

## **Leader-with-Associates Awards**

### **DEFINITION**

The Leader-with-Associates (LWA) Cooperative Agreement is a relatively new mechanism for USAID. The terminology can be a little confusing, and this summary is intended to clarify the structure and nomenclature. The LWA agreement is similar to a traditional cooperative agreement, except that it is designed to allow additional flexibility to facilitate participation by USAID Missions.

The “Leader-with-Associates” name reflects the fact that there is a single *lead* cooperative agreement, under which multiple *associated* awards can be made. The terms Leader Award and Associate Award refer to the relationship of the awards, and not to the issue of who receives the awards.

A Leader Award is made after a competition process to an organization that serves as the prime awardee. USAID Missions and Bureaus can develop additional stand-alone agreements or grants (Associate Awards) with the prime awardee without repeating the competition process, so long as the Associate agreements or grants are within the scope of the LWA agreement.

Associate Awards are made to the recipient of the Leader Award: sub-grantees and subcontractors are not eligible to receive stand-alone Associate Awards directly through this mechanism, but their involvement can be engaged in sub-grants and subcontracts through the primary grantee.

### **DOT-COM ALLIANCE**

USAID has awarded three LWA cooperative agreements to further its use of information and communication technology (ICT) in support of development. These three awards are independent and have non-overlapping areas of responsibility; they coordinate their efforts under the banner of the DOT-COM Alliance. The three cooperative agreements under the USAID DOT-COM Program, along with their respective areas of focus are dot-GOV (telecom and ICT policy and regulation), dot-ORG (equity of access to ICT and applications of ICT that support development), and dot-EDU (educational applications of ICT).

Each of the DOT-COM LWA awards has a prime grantee with sub-grantees (called core partners) and resource partners. The prime for dot-GOV is Internews Network, for dot-ORG is AED, and for dot-EDU is EDC. Collectively, in addition to the primes, the DOT-COM Alliance represents nearly 95 organizations as sub-grantees, subcontractors, and resource partners.

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