

Cooperative Development Program



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



US Overseas **Cooperative Development Council**



**Building Sustainable,
Self-Reliant Communities
Through Cooperatives**



Cooperatives:

Local, self-reliant,
sustainable

The Cooperative Development Program (CDP) and the U.S. Overseas Cooperative Development Council (OCDC) have fostered cooperatives as a viable, sustainable approach for building self-reliant communities in developing countries.

The CDP is the only program within the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) that focuses on cooperatives, and it powers OCDC members' activities in developing countries. OCDC members carry out the largest portfolio of cooperative development programs in the world, helping build local institutions and cooperatives, driven by local needs in Africa, Latin America, Eastern Europe and Asia.



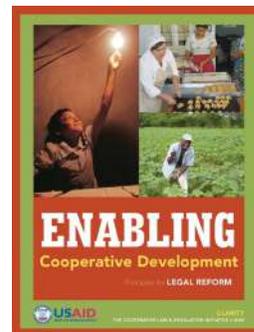
Since 1961, the CDP and OCDC have supported co-ops serving 130 million people, helping lift them out of poverty and building a more prosperous world.

Lessons learned

These snapshots highlight three initiatives, their outcomes and what we've learned from them.

'What difference do Cooperatives make?'

- The initiative in Poland was the first in a series of country studies designed to demonstrate that cooperatives provide a sound platform for sustainable, locally owned development.
- Results show co-ops are making measurable differences in the lives of members, both economically and socially.
- Key findings include: 83% report that cooperative membership has positively affected their economic position; 54% report they have received both economic and social benefits from co-op membership; and 47% percent report earning above-average income compared with the general public.



15 years of enabling cooperative laws & regulations

- OCDC's Cooperative Law and Regulation Initiative (CLARITY) helps locally and nationally-led movements create a legal and regulatory environment that enable cooperative businesses to flourish.
- CLARITY developed four reports focusing on principles for reform, assessment, analysis and outreach, and ways the principles can be applied.
- The reports are supported by workshops, lectures and additional tools and materials for cooperative movements as they work toward legal reform. Forty-two enabling laws or regulations have been drafted using the CLARITY approach.

Opening markets, creating access

- Developing value-added products can generate opportunities for cooperatives. They open new markets, bring higher prices than commodities, boost incomes and lift members out of poverty.
- Trade-focused projects by OCDC members also create access to technology not normally available to co-ops and their members in developing countries.
- OCDC members seek private-sector engagement to generate synergies and amplify their trade and market development efforts.



Supported by **research**

How effective are cooperatives? What impact do they have on communities and the people they serve? What best practices lead to sustainable, self-reliant, effective organizations? The International Cooperative Research Group carries out international cooperative research focused on these issues to bridge the gap between theory and practice.

The Research Group fosters a learning community within OCDC and provides cooperative development-related resources and information to OCDC members and the broader international cooperative development community.



Cooperative development, **sustainable outcomes**

The CDP has achieved tremendous success as a catalyst for creating widespread and sustainable international cooperative development, making a lasting impact worldwide, including:

- Issuing 84,000 agricultural loans totaling more than \$8.7 million; enrolling more than 30,000 new youth members (18-35) in the past year; and supporting 466 scholarships to attend secondary school for orphans and vulnerable children – all through credit unions in Kenya.
- Providing reliable access to care, including bed nets to prevent malaria and Zika virus, to more than 46,000 members of health-care co-ops in Uganda.

Development
That
Works

30

Countries where CDP implemented since 2011

14

Countries with current CDP projects

\$33.6 million

Cost-sharing & funding leverage

\$7.6 million

New public/private engagement revenue

71,146

Number of women & girls reached by CDP

42

New co-op policies & regulations proposed

\$495 million

Savings deposited in CDP-assisted credit unions

47%

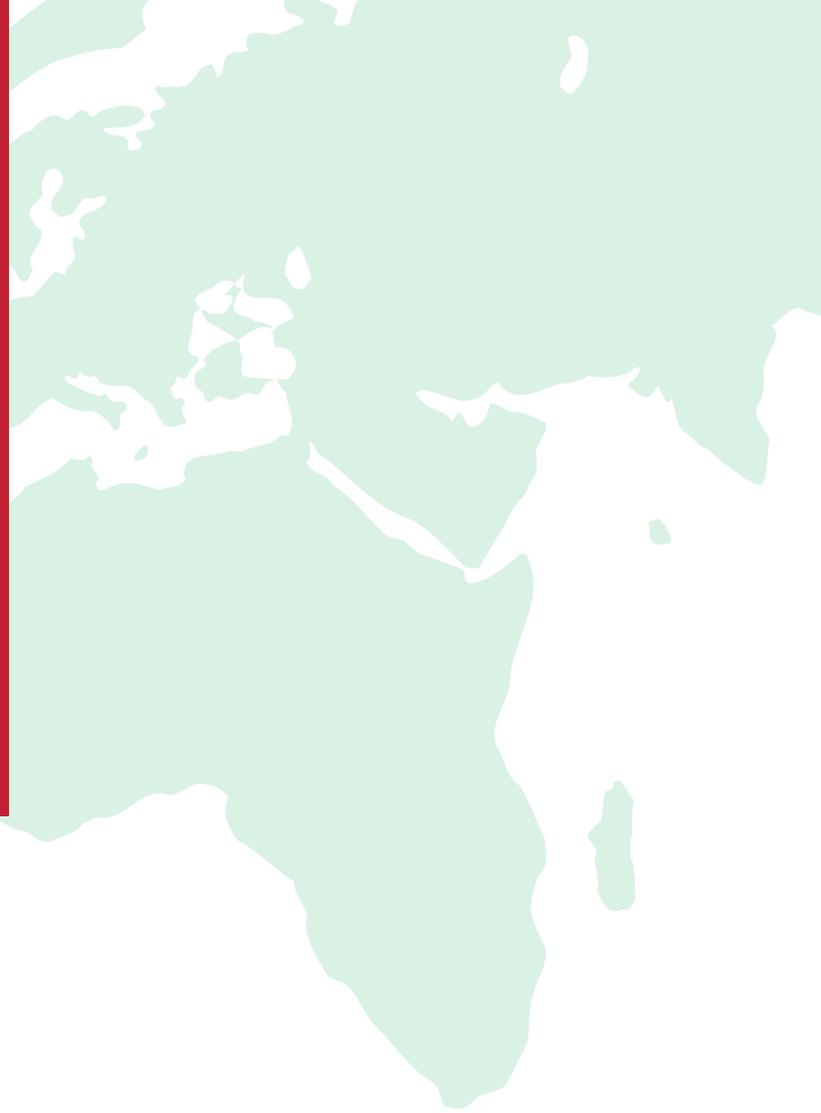
Polish co-op members report above-average earnings

78.5%

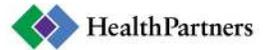
Increase in Kenyan co-op members' income

- Leveraging of more than \$95 million of investments for cattle cooperatives in South Africa.
- Partnering with Rwandan dairy cooperatives to leverage economies of scale through horizontal or vertical integration and working with each partner to improve operational management, organizational governance and business decision-making.
- Increasing member equity among cacao cooperatives in Ecuador, Peru and the Dominican Republic by more than \$4 million; enhancing cooperative coffee production in 17 countries.
- Reforming cooperative law and regulation in Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, and Kenya.
- Helping establish 119 rural electric co-ops in the Philippines, bringing electricity to more than 56 million people.

OCDC envisions a world where people in all countries have the opportunity to work together through cooperatives to create a better life for themselves and their communities.



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