As operating environments become increasingly complex, development professionals are elevating the use of strategic thinking to manage portfolios of programs to advance development effectiveness in a sustainable manner. Thoughtful strategies consider the ways in which development efforts operate within a system and how projects and activities can work together to advance higher level outcomes. For USAID, each CDCS must also advance the Journey to Self-Reliance through Development Objectives that reflect host country and USG priorities and USAID's strategic position vis-a-vis other donors. An intentional and inclusive strategy helps to expand novel solutions, strengthen implementation, improve team cohesion and enhance adaptive management and evidence-based decision making.

PROGRAM FEATURES



ADAPTIVE AND RESPONSIVE



THOUGHTFUL DESIGN



KEY ADVANTAGES OF SOCIAL IMPACT'S APPROACH

SI's approach leverages our rich experience generating learning products and facilitating strategy sessions in a variety of contexts. We offer proven approaches to CDCS development, including working group support, stakeholder mapping, retreat design, Results Framework development, and strategy document drafting.

DEEP CLIENT INSIGHTS

SI knows that strategies must be aligned with organizational priorities, mandates, and limitations. Having conducted strategy services with a variety of clients, we have gained deep insight into our clients' business models, policies, and operating environments so that strategy services are in sync with their real-time needs. We are also attuned to the entry points for strategic thinking, both in operational processes and throughout programming cycles.

PLURALISTIC ENGAGEMENT

SI believes that everyone in an organization can contribute meaningfully to strategy development. Our approach utilizes several pathways of engagement to allow for diversity of voices, opinions, and ideas to emerge, thereby increasing organizational buy-in and strengthening the overall strategy. By providing space for diverse perspectives, we leverage expertise across sectors and contexts to challenge assumptions and strengthen causal pathways of change.

EXPERT FACILITATION

SI experts guide clients with practical tools that save time and support teambuilding. SI templates capture iterative thinking on strategy documents as new insights emerge, allowing clients to develop compelling, evidence-based content. Our stocktaking support enables adaptive management, helping identify what's working and why, and what needs to change. Our retreats help clients identify key drivers of change, opportunities for collaboration, and priority needs.

STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT RESULTS

SI has pioneered strategies for our clients covering far-reaching subjects and geographies, including:

CLIENT LIST

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
Discovery Learning Alliance
FHI 360
Mastercard Foundation
Millennium Challenge Corporation
RTI International
USAID
US Department of State
World Bank

SERVICES PROVIDED

- o Regional and country strategy design (R/CDCS)
- o Performance management plans (PMPs) design
- o Situational Analyses
- o Learning Agendas
- o Project and activity designs
- o MEL Plan review and revision
- o Scenario planning
- o Organizational Development and Change Management
- o Workforce assessments
- o Integration Planning and implementation
- o Mission Management Assessments and Rapid Assessments
- o Adaptive Management
- o Compliance with Agency or organizational policies



ETHIOPIA INTEGRATED HEALTH PLAN RESULTS FRAMEWORK SUPPORT

CLIENT: BILL AND MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION (BMGF) TIME: 2 YEARS (2016-2018) LOCATION: ETHIOPIA

40+ GRANTS ALIGNED **\$180,000,000** HEALTH PORTFOLIO ALIGNED TO PRIORITIES **BMGF'S** FIRST INTEGRATED COUNTRY HEALTH TEAM ESTABLISHED

SI provided strategy development, performance measurement, organizational development and change management services to the Foundation's Ethiopia Integrated Health Team. The new strategy allowed the grant portfolio to shift to health systems strengthening and better align with the government's national health priorities.



USAID/ZIMBABWE RESULTS FRAMEWORK & CDCS

CLIENT: USAID/ZIMBABWE TIME: 10 MONTHS (2015-2016) LOCATION: ZIMBABWE

- **6** CLA PLAN ELEMENTS
- **4** WEEKS OF STRATEGY SUPPORT
- 3 INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES

SI's award winning approach assisted USAID/Zimbabwe in developing its CDCS over an intensive fourweek process. We brought together Mission staff, USAID/Washington colleagues, and context and sector experts through a series of iterative workstreams. The Results Framework and accompanying narrative reflected the Zimbabwean environment by featuring a flexible, scenario-based design to inform adaptive management over the course of CDCS implementation.

HOW WE ARE ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

Building on our experience, SI has established itself as a thought leader in strategy and adaptive management. We have contributed to innovations including scenario planning, co-creation, and adaptive rigor so that strategic documents are not only grounded in operational realities, but also flexible and responsive to emerging changes and needs. Our support helps clients analyze local contexts and identify triggers that may require alternative strategies. Our work equips donors and implementing partners with core principles of strategic thinking so that they can ensure alignment across portfolios, identify triggers for adaptive shifts, and test assumptions and theories underpinning pathways of change.