



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PLANNING AND MEASURING SUSTAINABILITY

USAID / WATER MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE (WMI)

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Sustainability Meaning

sustainability

[*suh-stey-nuh-bil-i-tee*]

[Examples](#) [Word Origin](#)

[See more synonyms on Thesaurus.com](#)

noun

1. the ability to be sustained, supported, upheld, or confirmed.
2. *Environmental Science.* the quality of not being harmful to the environment or depleting natural resources, and thereby supporting long-term ecological balance:
The committee is developing sustainability standards for products that use energy.

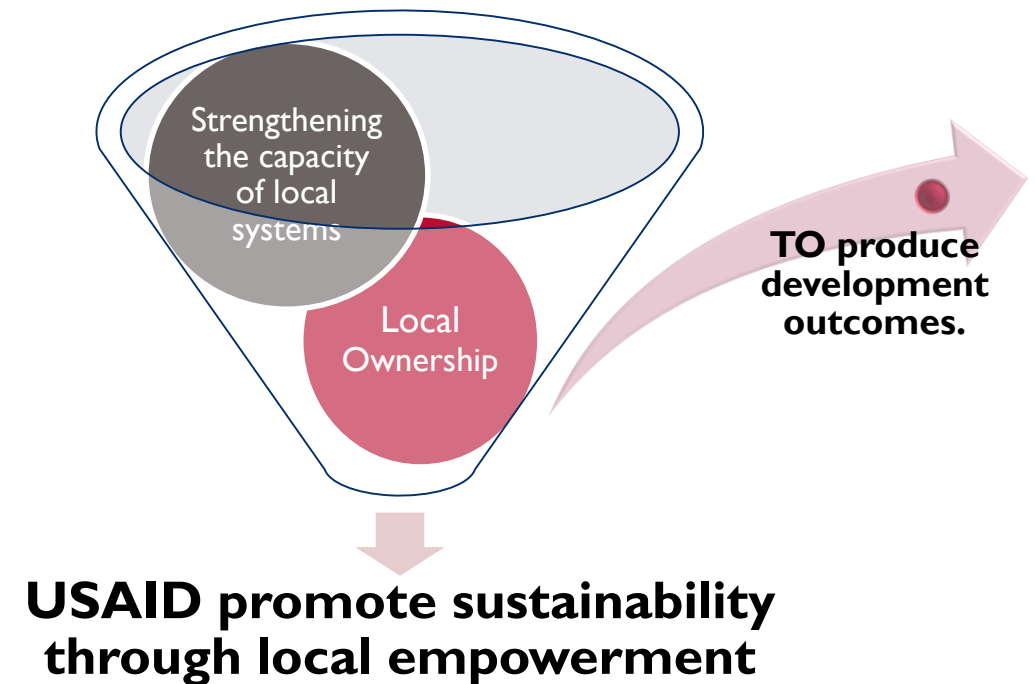
USAID Policy Framework

“The ultimate goal of development cooperation must be to **enable developing countries to devise and implement their own solutions** to key development challenges and to develop resilience against shocks and other setbacks. **Sustainability** is about **building skills, knowledge, institutions** and **incentives** that can make development processes self-sustaining. Sustainability cannot be an afterthought—it must be incorporated **from the start** when preparing a program or project.”

<https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1870/USAID%20Policy%20Framework%202011-2015.PDF>

Sustainability and USAID's Methodology

Sustainability: The ability of a local system to produce desired outcomes over time. Programs contribute to sustainability when they strengthen the system's ability to produce valued results and to be both resilient and adaptive in the face of changing circumstances. **(Chapter 201)**



USAID Local Systems Framework

USAID approach to transforming innovations and reforms into sustained development.

This framework contributes to the ongoing transformation of the way the Agency does business by defining clear and practical steps toward realizing a vision of development that is locally owned, locally led and locally sustained.



LOCAL SYSTEMS:

A FRAMEWORK FOR SUPPORTING
SUSTAINED DEVELOPMENT

APRIL 2014

Examples of Alternative Sustainability Approaches



UN: from MDGs to SDGs



OECD: Sustainable Development—Critical Issues

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were eight goals with measurable targets and clear deadlines for improving the lives of the world's poorest people. To meet these goals and eradicate poverty, leaders of 189 countries signed the historic millennium declaration at the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000-2015.



Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity. (2015-2030)



OECD's Sustainable Development: Critical Issues Report

Five section report

- Understanding sustainable development
- Enhancing sustainable development in OECD countries
- Globalization and sustainable development
- Cross-sectoral issues
- Sectoral and territorial approaches

*Sustainable development perspective stresses the “long-term compatibility between the **economic, environmental and social** dimensions of development,” while acknowledging potential competition in the short-run*

OECD's Sustainable Development: Critical Issues Report

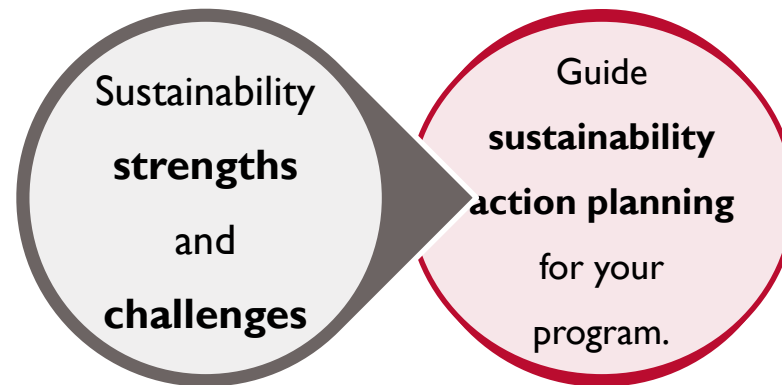
Importance of an integrated framework of **effective institutions** at a national level

- Requires: coherent *integration of policies* across the economic, social, and environmental spheres; significant participation of *civil society in policy*; *coordination* between governments and international organizations; and *strong political commitment* to a long-term perspective

Program Sustainability Assessment Tool

The Program Sustainability Assessment Tool will enable you to assess your intervention current capacity for sustainability across a range of specific organizational and contextual components.

Available at
www.sustaintool.org



- It was developed by Washington University in St. Louis as a **Non Commercial free tool**
- Has been used by over 1,000 individuals from over 320 unique programs
- It is quick and easy; you only need 10-15 minutes!
- The Program Sustainability Assessment Tool has a total of 40 Likert scale questions and looks at 8 different sustainability domains
- The assessment can be used by programs at community, state, and national level

The Sustainability Assessment Tool



1. Understand

Understand the factors that influence a program's capacity for sustainability



3. Review

View results from your assessment as a Sustainability report



2. Assess

Use the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool to assess your program's capacity for sustainability



4. Plan

Develop an Action Plan to increase the likelihood of sustainability



Sustainability Pillars





Environmental Support



Having a supportive internal and external climate for your program

1. Champions exist who strongly support the program
2. The program has strong champions with the ability to garner resources
3. The program has leadership support from within the larger organization
4. The program has leadership support from outside of the organization
5. The program has strong public support



Funding



Stability Establishing a consistent financial base for your program

1. The program exists in a supportive state economic climate
2. The program implements policies to help ensure sustained funding
3. The program is funded through a variety of sources
4. The program has a combination of stable and flexible funding
5. The program has sustained funding



Partnerships



Cultivating connections between your program and its stakeholders

1. Diverse community organizations are invested in the success of the program
2. Community leaders are involved with the program
3. Community members are passionately committed to the program
4. The program communicates with community leaders
5. The community is engaged in the development of program goals



Organizational Capacity



Having the internal support and resources needed to effectively manage your program

1. The program is well integrated into the operations of the organization
2. Organizational systems are in place to support the various program needs
3. Leadership effectively articulates the vision of the program to external partners
4. Leadership efficiently manages staff and other resources
5. The program has adequate staff to complete the program's goals



Program Evaluation



Assessing your program to inform planning and document results

1. The program has the capacity for quality program evaluation
2. The program reports short term and intermediate outcomes
3. Evaluation results inform program planning and implementation
4. Program evaluation results are used to demonstrate successes to funders and other key stakeholders
5. The program provides strong evidence to the public that the program works



Program Adaptation



Taking actions that adapt your program to ensure its ongoing effectiveness

1. The program has the capacity for quality program evaluation
2. The program reports short term and intermediate outcomes
3. Evaluation results inform program planning and implementation
4. Program evaluation results are used to demonstrate successes to funders and other key stakeholders
5. The program provides strong evidence to the public that the program works



Communications



Strategic communication with stakeholders and the public about your program

1. The program has communication strategies to secure and maintain public support
2. Program staff communicate the need for the program to the public
3. The program is marketed in a way that generates interest
4. The program increases community awareness of the issue
5. The program demonstrates its value to the public



Strategic Planning



Using processes that guide your program's directions, goals, and strategies

1. The program plans for future resource needs
2. The program has a long-term financial plan
3. The program has a sustainability plan
4. The program's goals are understood by all stakeholders
5. The program clearly outlines roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders



Review

- Assemble the planning team
- Review your program's mission and purpose
- Review your Program Sustainability Assessment Tool **results**
- Determine which program elements need to be maintained, eliminated, or adapted
- Prioritize the areas of sustainability capacity to address first
- Write a **Sustainability Action Plan** with specific action steps



Write Your Sustainability Plan and Make Sure to...

Develop a sustainability goal for each sustainability domain you have decided to address

Develop action steps outlining how you will achieve each sustainability goal

Identify who will need to be involved to make each step successful

Identify resources you will need to accomplish each action step

Develop milestones so you can track your progress



Presentation Q&A

Measuring and Planning for Sustainability in Our Own Activities

An exercise using the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool

www.sustaintool.org

Washington University in St. Louis



Objectives for Exercise

1. Each attendee completes the *Program Sustainability Assessment Tool* for his or her own activity
2. Based on the results of the assessment, each attendee chooses **one** domain to focus on, brainstorming a preliminary *sustainability action plan*

Assessing Your Project's Sustainability

		DOMAIN							
		Envirmntl. Support	Funding Stability	Partnerships	Organizational Capacity	Program Evaluation	Program Adaptation	Communications	Strategic Planning
ITEM	1.								
	2.								
	3.								
	4.								
	5.								
	Domain Total:								
	Average Score for Domain:								
	Overall Score:								

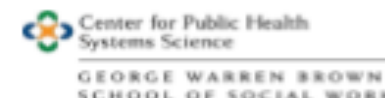
Add up your scores in each column. Exclude 'NA'

Divide the domain total by the total number of items with a score. Exclude 'NA'

Average together all the domain scores

Use these results to guide sustainability action planning for your program. The domains with lower average scores indicate areas where your program's capacity for sustainability could be improved.

Copyright 2013. The *Program Sustainability Assessment Tool v2* is a copyrighted instrument of Washington University, St Louis, MO. All rights reserved. If you would like more information about the sustainability framework or the tool, visit <http://www.sustaintool.org>.



Planning for Sustainability

The Sustainability Planning Process, according to the Program Sustainability Assessment Tool:

1. Develop a Sustainability Action Plan
 - Assemble the planning team
 - Review your program's mission and purpose
 - Review your Program Sustainability Assessment Tool results
 - Determine which program elements need to be maintained, eliminated, or adapted
 - **Prioritize the areas of sustainability capacity to address first**
 - **Write a Sustainability Action Plan with specific action steps**
2. Take Action
 - Implement the Sustainability Action Plan
 - Reassess sustainability capacity annually



Discussion I: Measuring and Planning for Sustainability in Our Own Activities

Developing a Sustainability Action Plan

Sustainability Action Plan

Priority Domain: |

Indicator(s) to focus on:

1. What are the next 3 steps to address this domain? (Identify a timeframe for each step and who is responsible.)

Step 1:

Timeframe:
Responsible:

Step 2:

Timeframe:
Responsible:

Step 3:

Timeframe:
Responsible:

1

Sustainability Action Plan

What agencies, organizations, or individuals need to be involved?

2. What resources will be needed and how could you obtain these resources?

3. How will you track progress and know you have succeeded?

2



Discussion 2: Measuring and Planning for Sustainability in Our Own Activities

Planning and Measuring Sustainability

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