# SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTAL EVALUATION

Utilize revolutionary monitoring and evaluation techniques with a Developmental Evaluation (DE). Through the use of evaluative thinking and feedback, DEs build a continuous adapation of interventions to help ensure long-term project success. One or more evaluators work within the program teams—ideally on a full-time basis—to contribute to modifications in program design and targeted outcomes throughout implementation. Although there is no minimum or maximum length of time for DEs, they ideally span from the program design stage through closeout. DEs are methodologically agnostic and utilization focused. Deploying various data collection activities and methods on an as-needed basis, Evaluators facilitate real-time, evidence-based reflection and decision-making.

#### **PROGRAM FEATURES**







## **KEY ADVANTAGES OF SOCIAL IMPACT'S APPROACH**

SI is a leading provider of DEs in the international development industry. Our approach leverages SI's rich experience conducting DEs in a wide variety of contexts. Learn more about what sets us apart.

#### UNIQUELY QUALIFIED EVALUATORS

SI knows that DEs can only be as strong as the people who conduct them. Our expert staff has diverse skillsets, including qualitative research, facilitation, program design, strategic planning, and subject matter expertise needed to meet the DE's needs. Equally important, SI sources candidates who have the refined interpersonal skills necessary for the success of DEs and further support them with managers and technical backstops—a key feature of our DE staffing structures.

#### **CREATIVE DELIVERABLES**

In the interest of maintaining a utilization focus, DEs shy away from lengthy or text heavy reports. Instead, SI's evaluators works with clients to develop products that are truly fit-for-purpose. SI's evaluators draw on our internal resources to develop data visualizations, workshops, network maps, and other tools that share DE results in formats that evaluation stakeholders can actually use.

#### **ACCULTURATION**

DE is a novel concept for most people, even among evaluators. Thus, we have developed a rigorous process to socializing this concept so that all DE stakeholders can get the most out of our DEs. We coined the concept of the "Acculturation Workshop" in which our evaluators educate stakeholders on what DEs are, collaboratively establish priorities, and in so doing, build buy-in and validation.

### **DEVELOPMENTAL EVALUATION RESULTS**

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



**GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT LAB** 

CLIENT: USAID TIME: 1.5 YEARS LOCATION: WASHINGTON, D.C.

4 TEAMS INVOLVED
30 RECOMMENDATIONS MADE
1 EMBEDDED EVALUATOR

This evaluation sought to examine the ways that four Global Development Lab teams promote various innovations to USAID Missions and external stakeholders. The DE uncovered best practices in promoting innovations that lead to "sustained uptake" after intervention completion. SI placed an evaluator in the Lab to map engagement strategies and disseminatebest practices for stakeholder engagement based on the DE analysis. The evaluator also built capacity of Lab staff to conduct sustainability planning—a key recommendation from the DE.



**USAID JALIN** 

CLIENT: USAID/INDONESIA TIME: 3.5 YEARS LOCATION: INDONESIA.

5 EMBEDDED EVALUATORS & ADMIN71 MATERNAL NEWBORN HEALTH SOLUTIONS EVALUATED1,910 STAKEHOLDERS MAPPED

This DE made recommendations for rapid course corrections to Jalin, a five-year program to reduce maternal and newborn deaths in Indonesia. With its field office, large team, and three-and-a-half-year duration, the evaluation assisted Jalin to adapt its approach to the local operating context in 30 districts in six provinces. It delivered lessons learned to USAID, the Ministry of Health, and an advisory board of local stakeholders on how to cocreate scalable, evidence-based. and whole-of-market solutions for improving MNH.



#### **FAMILY CARE FIRST**

CLIENT: FAMILY CARE FIRST TIME: 1.5 YEARS LOCATION: CAMBODIA

**50** NGOS ENGAGED **1,000** PEOPLE INTERVIEWED **120** FACTORS TRACKED

Family Care First (FCF) is a child protection program in which over 50 local and international NGOs came together to adopt a Collective Impact approach to increase the number of children living in safe, nurturing family-based care. The DE endeavored to support FCF to build cross-sector alignment and a culture that fosters relationships, trust, and respect across community, government, nonprofit, and corporate sectors to see how partner relations impact the work.

## HOW WE ARE ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

Building on our experience, SI has established itself as a thought leader in the developmental evaluation community. We have led the production of various guidelines, blog posts, presentations, and webinars on how to implement DEs that are available to practitioners. One of the latest products is a first-of-kind pair of guidebooks on how to implement DEs—one for evaluators and project managers, and one for funders. We also convene a community of practice comprised of developmental evaluators that meets quarterly. These discussions allow the relatively low number of evaluators that have experience with this approach to network and mutually build capacity to carry out their work.