Pando Localization Learning System (LLS)

Pando LLS is a pioneering new approach that uses network maps and feedback surveys to visualize, learn from, and engage with development systems to foster increased local ownership. The heart of the LLS is a dynamic online platform called Pando that collects social network analysis and qualitative feedback data to inform a set of localization metrics that measure development activities across four dimensions: Leadership, Connectivity, Mutuality, and Financing. These metrics combined with a process of dialogue and reflection comprise an adaptive management system that funders, NGOs, and project partners can use to advance shared localization objectives.

Why measure localization?
There is a global consensus that local participation and ownership is critical for producing long-term sustainable outcomes. For example, in 2018 USAID inaugurated the “Journey to Self-Reliance” initiative, which reorients assistance to support partner countries to identify and solve their own development challenges. However, there are few tools available to assist in the cost effective and timely measurement of local ownership. Since 2017, Root Change and Keystone Accountability have been engaging USAID missions and local development actors to design and test the use of a new Localization Learning System (LLS) to help organizations track progress of their programs and interventions towards local ownership.
**How does it work?**
Pando LLS uses web-based relationship to identify diverse organizations and track relationships in real time. The platform automatically generates a network map that visualizes organizations and relationships. Data filters and analysis tools uncover key actors, areas of collaboration, network structures, and dynamics.

Pando LLS also gives map administrators the ability to collect and analyze feedback about trust and relationship quality among map participants. The combined power of network maps and feedback surveys helps create a holistic understanding of a system, facilitate dialogue, and track change over time as actors work together to strengthen the system.

**Four Local System Vitality Measurements**
Pando LLS is rooted in four measures that assess key dimensions of local ownership. Using the network map and feedback surveys, the platform generates a score for each measure, which can be used to assess areas of improvement, change over time, and facilitate learning and adaptation.

1. **Leadership**
   Leadership measures the degree to which local actors are able to: set priorities, influence direction, lead decision making, define success, and receive recognition as experts by outside donors, institutions, and organizations. This dimension measures, the emergence of local knowledge resource hubs and intermediaries (as opposed to international sources).

2. **Connectivity**
   Connectivity assesses the diversity and density of relationships and collaboration between local actors. It examines the degree to which networks of local development actors have the motivation, opportunities, and incentives to work together to solve problems. It asks to what extent local actors are connected to local resources, knowledge, and expertise.

3. **Mutuality**
   Mutuality assesses the degree of trust, respect, openness, voice, and responsiveness across a local development system. This measurement includes strength of ties between actors and the extent to which parties feel comfortable expressing disagreements, responding to concerns, or working together equally.

4. **Financing**
   Financing measures the degree to which local system actors are dependent on international financial resources and whether connections to local funding opportunities are improving. Financing is measured through a systematic assessment of the dominance of a few key actors, the evaluation of local funding sources, and connectedness to local resources.

---

**Pando LLS is a product of Root Change and Keystone Accountability.**