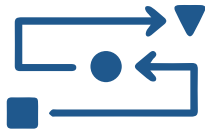


Impact Evaluations (IEs) are designed to verify whether interventions achieved a given set of outcomes and quantify how much of a change is attributable to the project or policy. The ability to isolate the impacts caused by the intervention, as distinct from changes influenced by other factors, is possible through the identification of a rigorous counterfactual (i.e. control group) and the collection of quantitative data at different points in time. Because of their ability to precisely estimate programmatic impacts and compare the efficacy of alternate approaches, IEs have the potential to provide policy makers with powerful information on whether to scale, replicate, modify, or terminate an intervention and seek more promising alternatives.

PROGRAM FEATURES



RIGOROUS METHODS



INNOVATIVE
DEPLOYMENT



CUSTOMIZED
DESIGN

KEY ADVANTAGES OF SOCIAL IMPACT'S APPROACH

SI has conducted more than 30 IEs over the course of the last 9 years and customizes each IE to meet client needs. Our ability to facilitate decision-making between alternative evaluation approaches, weighing the tradeoffs of rigor, cost, and feasibility helps ensure the most policy-relevant evaluations.

QUALITY

Through our dedicated IE division and longstanding relationships with leading universities, we build teams of world-class researchers for every study. Technical and managerial excellence in the design and implementation of our studies is supported by SI's proprietary Evaluation, Quality, Use, and Impact (EQUI®) system. Through guidance, templates, workflows, resource libraries, and quality control checkpoints at every step of the evaluation cycle, this system helps ensure our evaluations meet or exceed rigorous international standards.

INNOVATION

SI has been an early adopter of a wide range of emerging technologies to strengthen data collection, measurement, and quality. The use of electronic data collection allows us to capture, review, and improve enumeration in real time. When face-to-face interviewing is not possible, we are able to implement mobile and web-based surveys. We incorporate geospatial analysis, a range of performance evaluation techniques, and cutting-edge direct measurement technologies into our research.

MIXED METHODS EXPERTISE

We recognize the complexity of interventions and the environments in which they are implemented, and we value the critical insights and depth provided through blending quantitative and qualitative methods. Drawing on qualitative expertise from our Strategy, Performance and Learning division, SI can supplement quantitative analyses with nuanced accounts of mechanisms that drive or inhibit programmatic effectiveness. Our studies go beyond answering whether something happened. We document why results did or did not materialize.

IMPACT EVALUATION RESULTS

SI has pioneered impact evaluations with far-reaching methodological approaches, subjects, and geographies, including:

SECTOR SPECIALITIES

- Education
- Economic Growth
- Infrastructure
- Democracy and Government
- Agriculture and Land Use
- Health and Nutrition



A GANAR IE

CLIENT: USAID

TIMELINE: 6 YEARS

LOCATION: HONDOURAS & GUATEMALA

The A Ganar IE used two complementary Randomized Controlled Trials to explore how a sports-based employment training intervention helped at-risk youth find jobs, become entrepreneurs, and seek additional education. The team quantified challenging outcomes through proxy measurements and survey experiments. Tracking multiple cohorts of youth, the study demonstrated how strong collaboration with implementing partners can enable successful large-scale empirical research in a complex operating environment. Results from this study were used to improve the design of the intervention and helped inform USAID regional programming.

JORDAN WATER IE

CLIENT: MCC

TIMELINE: 7 YEARS

LOCATION: JORDAN

The Jordan Water IE assessed the impact of a complex set of infrastructure investments intended to improve the distribution, collection, and treatment of urban water to promote substitution toward more sustainable water sources among downstream farmers. The systems nature of the intervention necessitated a study comprised of multiple impact evaluations, multiple performance evaluations, multiple cross-sectional surveys, and direct observation. The study demonstrated the ability to answer complex evaluation questions through the combination of complementary research designs. Results of this study will be used to inform future water infrastructure investments by MCC and the Government of Jordan.

"We have found the data quality assurance materials extremely helpful... the data quality assurance guidelines have enabled us to build more comprehensive quality assurance frameworks... and helped to build our team's data collection capacity. Even though other clients may have different data quality requirements, we have found that SI's guidelines have been helpful to ensure that we are doing as much as possible to collect quality information throughout other data collection contracts."

—SI's data collection partners in Ghana for Discover Learning Alliance (DLA) Girls' Education Challenge (GEC) IE

HOW WE ARE ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

SI is contributing to the global evidence base of rigorous research to improve the efficacy and efficiency of international development programming. We design studies to provide concrete answers about programmatic impact and strive to generalize findings across contexts to inform broader programming objectives. We strive to amplify the audience for our work through deep-seated commitment to research replicability and transparency, publication of datasets and research methods, periodic results synthesis, and wide-ranging approaches to results dissemination. We work with researchers, policy makers, and implementing partners to collaboratively ask, and answer, tough questions.