

**STIP/M&E Event Summary**  
**Hosted by USAID/Central Asia**  
**July 13-15, 2015**

**Overview**

This facilitated workshop explored the intersection between science, technology, innovation, and partnerships (STIP) and monitoring and evaluation (M&E), the first time this nexus has been explored formally at USAID. The event provided an opportunity for participants to jointly learn about and co-create solutions to the challenges and opportunities in the M&E for STIP and STIP for M&E spaces. This convening is helping to solve global development challenges more effectively, thereby supporting USAID's goals and priorities.

**Background**

Since the elevation of STIP as a USAID-wide focus, several Asia Missions have hosted conferences and trainings building on topical areas. Examples include developing partnerships, engaging the private sector, scaling innovation, incorporating STIP approaches like mobile technology and futures analysis into Mission processes, and collaborating with the USAID Global Development Lab. During these meetings, the topic of how to best monitor and evaluate STIP programming was raised on several occasions. However, due to other discussion and training priorities, meaningful Washington-Mission engagement on this had been brief and largely postponed. As the Agency progresses its STIP initiatives, there is both a growing need and an opportunity to learn from what works well and to develop best practices and guidance for the M&E of STIP programming and the harnessing of STIP for M&E.

**Target Audience**

In an effort to advance this important Agency priority, this three-day workshop targeted key Agency stakeholders from the field and Washington (including program officers, M&E experts, STIP leaders, and The Lab), as well as USAID/Central Asia personnel. Six field missions participated.

**Structure**

Days 1-2 focused on the M&E of STIP programming, starting with challenges and opportunities encountered and case studies from the field and Washington. On Day 2, participants worked together to develop best practices and concrete recommendations to feed into guidance, in particular around Results Frameworks, Indicators, and Evaluations. Day 3 featured STIP tools and approaches to facilitate better M&E and project management. The event concluded by addressing avenues for application and next steps for M&E and STIP in the Agency. Key outcomes were captured in summary sessions, and are highlighted in this document. Across all three days, attendees shared experiences and lessons learned, identified challenges and gaps, and made recommendations regarding how the Agency can improve its approach to STIP and M&E.

**Objectives**

- Understand how STIP and M&E each support the other to increase development impact;
- Highlight best practices and case studies at the STIP/M&E interface from USAID field missions and Washington, including how data are collected, analyzed, disseminated, and utilized in terms of the M&E of STIP activities;
- Identify challenges in the M&E of STIP space, including tools or resources that are needed; and
- Develop recommendations to increase robustness and effectiveness of STIP for M&E across USAID.

**Key Sessions**

- Current State of M&E for STIP

- Results Frameworks for STIP Programs
- Indicators for STIP Programs
- Strengthening the STIP Theory of Change
- Building the M&E for STIP Toolkit
- Using STIP to Enhance M&E and Performance Management

### Takeaways

1. *Build USAID STIP M&E Community of Practice (COP)*: To advance effectively STIP and the STIP/M&E nexus, fostering community is essential, with participation from Washington and Missions. Within this community, and with others in the Agency, content should be shared, such as innovative and “first-mover” approaches to STIP/M&E (e.g., Development Objectives, creative resource leveraging, and custom STIP/M&E indicators). This COP should be action-oriented, working together on priority STIP M&E tasks (e.g., F standard indicator revision), and could do so through a virtual TDY, for example.
2. *Integrate Further STIP/M&E across USAID*: To leverage this important tool for development work, it is essential to help colleagues label current STIP work as such, identify STIP opportunities, understand that STIP is not an “add-on”, and provide Agency-wide resources in the STIP/M&E nexus. Examples include weaving STIP into Agency programming in an effective manner, such as clarifying “innovation” in mission RFAs (defining it as “better, faster, cheaper, more sustainable”), and requiring STIP indicators for new awards.
3. *Champion “Spatial Thinking”*: To improve program design, decrease unintended consequences, and tell stories within and outside of USAID, geospatial tools and spatial thinking should be championed. Attendees noted the importance that each person act as a STIP/M&E Champion within their pocket of the Agency.
4. *Increase STIP M&E Agency-Wide Resources*: To support USAID priorities, as well as event takeaways, The Lab should create a STIP M&E Toolkit or One-Stop Shop for STIP M&E resources, including databases, individual bureau resources, and development partner knowledge.

### Next Steps

1. Develop USAID STIP 101 Online Training (Lab/AE)
2. Launch STIP/M&E Agency-wide Resource site (Lab/PSP)
3. Modify the STIP Theory of Change based on event discourse (Lab/EIA)
4. Work through the COP and “Virtual TDY” to revise relevant F standard indicators (All, Lab lead)
5. Attend and support December 2015 STIP Event (RDMA)
6. Build a similar training module for individual missions/regional convenings, expanding to include implementing partners.

### Current Resources

All of the workshop presentations and notes can be found in [this](#) Google Folder. A link to the STIP M&E resource site will be shared with the Agency once available. Other Agency resources that were referenced during the workshop include: [ProgramNet](#); [Learning Lab](#); [Agency M&E Mechanisms](#), including the MECAP M&E capacity building support mechanism; [GeoCenter](#); [Field Notes](#); [EADS](#).