DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GOVERNANCE—LEARNING, EVALUATION, AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY II (LER II)

Quarterly Report, January to March 2022

APRIL 2022

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## ACRONYMS

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<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>AT</td>
<td>Assessment team</td>
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<td>COR</td>
<td>Contracting Officer’s Representative</td>
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<td>CSM</td>
<td>Civil Society and Media</td>
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<td>DEC</td>
<td>Development Experience Clearinghouse</td>
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<td>DEPP</td>
<td>Democratic Elections and Political Process</td>
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<td>DG</td>
<td>Democracy and Governance</td>
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<td>DO</td>
<td>Development objective</td>
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<td>DOPP</td>
<td>Domestic Oversight of Political Processes</td>
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<td>DRG</td>
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<td>EA3</td>
<td>Electoral Assistance After Action</td>
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<td>E&amp;L</td>
<td>Evidence and Learning</td>
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<td>HRA</td>
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<td>Human Rights Strengthening Mechanism</td>
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<td>IE</td>
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<td>Implementing partner</td>
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<td>LER II</td>
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<td>MPU</td>
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NCS  Natural climate solutions
PCI  Policy, Coordination, and Integration
PEA  Political economy analysis
PEAP  Post-Evaluation Action Plan
PNG  Papua New Guinea
PTI  Political Transition and Inclusion
ROL  Rule of law
RRM  Rapid Response Mechanism
SAF  Strategic Assessment Framework
SBC  Social and behavior change
SI  Social Impact
UMA  Utilization Measurement Analysis
USAID  United States Agency for International Development
W PPL  Women's Political Participation and Leadership
INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes activities conducted by The Cloudburst Group (Cloudburst) during the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2022 (January 2022–March 2022) and describes the status of all tasking requests received under the Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG) Learning, Evaluation, and Research Activity II (LER II) contract. Active tasks in this quarter include the following.

CONTINUOUS TASKINGS:

1. LER II CB.001: Tasking Management
2. LER II CB.002: Dissemination

TASKINGS FROM YEAR 2 THAT CARRIED OVER INTO YEAR 4:

3. LER II CB.017: Nigeria Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) Assessment
4. LER II CB.022: Civil Society and Media (CSM) Media Assessment Toolkit Update

TASKINGS FROM YEAR 3 THAT CARRIED OVER INTO YEAR 4:

5. LER II CB.023: Impact Evaluation (IE) Retrospective
7. LER II CB.027: Ukraine Health Reform Support (HRS) Midterm Performance Evaluation
8. LER II CB.029: Justice, Rights, and Security (JRS) Rule of Law (ROL) Videos
9. LER II CB.030: Côte D’Ivoire Political Transition and Inclusion (PTI) Final Evaluation
10. LER II CB.031: Retrospective of United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Response to Pandemic-Enabled Democratic Backsliding
11. LER II CB.032: Ukraine Media Program in Ukraine (MPU) Midterm Performance Evaluation
12. LER II CB.033: Liberia Civic Education IE
14. LER II CB.035: Evidence and Learning (E&L) Utilization Measurement Analysis (UMA)
15. LER II CB.036: Zimbabwe Social Movements Evaluation/Assessment
16. LER II CB.037: E&L Mission Use of Evidence (MUSE)
17. LER II CB.038: Ukraine Domestic Oversight of Political Processes (DOPP) Final Performance Evaluation
18. LER II CB.039: Armenia Civic Education IE
19. LER II CB.040: Policy, Coordination, and Integration (PCI) Sustainable Landscapes Political Economy Analysis (PEA) Literature Review
20. LER II CB.041: Zimbabwe Democracy and Governance (DG) Development Objective (DO) Performance Evaluation

NEW TASKINGS IN YEAR 4:

21. LER II CB.042: CSM Civic Education in the Digital Age Primer
22. LER II CB.043: Zambia Electoral Assessment
23. LER II CB.044: Papua New Guinea (PNG) Natural Climate Solutions (NCS) PEA Desk Study
24. LER II CB.045: Democratic Elections and Political Process (DEPP) Electoral Assistance After Action (EA3) Review Methodology
25. LER II CB.046 Kosovo Women’s Political Participation and Leadership (W PPL) Evidence Review
26. LER II CB.047 E&L W PPL Literature Review and Practitioner Guide
27. LER II CB.048 DEPP Serbia Electoral Assessment
28. LER II CB.049 DEPP Election Management Programming Guide
29. LER II CB.050 PCI DRG Strategic Assessment Framework (SAF) Update
30. LER II CB.051 E&L W PPL Social and Behavior Change (SBC) Toolkit

Key activities in this quarter included conducting a scoping trip to Liberia to inform the Civic Education IE design report. The trip consisted of a two-week mission in which two evaluation team (ET) members traveled to Liberia to meet with key program and evaluation stakeholders, obtain data necessary to finalize the evaluation design, and visit a subset of primary schools in the study area.

Other activities included conducting three weeks of fieldwork in Zambia as part of the Electoral Assessment pilot. The team interviewed 77 stakeholders from government, donors, academia, and USAID implementing partners (IPs) and began drafting the assessment report. The team also developed drafts of a PNG NCS PEA desk study and a Kosovo W PPL Evidence Review which will be finalized next quarter.

Also this quarter, Cloudburst prepared concept notes and budgets for five new taskings and continued work on two videos under CB.002 and CB.029.

**CURRENT TASKING STATUS REPORT**

**KNOWLEDGE DISSEMINATION AND EVENTS**

**TASKING CB.002—DISSEMINATION**

Activities under the Dissemination tasking included DRG Learning Digest newsletters, a video primer on democracy and economic development still being developed, and ad hoc communications deliverables for the E&L Team. Each activity is detailed below.

**DRG LEARNING DIGESTS**

This quarter, Cloudburst’s contribution to DRG Learning Digests was graphics and images to illustrate the ideas in the newsletters, along with very limited editing and consulting on potential future topics. Cloudburst contributed to:

Learning Digest #25 (January): “Social and Behavior Change: Ideas and Practice in DRG”
Learning Digest #27 (March): “The Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus and DRG”
DRG VIDEO PRIMER: DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

In Q2, Cloudburst and USAID met to determine what edits needed to be made to the video submitted at the end of Q1. Cloudburst brought on a new animation firm, Pendragon, to complete a final set of revisions, which will be completed next quarter.

ANCILLARY STUDIES

TASKING CB.017—NIGERIA EMB ASSESSMENT

All work on an assessment to examine how USAID/Nigeria supports EMBs (particularly the Independent National Electoral Commission and State Independent Electoral Commissions) and assists USAID/Nigeria’s strategic investments in advance of the 2023 general elections was completed in Year 3. In January, the remaining funds were returned to the Mission, and the tasking closed in February 2022.

TASKING CB.022—CSM MEDIA ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT UPDATE

Cloudburst was tasked to update an internal USAID media assessment tool. The assessment tool establishes basic parameters for assessing country or regional media systems and helps Missions, bureaus, and other USAID operating units determine whether, when, where, and how to design and implement media-strengthening activities.

In Year 3, Cloudburst completed the desk research phase of the toolkit, developed an outline in collaboration with the CSM Team at the DRG Center, completed fieldwork to inform the toolkit, created and revised a draft, conducted a workshop with potential end-users and incorporated comments, and delivered the final document. In Q2 of this year, USAID completed the clearance process of the toolkit and approved the final document. The tasking closed in January 2022.

TASKING CB.023—IE RETROSPECTIVE

In Q1 of Year 3, Cloudburst received a tasking from the DRG Center to write a retrospective of IEs that the DRG Center conducted that 1) provides an understanding of key challenges and lessons learned from both completed and uncompleted IEs, 2) assesses how the IEs have been used, and 3) provides recommendations on how to approach future evaluations to improve their execution and utilization in the context of USAID DRG assistance.

In Q2, the team revisited the report to incorporate the findings from a recently completed DRC Integrated Governance Activity (IGA) IE. In May, a new annex will be drafted and added to the report.

TASKING CB.024—HRSM RRM MIDTERM PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

At the end of December 2020, Cloudburst received a tasking to conduct a midterm evaluation of the RRM of the HRSM. The HRSM RRM is a tool for Missions and IPs to quickly provide targeted, short-term assistance to local actors as they respond to urgent crises or otherwise operate within limited windows
of opportunity. The midterm performance evaluation determined the effectiveness of the RRM, identified its strengths and weaknesses, provided recommendations for improvement, and informed other USAID RRM.

In Year 3, Cloudburst completed fieldwork, which included 30 key informant interviews (KII) and a mini-survey distributed to USAID and IP staff. Cloudburst presented preliminary findings and submitted a draft findings report and two-pager. After revising the report and two-pager, based on USAID comments, Cloudburst received final approval for both deliverables in Year 4 Q1. During Q2, the ET conducted a recommendations presentation with the core USAID team and IP staff and a dissemination presentation to over 40 DRG Center staff and interested Mission representatives, in addition to submitting a draft post-evaluation action plan (PEAP).

In Q3, Cloudburst will receive final approval of the PEAP and upload the approved report and two-pager to the Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC).

**Tasking CB.027—Ukraine HRS Activity Midterm Performance Evaluation**

In Year 3, Cloudburst received a tasking request from USAID/Ukraine to conduct a midterm performance evaluation of the HRS Activity. Through this evaluation, Cloudburst analyzed and documented USAID’s contributions to health reform through HRS, the strengths and weaknesses of HRS efforts, and opportunities for future investments in health reforms—including health financing and eHealth as well as other interventions reducing corruption in the sector.

This quarter, USAID approved the final report, PowerPoint, and summary and Cloudburst posted them to the DEC. The tasking closed in March 2022.

**Tasking CB.029—JRSROL Videos**

At the end of March 2021, Cloudburst received a tasking from the DRG Center JRS Team to create two informational videos to promote USAID’s new people-centered justice approach to ROL. In Q2 2022, Cloudburst finalized the script and images and recorded the audio. Next quarter, the video productions consultant will produce, revise, and finalize the video.

**Tasking CB.030—Côte d’Ivoire PTI Final Evaluation**

In Year 3, Cloudburst was tasked by USAID/Côte d’Ivoire to conduct a final performance evaluation of the PTI activity. PTI’s goal is to contribute to long-term political stability through inclusive political processes by reinforcing efforts to strengthen inclusion and democratic processes. The final performance evaluation assessed PTI’s implementation successes, challenges, and adaptations in encouraging youth and women’s political participation and community-based activities and preventing and countering violent extremism.
In Year 4, Cloudburst submitted a revised findings report that was approved by the Mission and led a recommendations workshop with the Mission. The team also submitted a draft PEAP, which was revised and approved in Q2. In Q2, Cloudburst also prepared a two-pager for findings dissemination.

In Q3, the ET will lead an in-person dissemination workshop with USAID representatives, IPs, and others in the PTI space in Côte d’Ivoire.

**TASKING CB.031—RETROSPECTIVE OF USAID RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC-ENABLED DEMOCRATIC BACKSLIDING**

Cloudburst continued a tasking from USAID/DRG to complete a retrospective of USAID’s response to pandemic-enabled democratic backsliding. The goal of the study is to derive lessons learned from adapting to pandemic-enabled democratic backsliding. These include lessons both about the process of adapting and about achieving outcomes of countering pandemic-enabled democratic backsliding. Dissemination and post-retrospective activities will aim to ensure that those lessons inform USAID’s backsliding response more generally.

This quarter, Cloudburst finalized the retrospective report according to USAID comments, delivered a presentation summarizing the retrospective findings, and produced a draft retrospective utilization plan, including supporting discussions among USAID report users to refine the recommendations and make a plan for their implementation. Next quarter, Cloudburst will present the findings to any other identified constituencies of report users, such as the wider Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning.

**TASKING CB.032—UKRAINE MPU MIDTERM PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

Cloudburst completed a tasking from USAID/Ukraine to conduct a performance evaluation of MPU activities. The purpose of this evaluation was to assess the relevance and effectiveness, as well as efficiencies and unintended effects, of MPU activities. The evaluation explained why things happened as they did. MPU has four key objectives: 1) Increase high-quality, engaging content, 2) Increase public demand for quality information, 3) Implement critical media reforms, and 4) Strengthen and sustain key media institutions and processes. This evaluation focused primarily on assessing the relevance and effectiveness of the MPU interventions in advancing the project’s activities under Objectives 1 and 2 intended to increase high-quality, engaging content throughout Ukraine—particularly in the East and South—and increase public demand for quality information.

This quarter, Cloudburst posted the final report to the DEC and then closed the tasking.

**TASKING CB.033—LIBERIA CIVIC EDUCATION IE**

Cloudburst continued a tasking from USAID/Liberia to conduct a “pilot to scale” IE of components of USAID’s Liberia Elections and Democracy Activity implemented by Democracy International to inform adaptation and scale decision-making. Objective 2 of this activity is to improve civic knowledge and sense of civic duty, and result 2.1 is improved civic education of grade 6 students.
This tasking is divided into a base phase and two option phases for the potential IE. For the base phase, Cloudburst completed an evidence review and an evaluability assessment, helped lead an IE workshop, and produced an evaluation design memo. Separate options may be exercised to 1) conduct a scoping trip and produce a formal evaluation design and 2) carry out the evaluation. In addition to providing insight into the evaluability of the targeted Liberia Elections and Democracy Activity, the evidence review and baseline data in the base phase are expected to provide valuable information to inform the pilot implementation.

This quarter, Cloudburst finalized the evaluation design memo according to USAID and stakeholder comments, completing the base phase of the tasking. Cloudburst then began work on the Option I phase of the tasking once approved. The Option I phase consists of 2 major activities: scoping work and development of the evaluation design report. Cloudburst completed scoping work, which consisted of a two-week mission in which two ET members traveled to Liberia to meet with key program and evaluation stakeholders, obtain data necessary to finalize the evaluation design, and visit a subset of primary schools in the study area. Next quarter, Cloudburst will deliver an out-brief presentation to USAID and stakeholders, prepare and submit the evaluation design report, and respond to one round of USAID and stakeholder feedback on the design report.

**Tasking CB.034—Ukraine HRA Final Performance Evaluation**

Cloudburst received a tasking request on June 29, 2021 to evaluate HRA efforts focused on the protection of human rights of the conflict-affected civilian population of Donbas and Crimea over the past seven years. The evaluation purpose was to assess HRA’s efficiency and effectiveness in addressing activity objectives and develop recommendations to inform the Mission’s thinking regarding future human rights and transitional justice efforts.

During Q1, a team of highly qualified international and Ukrainian experts conducted fieldwork, including both KII's and focus group discussions. The team lead was not able to travel due to concerns over COVID-19, so fieldwork was a hybrid of in-person and remote interviews and focus groups. The Cloudburst team presented preliminary findings to the Mission at the completion of fieldwork and submitted a findings report, including one set of revisions. In Q2, the team led a recommendations workshop with Mission and IP representatives and completed a draft PEAP, which was approved. The tasking was completed and closed in March 2022.

**Tasking CB.035—E&L UMA**

Cloudburst received a tasking request on July 7, 2021 to collect past information on the use and non-use of Cloudburst-produced LER II tasking products using a standard approach on behalf of the E&L Team. The purpose of this UMA is to support the E&L Team in improving its work moving forward to increase the utilization and dissemination of learning products. A team from Social Impact (SI) was tasked with conducting the same research on LER II taskings conducted by NORC.
In the first and second quarters of Year 4, the Cloudburst team collaborated with the SI team to generate shared research tools to allow for comparable results. The team completed fieldwork, which included interviews with 25 individuals representing 21 taskings conducted under LER II. The team completed a findings report, including revisions, and a utilization summary analysis, highlighting the key findings and recommendations of the report. In addition, Cloudburst presented findings from the UMA, along with the SI team conducting the same research, at the DRG Center’s Annual Learning Forum, with over 100 attendees.

**TASKING CB.036—ZIMBABWE SOCIAL MOVEMENTS EVALUATION/ASSESSMENT**

In July 2021, USAID/Zimbabwe’s DG Office commissioned Cloudburst to conduct 1) an assessment of the history and current state of social movements in Zimbabwe; 2) an evaluation of the DG Office’s past social movement program, Fostering Fundamental Rights and Freedoms in Zimbabwe, and the extent to which it was able to influence or support social movements in Zimbabwe; and 3) an analysis of whether and how, drawing from the evaluation, USAID might reasonably support one or more social movements for political reforms in Zimbabwe. The findings will inform future programming in this area.

This quarter, the team submitted the draft findings report and responded to one round of revisions from USAID/Zimbabwe. The team also submitted a stand-alone PowerPoint deck. The final report and slide deck were submitted in February for Contracting Officer’s Representative (COR) approval.

**TASKING CB.037—E&L MISSION USE OF EVIDENCE (MUSE)**

In Year 3, the DRG Center E&L Team commissioned a qualitative and quantitative study of evidence and specifically research evidence utilization in USAID DRG project and activity design. The study focuses on both the use and the generation of evidence. On the use side, the goal of this study is to understand how evidence is or is not used to inform activity designs, the obstacles to greater evidence use, and how evidence could be better integrated into activity design. On the generation side, the study seeks to understand how activity design teams plan research, evaluation, and learning and to identify ways in which evidence and evaluation planning could be improved. This research is expected to inform the DRG Center’s strategy to promote the use of evidence and to improve evidence and evaluation planning in the field.

The research is designed in three stages. The first is preliminary KIIIs and desk review, the second phase is a quantitative survey for USAID activity designers, and the third stage involves a case study approach. In Q1, the team conducted KIIIs with ten key informants, including USAID DRG officers, contracting officers, and staff from the Bureau of Policy, Planning, and Learning. Interviews were coded in Excel. The team also conducted a literature review on program design and evidence utilization. The KIIIs and literature review informed a quantitative survey that will be sent to USAID DRG staff who have participated in activity design, and the final phase is a series of case studies selected from the quantitative survey.

At the end of January, the quantitative survey for USAID Mission program designers was cleared and distributed using Google Forms. The survey remained open until February 25 and closed with 83 responses. The team then analyzed the survey data to select ten Missions to serve as case studies. The
team chose case studies that illustrated “positive deviance”—successful examples of evidence utilization in the design process. Case study interviews began in March and will continue next quarter.

The team also prepared a presentation as part of the 2022 DRG Center’s Annual Learning Forum session on amplifying evidence in DRG programming. The team lead and evaluation specialist presented some initial findings from the KII and quantitative survey to a virtual audience of more than 200 participants from USAID, IPs, academics, and other development practitioners.

Next quarter, the team will finish case study interviews and then draft and finalize the findings report.

**TASKING CB.038—UKRAINE DOPP Final Performance Evaluation**

Cloudburst continued a tasking from USAID/Ukraine to complete a performance evaluation of DOPP activities. The purpose of this evaluation is to 1) assess the efficiency and effectiveness of Opora in addressing activity objectives and 2) develop recommendations to inform the Mission’s thinking regarding future investments in DOPP. Of DOPP’s three objectives, this evaluation will focus primarily on Objectives 1 and 2:

1. Fairness and integrity of key elections in Ukraine improved through domestic monitoring.
2. Political process legislation developed and implemented in a more inclusive and transparent manner to better conform to European standards.

The Mission will use the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of this evaluation to assess Opora’s performance and to inform decisions regarding the Mission’s future investments in DOPP.

This quarter, Cloudburst submitted the revised report for final approval. The ET also prepared and held a workshop for USAID/Ukraine and Opora to share and discuss the evaluation findings. The ET also prepared and revised a PEAP, which was approved in February. The report was then redacted in response to the evolving Ukraine security situation and posted to the DEC for USAID access only.

**TASKING CB.039—ARMENIA CIVIC EDUCATION IE**

In Year 3 Q4, USAID tasked Cloudburst with conducting an evaluability assessment of a potential IE on civic education in Armenia. The purpose of this evaluability assessment is to ensure that the Armenia Civics for Engagement Activity’s interventions are appropriate for an IE and that the IE will be useful for informing decision-making throughout the life of the activity and any follow-on activities.

In Year 4 Q1, the team completed an evidence review, which was submitted to the Mission and subsequently approved after one round of revisions in Q2. Due to delays in procurement of the Civics for Engagement Activity, no further activities were undertaken in Q2. In Q3, the team will complete the evaluability assessment, conduct an IE workshop, and complete the design memo.
**TASKING CB.040—PCI NCS PEA LITERATURE REVIEW**

In September 2021, Cloudburst was tasked by USAID with completing a literature view of PEAs in the NCS sector. The purpose of the literature review is to inform the Agency’s new climate programming, which focuses on citizen engagement and governance. The literature review and subsequent technical note will explore previous work on PEAs in NCS to illustrate to Missions how PEAs can be used to inform their programming and stand as a reference for future PEAs in the NCS sector.

During Q1, the team conducted extensive meetings to develop an outline with the PCI/NCS team. Cloudburst then submitted a draft literature review. In Q2, the team completed multiple rounds of revisions on the literature review and drafted and revised the technical note. USAID is currently revising the technical note. Cloudburst will finalize the technical note in Q3.

**TASKING CB.041—ZIMBABWE DG DO PERFORMANCE EVALUATION**

Cloudburst continued a tasking from USAID/Zimbabwe’s DG Office to conduct a Portfolio Performance Evaluation of DG’s achievement of DO 3, “Improved Accountable, Democratic Governance that Serves an Engaged Citizenry.” The purpose of this evaluation is to 1) determine whether and to what extent programming achieved the intended results, 2) propose recommendations for future programming, 3) assess factors that determine the effectiveness and efficiency of implementation processes, and 4) document lessons learned over the past five years and identify best practices.

This quarter, the Cloudburst team finalized the desk review, which included documents from thirteen IPs and 26 projects. A draft of the desk review was submitted in January 2022, and the team responded to USAID comments and submitted the final desk review in February 2022. In February, the team also began conducting three weeks of fieldwork, including KIIIs, which they presented via an outbrief in March. Lastly, the team has worked to draft the final evaluation report, which they will submit to USAID on April 1, 2022. Next quarter, the report will be finalized and the team will hold a recommendations workshop with Mission staff. The team will also submit the PEAP.

**TASKING CB.042—CSM CIVIC EDUCATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE PRIMER**

On behalf of the CSM Team, Cloudburst initiated the development of a primer on Civic Education in the Digital Age. The primer will provide basic information on concepts, potential approaches, and evidence to help orient readers involved in civic education program design and implementation. The assessment tool will guide intervention development. The primary audience for the primer is USAID staff involved in developing or overseeing civic education programming.

The research team conducted 10 KIIIs and background research as they developed an outline for the primer. The draft outline was submitted in February 2022 and subsequently revised and resubmitted in March 2022 in response to feedback from USAID. Upon approval of the outline, the research team began drafting the primer. In Q3, the research team will submit the first draft of the primer and make revisions in response to feedback from USAID.
**TASKING CB.043—ZAMBIA ELECTORAL ASSESSMENT**

In November 2021, the DEPP Team and USAID/Zambia tasked Cloudburst with conducting a pilot electoral and political processes assessment using USAID’s Electoral Assessment Framework, which was launched earlier in 2021. The objectives of the pilot are to 1) assess and prioritize the electoral problems, threats, and windows of opportunity in Zambia to inform an electoral and political processes strategy and 2) identify lessons learned for future use of the Electoral Assessment Framework. Cloudburst’s role in the assessment is to contribute one elections specialist to the assessment team (AT), which will be led and staffed primarily by USAID/DRG and USAID/Zambia staff, and to provide some logistics support.

This assessment followed USAID’s [Electoral Assessment Framework](https://www.usaid.gov) and associated toolkit and focused on five sub-areas of the assessment framework: 1) legal framework, 2) election management, 3) election monitoring, 4) election security, and 5) political parties. With a focus on these sub-areas, the AT developed two research questions to guide the assessment:

1. What do Zambia’s core democratic institutions need in order to contribute to free and fair elections and the consolidation of democracy in Zambia?
2. What do citizens need in order to have confidence in the electoral process?

By using the Electoral Assessment Framework to answer those questions, the AT identified major challenges to and opportunities for reform, established clear objectives that programs should aim to achieve, and developed program recommendations to achieve those objectives. The AT conducted a desk review and fieldwork from January to March 2022. In March, the team lead and election specialist traveled to Lusaka for three weeks of fieldwork. The team interviewed 77 stakeholders from government, donors, academia, and USAID IPs. At the end of the fieldwork, the team drafted a findings report.

The AT categorized its findings into five clusters that represent the major challenges to Zambia’s elections throughout the electoral cycle. The team then identified programming objectives to address each challenge and made short-term (three months), medium-term (twelve months), and long-term (five years) recommendations to achieve those programming objectives. Next quarter, the team will finalize the findings report and a lessons learned document.

**TASKING CB.044—PCNCS PEA LITERATURE REVIEW**

In November 2021, Cloudburst was tasked by USAID with conducting a desk-based PEA in NCS for PNG to provide recommendations for the USAID PNG Sustainable Landscapes Activity. The desk review is intended to inform this programming by exploring how poor governance affects customary land ownership, tenure arrangements, and resource rights; previous failure of efforts to adhere to social and environmental safeguards and policies due to the influence of private sector interests; and challenges in implementation and enforcement of policies for land and forest management, among others. The literature review analyzes the current literature (academic, policy, and gray literature) and information available to identify the main PEA dynamics relevant to NCS programming in PNG.
This quarter, Cloudburst submitted the tasking concept note and budget for approval and, once approved, kicked off the technical work on this PEA, beginning with desk study and production of an outline of the PEA and then the PEA report itself. Next quarter, Cloudburst will revise the PEA desk study report according to USAID feedback and then present the PEA desk study findings.

**TASKINGCB.045—DEPPEA3REVIEW**

At the end of December 2021, the DEPP Team issued a tasking to develop one or more methodologies for USAID to conduct an after-action review following electoral assistance in a given country. The purpose of the EA3 review is to enhance USAID’s knowledge management by chronicling electoral assistance and by identifying strategic and programmatic impacts, lessons, and gaps.

In Q2, Cloudburst submitted a concept note and budget, which were approved. The research team conducted a desk review of prior EA3 reports and conducted 10 KII’s with participants in past EA3s and with USAID staff and Missions with experience in EA3 reviews. In April 2022, Cloudburst submitted a first draft of an options paper highlighting key conclusions and options for conducting EA3 reviews. In Q3, Cloudburst will revise the options paper based on feedback from USAID and, once approved, begin work on drafting the EA3 methodologies.

**TASKINGCB.046—KOSOVO WPPEvidenceReview**

In January 2022, Cloudburst received a tasking for an evidence review for USAID/Kosovo on women’s political participation at the local level. The purpose of the evidence review is to inform the design of a new WPPL program by the Kosovo Mission. The evidence review explores academic and gray literature and data on women’s political participation in Kosovo and the Balkans to illustrate to USAID/Kosovo how such evidence could be used to inform Mission programming and stand as a reference for future WPPL projects.

This quarter, Cloudburst recruited a team and prepared a concept for this work. Once approved, Cloudburst completed this evidence review on strengthening women’s political participation at the local level in Kosovo, produced a draft report summarizing these findings, and presented findings to USAID. Cloudburst then responded to one round of USAID comments on the evidence review and submitted the final review for approval. In the following quarter (Q2), the final approved evidence review will be posted to the DEC.

**TASKINGCB.047—E&LWPPLLiteratureReview andPractitionerGuide**

In January 2022, Cloudburst received a tasking from E&L’s WPPL sub-team focused on developing evidence-based strategies to address barriers to WPPL. This tasking will consist of: 1) a thorough literature review including a table summarizing the findings, 2) a short practitioner’s guide linking evidence-based strategies to address the WPPL barriers listed below, and 3) a one-page infographic based on the practitioner’s guide with highlights of recommendations to Missions and practitioners.
Cloudburst recruited a team of experts from Stanford University to lead this work and the tasking kicked off in February. The team’s first task was to develop an outline with potential literature topics and sources to answer the key questions. The team submitted the outline mid-March and received comments at the end of the month. Next quarter, the team will draft and finalize the literature review, then draft and finalize the practitioner’s guide.

**TASKING CB.048—DEPP SERBIA ELECTORAL ASSESSMENT**

In February 2022, Cloudburst received a tasking from the DEPP Team to conduct a second pilot assessment of its Electoral Assessment Framework. The first pilot is being conducted in Zambia, while this second pilot assessment is to be conducted in Serbia. The assessment will assess, prioritize the electoral problems, threats, and windows of opportunity in Serbia to inform an electoral and political processes strategy and identify lessons learned for the future use of the Electoral Assessment Framework.

Cloudburst submitted a concept note and budget in March 2022, which USAID approved. In Q3, Cloudburst will conduct a kickoff meeting with USAID to discuss the objectives, parameters, and team composition for the assessment. Cloudburst will develop and submit key interview questions and a proposed KII list in preparation for fieldwork, which is anticipated in June 2022.

**TASKING CB.049—DEPP ELECTION MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMING GUIDE**

In February 2022, Cloudburst received a tasking from the DEPP Team to develop an Election Management Programming Guide. The guide will be the first in a new briefing series on DEPP programming, intended to enhance the USAID DRG cadre’s knowledge and understanding of key strategic considerations and approaches in selected and core merging topics in DEPP programming. The Election Management Programming Guide will provide a strategic overview of different strategies and objectives for strengthening election management and articulate which strategies and objectives are best matched for different political contexts/regime types, differing levels of election management body (EMB) impartiality, independence, and capacity.

In Q2, Cloudburst initiated work on recruiting a consultant author for the guide and started developing the concept note and budget, which will be submitted in Q3.

**TASKING CB.050—PCI DRG SAF UPDATE**

In February 2022, Cloudburst received a tasking request from the DRG Center’s PCI Team to conduct an update of the DRG SAF. Phase One of the tasking will include a retrospective analysis of a sample of the 23 recently-completed DRG assessments. Based on the retrospective analysis, Cloudburst will propose revisions to the SAF and assess the utility of different approaches to augment. In Phase Two of the tasking, Cloudburst will update SAF training materials based on a budget and timeline to be determined after the completion of Phase One.

In Q2, Cloudburst initiated work on recruiting the research team and started developing the concept note and budget, which will be submitted in Q3.
**TASKING CB.051–WPPLSBCToolkit**

In Q2 of Year 4, USAID tasked Cloudburst with managing the development of a SBC toolkit to complement the WPPL framework. To complete the work, Cloudburst will subcontract The Metropolitan Group. The toolkit will enable the application and effective use of the data generated using the framework for the evidence-based design of overall program solution sets, in addition to developing SBC strategies and strategic communication components.

In Q3, Cloudburst and The Metropolitan Group will begin the initial stages for preparing the toolkit.

**Project Management and Administrative Status**

**TASKING CB.001–Basic Management Functions**

Throughout this quarter, Cloudburst provided technical input and project support to the taskings above, including weekly meetings with the COR and Alternate COR.

**Completed Taskings**

**Year 4**

Cloudburst completed the following taskings during Year 4.

1. TASKING CB.017: Nigeria EMB Assessment
2. TASKING CB.022: CSM Media Assessment Toolkit Update
3. TASKING CB.027: Ukraine HRS Midterm Performance Evaluation
4. TASKING CB.028: Rwanda Subnational Public Financial Management PEA
5. TASKING CB.032: Ukraine MPU Midterm Performance Evaluation
6. TASKING CB.034: Ukraine HRA Midterm Performance Evaluation

**Year 3**

Cloudburst completed the following taskings during Year 3. For details, see the [Year 3 Annual Report](#).

1. TASKING CB.004–Zimbabwe Political Party Assessment
2. TASKING CB.006–Electoral Assessment Framework
3. TASKING CB.014–Ukraine New Justice Activity Midterm Performance Evaluation
4. TASKING CB.016–Dominican Republic Family, Gender-Based Violence Literature Review and Human Rights Grant Program Midterm Review
5. TASKING CB.016–Belarus Civil Society Program Portfolio Midterm Performance Evaluation
6. TASKING CB.018–Zimbabwe Media Assessment
7. TASKING CB.019–Zimbabwe Civil Society Assessment
8. TASKING CB.020—Malawi Local Government Accountability and Performance Midterm Performance Evaluation
9. TASKING CB.024—Ukraine DG East Midterm Performance Evaluation
10. TASKING CB.025—Georgia Good Governance Initiative Midterm Performance Evaluation
11. TASKING CB.026—Asia Pacific DRG COVID-19 Virtual Conference

YEAR 2
Cloudburst completed the following taskings during Year 2. For details, see the Year 2 Annual Report.

1. TASKING CB.003—Armenia Assessments and Infographics
2. TASKING CB.008—Global Labor Future of Work Evidence Review
3. TASKING CB.010—Ukraine Parliamentary Sector Assessment
4. TASKING CB.012—Global Labor Program Performance Review and Related Evidence Review on Selected Topics
5. TASKING CB.013—Sudan DRG Assessment

YEAR 1
Cloudburst completed the following taskings during Year 1. For details, see the Year 1 Annual Report.

1. TASKING CB.005—Global Labor Collective Action Evidence Review
2. TASKING CB.009—Global Elections and Political Transitions Program Review