

SCS Global Update

Sharing Resources and Knowledge Among the Global CSO Community

Spring/Summer 2019

SCS Global Promotes Innovation to Include Older People in Development and Foster Local Philanthropy in the Journey to Self-Reliance

In this special spring/summer edition, we provide highlights from two recent SCS Learning Forums. The first Forum focused on inclusion of older people in development programming. The second focused on local philanthropy and the Journey to Self-Reliance. This extended edition also includes learnings and updates on SCS Global associate awards and research and tools.

Let's Not Forget the Old Folks!

Many USAID programs emphasize the importance of engaging youth; but how many mention old folks? And who really are the “elderly,” or “senior citizens,” as they are often euphemistically called?

Most countries do not even collect data on people who are older than 65. This and related issues were the focus of a March 2019 Learning Forum in Washington, DC, conducted by SCS Global with USAID, HelpAge International, and the National Endowment for Democracy.

Current development policies rarely mention older people, according to **Justin Derbyshire**, CEO of HelpAge International. But [shifting demographics](#) require a lifespan approach.

Peace Kyamureku, leader of the Rural Women and Youth Fund of Uganda, outlined some [discriminatory challenges that older widowed and disabled women](#) face in her country.

Eric Robinson, Director of the Africa Program for National Endowment for Democracy, noted how associations of older people can initiate and advocate for change and push for stronger institutions that support their needs.

Both the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Leaving No One Behind platforms invite attention to issues of aging, according to **Anthony Pipa**, Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution.

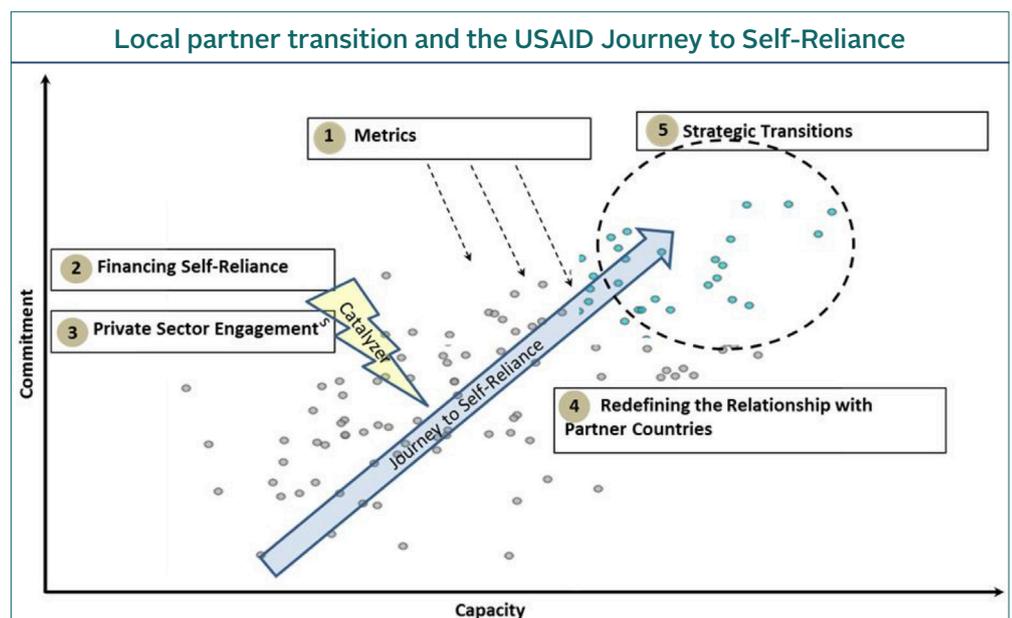
One key take-away was that there is a need for the development community to collect more data on the elderly and the issues they face. Participants were also encouraged to explore the intersections of human rights based on age, gender, and disability; cultivate connections between youth and older people; and consider a lifespan approach to development programming.

Integrating Local Philanthropy in the Journey to Self-Reliance

Whether for a person or for a nation, being self-reliant is not the same as “going it alone.” For a country, self-reliance means prioritizing enduring local partnerships. It requires collaboration between the public and private sectors and mobilizing resources for tomorrow, as well as today.

USAID, FHI 360, and the Aga Khan Foundation discussed the special role of local philanthropy in the Journey to Self-Reliance (J2SR) at a SCS Global Learning Forum hosted jointly on April 29, 2019, in Washington, DC. Senior USAID and other leaders shared their perspectives on different aspects of J2SR.

USAID presenters included: **Chris Maloney**, Deputy Assistant Administrator in USAID's Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning; **Kimberly Rosen**, Deputy Assistant Administrator in USAID's Bureau for Economic Growth, Education and Environment; **Kate Somvongsiri**, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator in USAID's Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance; **Randy Tift**, Senior Advisor for the USAID Office of Acquisition and Assistance; and **Maryanne Yerkes**, Civil Society and Media Division Chief, Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance.



Exploring the Journey to Self-Reliance

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Four senior USAID staff share their perspectives.

The Journey to Self-Reliance (J2SR) is ultimately about ending the need for foreign assistance. But how will this happen?

USAID continues to promote a focus on local solutions. It is about USAID helping build the capacity and commitment of partner countries to plan, finance, and implement solutions to their development challenges in an inclusive, effective, and accountable manner.

The J2SR has five key components:

1. Standardized metrics to measure USAID partner countries' commitment and capacities
2. Financing self-reliance and helping countries manage their own resources
3. Promoting private sector engagement and thinking about how USAID can foster market-based solutions to solve local problems
4. Redefining government relations with partner countries to ensure commitment
5. Procurement reform that moves away from a focus on mechanisms to the design-implementation continuum and partner diversification

The main principles of J2SR and those of community philanthropy are similar and linked.

Framing Local Philanthropy

At its core, local philanthropy is about local actors mobilizing and controlling assets they can use to develop and implement solutions to the challenges faced by their communities. But assets and communities can both be broadly defined.

A community may be a village, neighborhood, region, or a nation and its diaspora. And assets, while primarily financial, can also include the social, human, and political capital that local actors have and need to achieve their goals. Community ownership and self-reliance are fostered by three critical principles or pathways:

1. Mobilizing and leveraging local assets
2. Strengthening local capacity
3. Building trust

These three processes ideally support each other in a complex feedback loop. The overall dynamic shifts power to the community and gives local citizens and organizations more decision-making power over, and fosters commitment to, their own development—a key outcome for self-reliance.

Non-local actors in the international development community can support and promote community philanthropy in five key ways. These include sharing power and decision making with local partner organizations on how assets are used for community development; actively considering how assets, capacity, and trust can be built throughout project life cycles; building the capacity of local organizations to not only manage funds but also make inclusive and collective decisions on how to best use those funds; and valuing local asset mobilization—not just in terms of finances but also with regard to trust and commitment.

Financing Self-Reliance and Community Philanthropy

USAID's goal is to end the need for foreign assistance. To achieve this goal, the Agency is reorienting how they do business to support partner countries on their Journeys to Self-Reliance. This means working with countries to address their own development challenges. One key component of J2SR is Financing Self-Reliance. Five pillars for financing self-reliance that USAID Missions now focus on include:

1. Strengthening domestic revenue mobilization
2. Improving public financial management so that governments are using revenues effectively to advance their development journeys
3. Strengthening domestic accountability mechanisms and oversight systems
4. Improving the enabling environment for private investment
5. Developing functioning financial markets that more easily allocate resources into productive investments

Pillar one includes a focus on local philanthropy. Local philanthropy can be a form of, and force for, locally driven development that strengthens community capacity and commitment, builds trust, and taps into and builds on local resources. It takes on particular relevance in light of the goal for countries to resource their own development. If communities are in charge of their own development, the solutions proposed are likely to be more appropriate for the local context and the interventions more sustainable. An improved enabling environment for private enterprises, Pillar four also encourages philanthropic contributions to local communities and organizations.

SCS Global wants to keep this conversation going! Email scsglobal@fhi360.org with experiences working with 1) older people or taking a lifespan approach to programming, 2) local philanthropy, or 3) the Journey to Self-Reliance.

Local Philanthropy in Development Practice

Image courtesy of EnCompass LLC. All rights reserved



Four implementers share their perspectives.

Implementers from several organizations provided field-level perspectives on local philanthropy programming.

For **Phyllis Ombonyo** of the Yetu Initiative (Aga Khan Foundation), community philanthropy is a very personal endeavor. As a student in Kenya, her parents were unable to pay her school fees, and her community raised money to support her. Now, Phyllis works on a local philanthropy initiative supported by the Aga Khan Foundation, USAID/Kenya, and other local stakeholders that strengthens the capacity of CSOs to catalyze Kenyan support for Kenyan development challenges.

Important components of the program are trainings and “blended learnings” for CSOs on strategic communications and engagement with communities for fundraising campaigns. These efforts help the organizations build trust with citizens, government officials, and private sector actors who typically view CSOs as more responsive to donor funders than local community needs.

On the same panel, **Michael Gale** of Global Giving stressed the importance of community buy-in for local initiatives. Before Global Giving allows a local organization to ask for donations for a community project through their global online platform, they ensure the group has received 40 or more donations toward the initiative from individuals in the concerned community.

Global Giving provides toolkits and learning activities and is piloting mentorships for organizations to build fundraising and organizational capacity.

Nathan Koeshall of Catalyst Balkans noted the problem in Serbia of low trust in the NGO sector and declining rates of foreign donor investments for civil society. Catalyst Balkans, with support from USAID/Serbia and USAID’s LocalWorks program, brought together Serbian organizations to develop the Framework for Giving. It pushes forward three community-driven self-reliance goals: 1) philanthropy tools, 2) improved enabling environment, and 3) expanded transparency by collecting data on philanthropic transactions to promote a culture of giving and address issues of trust between NGOs, the private sector, and the government.

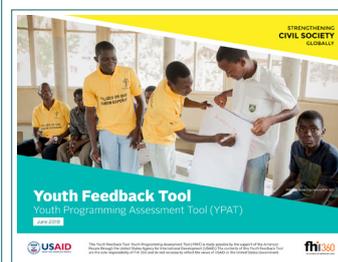
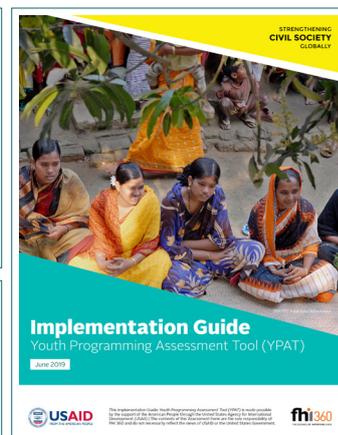
SCS Global Releases New Youth Programming Assessment Tool

Youth-serving organizations (YSOs) provide critical services and support to youth. Nevertheless, many have little knowledge of [positive youth development](#) (PYD) principles, or view them as difficult to operationalize. To help YSOs improve the quality of their programs, SCS Global developed the Youth Programming Assessment Tool (YPAT).

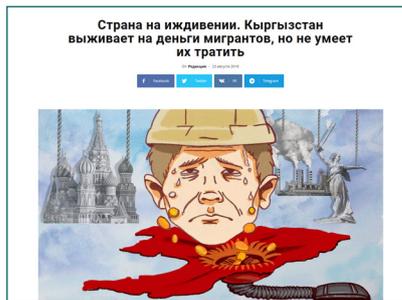
The new tool includes four parts: 1) Assessment Form, 2) Implementation Guide, 3) Facilitator Guide, and 4) Youth Feedback Tool. It provides a structured process and set of indicators and benchmarks based on PYD principles and examples of how to integrate PYD into programs and organizational structures. It guides YSOs in reflecting on their own practices, identifying areas for improvement, and creating actionable priorities. Download the tool at:

<https://www.ngoconnect.net/youth-programming-assessment-tool-released>.

To develop the tool, FHI 360 reviewed more than 20 youth program assessment tools and held consultations with experts and stakeholders in the field. The new tool was pilot tested by three YSOs in Jordan and six in Jamaica. This spring/summer, it is being used in the Democratic Republic of Congo to assist organizations integrate PYD into their systems, and in Zambia to support activities of the Ministry of Youth, Sport, and Child Development.



SCS Kyrgyz Republic Data Journalism Story Named One of the Most Influential in 2018



Two data journalism fellows participating in Media-K—SCS Global's USAID-funded media-strengthening project in the Kyrgyz Republic—have been recognized by the [International Journalists' Network \(IJNet\)](#) for writing one of the [most influential Russian-language articles of 2018](#).

Kloop Media published the article, [“Dependent country: Kyrgyzstan survives on outside money but does not know how to spend it.”](#) by Savia Hasanova and Anna Kapushenko. The article has also been translated and published in [English](#) and [German](#). Read the English version of the article: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/odr/kyrgyzstan-survives-on-money-made-by-migrant-workers-but-it-doesn-t-know-how-to-spend-it/>.

Using open data sources, the fellows came to the unfortunate conclusion that, while the country depends heavily on money transfers from labor migrants, relatives at home do not use the funds to generate further income. Dependence therefore continues over time.

Media-K, implemented at the field level by Internews, launched its Data Journalism Fellowship in 2017. Fellows receive training and mentorship to produce data-driven stories that demonstrate the importance of the genre to other media and the public.

SCS Guinea Local Partners Win Increase in Health Budget by 25%

“It is my first time seeing a visit from high-level officials to discuss the health issues of our community.”

This remark from a Guinean woman reflects the dramatic change in approach that led to a substantial increase in the country's national health budget for 2019. Parliamentarians and national staff of the Ministry of Health (MOH) traveled to facilities in all eight regions of the country in 2018 and discussed with community members, local officials, health providers, and the media challenges facing the public health system and possible improvements.

SCS Global's Citizen Involvement in Health project facilitated the visits—as well as budget training for legislators, follow-on working groups, and press events to advance priority actions.

Legislators worked with the MOH to increase funding for prefectural and regional hospitals and much-needed health facility repairs. The 2019 budget accelerates the devolution of the health sector; it also empowers local communities in the governance of health facilities via a specific line item allowing community health centers to apply for additional funding.

The budget for 2019 represents an increase of 25% over that of previous years and raises its proportion of the overall national budget from 7.2% to 8.2%. At the same time, the budget has eliminated unexplained line items from prior year budgets—increasing budget transparency.

Perhaps most important, these activities fostered productive working relationships among key stakeholders, particularly the National Assembly and the MOH, and demonstrated the strategic value of citizen and media engagement.

SCS Global Associate Awards

USAID/AZERBAIJAN

Anti-Corruption, Transparency, Citizen Engagement

USAID/BALKANS

Media and CSO Strengthening

USAID/BOTSWANA

PEPFAR HIV/AIDS Services, CSO Strengthening

USAID/BURMA

Civil Society and Media Strengthening, Peacebuilding

USAID/CAMBODIA

Citizen Engagement and Participation, Local Government Transparency and Accountability (*pending*)

USAID/DJIBOUTI

CSO Strengthening, Community Development

USAID/DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

Media and CSO Strengthening (*pending*)

USAID/DRG

CSO Sustainability Index

USAID/GUINEA

Civic Activism, Strengthening Health Governance

USAID/HONDURAS

Civil Society and Media Strengthening, Anti-Corruption

USAID/INDONESIA

CSO Capacity Development, Governance

USAID/JAMAICA

Local Partner and Social Enterprise Development, Youth Engagement, Countering Violence

USAID/KENYA

Governance Reform, Institution Strengthening, Rule of Law

USAID/KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Media and CSO Strengthening

USAID/RDMA

Network Strengthening, Analytical Research (*pending*)

USAID/TANZANIA

Media Strengthening, Gender and Youth Integration

USAID/ZAMBIA

Youth Engagement, Civic Leadership

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