

Participatory Analysis Workshops are an approach to evidence-based decision-making when designing and implementing programs and strategies. Sometimes called “data parties,” these events enable diverse stakeholders to reflect on data and interpret its implications for action in as little as a few hours. Strides have been made to enhance data collection, but equally important is how to **use** that data. Utilization is a core value at Social Impact (SI), where we aim to produce useful and relevant information that is widely understood and acted upon. Rather than thinking of information as only stored in presentations and reports, SI approaches information as experiential, that audiences must engage with in order to apply it in their daily work.

## PROGRAM FEATURES



COLLABORATING



ENGAGING  
STAKEHOLDERS



ADAPTIVE

## KEY ADVANTAGES OF SOCIAL IMPACT'S APPROACH

SI identifies critical opportunities to embed CLA into the program cycle like Participatory Analysis Workshops that foster organizational learning through reflective conversation. This could be a Workshop to consult stakeholders during activity design or jointly develop recommendations during an evaluation.

### COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

SI has guided diverse sets of clients and stakeholders through consensus building around the challenges and decisions facing development programs. Employing Participatory Analysis Workshops grounds this process in evidence by creating dialogue about the credibility and implications of monitoring and evaluation data. By making these workshops enjoyable experiences with relationship building, participants become open to using findings, increasing the likelihood that organic learning and knowledge transfers take place.

### COCREATING RESPONSIVE SOLUTIONS

SI's commitment to producing data that can be understood and acted upon helps new and underutilized actors join the development process and contribute. Cocreation is an equitable process to achieve sustainable and scalable solutions through collaboration. Participatory data party exercises like gallery walks and world cafes remove barriers that keep potential partners from engaging, enabling them to share new perspectives to further social change.

### OWNERSHIP

This sense-making process allows decision makers to better internalize complex information. By being part of the solution development, they own the next steps required to adapt, facilitating capacity development and ownership over local service delivery. Participatory Analysis Workshops create a space to bring together donors, implementers, government, and stakeholders to examine challenges and have constructive discussion around how to adapt programming and improve coordination. Not only do these workshops strengthen partnerships, they give local actors the knowledge and support to drive future action.

# COLLABORATIVE ANALYSIS WORKSHOP RESULTS

SI is helping development practitioners make evidence-based decisions by providing new and dynamic means to interpreting data

## OPERATIONALIZING CLA

- Adaptive Management
- Technical Evidence Base
- M&E for Learning
- Internal & External Collaboration
- Decision-Making
- Openness
- Relationships & Networks

"What we are finding gives us pause for reflection—what is working and isn't working. This is helpful for going through the process of reprogramming... The workshop was helpful because we are seeing methods on how to involve counties [Government County Education Officers and District Education Officers] in a meaningful way in the monitoring data and to probe deeper on what the data is telling us."

— USAID/Liberia Implementing Partner

"One of the major lessons for the USAID team has been realizing that DE can provide a flexible mechanism to improve a project, beyond the expectations of the formal evaluation question reports."

— USAID/Indonesia

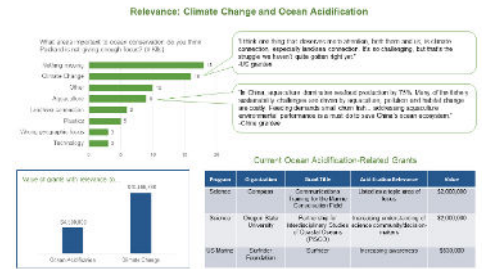


## DEVELOPMENTAL EVALUATION FOR JALIN

CLIENT: USAID  
TIMELINE: 3.5 YEARS  
LOCATION: INDONESIA

The Developmental Evaluation (DE) used six Participatory Analysis Workshops to map 1,910 potential partners for USAID Jalin to engage in cocreating solutions for maternal and newborn health. Participants gallery walked to different stations that presented survey data on stakeholder's legitimacy, willingness to engage, influence, and other variables and then discussed which to engage to improve local health outcomes.

Over the next year, the USAID Jalin partnered with 311 stakeholders identified in these workshops to cocreate, co-finance, and co-implement 71 local solutions to reduce maternal and neonatal deaths in Indonesia.



## STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK REFRESH

CLIENT: PACKARD FOUNDATION  
TIMELINE: 1 DAY  
LOCATION: UNITED STATES

SI co-facilitated a one-day workshop with the Packard Foundation to disseminate findings from the Ocean Strategic Framework (OSF) evaluation. In small group sessions, participants interpreted data placemats to foster joint analysis and draw conclusions around their implications. These small groups later explored options for recommendations, followed by round robin presentations and plenary discussion.

The workshop allowed teams to examine and add nuance to emergent findings and created space for teams to reflect on programming in the context of wider goals. This fed into the evaluation report to make it more relevant for its audience.

## HOW WE ARE ADVANCING DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS

SI is helping development practitioners make evidence-based decisions by providing new and dynamic means to interpreting data. We design and facilitate learning events that enable diverse stakeholders to reflect on new information and reach consensus on how it informs program and strategic objectives. SI strives to reinforce the principles of collaborative learning, cocreation of responsive solutions, and local ownership by providing equitable entry points for new and underutilized development partners to join the conversation. We work with researchers, policy makers, implementing partners, and beneficiaries to give them the knowledge and support to drive future action.