



About LEES

The Local Evaluation and Evidence Support (LEES) Effort is a five year Activity funded by the USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning, and Resource Management.

This effort represents USAID’s commitment to foster evaluation practices that are geared towards strengthening local and indigenous capabilities in conducting and leveraging evaluations, thereby reinforcing local ownership.

Period of performance

Base period: October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2025

Option years: October 1, 2025 – September 1, 2027

Implementing Partners

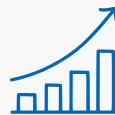
- LINC (Prime)
- The Cloudburst Consulting Group
- University of Pennsylvania Development Research Initiative (DevLab)
- Infotrak Research and Consulting



LEES’ goal is to provide technical and advisory services to local organizations to enable them to effectively engage in USAID evidence generation, including as a prime contractor.



Capacity strengthening for local organizations to conduct research, evaluation, and other evidence generating activities



Reduction of barriers for local partners to engage with USAID



Strengthening the evidence ecosystem to support professional networks and knowledge sharing among local organizations

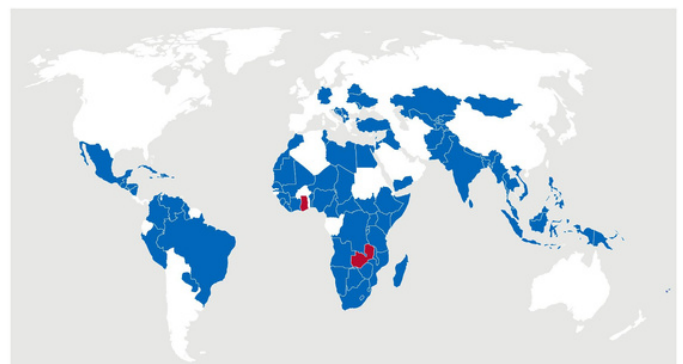
Service Offerings

LEES’ core services are broken into a pre-engagement phase, phase 1 (capacity strengthening), and phase 2 (ecosystem strengthening) activities, implemented over the course of approximately 12 to 18 months. Interested Missions may opt to engage LEES’ full-service package or to select individual services to suit their specific needs. LEES will work with interested Missions to adapt the timeline according to their priorities.

Rapid Landscape Analysis

LEES will conduct stakeholder consultations to understand the landscape of the current evidence ecosystem so that activities are responsive to local needs and priorities.

Consultations may include actors involved in generating evidence as well as actors that procure or utilize evidence products and services. Stakeholder consultations will be followed by a formal country launch.



USAID Countries with LEES Pilot Countries Highlighted Red

Organization Selection

If USAID has not pre-identified trainee organizations, LEES will develop tailored application questions and selection criteria in collaboration with USAID/PLR and country missions. Based on these criteria, LEES will provide an analysis of applications and recommendations to allow USAID country missions and PLR to finalize the training cohort.

Pre-Investment Capacity and Knowledge Scorecard (PICKS)

LEES uses LINC's PICKS tool to assess organizations' strengths and opportunities for improvement. The PICKS assessment allows organizations to understand what functional skills and management processes might be valued by their funders and partners, as well as to identify unique learning priorities.

Training Modules and Facilitation

The LEES training curriculum includes four modules designed to strengthen technical, business development, and organizational capacity. Modules are delivered in a hybrid format with content delivered both online and in-person.

Module 1:
Business Development
101

Module 2:
Conducting Research
and Evaluation

Module 3:
Reporting and
Disseminating Research

Module 4:
Strategic Planning and
Systems Strengthening

Social Network Analysis (SNA)

SNA is used to measure the health of the overall evidence ecosystem by examining the relationships and networks between and among ecosystem actors. An SNA can provide a structured framework for identifying formal and informal networks within the evidence community that can serve as hubs for communities of practice.

Evidence Ecosystem Strengthening

LEES will develop a local research and evaluation community of practice to strengthen the local organizations' networks, provide a marketing venue for their skills, design and deliver capacity-strengthening services, and encourage overall utilization of evidence for decision making. Knowledge sharing and communities of practice will be open to local stakeholders such as government, universities, other donors, and any organizations working in the research, evaluation, and other evidence generation ecosystem, regardless of their enrollment in LEES-supported training.

Implementation Mentorship

LEES can provide mentorship in technical implementation and management to local organizations that have been awarded USAID evidence generating contracts. LEES will support local awardees with a "lead from behind" model where an experienced international evaluator is embedded on a local research team as a senior advisor to help the local evaluation/research team design and implement an evaluation that is responsive to USAID's requirements.

Knowledge Sharing Platform

LEES will connect new countries to the LEES portal, a cross-country digital platform that will allow members to interact, collaborate, and build partnerships with other organizations or communities of practice around the world. The portal will showcase communities of practice' knowledge products to attract donor, government, and private sector interest and support locally and internationally.

Interested in accessing LEES services for your Mission?

LEES services are available on a buy-in basis for USAID Missions that are interested in strengthening the capacity of their local evidence-generating partners and/or in the strengthening of local networks and communities of practice to engage the effort for an array of activities. Interested Missions are encouraged to reach out to the LEES COR.

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