



The Developmental Evaluation of USAID Jalin

Introduction

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is conducting a Developmental Evaluation (DE) of its flagship maternal and newborn health activity in Indonesia (Jalin). The DE is implemented by Social Impact, Inc. (SI) and intends to promote continuous learning and adaptive management to help USAID/Indonesia and its implementing partners to achieve USAID Jalin’s objectives.

What is Developmental Evaluation?

DE is an approach to evaluation that supports continuous adaptation. The evaluation team is embedded within the activity to contribute to modifications in program design and to document the decision-making process. Deploying various data collection activities and methods on an as-needed basis, the team enables real-time, evidence-based reflection and decision-making consistent with a Collaboration, Learning, and Adaptation (CLA) approach.

Below is a comparison of a DE and a traditional evaluation:

Traditional Evaluation	Developmental Evaluation
Renders definite judgments	Provides feedback to generate learning
Measures progress against predetermined goals	Develops new measures as goals change
Evaluator is outside the activity	Evaluator is internal to the activity
Goal is accountability	Aim is adaptive management
Based on linear logic	Designed to capture dynamic systems
Occurs at the mid- or endpoint of an activity	Ongoing during an activity
Methods are predetermined	Methods and analyses change as needed
Produces long final reports	Produces concise learning products

What is USAID Jalin?

Jalin is USAID/Indonesia’s flagship maternal and newborn health (MNH) activity. It contributes to the national goals to reduce maternal and newborn mortality by providing catalytic support to improve essential MNH services targeting the poorest and most vulnerable. USAID Jalin’s approach of continually refining and iterating its work throughout implementation makes it a perfect fit to be supported by a DE.

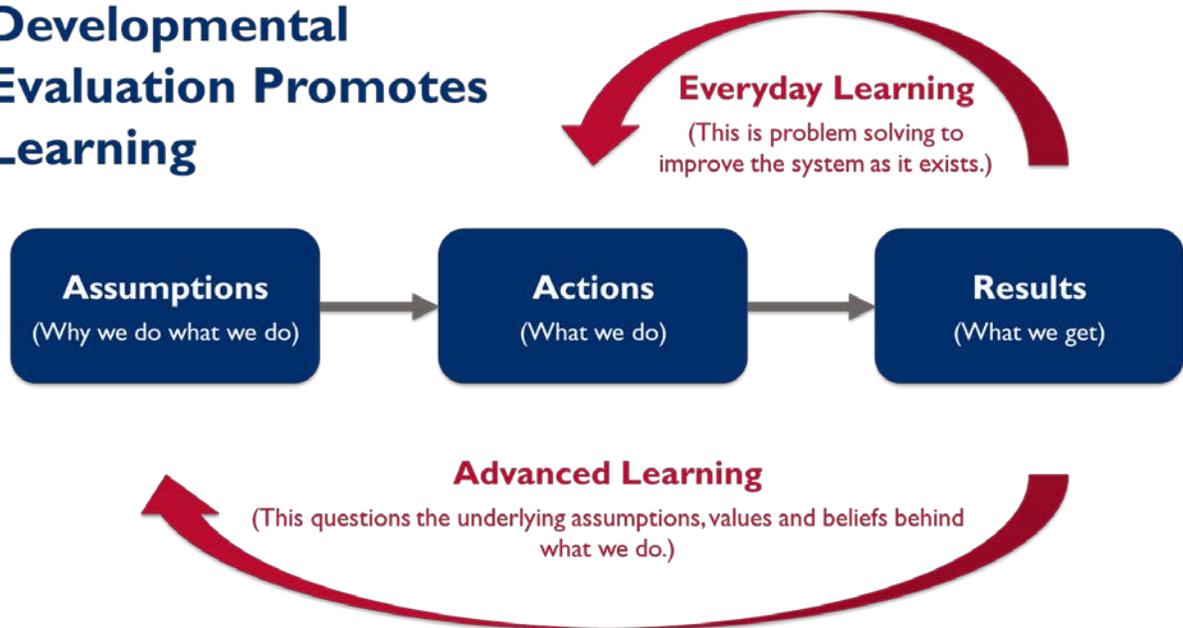
Objectives of USAID Jalin’s Developmental Evaluation

The DE of USAID Jalin aims to present findings and recommendations to USAID/Indonesia to generate lessons learned and options for rapid course corrections. The DE provides continuous feedback to USAID’s partners and stakeholders to generate learning and support timely adaptive management by:

- Assessing USAID Jalin’s core operating principles and technical areas
- Gauging project management, relationships between stakeholders and partnerships
- Monitoring the operating environment for MNH in Indonesia
- Delivering timely and actionable recommendations to improve project management

The DE of USAID Jalin prioritizes flexibility and innovation based on emerging needs rather than a preset methodology or set of tools. Methods and analyses may include interviews, desk reviews, focus groups, rapid surveys, network analysis and collaboration mapping, context analysis, process tracing, appreciative inquiry, and other approaches based on USAID/Indonesia’s information needs. The DE is designed to adapt its approach as needs change.

Developmental Evaluation Promotes Learning



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF THE DEVELOPMENTAL EVALUATION OF USAID JALIN?

The DE of USAID Jalin promotes advanced and continuous learning by establishing learning loops (see above). Learning loops provide continuous feedback to partners to enable adaptive management and support rapid course corrections to achieve the greatest impact for MNH outcomes. Specifically, the DE enables USAID Jalin to make timely, data-based decision making and supports its innovative programming by testing for intended and unintended effects and monitoring changes in the local context that may challenge assumptions. This helps USAID Jalin to focus on systematic learning.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DE AND USAID JALIN?

The team conducting the DE of USAID Jalin are trained evaluators who are not part of the contractor implementing USAID Jalin. The DE of USAID Jalin is implemented by SI, while USAID

Jalin is implemented by Development Alternatives Inc. Global, LLC (DAI). This separation maintains objectivity for the DE through clear lines of communication and specifically designated roles, while the DE team is co-located with USAID Jalin to integrate the evaluation process with program management.

Contact Information

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