



OPPORTUNITY FOR PARTNERSHIP: HOW MISSIONS AND OPERATING UNITS CAN ADVANCE THE USAID HIGHER EDUCATION LEARNING AGENDA

The [USAID Higher Education Learning Agenda](#) defines Agency-wide learning priorities in higher education across sectors. It is intended to inform and improve the effectiveness of USAID strategic planning and programming, as well as improve knowledge and practice across the higher education ecosystem of USAID partners. **Missions and operating units (OUs) play a critical role** in advancing USAID's learning as the primary units responsible for designing and implementing foreign assistance programs and achieving development objectives. USAID Missions and OUs can contribute to the Agency-wide Higher Education Learning Agenda by:

- Building research, evaluations, and learning on higher education into activity design, regardless of funding stream, in support of both the Agency-wide learning agenda and relevant Mission learning questions.
- Using standard language for advancing learning agenda questions in solicitations.
- Generating and capturing experiential knowledge through facilitated dialogues and other participatory methods, including before- and after-action reviews, mid-course reviews, and regular reflection exercises.
- Developing context-specific learning questions that address Higher Education Learning Agenda questions and themes.
- Accessing these resources:
 - [Supporting Holistic and Actionable Research in Education \(SHARE\)](#) cooperative agreement to support primary research for learning agenda questions.
 - [Data and Evidence for Education Programs \(DEEP\)](#) contract to assist with secondary research, data analyses, capacity building, and dissemination.
 - Other relevant global or regional research and evaluation mechanisms (such as [PPL](#), [YP2LE](#), [RTAC](#), and [LASER](#)).
- Reviewing findings from learning agenda implementation to inform local approaches and work with local stakeholders.

The Center for Education is available to support Missions and OUs in activity design, co-creation events, research and evaluations, MEL plans, drafting Mission-specific learning questions, and other support needs.

CONTACT us at helearning@usaid.gov. We want to know what you are doing, support you in doing it better, and develop collaborative partnerships to advance mutual goals and learning.

FOR BACKGROUND on the development of the learning agenda, the current state of evidence, and plans to address our learning questions, please see the [USAID Higher Education Learning Agenda Resource Collection](#) and [Learning Agenda Implementation Overview](#).