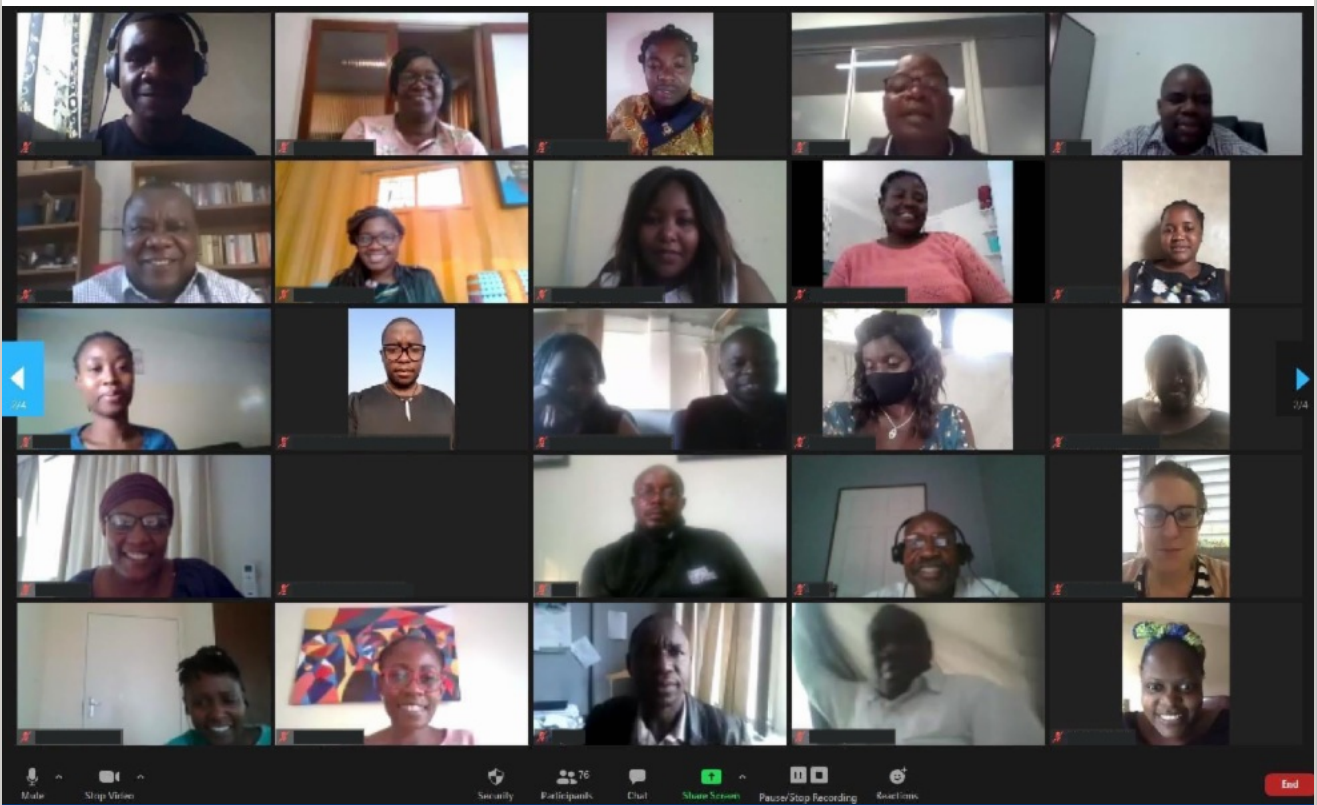# OFFICE OF LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY

The Journey to Self-Reliance Begins with Locally Led Development

NOVEMBER 2020

LOCAL WORKS PHOTO CONTEST WINNER: FLAVIO BORGES, USAID/TIMOR-LESTE

USAID/TIMOR-LESTE LOCAL WORKS TEAM INTERVIEWING YOUTH ON THE STREET IN THE LIQUICA MUNICIPALITY

Subscribe

ZIMBABWE: YOUTH IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

YOUNG ZIMBABWEANS FACILITATE A VIRTUAL MEETING WITH LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

In Zimbabwe, poverty is rising among young people in both urban and rural areas. A new Local Works initiative, "Youth in the driver's seat - for youth by youth," is looking to create economic opportunities for young people. Last month, a group of young Zimbabweans kicked off the initiative with a virtual meeting to discuss challenges such as youth unemployment and falling incomes. More than 125 local stakeholders, including members of the government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the private sector, and academia, joined the virtual call. The call laid the groundwork for future collaboration: USAID will support this network of local stakeholders, led by young Zimbabweans, to set their own development agenda, develop solutions, and, ultimately, make those solutions a reality. Learn more.

"Our approach under the Local Works program is slightly different from the traditional method of development program design and implementation. We want you as young people to take the lead in defining and addressing the diverse challenges you face so that we support you to meet your social and economic needs."

-Art Brown, USAID/Zimbabwe Mission Director

USAID supported this initiative through the Local Works program.

COLOMBIA: CONVENING LOCAL PARTNERS ONLINE

THE POSTER FOR USAID/COLOMBIA'S VIRTUAL PARTNERS CONVENING, FEATURING A WOMAN SMILING

Nearly half of USAID/Colombia's active awards are to local organizations, making the Mission a leader in USAID's global efforts to partner with local development actors. Improving coordination among the Mission's local partners is key to this work. With in-person meetings on hold due to the pandemic, USAID/Colombia held a virtual convening to help foster buy-in and to create a greater sense of community. USAID/Colombia used the metaphor of a tree for the conference, which it conveyed through the creative use of online platforms, videos, and other graphics, to create a dynamic setting for partners to meet each other, share lessons learned, promote peer-to-peer learning, and generally foster an ambience where they felt comfortable. Watch this video to learn more.

USAID/Colombia staff are leading this

initiative.

COOPERATIVES: ROLE AS FIRST RESPONDERS

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, discussions at the 2020 Co-Op IMPACT Conference focused on the resilient nature of the cooperative model. By maintaining food security, contributing to financial stability, and using data and technology to boost relief efforts, cooperatives have acted as first responders in their local communities.

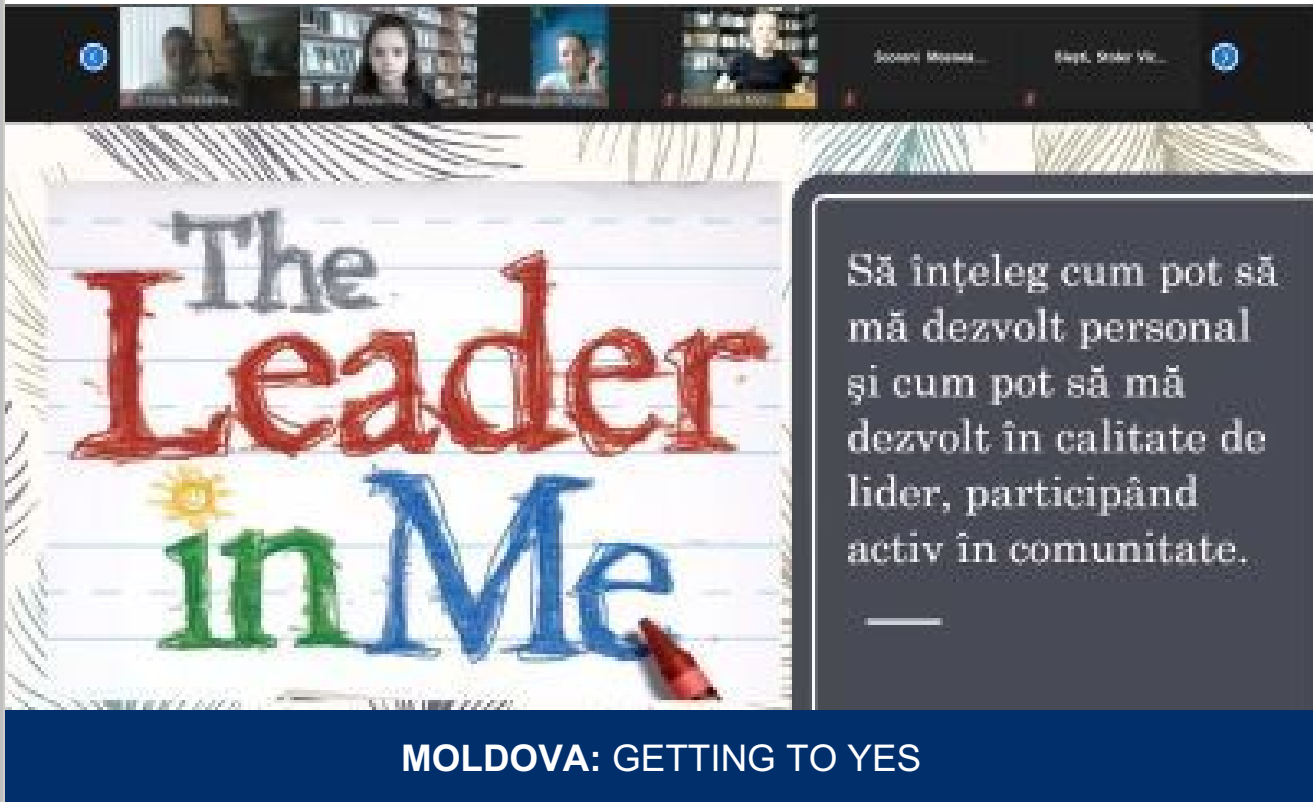The National Cooperative Business Association

"When cooperatives are strong,

CLUSA International (NCBA CLUSA) and the U.S. Overseas Cooperative Development Council (OCDC) convened more than 900 participants, including USAID partners, academia, international organizations and the private sector, for the virtual conference. Participants from 47 countries discussed how, during times of crisis, cooperatives are particularly effective at serving and protecting their members.

USAID partners with the National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA) CLUSA and the U.S. Overseas Cooperative Development Council (OCDC) through the Cooperative Development Program.

their communities are more resilient and responsive in times of crisis."

-Michelle Bekkering, Assistant Administrator for USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment
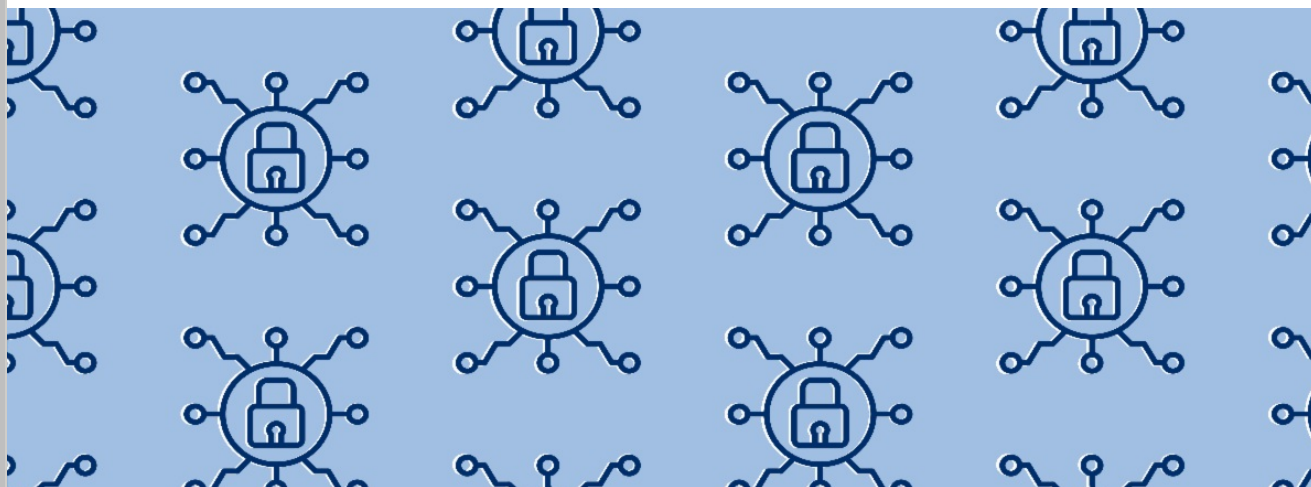
Watch Michelle's opening remarks.

MOLDOVA: GETTING TO YES

YOUNG MOLDOVANS AND OTHER LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS JOIN THE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORK

The COVID-19 pandemic and the evacuation of Peace Corps Volunteers in March hit pause on a number of in-person events, the Peace Corps Youth Empowerment Summit (YES) among them. YES was set to build on the 2019 Summit, which convened Peace Corps Volunteers, service providers, and youth from around the world to collaborate and learn about community action in what Volunteers ranked as one of the best local training events. Refusing to take "no" for an answer, the Peace Corps/Moldova staff decided to hold a virtual YES this year. They partnered with a local organization to convene more than 80 participants, including more than 50 youth from 28 communities, for networking and training in community development work. Sessions included good practices in communication, leadership, fundraising, service learning, and other skills needed to do community development work. Now, the Peace Corps/Moldova team has seen a surge of new youth-led activities -- highlighting the importance of "getting to YES."

Learn more.

USAID supported this initiative through the [Small Project Assistance](#) program.

KENYA: BOOSTING CYBERSECURITY

GRAPHIC CREDIT: USAID'S OFFICE OF LOCAL SUSTAINABILITY
GRAPHIC PATTERN OF LOCKS IN A NETWORK TO REPRESENT CYBERSECURITY

For credit unions, a robust cybersecurity strategy is key to protect the financial and personal data of members. But cost and limited consumer knowledge are common barriers that businesses face. That's why the [World Council of Credit Unions](#) (WOCCU) is helping savings and credit cooperatives in Kenya boost their cyber resilience. Between May and April of this year, WOCCU conducted an assessment of 18 savings and credit cooperatives, finding that half of the cooperatives did not have resources budgeted for cybersecurity, and 27% did not have a cybersecurity policy in place. Five of the cooperatives had already faced a cyberattack, further underscoring the importance of this initiative. Through USAID's [Cooperative Development Program](#), WOCCU is supporting the cooperatives and credit unions to refine their cybersecurity strategies, and plans to share the lessons learned with its broader network of credit unions, ensuring that local communities' investments remain safe and secure. [Read the full article](#).

USAID supported this project through the [Cooperative Development Program](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Engaging Local Stakeholders in Building an Evidence Base: In a new blog post, the [Office of Local Sustainability](#) shares three lessons on the use of research for locally led development practitioners. [Check it out](#).

Local Capacity Development Policy: The [Office of Local Sustainability](#) is coordinating the forthcoming Agency-wide policy on local capacity development. [Click here](#) to watch the recording of a recent public webinar on the new policy. Additional details on the public comment period are forthcoming. In the meantime, please reach out to lcdpolicycomments@usaid.gov with any questions or feedback.

Supporting Farmers through Private Sector Partnerships: Through [Feed](#)

the Future's Kenya Investment Mechanism (KIM) project, USAID/Kenya and cooperative holding company URUS signed a strategic partnership to increase yields and develop sustainable growth for dairy and livestock producers. The partnership will unlock $50 million for the dairy and livestock market, reaching more than 300,000 local farmers.

We want to hear from you! Share your thoughts and ideas for future stories:

Content Submissions + Feedback

Visit the Office of Local Sustainability online:

Subscribe