



# GLOBAL HEALTH EVALUATION AND LEARNING SUPPORT (GH EVALS) ACTIVITY

## LEARNING AGENDA AND CLA SUPPORT TO THE GLOBAL HEALTH BUREAU AND MISSION HEALTH OFFICES

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Global Health Evaluation and Learning Support Activity (GH EvalS) is a five-year USAID Bureau for Global Health Task Order contract. GH EvalS provides evaluation, assessment, and learning support for health-related projects and activities managed out of offices in USAID/Washington and USAID Missions. In addition to assessments and evaluations, GH EvalS also supports Collaboration Learning and Adapting (CLA) efforts, including the development of learning agendas, through direct support to offices in missions and in Washington.

### GH EVALS CONTRIBUTIONS TO GH AND AGENCY LEARNING

GH EvalS supports learning and adapting in the context of evidence-based decision-making and improving program performance through evaluations, assessments and other analysis. The GH EvalS CLA approach creates an environment that encourages individuals, offices, and teams to reflect on and learn from their experiences. It maximizes results by helping USAID clients and implementing partners make iterative, timely course corrections. It supports the Agency to adapt programs and activities as evidence emerges and contexts shift.

Every GH EvalS assignment provides opportunities to learn about implementing and managing assessments and evaluations, and what works to strengthen USAID's programs, projects, and activities.

Evidence gleaned from GH EvalS' evaluation and assignment based learning efforts contribute to the evidence base that supports both the Agency Learning Agenda (ALA) and the GH EvalS' own learning agenda.

### AGENCY LEARNING AGENDA (ALA)

The Agency Learning Agenda articulates USAID's priorities for learning and evidence to inform Agency decision-making. The ALA questions can be found [here](#).

### GH EVALS LEARNING AGENDA QUESTIONS

As part of GH EvalS activity monitoring, evaluation and learning plan (AMELP), a learning agenda was created to inform GH EvalS' own implementation. The GH EvalS learning agenda questions include:

- a) What are common learning themes across the multiple evaluations and assessments?
- b) What virtual means have been utilized during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the hybrid teams and virtual/semi-virtual data collection approaches, which are promising practices?
- c) What new or adapted methods/practices have been utilized as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic? What successes and challenges have been identified?
- d) What have we learned about working with local teams and actors, including the promotion of local ownership?

- e) From each assignment, what have we learned about:
- Implementing evaluations/assessments?
  - Managing evaluation teams, including those with local evaluators?
  - Working with USAID Missions health and program offices? iv. Utilization and dissemination of evaluation findings?

- and in missions, and implementing partners, including NGOs and government counterparts.
- d) Dissemination of findings and lessons learned will take place through existing networks and communities of practice within USAID, such as the GH MEL POCs, the Agency M&E POCs, and the USAID Evaluation Interest Group (EIG).

## **CAPTURING EVIDENCE TO INFORM ALA AND GH EVALS LEARNING AGENDA QUESTIONS**

On a continual basis, GH EvalS reviews each assignment to determine how the questions and evidence emerging from them might contribute to answering learning agenda questions, either from the ALA or GH EvalS' own learning agenda. Evidence extracted from the reports are compiled and analyzed on a quarterly basis. Information that is relevant to the ALA is shared with the Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning (PPL) through the MEL team in GH/PPP. The Bureau for GH Learning Agenda is directly linked to the ALA.

Lessons learned over the course of the activity will help GH EvalS add to the global evidence base for creating stronger MEL platforms. Just as important, the GH EvalS learning agenda process will be dynamic, helping GH EvalS learn over time, enabling it to refine strategies and activities so there is a learning cascade to apply to assignments. GH EvalS will disseminate what it learns to other stakeholders as insights are gained and discoveries made.

## **DISSEMINATION**

In addition to its annual reporting, GH EvalS will share its learning through presentations, webinars, and products. The following learning activities and products are planned:

- a) Mapping and synthesis of data, evidence, and lessons learned to address learning agenda questions
- b) Tips on how to best manage and implement high quality evaluations/assessments to ensure they facilitate adaptive management and produce practical and actionable recommendations
- c) Dissemination of select evaluation and assessment findings to various stakeholder audiences, including USAID staff at headquarters

### **GH EVALS CONTACT INFORMATION**

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