DRG LEARNING AGENDA 2021–2023

USAID Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance

DRG LEARNING AGENDA

Since 2016, the USAID DRG Learning Agenda has been an evolving set of questions in priority development areas for which the DRG Center has organized and disseminated existing data, generated new evidence, and produced conclusions and recommendations.

The DRG Center has generated evidence over the past four years by gathering information from academic research, program evaluations, and multi-method tests of DRG program assumptions and theories of change.

The Learning Agenda questions were informed by existing DRG research and evaluation efforts and were developed collaboratively by DRG Center Theme Teams and staff from USAID Washington and USAID Missions overseas as well as through consultations with academics and external experts.

Sebastian Lindstrom

The current agenda is divided into three tracks—cross-cutting, process, and team—that each focus on a certain type of learning question. The cross-cutting track addresses questions related to topics, or themes, that apply to multiple DRG program areas (such as civil society and governance). The process track addresses questions on how we learn and apply evidence within the DRG sector. The team track questions have not yet been developed but will address topics within specific DRG Program Areas.

LEARNING AGENDA QUESTIONS

CROSS-CUTTING

Topics that apply to multiple DRG program areas

OPENING UP DEMOCRATIC SPACE

What are the most effective interventions focused on public institutions to reverse democratic backsliding and/or support greater democratization.

ANTI-CORRUPTION

How should USAID foster anti-corruption in contexts where "political will" is weak?

INFORMATION ECOSYSTEM

What factors and dynamics foster—and build resilience to—the proliferation of disinformation, misinformation, and/or malinformation?

INTEGRATING INCLUSION

What donor-assisted interventions can we use to change entrenched norms holding individuals and groups such as youth, women, and girls back from engaging politically and why?

PROCESS

How we learn and apply evidence within the DRG sector

EVIDENCE IN PROGRAMMING

How do Missions integrate DRG evidence into programming and how can evidence use be supported?

DRG CENTER TEAM

Topics within specific DRG program areas

A next step in the 2021–2023 Learning Agenda is to engage the DRG Center teams to develop questions specific to each DRG program area including civil society and independent media, justice, human rights, and security and governance.

OTHER EVIDENCE & LEARNING RESOURCES

DRG LEARNING, EVIDENCE, AND ANALYSIS PLATFORM

The DRG Learning, Evidence and Analysis Platform is a curated set of DRG-specific, user-friendly resources in three areas: programmatic approaches, metrics, and evidence.

2016 & 2017 LEARNING AGENDAS

The 2021–2023 Learning Agenda builds upon the 2016 and 2017 Learning Agendas, which identified 20 learning questions across five themes: participation and inclusion, transparency and accountability, human rights, DRG intergration, and theories of democratic change. Based on a retrospective study, 16 of 20 learning questions were comprehensively addressed.

NEXT STEPS

FOLLOWING THE FINALIZATION OF THE LEARNING QUESTIONS, THE DRG CENTER WILL:

- Commission new/identify existing research and evidence to address these questions.
- Engage with DRG Center teams to develop team learning questions to integrate into the learning agenda.
- Share findings and insights through dissemination products and events such as the Annual Learning Forum.

We welcome feedback and engagement, contact ddi.drg.elmaillist@usaid.gov