



NOVEMBER 1-5, 2021



USAID'S OFFICE OF HIV/AIDS **3rd ANNUAL**
LOCAL PARTNER
MEETING
FINAL REPORT
Executive Summary

January 25, 2022

USAID/Accelerating Support to Advanced Local Partners

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of HIV/AIDS (OHA) within the Global Health bureau hosted the Third Annual Local Partner Meeting, November 1-5, 2021, with funding from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and support from the Accelerating Support to Advanced Local Partners (ASAP) program. Due to COVID-19, this year's meeting was held virtually for the second year in a row and focused on the following three objectives:

Objective 1: Ensuring technical and operational excellence for HIV programs in COP21

Objective 2: Developing stronger relationships between USAID and local partners

Objective 3: Strengthening communities of practice between local organizations for continued learning

OHA's Local Partner Meeting continues to grow, with a **43 percent increase in registration** and a **60 percent increase in attendance** from 2020, and is an important tool in bringing local partners and USAID together to share lessons learned, identify challenges, and continue to develop lines of communication between the agency and its prime partners throughout the world.

Almost 1,000 attendees (including 619 local partners and local government

representatives) from 44 countries participated in 28 sessions, with an additional 225 accessing the **19.5 hours of recorded content online**, including a Q&A session with Administrator Samantha Power sharing the virtual stage with five representatives from local partner organizations across Africa.

Local partners played an integral role in the development of this year's meeting agenda, with regular meetings of the Local Partner Planning Team assisting in providing feedback on proposed topics and session types. These informal sessions engaged 11 local partners from nine countries across Africa in the planning of the meeting, with recommendations for session topics and discussions about concrete ways to make the meeting more interactive. These partners were crucial in developing the USAID *Listening Sessions*, Administrator Power's Q&A session, and identifying the topics and format for the *Local Partner Only Feedback Sessions* on November 5.

On November 1, separate sessions were held for USAID staff and local partner representatives, with **518 people attending ASAP's virtual satellite session** focused on key topics in award management for local partners.



The first day of the joint USAID and local partner meeting began on November 2 with **407 attendees at a welcome session** opened by Callie Raulf-Wang, Branch Chief, Capacity Building and Partnerships, USAID Office of HIV/AIDS, and a statement from Jennifer Adams, Acting Assistant Administrator, USAID Bureau of Global Health. Dr. Angeli Achrekar, PEPFAR's Acting US Global AIDS Coordinator, presented a progress report on PEPFAR and highlighted the essential role of local partners in the global fight against AIDS. Dr. Clint Cavanaugh, Director of the USAID Office of HIV/AIDS, closed out the session with a presentation on USAID/PEPFAR's strategic priorities and transition to local partners.

To serve the goal of developing stronger relationships between USAID and local partner organizations, this year's meeting provided multiple opportunities for local partners to speak with USAID leadership, Mission staff, and with each other. Important conversations took place throughout the meeting, with special focus on the **ten country and regional-level Listening Sessions on November 2**, when USAID Mission teams hosted open forums with local partners that were attended by **442 participants**. Local partners raised concerns and asked specific questions about their ongoing work with USAID during the 80-minute sessions.

The technical guidance panels were well-attended and served to reinforce the knowledge-sharing of both USAID and local organization subject matter experts. Other sessions in which partners seemed particularly enthusiastic were ASAP's Satellite Session on award management, the meeting's welcome and opening session, the *USAID COVID-19 Response & Dueling Crisis: Pandemics, Political Crisis, and Human Rights* plenary, and Administrator Power's Q&A Session with local partners.

The CEO session was especially popular, with USAID leadership joining partners from around the world ready to share their experience with the Agency and one another. Concerns about the continuity of PEPFAR funding were raised, as were issues of working with international partners and making the leap towards providing capacity-building services to subrecipients. The popularity of this session could lend itself to holding multiple, smaller sessions during next year's meeting.

USAID Administrator Samantha Power answered questions from local partners in a special Q&A session on November 3. Five local partner representatives asked questions of the Administrator live during the session, which was moderated by Anita Sampson, USAID/South Africa's Health Office Deputy Director, and attended by 276 local partners and USAID staff members.

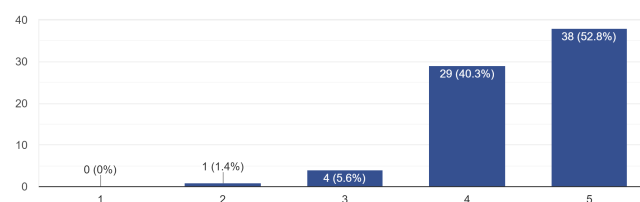


(left to right) USAID's Anita Sampson and Administrator Samantha Power engage with Moses Mutumbo, executive director of MUCOBADI (Uganda), on issues important to local partners and USAID.

The closing plenary on November 4, *The Future of AID*, was moderated by Rajesh Panjabi, President’s Global Malaria Coordinator; Don Steinberg, Expert Advisor, Office of Administrator, USAID; Dr. Clint Cavanaugh, Director, USAID Office of HIV/AIDS (OHA); Kimberly McClain, Senior Regional Director, Americas at the Global Fund for Children; and Shombi Ellis, South Africa Country Director, m2m, and Chief of Party, RISE II. Shombi Ellis struck a particular chord with the audience, when she stated that **“we really need to place the solutions within the communities that we’re working in and making sure that in the design and the delivery of our programs, we’re making sure that our communities and our people are involved in that.”** Kimberly McClain focused on the importance of trust-based approaches to project development, including the practice of giving multi-year, unrestricted funding to give grantees the flexibility to develop long-term solutions.

On the final day of the meeting, November 5, local partners were invited to discuss challenges and solutions to working with the agency during the **Local Partner-Only Day**. Feedback from the **191 partners** who attended was documented anonymously to allow for frank and open dialogue, with [notes provided to USAID on the following working day and available in the appendices of this report.](#)

Day 5 'Local Partner Only' Feedback Sessions
72 responses



Local partners rated the **Local Partner Only Feedback sessions** from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest rating

This year saw double the number of abstracts submitted, resulting in many engaging panel presentations and **23 posters on display** on the virtual platform, an **increase of 74 percent** in displayed posters from 2020. Participants were able to view the informative research and leave comments for, or chat with, poster authors through the platform. Approximately **675 live chat conversations** took place throughout the meeting, and **posters were viewed 1,075 times**. Additionally, **14 organizations submitted 80 photos to the photo contest**, held for the first time this year.

Based on responses from the post-meeting survey, **73 percent of local partners and USAID staff rated the meeting a score of above 8 (out of 10).**

Planning for the 2022 OHA Local Partner meeting is underway. If you have thoughts or suggestions for the upcoming meeting please email: ohalocalpartnerteam@usaid.gov

Session recordings can be found online at [Local Partner Meeting Updates](#)

This publication is made possible by the support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). The contents are the sole responsibility of IntraHealth International and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the United States Government.