

Cooperative Development Program

CLEAR+

Global Communities' Cooperative Leadership Engagement Advocacy and Research (CLEAR)+ project (2023-2028), is a USAID funded Cooperative Development Program (CDP) aimed at advocating for the development of worker cooperatives with a focus on youth employment. CLEAR+ promotes the cooperative enabling environment and improved business strategies and performance through local Business Service Providers (BSPs) using a market systems approach (MSA). The project is committed to integrating core principles such as gender equality and positive youth development (PYD) into cooperative development. The CLEAR+ project has three primary objectives which work jointly to strengthen the cooperative systems in Kenya & Guatemala.

I) Improved Enabling Environment for Cooperatives

CLEAR+ seeks to Improve the enabling environment for worker cooperatives by 1) Strengthening public awareness and understanding of the worker cooperative model and 2) Improving policies and legal frameworks for cooperatives. This will lead to strengthened government and stakeholder networks that are more responsive to the worker cooperative needs and reduced obstacles to the registration and success of worker cooperative.

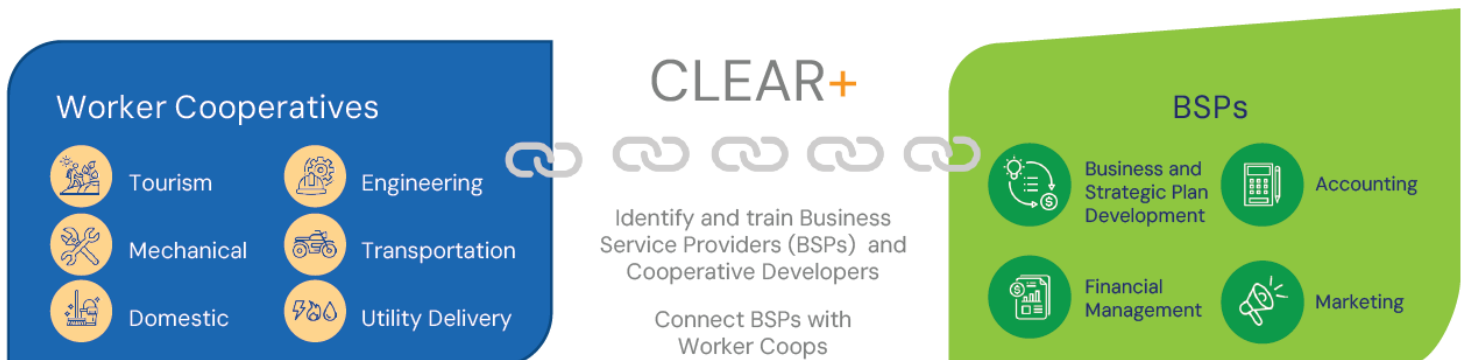


II) Strengthened Cooperative Capacity

CLEAR+ strategically employs a market systems approach to strengthen worker cooperative capacity through 1) Supporting early-stage development of worker cooperatives and 2) Facilitating improved access to services through local Business Service Providers (BSPs) and cooperative developers. CLEAR+ targets worker cooperatives in service sectors like tourism and engineering through technical assistance in business plan development, cooperative management, and marketing strategies.

III) Project Learning Applied in the Development Community

Objective 3 seeks to encompass learning and research, contributing to the global knowledge management and documentation of worker cooperative impacts through a Worker Cooperative Toolkit for cooperatives and development practitioners.



Strengthening Worker Cooperatives Through Youth Engagement, Awareness Building, and Policy Advocacy

CLEAR+ promotes effective governance with a targeted focus on youth engagement, aiming to promote worker cooperatives as democratic, inclusive, and resilient entities. To enhance awareness of the worker cooperative model, CLEAR+ prioritizes collaborative education and learning with training institutions, recognizing the need for increased knowledge and awareness. Acknowledging the critical role of improved policies and legal frameworks in worker cooperative success, CLEAR+ goal is to partner with 20 new counties in policy design and implementation to develop enabling cooperative policies aligned with the national bill. This will be achieved through technical guidance on policy changes to support registration and operationalization of worker cooperatives. In addition, CLEAR+ seeks to partner with cooperative sector players in advocacy efforts, to foster a holistic development and success of worker cooperatives.

Capacity Strengthening for Worker Cooperatives Through Market Systems

CLEAR+ employs a market systems approach to foster the capacity and long-term viability of emerging worker cooperatives, emphasizing access to services in key sectors like – but not limited to - tourism, engineering, and artisans. This entails collaborative development with cooperatives in designing business plans, cooperative management strategies, and marketing tactics. Complementing these efforts are coaching, curriculum development, and customized tools dedicated to advancing worker cooperatives.

In implementing the market systems approach, CLEAR+ supports cooperative capacity building by providing training and coaching to Business Service Providers (BSPs) and cooperative developers in cooperative management. This approach unleashes market forces to push for positive development outcomes, sustained by the interplay of demand and supply. Within this framework, BSPs are enabled to engage directly with cooperatives as clients, establishing networks with proven service providers.

Enhancing Worker Cooperative Impact and Global Knowledge Management

CLEAR+ prioritizes learning as an essential element for effective program implementation, with a focus on contributing significantly to global knowledge through documentation of worker cooperatives' impact. Insights gathered from these lessons are condensed into a worker cooperative toolkit tailor-made to assist cooperative development organizations, developers, and international practitioners. CLEAR+ will develop a digital cooperative network that will catalyze service access and coop-to-coop cooperation. Through this, cooperatives will identify knowledge hubs and trusted network actors within their ecosystem.

Gender and Youth

CLEAR+ takes a holistic approach to address disparities in the cooperative sector and broader economy, specifically focusing on the needs of women, youth, and indigenous individuals. The project's inclusive training approach leverages on Global Communities' *Gender Equity and Good Governance Facilitators Guide*, specifically targeting cooperatives and business service providers to promote gender-sensitive practices. A central objective is the empowerment of women, youth, and indigenous persons through worker cooperatives, enhancing their business skills and leadership opportunities leveraging on digital connectivity for effective communication among cooperative members and mentors, and serving as a platform for sharing best practices. CLEAR+ also promotes capacity strengthening initiatives that drive inclusive policies, management structures, and governance, ensuring equal leadership opportunities for women and youth within cooperatives.

Global Communities

Our mission is to create long-lasting, positive and community-led change that improves the lives and livelihoods of vulnerable people across the globe. Our central goal is to build the capacity of communities to direct the development of their own lives and livelihoods. Empowered communities drive change when they recognize everyone's needs, understand their rights and the natural and market forces that affect them, and are able to take collective action. Once empowered, communities are better able to build constructive relationships with government institutions, the private sector and civil society in ways that are sustainable.