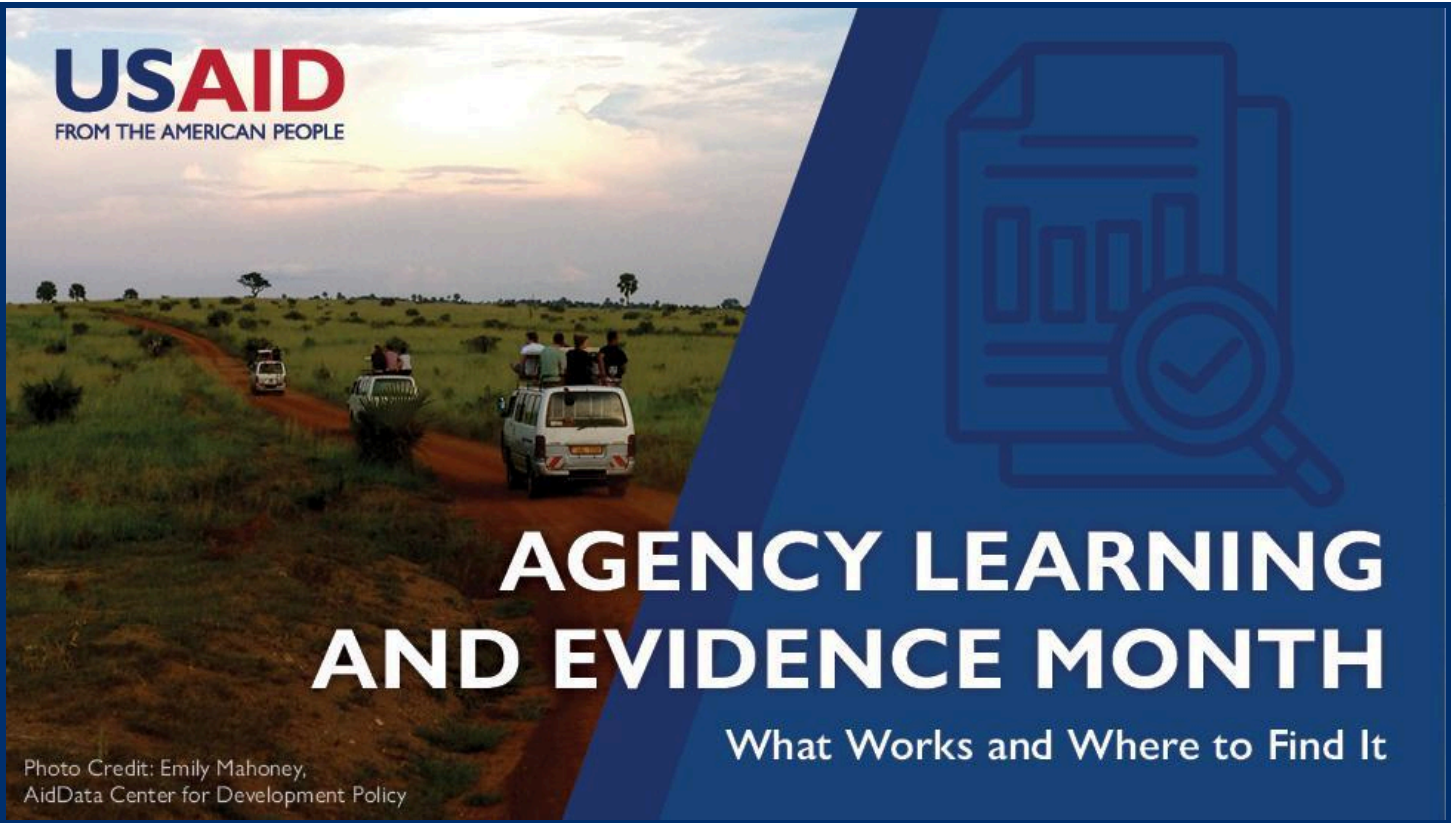


**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



# AGENCY LEARNING AND EVIDENCE MONTH

What Works and Where to Find It

Photo Credit: Emily Mahoney,  
AidData Center for Development Policy

## 2024 Event Program

Agency Learning and Evidence Month is a celebration of research, evaluation, and learning that brings together diverse development actors to exchange with one another and hear the latest evidence on global priorities. Through the theme of **‘What Works and Where to Find It’**, 30 sessions will highlight evidence-driven approaches and resources to further global priorities, including climate change, migration, locally led development, resilience, affirmative development, anti-corruption, and inclusive development. Sessions will also explore how development and humanitarian assistance organizations can strengthen operational effectiveness and sustainability of impact. Agency Learning and Evidence Month is part of the broader [USAID Agency Learning Agenda](#) cadence of activities to strengthen evidence building, sharing, and use in decision making.

Registration links are available individually for each session, below - there is no overall registration process. Members of the USAID workforce may view all sessions on the [USAID Internal Events calendar](#).

This Event Program is a one-stop shop for all available resources for each Agency Learning and Evidence Month session. Please note that certain resources are available only to members of the USAID workforce with access to USAID ProgramNet. **Questions regarding Agency Learning and Evidence Month may be directed to [ALEmonth2024@USAID.gov](mailto:ALEmonth2024@USAID.gov).**

[Jump to Calendar At-a-Glance](#)

[Jump to Sessions by Agency Learning Agenda Question](#)

[Jump to Session Details](#)

# Agency Learning and Evidence Month 2024: Calendar At-a-Glance








		Wednesday May 1	Thursday May 2	Friday May 3
			<p>🚩 9:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">Launching Agency Learning and Evidence Month 2024: USAID's Commitment to Evidence</a></p>	<p>🚩* 9:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">Analyze, Adapt, Scale: Evidence Based Decision Making to Promote Resilience</a></p> <p>🚩* 11:00a-12:30p EDT   <a href="#">EGAP Learning Days: Building experimental social science research capacity among principal investigators in the Global South</a></p>
Monday May 6	Tuesday May 7	Wednesday May 8	Thursday May 9	Friday May 10
<p>9:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">From Challenge to Catalyst: Harnessing the Power of Labor Migration for Development</a></p>	<p>🚩 9:30-11:00a EDT   <a href="#">USAID and Department of State Learning Agendas: Strengthening evidence-based programming</a></p>	<p><i>No sessions scheduled.</i></p>	<p>9:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">Be the Change: Insights from Change Leaders at USAID</a></p> <p>2:30-3:30p EDT   <a href="#">Start where you're at: Integrating mental health across diverse development sectors</a></p>	<p>🚩* 10:00-11:15a EDT   <a href="#">Building Resilience through Inclusive Safety Nets: Empowering Marginalized Women</a></p>
Monday May 13	Tuesday May 14	Wednesday May 15	Thursday May 16	Friday May 17
<p>9:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">Countering Transnational Corruption: Cross-Sectoral Evidence and Approaches</a></p> <p>🚩* 11:00a-12:30p   <a href="#">Tools for what works in youth employment: knowledge translation in practice</a></p>	<p>09:00-10:00a EDT   <a href="#">Supercharge your Mission's Comparative Advantage Story with Data</a></p> <p>10:30a-12:00p EDT   <a href="#">Leveraging Rigorous Learning Efforts for Results: Insights from USAID/El Salvador</a></p>	<p>🚩 10:00-11:30a EDT   <a href="#">Direct Local Partners Know What Works for Development: Evidence from the Local Works Program</a></p>	<p>8:00-9:30a EDT   <a href="#">Lessons Learned for Evidence Use in Mid-Course Stocktakings</a></p> <p>🚩* 11:00a-12:30p EDT   <a href="#">Mapping Evidence to Accelerate Progress on the Partnership Pillar of the SDGs</a></p>	<p>🚩* 09:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">Using Data: Building Resilience to Shocks</a></p> <p>🚩* 11:00a-12:30p EDT   <a href="#">Evidence-based approaches to building small-scale farmers' climate resiliency</a></p>
Monday May 20	Tuesday May 21	Wednesday May 22	Thursday May 23	Friday May 24
<p>🚩 9:30-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">From Vision to Action: Reflecting on Five Years of USAID's Private Sector Engagement</a></p> <p>🚩* 11:00a-12:30p EDT   <a href="#">Do Better Managers Bribe Less? A Field Experiment on Management Training and Corruption in Vietnam</a></p>	<p>9:00-10:00a EDT   <a href="#">Race, Ethnicity, and USAID's Work: A guide to thoughtful integration of racial and ethnic equity in USAID programming</a></p>	<p>🚩 8:30-10:00a EDT   <a href="#">Where Partnering Locally In Non-Permissive Environments Works</a></p> <p>🚩 10:30a-12:00p EDT   <a href="#">MEL Innovations to Establish an Evidence Base for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization</a></p>	<p>🚩 9:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">Interrogating Information Integrity: Insights on What Works</a></p> <p>🚩 11:00a-12:30p EDT   <a href="#">What works for whom, and in which contexts? Using cost-effectiveness evidence in the real world</a></p>	<p>🚩* 9:00-10:15a EDT   <a href="#">Local Solutions, Global Impact: How African Organizations Lead in Building Evidence Systems for Inclusive Development</a></p> <p>🚩* 11:00a-12:30p EDT   <a href="#">Best Bets: Emerging Opportunities for Impact at Scale</a></p>
Monday May 27	Tuesday May 28	Wednesday May 29	Thursday May 30	Friday May 31
<p>Memorial Day (USA)</p>	<p>🚩 9:30-11:00a EDT   <a href="#">Advancing USAID's Localization Agenda through Partnership with Local Religious Actors</a></p> <p>🚩 11:30a-12:30p EDT   <a href="#">Designing Programs for People and Planet: Lessons from Cross-Sectoral Impact Evaluations</a></p>	<p>🚩 9:30-11:00a EDT   <a href="#">WDR 2024: Economic Growth in Middle Income Countries</a></p>	<p>🚩 9:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">Closing Agency Learning and Evidence Month: What Works and What's Next?</a></p>	

# Fiscal Year 2022 - 2026 USAID Agency Learning Agenda

The [FY 2022-26 Agency Learning Agenda](#) is USAID's highest-level learning agenda, driven by nine questions that cross-cut the Agency's technical sectors, geographies, and policy priorities. The Agency Learning Agenda provides an overarching framework for connecting agency learning. Implementation convenes internal and external learning networks to further USAID policy priorities; improves awareness and sharing of evidence generated through experience, evaluations, and other data sources; and supports the use of evidence in strategic, operational, and programmatic decision-making as policy priorities are implemented.

\* Session open to the public by registration - see session details for joining information. 🚩 USAID Agency Learning Agenda Core Session

Agency Learning Agenda Questions	Related Agency Learning and Evidence Month Sessions
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Overarching Sessions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 🚩 May 2, 9:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">Launching Agency Learning and Evidence Month 2024: USAID's Commitment to Evidence</a></li> <li>○ 🚩 May 7, 9:30-11:00a EDT   <a href="#">USAID &amp; DoS Learning Agendas: Strengthening evidence-based programming</a></li> <li>○ May 14, 10:30a-12:00p EDT   <a href="#">Leveraging Rigorous Learning Efforts for Results: Insights from USAID/El Salvador</a></li> <li>○ May 16, 8:00-9:30a EDT   <a href="#">Lessons Learned for Evidence Use in Mid-Course Stocktakings</a></li> <li>○ 🚩 May 23, 11:00a-12:30p EDT   <a href="#">What works, for whom, and in which contexts? Using cost-effectiveness evidence in the real world</a></li> <li>○ 🚩* May 24, 11:00a-12:30p EDT   <a href="#">Best Bets: Emerging Opportunities for Impact at Scale</a></li> <li>○ 🚩 May 30, 9:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">Closing Agency Learning and Evidence Month: What Works and What's Next?</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>1 Operational Effectiveness</b>   How can USAID better streamline systems, processes and resources to meet long-term needs identified by Missions, while enabling the flexibility to respond quickly to unexpected shifts in context?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May 9, 9:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">Be the Change: Insights from Change Leaders at USAID</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>2 Resilience to Shocks</b>   How can USAID strengthen household, community, and country resilience to climate, conflict, economic, and health shocks such as COVID-19 and other global pandemic threats?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 🚩* May 3, 9:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">Analyze, Adapt, Scale: Evidence Based Decision Making to Promote Resilience</a></li> <li>○ 🚩* May 10, 10:00-11:15a EDT   <a href="#">Building Resilience through Inclusive Safety Nets: Empowering Marginalized Women</a></li> <li>○ 🚩* May 13, 11:00a-12:30p   <a href="#">Tools for what works in youth employment: knowledge translation in practice</a></li> <li>○ 🚩* May 17, 09:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">Using Data: Building Resilience to Shocks</a></li> <li>○ 🚩 May 22, 10:30a-12:00p EDT   <a href="#">MEL Innovations to Establish an Evidence Base for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization</a></li> <li>○ 🚩 May 29, 9:30-11:00a EDT   <a href="#">WDR 2024: Economic Growth in Middle Income Countries</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>3 Responding to Climate Change</b>   How can USAID best engage global actors, partner countries, and local leaders to mitigate the climate crisis and support equitable adaptation to its impacts?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 🚩* May 17, 11:00a-12:30p EDT   <a href="#">Evidence-based approaches to building small-scale farmers' climate resiliency</a></li> <li>○ 🚩 May 28, 11:30a-12:30p EDT   <a href="#">Designing Programs for People and Planet: Lessons from Cross-Sectoral Impact Evaluations</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>4 Anti-Corruption</b>   How can USAID work with host countries, interagency colleagues, and other development actors to address systemic corruption through multisectoral approaches?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May 13, 9:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">Countering Transnational Corruption: Cross-Sectoral Evidence and Approaches</a></li> <li>○ 🚩* May 20, 11:00a-12:30p EDT   <a href="#">Do Better Managers Bribe Less? A Field Experiment on Management Training and Corruption in Vietnam</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>5 Affirmative Development</b>   How can USAID advance an affirmative, sustainable development approach to mitigate authoritarian or malign influences and actions?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 🚩 May 23, 9:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">Interrogating Information Integrity: Insights on What Works</a></li> </ul>

<p><b>6 Migration and Forced Displacement</b>   How can USAID better address drivers of migration and forced displacement through evidence-informed decision-making?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May 6, 9:00-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">From Challenge to Catalyst: Harnessing the Power of Labor Migration for Development</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>7 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility</b>   How can USAID programs and operations mitigate harm to underrepresented and marginalized populations, while promoting equity and inclusion?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May 9, 2:30-3:30p EDT   <a href="#">Start where you're at: Integrating mental health across diverse development sectors</a></li> <li>○ May 21, 9:00-10:00a EDT   <a href="#">Race, Ethnicity, and USAID's Work: A guide to thoughtful integration of racial and ethnic equity in USAID programming</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>8 Locally-led Development</b>   How can USAID more equitably engage local knowledge, assets, and practices, and align programming with local priorities and metrics for success?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○  * May 3, 11:00a-12:30p EDT   <a href="#">EGAP Learning Days: Building experimental social science research capacity among principal investigators in the Global South</a></li> <li>○  May 15, 10:00-11:30a EDT   <a href="#">Direct Local Partners Know What Works for Development: Evidence from the Local Works Program</a></li> <li>○  May 22, 8:30-10:00a EDT   <a href="#">Where Partnering Locally In Non-Permissive Environments Works</a></li> <li>○  * May 24, 9:00-10:15a EDT   <a href="#">Local Solutions, Global Impact: How African Organizations Lead in Building Evidence Systems for Inclusive Development</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>9 Partnering for Sustainability</b>   How can USAID's partnerships with the private sector; local, faith, and nontraditional partners; and other donors contribute to sustainable development objectives?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ May 14, 9:00-10:00a EDT   <a href="#">Supercharge your Mission's Comparative Advantage Story with Data</a></li> <li>○  * May 16, 11:00a-12:30p EDT   <a href="#">Mapping Evidence to Accelerate Progress on the Partnership Pillar of the SDGs</a></li> <li>○  May 20, 9:30-10:30a EDT   <a href="#">From Vision to Action: Reflecting on Five Years of USAID's Private Sector Engagement</a></li> <li>○  May 28, 9:30-11:00a EDT   <a href="#">Advancing USAID's Localization Agenda through Partnership with Local Religious Actors</a></li> </ul>

# Agency Learning and Evidence Month 2024: Session Details

Thursday, May 2, 2024

May 2, 09:00 - 10:30 AM EDT

## Launching Agency Learning and Evidence Month 2024: USAID's Commitment to Evidence

Hosted by the USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management

USAID-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

Register here: [https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_tyzXGMk3QWms00VzRnbNCO](https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_tyzXGMk3QWms00VzRnbNCO)

Join us to celebrate the opening of USAID's Agency Learning and Evidence Month 2024: What Works and Where to Find It! Hear from USAID's Front Office on the importance of USAID's leadership in evidence use and the Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management as we preview sessions showcasing USAID's use of high quality evidence throughout the Month. We will kick off the Month with a panel featuring other signatories of the Global Evidence Commitment speaking to why they have signed on and how we can work in concert to improve development effectiveness.

### Speakers

- ★ Michele Sumilas, Assistant to the Administrator, USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management
- ★ Alicia Phillips Mandaville, Vice President, Department of Policy and Evaluation, Millenium Challenge Corporation
- ★ Amanda Glassman, Executive Advisor to the President of the Inter-American Development Bank
- ★ Jochen Kluve, Director, Evaluation Unit at KfW Development Bank
- ★ Håvard Mokleiv Nygård, Director, Department of Knowledge, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
- ★ Nathanael Bevan, Deputy Director Research, Research & Evidence Directorate, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office
- ★ Moderated by Marie Gaarder, Executive Director, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

### Resources

- [Global Evidence Commitment](#)

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Friday, May 3, 2024

May 3, 09:00 - 10:30 AM EDT

## Analyze, Adapt, Scale: Evidence Based Decision Making to Promote Resilience

Hosted by AVSI Foundation

External Guest-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

Register here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScOe35qmMxHFSdOMUoIZSJQhwvl84gPxkm2YDg3Y6gvPoirsw/viewform>

The USAID/Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance funded [Graduating to Resilience Activity](#) in Uganda implemented by AVSI Foundation, in partnership with Trickle Up and American Institutes for Research (AIR), aims to graduate 13,200 extremely poor refugee and Ugandan households in Kamwenge from conditions of food insecurity and fragile livelihoods to self-reliance and resilience. The Activity design is based on the graduation approach, an integrated set of multi-sectoral interventions that builds on each other to help households address the root causes of poverty. Implemented in over 44

countries, the graduation approach is meant to be designed and adapted to the local context, addressing the specific challenges and opportunities facing communities. Through a randomized controlled trial, conducted by Innovations for Poverty Action, the Activity seeks to identify the most cost-effective graduation approach to meet food security and nutrition challenges and promote household level resilience to shocks and stressors (USAID Agency Learning Priority 2 – Resilience to Shocks). To test different approaches, the seven-year implementation period was divided into two cohorts (2018-2021, 2022-2023) each consisting of 6,600 households. The Activity utilized a suite of adaptive management approaches including theory of change reviews, assessments and special studies, participant feedback through Standing Committees, performance and context monitoring, and scenario planning to ensure that the Activity was adaptive and responsive to the needs of local stakeholders. Based on this evidence, the Activity adjusted the design and implementation approach both at the start of the activity and between the two cohorts. The Activity will use the evidence and data from these adaptations to inform future USAID resilience programs in Uganda and globally and contribute to the evidence base on scaling effective development approaches.

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**May 3, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EDT**

**EGAP Learning Days: Building experimental social science research capacity among principal investigators in the Global South**

Hosted by the Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP) network

External Guest-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

**Register here:** <https://uniandes-edu-co.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0oceyhpz0pE9lrKjP2R52ohRxFjxXbkRns#/registration>

Causal inference research is still scarce in the world's most unequal regions, such as Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa. To tackle this, the Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP) network has developed a series of activities led by regional hubs in Latin America and West Africa, with one of the most innovative being the [Learning Days](#). These 5-day intensive training workshops are available to evaluators working in academia, government agencies, and NGOs, based on the [coursebook](#) and experimental research [methods guides](#) developed by EGAP members. They aim to foster familiarity with causal inference in impact evaluations with a quantitative focus. Participants exit with the framework of an actionable research design, promoting rigorous evaluation and a locally-led learning agenda. Over the past decade, more than 200 scholars and evaluation professionals from 31 countries in Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa have participated in these workshops. Panelists will include EGAP members who are instructors of the Learning Days, as well as former participants of recent workshops conducted in Latin America.

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**Monday, May 6, 2024**

**May 6, 09:00 - 10:30 AM EDT**

**From Challenge to Catalyst: Harnessing the Power of Labor Migration for Development**

Hosted by the USAID Global Migration Task Team

USAID-Hosted Session

USAID Internal Only

**Members of the USAID workforce can view registration and join information for all sessions open to USAID internal audiences (as well as public sessions) on the [USAID Internal Events calendar](#).**



Migration is a global reality, which poses a development challenge, but also represents an immense opportunity for development impact. As the World Bank [2023 World Development Report](#) found, if properly managed, migration can lead to numerous positive development outcomes including skill development and exchange, diversified livelihood opportunities, remittance flows, and expanded social networks. The session will feature external and USAID insights from program case studies and research on the development benefits of labor migration, including lessons learned from programs implemented within USAID and by European development agencies. The objective of the session is to provide participants with evidence and best practices to engage labor migration for development gains.

### Speakers

- ★ Michael Schiffer, Assistant Administrator, USAID Bureau for Asia and Co-Chair of the Global Migration Task Team
- ★ Kamal Essaheb, Senior Migration Advisor, USAID Office of Policy and Co-Chair of the Global Migration Task Team
- ★ Pablo Acosta, Lead Economist for Social Protection and Jobs and Head of KNOMAD, World Bank
- ★ Raffaella Greco Tonegutti, Lead Expert on Migration & Development, Enabel
- ★ Tina Balin, Senior Policy Advisor, USAID Office of Policy
- ★ Matt Rees, Deputy Mission Director, USAID/EI Salvador, Central America & Mexico
- ★ Kevin Dean, Deputy Mission Director, USAID/Tajikistan
- ★ Jason Fleming, Director, Regional Economic Growth, USAID/Southern Africa
- ★ *Additional speakers to be announced*

### Resources

- None added yet.

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**Tuesday, May 7, 2024**

**May 7, 09:30 - 11:00 AM EDT**

### **USAID and the Department of State's Learning Agendas: Strengthening evidence-based programming across our organizations**

Hosted by the USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management and the Department of State Office of Foreign Assistance

USAID-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

**Register here:** [https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_DSomma3IRs2PIXbexVbPYg](https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_DSomma3IRs2PIXbexVbPYg)

The use of learning agendas is an innovative MEL approach to strengthen evidence-based programs and policies. Join us for an engaging panel discussion where representatives from USAID and the Department of State (DOS) will delve into their technical, sectoral, and Agency-level learning agendas. Discover how learning and research agendas at different levels within an organization can be leveraged to transform the learning culture across the entire organization. Panelists from DOS and USAID will highlight examples of how research and learning activities have informed program or policy decisions, the role learning agendas have played in facilitating evidence exchange within and across organizations, and lessons learned about effective strategies for learning agenda implementation from the bureau to the Agency-wide level.

### Speakers

- ★ Pamela Velez-Vega, Senior Evaluation Advisor, Department of State Office of Foreign Assistance
- ★ Shilpa Modi-Clift, Evidence Building and Use Practice Lead, USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management (PLR) Office of Learning, Evaluation and Research
- ★ Matthew Baker, Senior Learning Advisor, USAID Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance
- ★ Anjali Dibner, Knowledge Management Advisor, USAID Bureau for Global Health

- ★ Nicole Germano, Monitoring & Evaluation Specialist, Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs
- ★ Nikki Junker, Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist, Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor

#### Resources

- [Fiscal Year 2022 - 2026 USAID Agency Learning Agenda](#)
- [United States Department of State Learning Agenda 2022 - 2026](#)

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**Wednesday, May 8, 2024**

*No sessions scheduled.*

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**Thursday, May 9, 2024**

**May 9, 09:00 - 10:30 AM EDT**

**Be the Change: Insights from Change Leaders at USAID**

Hosted by the USAID Bureaus for Management and Planning, Learning and Resource Management

USAID-Hosted Session

USAID Internal Only

Members of the USAID workforce can view registration and join information for all sessions open to USAID internal audiences (as well as public sessions) on the [USAID Internal Events calendar](#).

Change leaders at USAID describe what it takes to advance change on multiple fronts at the Agency. The panelists will share findings from change management research and practice, as well as observations about managing change at USAID in the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility space. We will describe efforts to transform how some Missions work to advance localization and shift to a more equitable donor-recipient relationship or partnership. Additionally, we will share perspectives on promoting change in our internal operations, such as the Management Bureau's efforts to shepherd the Organizational Health Index and the Burden Reduction Program. Participants will be facilitated in identifying practical steps they can take to manage change in their own work.

#### Speakers

- ★ Adrián Rivera Reyes, Knowledge Management and Organizational Learning Advisor, USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management
- ★ Anh Lam Vieira, Agency Deputy Performance Improvement Officer, USAID Bureau for Management
- ★ Dr. K Mischele Watson, Senior Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Advisor, USAID Office of Security and Office of the General Counsel
- ★ Stuti Basnyet, Private Sector Engagement Specialist, USAID/Nepal
- ★ David Ratliff, Program Office Director, USAID/Nepal

#### Resources

- None added yet.



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**May 9, 02:30 - 03:30 PM EDT**

**Start where you're at: Integrating mental health across diverse development sectors**

Hosted by the USAID Bureau for Inclusive Growth, Partnerships and Innovation

USAID-Hosted Session

USAID Internal Only

Members of the USAID workforce can view registration and join information for all sessions open to USAID internal audiences (as well as public sessions) on the [USAID Internal Events calendar](#).

Strong evidence supports the benefits of increased integration of mental health into development work, but often misunderstandings about options and perceived barriers preempt meaningful action. In this session, speakers embrace the perspective that even small steps toward better integration of mental health interventions into our work can improve sector and mental health outcomes. Speakers will share evidence from mental health activities across diverse development sectors, illustrate how you can integrate mental health into programming, and highlight the positive results.

**Speakers**

- ★ Dean Karlan, Agency Chief Economist, USAID
- ★ Vikram Patel, Paul Farmer Professor and Chair of the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine, Harvard Medical School
- ★ Moderated by Jerome Galea, Agency Mental Health and Psychosocial Support Coordinator, USAID

**Resources**

- None added yet.

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**Friday, May 10, 2024**

**May 10, 10:00 - 11:15 AM EDT** (*new time!*)

**Building Resilience through Inclusive Safety Nets: Empowering Marginalized Women**

Hosted by Inclusion Economics at Yale University

External Guest-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

Register here: <https://yale.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlrdu6orDwqE9DyiQaIbq4-qmphVqchithC>

Many safety net programs are designed to be female-friendly, yet implementation remains blind to intrahousehold power structures. We study a female-friendly design innovation in India's Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), the world's largest workfare program, which aims to support women's well-being. Despite India's impressive progress in financial inclusion and its central mandate to empower women through MGNREGS, implementation has traditionally reflected household power structures, meaning payments for women's work were made to her household head, typically the husband, rather than the woman herself.

Could redirecting women's MGNREGS wages into her own bank account and helping women understand how to use the account affect women's economic activity, empowerment, and well-being? To answer this question, relevant to USAID

Learning Questions on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (as well as Resilience and Climate), we worked in Madhya Pradesh, India, to conduct a randomized control across 200 communities comparing the effects of:

1. Helping women open their own no-frills bank accounts;
2. Ensuring women's new bank accounts were linked to MGNREGS, so wages would be paid directly into the new account; and
3. Delivering basic training about the purpose of bank accounts and how to access workfare wages in accounts.

As described in [Field et al. \(2021\)](#), after three years, women targeted for direct deposit and training worked more in public and private sector jobs and held more liberal views on work-related gender norms. We surveyed women again 8 years after the intervention and after the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, and find evidence that some positive effects on gender norms, empowerment and labor market participation persist - especially for women who were most norms-constrained at the onset. Our work points to several important design and implementation features of safety net programs that are crucial to empowering the traditionally disadvantaged.

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**Monday, May 13, 2024**

**May 13, 9:00 - 10:30 AM EDT**

### **Countering Transnational Corruption: Cross-Sectoral Evidence and Approaches**

Hosted by the USAID Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance

USAID-Hosted Session

USAID Internal Only

**Members of the USAID workforce can view registration and join information for all sessions open to USAID internal audiences (as well as public sessions) on the [USAID Internal Events calendar](#).**

This session will highlight the transnational components of corruption across the sectors and geographies in which USAID works. Transnational corruption is corruption that “crosses borders, involves global networks, and employs sophisticated schemes to siphon off the wealth of a country from its rightful owners: the people.” ([USAID Anti-Corruption Policy](#)) The panelists will synthesize evidence on this topic, specifically in relation to the strategic elements of transnational corruption, drawing from research that USAID has recently commissioned. The session will link this research with concrete examples of how USAID is addressing the issue across programming and share resources to help guide practitioners in thinking about addressing transnational corruption.

#### **Speakers**

- ★ Melissa Brown, Executive Director Anti-Corruption Center, USAID Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
- ★ Rick Gold, Team Leader, Analyzing Transnational Corruption in the Middle East and North Africa, The Cloudburst Group
- ★ Ingrida Kerusauskaite, Knowledge Management Lead, GAP/SNA
- ★ Tom Shilpley, PhD Researcher, Sussex Centre for the Study of Corruption
- ★ Mahmut Cengiz, Research Associate Professor, Terrorism, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center (TraCCC) and the Schar School of Policy and Government at George Mason University
- ★ Brooke Stearns Lawson, Experimentation, Innovation, and Learning Team Lead, USAID Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Anti-Corruption Center
- ★ Daniel Sabet, Senior Learning Advisor, USAID Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance

#### **Resources**

- None added yet.

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**May 13, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EDT**

**Tools for what works in youth employment: knowledge translation in practice**

Hosted by The Global Development Network

External Guest-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

**Register here:** [https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_c3ujuuIGTnSExflwAIYY8w](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_c3ujuuIGTnSExflwAIYY8w)

Across all sectors, there is a rapidly growing body of evidence of what works. The challenge is to make this evidence accessible to decision-makers via knowledge translation or knowledge brokering. The range of evidence products includes sectoral databases, evidence maps, evidence toolkits and guidance documents. This session will provide an overview of different evidence products with a focus on youth employment. The [youth employment evidence and gap map](#) is a regularly updated evidence product containing over 1,000 evaluations. It includes primary studies – both impact evaluations and process evaluations – and systematic reviews. Evidence may be filtered by features such as study design, country or region, and target population. The session will introduce users to the youth employment evidence and gap map and show users how to find other evidence and gap maps (including a global map of maps, which is currently being updated).

Maps make studies available in an accessible manner. The next step in knowledge brokering are evidence-based decision-making products (EBDMPs) which allow decision-makers to make evidence-informed decisions without having to read the underlying research evidence. International best practice is for EBDMPs to be based on systematic reviews. The session will present evidence toolkits, including a [preliminary version of a toolkit for youth employment in Africa](#). Comparative insights on youth employment interventions in different regions will be presented.

The Global Development Network supports high quality, policy relevant research by developing country researchers. All the work presented in this session has been undertaken in collaboration with research teams in Africa and Asia. The EGM is produced by a team at Makerere University, Uganda, and the meta-analysis underlying the toolkit was undertaken by a team including researchers from South Africa and the Philippines. The map of maps is being updated by a research team from China.

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**Tuesday, May 14, 2024**

**May 14, 09:00 - 10:00 AM EDT**

**Supercharge your Mission's Comparative Advantage Story with Data**

Hosted by the USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management (PLR)

USAID-Hosted Session

USAID Internal Only

**Members of the USAID workforce can view registration and join information for all sessions open to USAID internal audiences (as well as public sessions) on the [USAID Internal Events calendar](#).**

USAID Mission donor coordination and program office champions, in partnership with the PLR Development Finance and Policy Analytics teams, will share how access to and understanding of USAID data and analytics resources have improved their relationships across the U.S. Government (USG) and beyond. Learn what questions to ask and how to access the right

resources to tell your Mission's story and boost your comparative advantages in conversations with other donors, external stakeholders, or between USG agencies.

### Speakers

- ★ Elise Egan, Sr. Policy Advisor, USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management (PLR) Office of Development Cooperation
- ★ Kent Freeze, Sr. Data Analyst, PLR Office of Policy Implementation Assessment
- ★ Mark Skeith, Sr. Policy Analyst, PLR Office of Policy Implementation Assessment
- ★ Brennan Ireland, Data Analyst, PLR Office of Policy Implementation Assessment
- ★ Ryan Carroll, Data Analyst, PLR Office of Policy Implementation Assessment

### Resources

- None added yet.

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**May 14, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM EDT**

## **Leveraging Rigorous Learning Efforts for Results: Insights from USAID/EI Salvador and Central America-Mexico Regional Mission**

Hosted by USAID/ El Salvador and Central America-Mexico Regional Mission

USAID-Hosted Session

USAID Internal Only

**Members of the USAID workforce can view registration and join information for all sessions open to USAID internal audiences (as well as public sessions) on the [USAID Internal Events calendar](#).**

Are you facing obstacles in attaining rigorously-derived results within USAID Missions? This session offers a promising solution by showcasing three transformative learning initiatives in El Salvador. First, the Office of Democracy and Governance will discuss plans to swiftly inform migration programming through A/B testing in collaboration with the Office of the Chief Economist. Second, the Office of Democracy and Governance and the Office of Global Trends and Technology (DRG Bureau) will present a study to rigorously measure the effectiveness of pro-democracy messaging across a variety of audiences. Lastly, the Office of Democracy and Governance together with the Evidence and Learning Team (DRG Bureau) will describe a rigorous performance evaluation of journalism networks across various Central American nations, offering invaluable insights into democracies of diverse types. Join us to explore how these initiatives can inform your approach to measuring the results of development work with rigor.

### Speakers

- ★ Andrew Greer, Deputy Director, Democracy and Governance Office, USAID/EI Salvador-Central America-Mexico (ES-CAM)
- ★ Megan McGuire, Senior Advisor, USAID Office of the Chief Economist
- ★ Daniel Sabet, Senior Learning Advisor, USAID Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
- ★ Christopher Grady, Senior Advisor, USAID Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
- ★ Farida Ibrahim, Program Officer, Democracy and Governance Office, USAID/ES-CAM
- ★ Carlos Quiteño, Development Assistance Specialist (Monitoring and Evaluation), Democracy and Governance Office, USAID/ES-CAM
- ★ Claudia Martinez, Project Management Specialist, Transparency and Governance, Democracy and Governance Office, USAID/ES-CAM
- ★ Beatrice Reaud, Senior Advisor, Office of Global Trends and Technology, USAID Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance

## Resources

- None added yet.

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**Wednesday, May 15, 2024**

**May 15, 10:00 - 11:30 AM EDT**

### **Direct Local Partners Know What Works for Development: Evidence from the Local Works Program**

Hosted by the USAID Bureau for Inclusive Growth, Partnerships and Innovation's Local Faith and Transformative Partnerships Hub

USAID-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

**Register here:** [https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_yTI65SkhSTucUeUDI8-VLO](https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_yTI65SkhSTucUeUDI8-VLO)

USAID's Local Works program—the Agency's flagship locally led development program— and participating Missions are demonstrating the Agency's ability to shift power to local actors to lead their own development. Committed to advancing the state of practice, Local Works will share findings from a recent research case study and evaluation, and how those findings are applied to support direct awards to local partners. Panelists from USAID/Washington, USAID Missions and a local partner will share their perspectives of how direct awards and relationship with USAID supports development outcomes.

#### **Speakers**

- ★ Riad Berdayi, Project Management Specialist, USAID/Morocco
- ★ Leila Belahcen, Acquisition and Assistance Specialist, USAID/Morocco
- ★ Jovana Mehandzic, Deputy Director, USAID/Serbia
- ★ Djordje Boljanovic, Program Management Specialist, USAID/Serbia
- ★ Dina Milovanovic, M&E Specialist - USAID/Serbia
- ★ Amanda Satterwhite, Senior Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Specialist, USAID Bureau for Inclusive Growth, Partnerships and Innovation Local, Faith, and Transformative Partnerships Hub
- ★ Miriam Santivañez, Principal Investigator, Management Science for Health - Perú

#### **Resources**

- [Local Works Morocco Case Study](#)
- [Local Works Serbia Evaluation](#)
- [MSH Peru research award](#)

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**Thursday, May 16, 2024**

**May 16, 08:00 - 9:30 AM EDT**

### **Lessons Learned for Evidence Use in Mid-Course Stocktakings**

Hosted by the USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management

USAID-Hosted Session

USAID Internal Only

Members of the USAID workforce can view registration and join information for all sessions open to USAID internal audiences (as well as public sessions) on the [USAID Internal Events calendar](#).

The purpose of mid-course stocktakings (MCSTs) is to pause and reflect on a Mission's Regional or Country Development Cooperation Strategy (R/CDCS) as a whole - what's working, what's not, what has been learned so far, what may have changed in the context - and apply this new knowledge and evidence to make adjustments to strategy implementation as needed. Missions embarking on their MCST process commonly face the challenge of identifying, analyzing, and using the right data to inform their learning questions and priorities. This peer learning event is an opportunity to share lessons learned from Missions for evidence use during MCSTs, including use of learning agendas, Performance Management Plan indicators, contextual analysis, evaluation findings, and stakeholder consultations.

### Speakers

- ★ Speakers from USAID/Zambia, USAID/Indonesia, and USAID/Morocco
- ★ *Additional speakers to be announced*

### Resources

- None added yet.

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**May 16, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EDT**

## Mapping Evidence to Accelerate Progress on the Partnership Pillar of the Sustainable Development Goals

Hosted by the Independent Evaluation Office, United Nations Development Programme

External Guest-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

Register here: [https://undp.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvceCprjwvGtbRLCyeq\\_XCA-SR4ygVAvn2](https://undp.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvceCprjwvGtbRLCyeq_XCA-SR4ygVAvn2)

The limited progress with the SDGs and the reduced time available for their accomplishment require the international community to have a better idea of what works, what doesn't, and under what conditions. The [Global SDG Synthesis Coalition](#) is an unprecedented global initiative with multiple partners to synthesize evidence and generate lessons and insights on accelerating the development of the SDGs organized around its 5 pillars and principles (Partnership, Peace, People, Prosperity, and Planet). The first synthesis was on the Partnership Pillar and mapped evidence available about "what works, what doesn't, and under what conditions" when it comes to trade, finance, technology, capacity development and systemic issues. Along with the [Key lessons and Insights](#), the [synthesis](#) has generated two evidence and gap maps (EGMs), an interactive visual representation of the available evidence base that can: i) be used by policy makers in areas where evidence is largely available; and b) be used by researchers and evaluators to fill the gaps.

The Coalition undertook a rigorous, transparent, and systematic review approach to collating evidence that worked to accelerate the progress toward SDG 17. This entailed undertaking comprehensive and wide-ranging searches from multiple sources to find relevant evaluative evidence. Evaluations were then scrutinized for their relevance and appraised for quality. The included evidence was then coded and grouped into five key areas: trade, finance, technology, systemic issues, and capacity-building. About 21,000 studies found through the academic databases search, 183 impact evaluations (were identified as eligible for inclusion and generated the [EGM](#) on what works to accelerate progress on the Partnership Pillar. Also 3,396 evaluations published by UN evaluation offices and other bi- and multi-lateral development agencies were reviewed, and the Coalition found 70 that met the inclusion criteria. that informed the second [EGM](#) on *how* partnerships modalities work to accelerate progress on the SDGs.

The work of the Coalition can be critical in providing the required evidence to help the global community accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. Access to this evidence can support stakeholders to make evidence-based decisions about



investments in initiatives that can accelerate progress on the SDGs. However, the evidence base currently available, while vast, is incomplete. The included evaluations had a notable gap in the considerations of those most likely to be left behind (e.g., women and youth) and impact of initiatives on low-income countries. Therefore, the Coalition calls for more rigorous mixed-method evaluations shifting the focus towards the most likely to be left behind and different geographical contexts, in addition to macro trends.

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**Friday, May 17, 2024**

**May 17, 09:00 - 10:30 AM EDT**

**Using Data: Building Resilience to Shocks**

Hosted by Relief International

External Guest-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

**Register here:** [https://ri-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_xAAmWS0HTeuKychh7PUCIw](https://ri-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xAAmWS0HTeuKychh7PUCIw)

Relief International employs advanced Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) systems, integrating digital data collection, live dashboards, data visualization, and alert systems to respond swiftly to crises and adapt programs to emerging needs. Participants in this session will learn how these systems enable Relief International and can inform USAID's and other cross-sectoral approaches to effectively address sudden shocks and enhance resilience at all levels.

- In Lebanon, Relief International's alert system played a crucial role during a cholera outbreak, ensuring timely and accurate response.
- In Syria, data visualization identified health trends, enabling our organization to provide targeted support such as treating scabies cases and addressing anemia through community sessions.
- In Türkiye, these tools facilitated the rapid response to the 2023 earthquakes, overseeing operations across multiple locations effectively.

Through these systems, Relief International aims to enhance resilience and promote long-term health and well-being.

The conversation will be moderated by Relief International's Chief Program Officer, Najia Hyder, and senior leaders from Relief International operations in Lebanon, Syria, and Türkiye.

**May 17, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EDT**

**Evidence-based approaches to building small-scale farmers' climate resiliency**

Hosted by Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), MIT

External Guest-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

**Register here:** [https://mit.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_HxqduoOWTWSpE6y9hj74Lw##/registration](https://mit.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HxqduoOWTWSpE6y9hj74Lw##/registration)

A key component of USAID's approach to climate adaptation and resilience for food and water security is centered on support for small-scale farmers in low- and middle-income countries. More frequent extreme weather events, like rainfall shocks, and slow-onset change, like warmer and drier conditions, are reducing farmers' crop harvest stability. Global food production exacerbates these impacts, emitting approximately one quarter of greenhouse gas emissions annually. Building

small-scale farmers' resilience is complex, and stewarding environmental health and enhancing agricultural productivity have often been seen as at odds with each other in policy decisions.

J-PAL will present findings from twenty rigorous and policy-relevant randomized and quasi-experimental evaluations of risk-reducing, climate-resilient agricultural technologies and practices from around the world. The presentation will share examples of findings from specific studies, and identify lessons across evaluations in multiple contexts that can inform USAID's approach to supporting small-scale farmers in adapting to the evolving challenges of climate change.

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**Monday, May 20, 2024**

**May 20, 09:30 - 10:30 AM EDT**

**From Vision to Action: Reflecting on Five Years of USAID's Private Sector Engagement**

Hosted by the USAID Bureau for Inclusive Growth, Partnerships and Innovation Private Sector Engagement Hub

USAID-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

Register here: [https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_ICjxB6nnRN6jGIV2WIOQ7A](https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_ICjxB6nnRN6jGIV2WIOQ7A)

The session will cover USAID's key Private Sector Engagement (PSE) successes, challenges, and lessons learned since the launch of the PSE Policy in 2018. These findings are based on two PSE Hub-led research activities: the [PSE Policy Implementation Assessment \(PIA\)](#), which assesses the extent to which the Agency has implemented the principles of the [PSE policy](#), and the [PSE Learning Synthesis](#), a meta-analysis of USAID's high-quality PSE evidence. This presentation will be used as the basis for a discussion with an Implementing Partner, USAID PSE specialists, and other PSE stakeholders.

#### Speakers

- ★ Lesley Hsu, Organizational Learning Specialist, USAID Bureau for Inclusive Growth, Partnerships and Innovation Private Sector Engagement Hub
- ★ Eduardo Velazquez, MEL Specialist, USAID Bureau for Inclusive Growth, Partnerships and Innovation Private Sector Engagement Hub
- ★ Gina Cady, Advisor for Health Electrification, Power Africa, USAID Bureau for Africa
- ★ *Additional speakers to be announced*

#### Resources

- None added yet.

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**May 20, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EDT**

**Do Better Managers Bribe Less? A Field Experiment on Management Training and Corruption in Vietnam**

Hosted by the Duke Center for International Development

External Guest-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

Register here: [https://duke.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwufuCprTorH9VMTL4kHOu9LfmLCebSr\\_NA](https://duke.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjwufuCprTorH9VMTL4kHOu9LfmLCebSr_NA)

Our session is aimed at answering the Agency Learning Question regarding anti-corruption, specifically offering a multisectoral approach to address regulatory bribery. We propose to present the results of a multi-pronged study that culminated in a [randomized controlled trial](#) (RCT) funded by the [USAID-Laser Pulse Initiative](#) in Vietnam. Work on the relationship between regulation and bribery generally treats businesses as victims of malfeasance by politicians or bureaucrats. In this session, we will challenge this consensus by presenting a theory of change illustrating how poorly managed firms may initiate bribes to gatekeepers either as part of a strategy to avoid regulatory compliance or because lax internal controls allow employees to independently bribe for personal gain. We will then present tests of these hypotheses, describing two linked investigations. The session will involve three components. First, we will present survey data from close to 200,000 firms in 154 economies to demonstrate that a global negative relationship exists between bribe payments and both productivity and management quality, measured by the [World Management Survey](#). Second, we explore the causality of this relationship by discussing the results of a USAID-funded randomized evaluation of a firm level training intervention in Vietnam. We will [present evidence](#) that firm training on management and internal controls training led to dramatic reductions in both the scale and scope of corruption. Firms in the management and internal controls training were 33 percentage points less likely to bribe (75% to 42%) and had one-third smaller bribe amounts, saving \$307 over the placebo group in the month before the Endline survey. In the final section of this session, we will discuss how these findings help guide scalable, private sector-driven interventions to improve firm efficiency and productivity as well as broader economic, environmental, and health outcomes.

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**Tuesday, May 21, 2024**

**May 21, 09:00 - 10:00 AM EDT**

### **Race, Ethnicity, and USAID's Work: A guide to thoughtful integration of racial and ethnic equity in USAID programming**

Hosted by the USAID Bureaus for Planning, Learning and Resource Management (PLR) and Inclusive Growth, Partnerships and Innovation (IPI)

USAID-Hosted Session

USAID Internal Only

**Members of the USAID workforce can view registration and join information for all sessions open to USAID internal audiences (as well as public sessions) on the [USAID Internal Events calendar](#).**

Moderated by a PLR Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Champion, this session will share findings from exploratory research with 6 USAID Missions on Racial and Ethnic Equity (REE) practices and preview the newly developed REE tools and guidance for USAID staff in all technical areas. This session will answer the questions: Why should USAID be thinking about racial and ethnic equity? What can we learn from Missions' experience in working towards REE in programming, strategy, and operations? How do we facilitate thoughtful and safe conversations for purposeful and effective integration of racial and ethnic equity into USAID programming?

#### **Speakers**

- ★ Brioni James, Senior Advisor for Inclusive Development, USAID Bureau for Inclusive Growth, Partnerships and Innovation Inclusive Development Hub
- ★ Leslie Dwyer, MSI Lead Researcher
- ★ Shannon Griswold, Senior Learning Advisor, USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management Office of Learning, Evaluation and Research
- ★ Tiffani Scales, DEIA Advisor, USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management

#### **Resources**

- None added yet.

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**Wednesday, May 22, 2024**

**May 22, 8:30 - 10:00 AM EDT**

### **Where Partnering Locally In Non-Permissive Environments Works**

Hosted by the USAID Bureau for Inclusive Growth, Partnerships and Innovation Local Faith and Transformative Partnerships Hub

USAID-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

**Register here:** [https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_WI0HJhjwSjOye-Dm0OMMBg](https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_WI0HJhjwSjOye-Dm0OMMBg)

USAID's Local Works program and participating Missions are shifting power to local actors in non-permissive environments. The program is capturing learning on how local actors adaptively manage and find creative ways of advancing local humanitarian and development objectives in complex environments where uncertainty, instability, inaccessibility, or insecurity constrain USAID's ability to operate. USAID Mission staff and implementing partners will share recent evidence and experience on how local partnerships can be effective to support development outcomes where international actors are limited.

#### **Speakers**

- ★ Haris Kusmic, Project Management Specialist, USAID Bureau for Inclusive Growth, Partnerships and Innovation Local, Faith and Transformative Partnerships Hub
- ★ Nehal Sanghavi, Private Enterprise Officer, USAID/Burma
- ★ Gunjan Veda, Global Secretary & Executive Director, The Movement for Community-led Development

#### **Resources**

- None added yet.

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**May 22, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM EDT**

### **MEL Innovations to Establish an Evidence Base for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization**

Hosted by the USAID Bureaus for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization and Planning, Learning and Resource Management

USAID-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

**Register here:** [https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_3hNwebQARKG6E\\_sehIKfRg](https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_3hNwebQARKG6E_sehIKfRg)

Join a dynamic session to learn about cutting edge innovations in the application of monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) that are building the evidence base for conflict prevention and stabilization. The Global Fragility Act and The U.S. Strategy to Prevent Conflict and Promote Stability (SPCPS) highlights an adaptive management approach that uses feedback loops to improve implementation of an interagency strategy across multiple countries based on emerging learning. The Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization (CPS) will share about the strategic MEL effort for SPCPS, as well as exciting learning and evaluation efforts in USAID Missions. Leading academics, including Christopher Blattman from The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts at the University of Chicago, will join a panel discussion with USAID practitioners to discuss MEL approaches in complex, fragile contexts that have strengthened conflict prevention and stabilization, and are building a growing evidence base to inform our collective work.

## Speakers

- ★ Kevin Melton, Policy and Partnerships Division Team Lead, Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization
- ★ Lauren Hershey, Global Fragility Act MEL Specialist, USAID Bureau for Conflict Prevention and Stabilization
- ★ Manogodjon (Adja) Binaté, Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Specialist, USAID/West Africa
- ★ Danice Brown Guzmán, Associate Director, Evidence and Learning, Pulte Institute for Global Development at the University of Notre Dame
- ★ Chris Blattman, Ramalee E. Pearson Professor of Global Conflict Studies, Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts at the University of Chicago
- ★ *Additional speakers to be announced*

## Resources

- None added yet.

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**Thursday, May 23, 2024**

**May 23, 9:00 - 10:30 AM EDT**

### **Interrogating Information Integrity: Insights on What Works**

Hosted by the USAID Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance

USAID-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

**Register here:** [https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_nxYhY3MvTu6y0NhZcbx-Fg](https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_nxYhY3MvTu6y0NhZcbx-Fg)

Information integrity - the accuracy, consistency and reliability of information - has become increasingly critical to the successful functioning of democratic institutions and processes. This session will share findings and resources from the literature review and the research database to inform programming in this space. Check out [the infographic](#) along with the [Literature Review](#) and the [Research Database](#).

## Speakers

- ★ Jessica Gottlieb, Associate Professor, University of Houston Hobby School of Public Affairs; Democratic Erosion Consortium
- ★ Natalia Bueno, Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Emory

## Resources

- [Information Ecosystem Infographic Summary](#)
- [Interventions to Counter Misinformation: Lessons from the Global North and Applications to the Global South](#)
- [Misinformation Intervention Database](#)

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**May 23, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EDT**

### **What works, for whom, and in which contexts? Using cost-effectiveness evidence in the real world**

Hosted by the USAID Office of the Chief Economist

USAID-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

Register here: [https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_VljbkH-BSiO-Fmaw89E0Xg](https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_VljbkH-BSiO-Fmaw89E0Xg)

There are many alternative approaches to achieving a given development objective. How do we choose from among multiple viable programs? Cost-effectiveness evidence can help us understand which interventions are most likely to have an impact on an outcome of interest and give us the biggest bang for our buck. In this session, the Office of the Chief Economist will discuss how cost-effectiveness evidence can be used to advance development objectives for particular target populations, and used to advance the Agency's inclusive development goals. Even once an intervention has been shortlisted based on its likely cost-effectiveness for a particular population, decision-makers still need to assess local conditions and consult with stakeholders to make design decisions. Speakers will highlight how global evidence can help to highlight which contextual features drive high or low cost-effectiveness of evaluated programs, and what it looks like practically to use context-specific data and local expertise alongside cost-effectiveness data. This session will provide a general overview of when and how to use cost-effectiveness evidence, building on case studies of two sectors (basic education and gender-equitable agriculture) where the Office of the Chief Economist has partnered with Missions and Technical Bureaus to review available evidence and make concrete recommendations.

### Speakers

- ★ Dean Karlan, USAID Agency Chief Economist
- ★ Caitlin Tulloch, Deputy Director and Senior Advisor for Evidence Use, USAID Office of the Chief Economist
- ★ *Additional speakers to be announced!*

### Resources

- None added yet.

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**Friday, May 24, 2024**

**May 24, 09:00 - 10:15 AM EDT**

### **Local Solutions, Global Impact: How African Organizations Lead in Building Evidence Systems for Inclusive Development**

Hosted by the African Centre for Equitable Development (ACED), Centre for Rapid Evidence Synthesis (ACRES), and African Institute for Policy Development (AFIDEP)

External Guest-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

Register here: [https://r4d-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_2FO7-RGTQzmlvrzlwyl6og](https://r4d-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2FO7-RGTQzmlvrzlwyl6og)

The Africa LEEPS ([Learning together to advance Evidence and Equity in Policymaking to achieve the SDGs](#)) Partnership is an African-led initiative that aims to strengthen knowledge translation – how evidence is produced, translated, and used in policymaking in sub-Saharan Africa with a focus on promoting gender equity at all stages of the policymaking process. LEEPS is funded by the [International Development Research Centre](#), William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, and Robert Bosch Stiftung Foundation.

Two regional hubs lead technical and policy engagement activities in the LEEPS Partnership. The West Africa Regional Hub is led by the [African Centre for Equitable Development](#) (ACED) and [Initiative prospective Agricole et rurale \(IPAR\)](#), and the East Africa Regional Hub is co-led by a consortium of partners led by [Centre for Rapid Evidence Synthesis](#) (ACRES) and the African Institute for Policy Development (AFIDEP). The regional hubs are developing and testing different approaches for promoting consistent and equitable use of evidence in policymaking with a focus on strengthening capacity and evidence systems. The hubs will support knowledge translation efforts across different SDG priorities, including health, environment



and climate change, and governance, documenting how these efforts are influencing policy or program change, and building an evidence base for the most effective approaches.

In two rounds of discussion panelists will explore:

- Locally led approaches to strengthening knowledge translation in Africa
  - What does a locally led evidence partnership look like? How is the partnership centering country-level research priorities and the leadership of proximate partner organizations?
  - What are we learning about effective knowledge translation approaches to facilitate evidence use in government policymaking? How do differing cultural and political contexts shape knowledge translation strategies? Why is it critical for evidence system building to be locally led?
- Collaborative cross-region learning as an approach to jointly solve problems and facilitate complex evidence system strengthening efforts

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**May 24, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM EDT**

**Best Bets: Emerging Opportunities for Impact at Scale**

Hosted by Innovations for Poverty Action

External Guest-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

**Register here:** [https://poverty-action.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_pbP3V3S2Srm7bymViH5Ryw](https://poverty-action.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pbP3V3S2Srm7bymViH5Ryw)

Since the early 2000s, the global development community has taken an increasing interest in using rigorous evidence to help address global economic inequality, and increase the well-being of vulnerable populations around the globe. Yet the number of evidence-based programs that are operating at scale is still relatively small. In the report [Best Bets: Emerging Opportunities for Impact Scale](#), Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) highlights 14 emerging innovations across 10 sectors (including climate change, crime and violence, women’s economic empowerment, education and more) classified as having substantial rigorous evidence behind them, but requiring additional investments in scale-up research, policy work, and coalition-building to get to scale. These are IPA’s best bets for the next generation of evidence-based programs operating at scale.

To identify the fourteen most promising emerging innovations, IPA conducted a review of the impact and potential scalability of hundreds of studies within and outside its portfolio, looking at the quality and amount of evidence along with the cost and other scalability factors. Nearly 50 evidence-based interventions that are poised to alter the development landscape and improve lives were identified at different levels along the path-to-scale. In this panel, IPA will share the process and findings from the evidence review underlying the Best Bets report and feature the high-quality evidence, pending research questions and required policy work for the best bets aligned with USAID’s learning priorities: Payment for ecosystem services (responding to climate change), and Couples’ counseling, soft-skills training and cognitive behavioral therapy as examples of partnerships with the private sector, local and faith partners (partnering for sustainability).

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**Monday, May 27, 2024**

*No sessions scheduled - Memorial Day holiday (USA)*

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**Tuesday, May 28, 2024**

**May 28, 09:30 - 11:00 AM EDT**

## **Nothing About Us Without Us: Advancing USAID's Localization Agenda through Partnership with Local Religious Actors**

Hosted by the USAID Bureau for Inclusive Growth, Partnerships and Innovation Local Faith and Transformative Partnerships Hub

USAID-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

Register here: [https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_cRLK\\_VtqOymYYlLhJTh-VQ](https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_cRLK_VtqOymYYlLhJTh-VQ)

Embracing the spirit of “Nothing about us, without us,” religious actors are key agents of change in their communities. USAID’s engagement with local religious communities and faith-based organizations is critical not only to sustain development progress, but also to provide chances to learn and do more. [Building Bridges in Development: USAID’s Strategic Religious Engagement Policy](#) promotes opportunities for mutual understanding and learning between USAID and religious communities, and encourages staff to consult established research on the role of religious engagement in development, particularly those conducted by local researchers and/or in local languages, to identify emerging research relevant to the geographic region and/or sector where they work. This session will showcase evidence-based research on the role that religious actors play in advancing locally-led development outcomes, highlight active investments that the donor community is making to shift power to these actors and identify ways that USAID Missions can apply these lessons in new and ongoing activities.

### **Speakers**

- ★ Coming soon!

### **Resources**

- None added yet.

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**May 28, 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM EDT**

## **Designing Programs for People and Planet: Lessons Learned from Cross-Sectoral Impact Evaluations**

Hosted by the USAID Bureau for Resilience, Environment and Food Security Center for Climate Positive Development and Center for Natural Environment

USAID-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

Register here: [https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_d2pjO\\_UsTJKpt9jmAoIjkg](https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_d2pjO_UsTJKpt9jmAoIjkg)

Under what conditions do cross-sectoral development programs result in better outcomes for people and the planet? USAID’s Health, Ecosystems and Agriculture for Resilient, Thriving Societies (HEARTH) program is addressing this key question through two ambitious impact evaluations in Zambia and West Africa. During this session, we will discuss initial results and lessons learned designing impact evaluations that examine the linkages among climate, food security, health, governance, and biodiversity conservation.

### **Speakers**

- ★ Robert Cohen, Senior Data Scientist, Bureau for Global Health/Office of the Assistant Administrator
- ★ Sara Carlson, Senior Biodiversity Advisor, USAID Bureau for Resilience, Environment and Food Security Center for Natural Environment, Biodiversity Division
- ★ Jassiel M’soka, Natural Resource Management Specialist, USAID/Zambia

- ★ Heather Huntington, Professor of Practice, Executive Director, PDRI-DevLap, University of Pennsylvania
- ★ Christina Seybolt, Senior Technical Specialist, Social Impact

#### Resources

- [HEARTH M&E Toolkit](#)
- [HEARTH Learning Agenda](#)
- [Eastern Kafue Nature Alliance Impact Evaluation Feasibility Assessment](#)

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## Wednesday, May 29, 2024

**May 29, 09:30 - 11:00 AM EDT**

### **World Bank World Development Report 2024: Economic Growth in Middle Income Countries**

Hosted by the USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management

USAID-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

Register here: [https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_DKDFhz3sRY2yFLXu785hjQ](https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_DKDFhz3sRY2yFLXu785hjQ)

[World Development Report 2024](#) explores the challenges of economic growth in middle-income countries. Using the World Bank's income classification, the world currently comprises 26 low-income, 108 middle-income, and 83 high-income economies. With about 75 percent of the world's population, middle-income countries now account for about 40 percent of global economic activity, 50 percent of the world's extremely poor people, and 60 percent of global CO2 emissions. During the last three decades, major advances have occurred in our thinking about economic growth, perhaps none more relevant for middle-income economies than [modern Schumpeterian growth theory](#). In this session, Dr. Somik Lall, Staff Director of WDR 2024, will share key insights from the report and welcome discussion on its findings, including: how development in middle income countries differs from development in low- and high-income countries; how forces of creation, preservation and destruction can be balanced to speed up progress; and what middle-income countries can do to join the ranks of high-income countries, including policy imperatives of keeping markets competitive, making elite echelons contestable, and engineering a steady energy transition.

#### Speakers

- ★ Joshua Kaufman, Senior Advisor, USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management
- ★ Dr. Somik Lall, Staff Director of World Bank WDR 2024 and Economic Adviser in the Office of the World Bank Group Chief Economist

#### Resources

- [World Development Report 2024](#)

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## Thursday, May 30, 2024

**May 30, 09:00 - 10:30 AM EDT**

### **Closing Agency Learning and Evidence Month: What Works and What's Next?**

Hosted by the USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning and Resource Management

USAID-Hosted Session

Open to Public - Registration Required

**Register here:** [https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_BQRk2wIHRvylMuPEnv4abQ](https://usaid.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_BQRk2wIHRvylMuPEnv4abQ)

We will review the highlights from Agency Learning and Evidence Month: What evidence is driving development and humanitarian programming choices and activity design? USAID has invited Agency leaders and leading think tanks to reflect on Agency Learning and Evidence Month and share where they recommend USAID focuses our efforts in the coming year, based on the current state of the evidence.

### **Speakers**

- ★ Roman Napoli, Deputy Assistant Administrator, USAID Bureau for Planning, Learning, and Resource Management
- ★ Isobel Coleman, Deputy Administrator, USAID (*to be confirmed*)
- ★ Maria Barron, Mission Director, USAID/Niger
- ★ Cindy Huang, Director, USAID Office of Policy
- ★ Shannon Green, Assistant to the Administrator, Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG)
- ★ George Ingram, Senior Fellow, Brookings Institution
- ★ Ruth Levine, Vice President, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation

### **Resources**

- None added yet.

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