistic approach to institutionalize J2SR is known as “the 3 As”: **Assess, Accelerate, and Align.**

## ASSESS

USAID created the Country Roadmaps as a standardized analytical tool to assess objectively where a country is on the Journey to Self-Reliance – where it sits on the development spectrum. Ultimately, the tool helps us objectively assess a country's strengths, challenges, and opportunities on its Journey.

## ACCELERATE

Once we assess country progress, we then look to strategically use our resources and catalyze investment to accelerate and sustain progress. Two proven approaches that enable us to do this are:

- Financing Self-Reliance, by partnering with governments to develop effective, transparent, and accountable systems to better-mobilize domestic resources that allow them to finance self-reliance.
- Private Sector Engagement, by strengthening USAID's private-sector engagement and innovative financing approaches to achieve greater results in the field.

## ALIGN

No matter where a country is on its journey, we need to make sure that how we work – and how our partners work with us – are all aligned towards the same goal: a day when foreign assistance is no longer necessary. We do that in three ways:

- Redefining the Relationship with Partner Governments, by ensuring the incentives that define our country relationships are firmly rooted around advancing self-reliance.
- Strategic Transition, by developing a thoughtful and purposeful approach for transitioning to new partnership models when countries achieve advanced levels of self-reliance.
- Rethinking How We Partner, by ensuring a maximal focus on using new, underutilized, and local partners through the Effective Partnerships and Procurement Reform, Acquisitions and Assistance Strategy, and the New Partners Initiative.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can learn more about the Journey to Self-Reliance and its components at <https://www.usaid.gov/selfreliance>, and you can email us at [selfreliance@usaid.gov](mailto:selfreliance@usaid.gov).