Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting (CLA) is a framework that, when applied, helps to advance development effectiveness. Borrowing from organizational learning, CLA empowers development practitioners to thoughtfully examine approaches and make strategic shifts to align programming efforts with intended outcomes. With CLA, implementers and donors can be systematic and intentional about the relationships they leverage, the questions they investigate, and the ways in which they use information to adapt. A CLA environment is postured toward enhancing organizational learning and adaptation, with complementary processes, tools, and resources. By integrating CLA practices and targeted data collection efforts into organizational systems, development practitioners can base decisions on a rigorous and more inclusive evidence base.

PROGRAM FEATURES







KEY ADVANTAGES OF SOCIAL IMPACT'S APPROACH

SI is a thought leader in CLA for international development partners. Our approach leverages SI's rich experience supporting CLA efforts in a wide variety of contexts. Learn more about what sets us apart.

INSIGHTS DRIVEN

SI has over 20 years of monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL), CLA, and organizational development experience aimed at generating insights for clients. Our experts apply a wide range of MEL methods (i.e., outcome harvesting, most significant change, and developmental evaluation) and approaches using CLA principles to generate compelling evidence and insights. SI leverages facilitation and organizational development techniques to support process changes and MEL designs that enable continuous insight generation.

TAILORED APPROACHES

SI knows that CLA doesn't lend itself to a 'one-size-fits-all' approach, as it is closely linked to organizational culture, operating context, and individual capacities. Our approach is needs-driven so that proposed strategies for implementing CLA are not only closely linked to the relationships, information needs, and adaptiveness of the program, but also compatible with organizational priorities, cultural contexts, and resourcing realities.

SUSTAINABLE ORIENTATION

CLA must be adopted and owned by an organization to be effective. As such, our approach looks at change management factors and applies an organizational development lens for leading sustainable CLA. We emphasize lasting partnerships with key stakeholders so that they become co-creators, and eventually leaders and champions, of CLA. This not only builds capacity for leading CLA processes and approaches, but also increases the sustainability of CLA practices.

CLA RESULTS

SI has pioneered some of our clients' first CLAs covering far-reaching subjects and geographies, including:



GLOBAL LEARNING FOR ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

CLIENT: DFID & USAID TIME: 2.5 YEARS (2017-2019) LOCATION: GLOBAL

10 DFID & USAID TEAMS ASSISTED 8 DIAGNOSTIC AREAS DEVELOPED 3 PUBLICATIONS

As a consortium partner for the USAID/DFID-funded Global Learning for Adaptive Management (GLAM) initiative, SI provides technical assistance for donors and IPs to develop and use monitoring, evaluation, and learning (MEL) tools, systems, and processes that facilitates adaptive management in a rigorous manner. Through our work on GLAM, SI is strengthening operational practice by developing, testing, and scaling new and adapted approaches to MEL that help underpin effective adaptive interventions.



ASIA LEARNING AND M&E SUPPORT PROJECT

CLIENT: USAID REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT MISSION FOR ASIA
TIME: 5 YEARS (2014-2019)
LOCATION: ASIA REGION

13 LEARNING EVENTS
30 CO-CREATION WORKSHOPS
41 RECOMMENDATIONS TRACKED

SI provides USAID/RDMA and bilateral missions in the Asia region with MEL services including evaluations, assessments, learning events, strategy support, and workshop facilitation. Through the IDIQ, SI advanced CLA by organizing, facilitating, and documenting learning events, co-creation workshops, and evidence exchanges. These events brought together diverse groups of stakeholders to develop ideas and solutions for development issues in the region.



LIBERIA STRATEGIC ANALYIS

CLIENT: USAID/LIBERIA TIME: 4 YEARS (2015-2020) LOCATION: LIBERIA

50 DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

82 LEARNING EVENTS

13 ASSESSMENTS & STUDIES

SI provides USAID/Liberia and its IPs with ongoing MEL support through the Liberia Strategic Analysis (LSA) program, which includes a strong focus on CLA. Through LSA, SI established a community of practice to facilitate dialogue and engagement with local stakeholders and present information to the Mission in a format that would be usable—helping USAID/Liberia use and share data to improve decision making. LSA also assisted with stakeholder engagement and collaboration, notably through the Liberia Development Conference.

HOW WE ARE ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

Building on our experience, SI has established itself as a thought leader in the CLA community. We have contributed to diagnostic tools to assess capacity in MEL for adaptive management and assisted donors and implementers as they integrate CLA into their organizational systems and processes. We are using sustainable CLA approaches to strengthen strategy documents, theories of change, and MEL frameworks to allow for more nimble management and intentional learning throughout project lifecycles. Our work strengthens learning and allows development professionals to transform relationships and ways of working so that programming efforts can be more responsive to emergent needs.