



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



USAID'S COUNTRY ROADMAPS

ASSESSING A COUNTRY'S PROGRESS TOWARD'S SELF-RELIANCE

WHAT IS SELF-RELIANCE?

USAID defines “self-reliance” as the capacity to plan, finance, and implement solutions to local development challenges, as well as the commitment to see these through effectively, inclusively, and with accountability. This definition grounds an approach to foreign assistance that reflects an approach to foreign assistance that is grounded in evidence and the values that underpin our work. USAID created the Country Roadmaps in 2018 as a visualization tool to **assess** objectively where a country sits on the development spectrum and their journey to self-reliance. Each year in early October, USAID releases updated Country Roadmaps for all low- and middle-income countries.

THEORY OF CHANGE

TWO MUTUALLY-REINFORCING FACTORS DETERMINE A COUNTRY'S SELF-RELIANCE

Commitment: How well a country's laws, policies, actions, and informal governance mechanisms -- such as cultures and norms -- support progress toward self-reliance.



Capacity: How far the country has come in its journey across the dimensions of political, social, and economic development, including the ability to work across these sectors.

For USAID, this means that as a country's commitment and capacity to plan, finance, and implement solutions to solve its own development challenges strengthens, our partnership should also evolve -- ensuring that the programs we implement are best-supporting a country's journey to self-reliance.

SELF-RELIANCE METRICS

USAID has identified an initial set of third-party, publicly available, high-level metrics which we feel best capture the concepts of “commitment” and “capacity” -- and therefore, self-reliance. These metrics will help USAID understand where each country is on the journey to self-reliance for us to better tailor our partnerships according to each country’s self-reliance needs.

For the FY 2020 Roadmaps, we included a “Risk of External Debt Distress” meter for informational purposes only in order to monitor a country’s ability to sustainably manage its public sector debt.

 COMMITMENT METRICS CHOICES / BEHAVIORS	 CAPACITY METRICS ACHIEVEMENT / OUTCOMES
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Open and Accountable Governance Liberal Democracy Index (V-Dem) Open Government (WJP) Inclusive Development Social Group Equality (V-Dem) Economic Gender Gap (WEF) Economic Policy Business Environment (Legatum) Trade Freedom (Heritage) Biodiversity and Habitat Protections (Yale/CIESIN) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Government Capacity Government Effectiveness (WGI) Tax System Effectiveness (CTD) Safety and Security (Legatum) Civil Society Capacity Civil Society and Media Effectiveness (V-Dem) Citizen Capacity Poverty Rate (\$5/Day) (World Bank) Education Quality (World Bank) Child Health (CIESIN) Capacity of the Economy GDP Per Capita in PPP (World Bank) ICT Adoption (WEF) Export Sophistication (Harvard)



COUNTRY ROADMAPS

The self-reliance metrics are being used to create Country Roadmaps -- USAID’s visualization tool for assessing each of the 17 self-reliance metrics and a country’s overall progress on the Journey to Self-Reliance.

The Country Roadmaps are produced annually for all low- and middle-income countries and will be publicly available every October.

HOW WILL USAID USE THE COUNTRY ROADMAPS?

TO PLOT THE OVERALL JOURNEY

By plotting the development spectrum of the world’s countries, we can put a stake in the ground of understanding what it means to reorient around the concept of self-reliance.

TO INFORM STRATEGIC DECISIONS

While they will not be the only tool, the metrics will be an important part of where we anchor our country strategies going forward.

FOR USE IN DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE

The metrics allow us to see not only where a country is in its overall journey to self-reliance, but also its relative strengths and challenges.

TO SIGNAL A TIME TO CONSIDER A STRATEGIC TRANSITION

While the metrics indicate a country has achieved an advanced level of self-reliance, this will signal that we might want to examine the country for a possible conversation about strategic transition -- that is, to an evolved relationship that moves beyond traditional development partnership models.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

You can learn more about the Journey to Self-Reliance at <https://usaid.gov/selfreliance>, and access the Country Roadmaps, our Methodology Guide, and additional resources on USAID's Country Roadmap Portal at <https://www.selfreliance.usaid.gov>.