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LEARNING FROM EVALUATION SYNTHESSES

Technical Report On Making Evidence From Evaluations More Accessible To Decision-Makers

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LEARNING FROM EVALUATION SYNTHESES

TECHNICAL REPORT ON MAKING EVIDENCE FROM EVALUATIONS MORE ACCESSIBLE TO DECISION- MAKERS

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E3 Analytics and Evaluation Project

DISCLAIMER

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ACRONYMS

ADS	Automated Directives System (USAID)
BFS	Bureau for Food Security (USAID)
DEC	Development Experience Clearinghouse (USAID)
E3	Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, and Environment (USAID)
ED	Office of Education (USAID/E3)
FAB	Office of Forestry and Biodiversity (USAID/E3)
GH	Bureau for Global Health (USAID)
LAC	Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (USAID)
LER	Office of Learning, Evaluation, and Research (USAID/PPL)
ME	Bureau for the Middle East (USAID)
MSI	Management Systems International
PLC	Office of Planning, Learning, and Coordination (USAID/E3)
PPL	Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning (USAID)
PPR	Performance Plan and Report
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This technical report focuses on evaluation syntheses as aid for learning and improving the utilization of evidence from evaluations. Decision-makers use such evidence to inform foreign assistance policies, strategies, projects, and activities, and for monitoring and improving evaluation quality. Evaluation syntheses are analytic studies that consolidate substantive findings from sets of evaluations on a particular topic or question (meta-analyses), or which examine some aspect of the quality of a set of evaluations (meta-evaluations). This report was developed collaboratively with USAID's Office of Learning, Evaluation, and Research in the Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning by the E3 Analytics and Evaluation Project to inform the development of a USAID Discussion Note on Making Evidence Accessible through Evaluation Syntheses. The report also recognizes the learning value of syntheses of evidence based on sources other than evaluations.

Findings in this technical report come largely from an in-depth review and interviews for 13 recent USAID syntheses. These syntheses were selected purposively because they are relatively recent efforts widely shared within the Agency and illustrate the range of synthesis subtypes on USAID's Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC). To determine the universe of syntheses commissioned since USAID published its Evaluation Policy in 2011, a DEC keyword search was conducted that included the terms synthesis, meta-evaluation, and meta-analysis. The search located 458 documents, of which 110 were produced between 2012 and 2018. Of these 110, 59 were verified to be the kinds of reviews of evaluations and other evidence sources deemed useful for informing the USAID Discussion Note on Making Evidence Accessible through Evaluation Synthesis. Twelve of the 59 verified syntheses had been prepared based on USAID evaluations alone, while the remainder drew mainly on other types of evidence, including published journal articles. Five of the 12 syntheses that considered only evaluations included a meta-evaluation element. Those studies focused on evaluation compliance with USAID policy and/or the strength of evaluation evidence.

This report found differences in the time and personnel required to conduct various meta-evaluation and meta-analysis sub-types. Locating sets of evaluations to examine and training teams both typically involve a significant level of effort, with some types of syntheses taking well over a year to complete. Among meta-analyses that drew solely on evaluations, a common focus was on improving evaluation utilization in Program Cycle decisions by making substantive findings more accessible. Synthesis sponsors included regional as well as technical and policy bureaus, and one overseas mission. Interviews with USAID staff and synthesis teams stressed the importance of focusing on the intended audience for a synthesis and its perceived needs at the start of a study and prioritizing dissemination and actively fostering learning and utilization at the end. Evidence of the impact of USAID syntheses was relatively scarce, as few had systematically followed-up on these studies, but where utilization was found it was at times impressive. One synthesis USAID produced had a direct effect on the content of a U.S. government-wide policy.

Evidence Syntheses for Decision-Makers

- **Meta-analyses** extract and present the substantive findings of evaluations. Meta-analyses can also consolidate evidence from other types of studies.
- **Meta-evaluations** evaluate evaluations for their compliance with Agency policy, or their quality and evidence strength.

INTRODUCTION

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) encourages synthesizing evidence from the many evaluations it conducts and using that information to design and implement policies, strategies, and projects, as well as to develop forward-looking learning agendas and strengthen Agency evaluation practices. The preparation and use of evaluation syntheses align with USAID’s commitment under its joint 2018-2022 Strategic Plan with the Department of State to “increase the use of evidence to inform budget, program planning and design, and management decisions.” USAID also relies on evidence syntheses based on published research and other sources to inform its programming decisions.

USAID’s Office of Learning, Evaluation, and Research in the Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning (PPL/LER) collaborated with the E3 Analytics and Evaluation Project¹ (“the study team” hereafter) to develop this technical report and a USAID Discussion Note: *Making Evidence Accessible through Evaluation Syntheses*. These documents are designed to help USAID make evaluation findings more accessible to Agency staff and implementing partners through investments in evaluation syntheses, when a distillation of evidence from evaluations would strengthen development assistance strategies and project designs and increase the likelihood of their success.

To develop this report and the Discussion Note, the study team examined synthesis holdings in USAID’s Development Experience Clearinghouse (DEC) published between 2012-2018 and classified them by synthesis type.² The team also conducted an in-depth review of 13 USAID-funded syntheses to understand how these kinds of studies have been initiated, managed, disseminated, and utilized. [Annex A](#) provides USAID’s statement of work (SOW) for the development of this report and the Discussion Note.

PURPOSE, AUDIENCE, AND INTENDED USES

This report on evaluation syntheses aims to help USAID staff understand (1) the potential of syntheses as a tool for improving evidence-based development assistance, strengthening Agency evaluation practice, and fostering learning; and (2) which synthesis sub-types are most useful for a range of learning and management purposes. This report includes detailed information on the identified universe of synthesis reports in the DEC, including those based on evaluations alone and those based on other sources of evidence (which may include evaluations), as well as findings from an in-depth review of 13 selected syntheses. This report is expected to help USAID staff who may be responsible for deciding when an evaluation synthesis should be initiated and what type of synthesis to conduct. The report also serves as a background paper for USAID’s Discussion Note: *Making Evidence Accessible through Evaluation Syntheses*.

METHODOLOGY AND STUDY LIMITATIONS

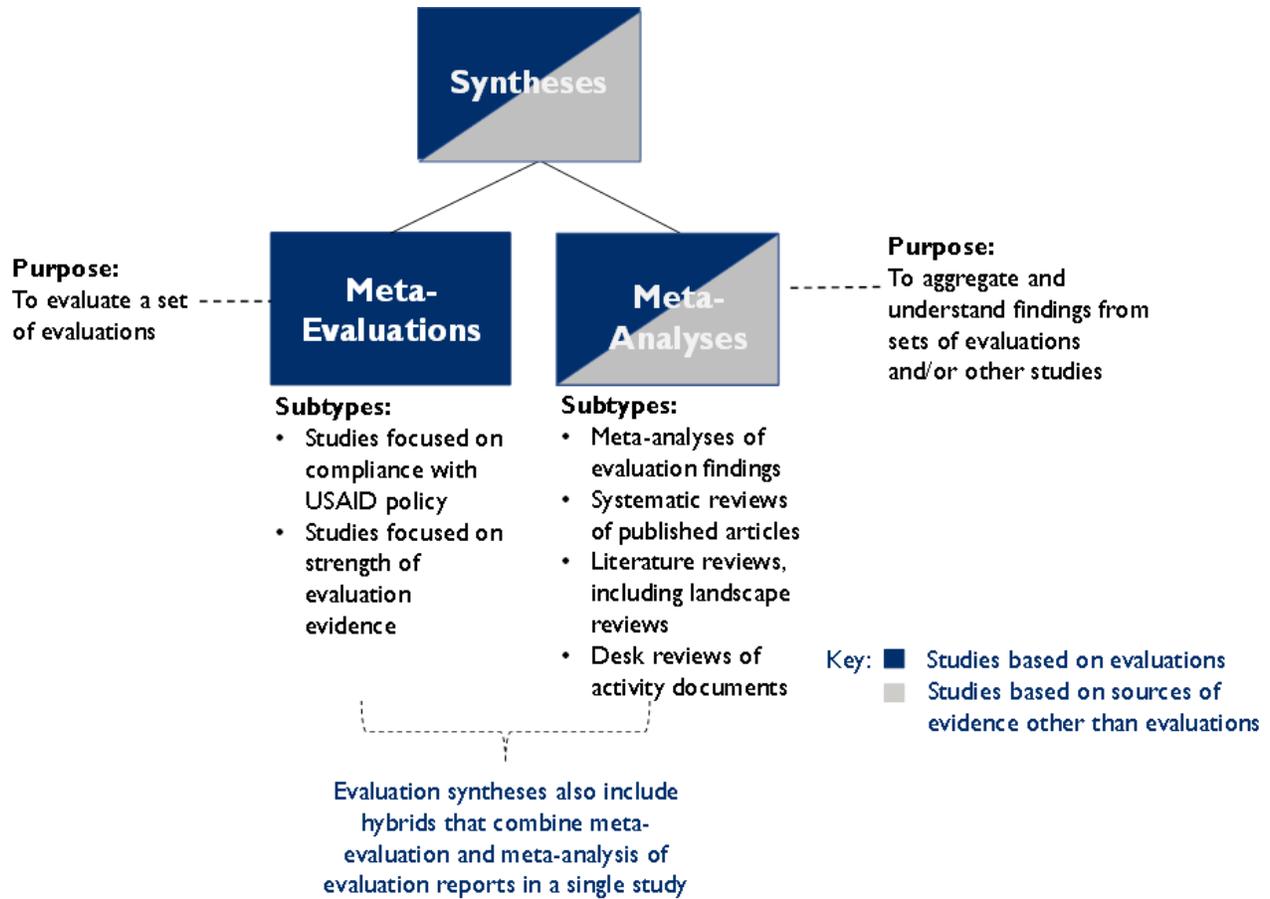
The findings presented in this report derive primarily from the study team’s in-depth review of 13 selected USAID syntheses produced since 2012, following the 2011 publication of USAID’s Evaluation Policy. These 13 cases represent a range of synthesis sub-types as well as a diversity of sectors and

¹ Management Systems International (MSI, A Tetra Tech Company) is the lead implementer of the E3 Analytics and Evaluation Project, in partnership with Development and Training Services, a Palladium company.

² Table D-1 in Annex D provides a detailed list of USAID syntheses reports produced between 2012 and 2018 by year and synthesis sub-type.

regions. Figure 1 illustrates the range of evaluation synthesis sub-types located on the DEC. This figure highlights in blue synthesis sub-types that examine USAID evaluations, and shows in grey synthesis sub-types that may use other sources of evidence such as journal articles and research reports. Box 1 provides the study team’s definitions of key terms shown in Figure 1 and discussed elsewhere in this report.

FIGURE 1: EVALUATION SYNTHESIS TYPES AND SUB-TYPES IDENTIFIED IN THE DEC



Box 1: Definitions of Key Terms Referenced in this Report

Synthesis: Process of analytically summarizing information from multiple sources to convey their combined significance.

Meta-Evaluation: Analytic examination of a set of evaluations to assess aspects of their quality or merit. Some meta-evaluations focus on the *compliance* of a set of evaluations with the sponsoring organization's evaluation requirements and guidance. Other meta-evaluations have been commissioned to assess the *strength of the evidence* that a set of evaluations provide.

Meta-Analysis: Analytic examination of secondary source documents to identify patterns among them (convergence/divergence); also a statistical approach to combining results of multiple studies to increase their statistical power. Meta-analyses may examine evaluations as well as other types of research.

Sub-types of meta-analyses include:

- *Meta-Analysis of Findings from Multiple Evaluations:* May be topical, focusing on patterns of findings from evaluations in a specific sector. May also look across evaluations of activities in multiple sectors within a specific geographic area to understand patterns of success and failure and challenges affecting a range of interventions. [This term is sometimes used more narrowly when discussing the statistical analysis aspect of a Systematic Review, defined below.]
- *Multi-Site Evaluation:* Examines a single evaluation for patterns in findings across case studies, in various locations where an intervention was delivered, or under various arms of a research trial.
- *Systematic Review:* Summarizes findings of multiple rigorous studies on a specific question or hypothesis. May examine the effect of multiple interventions focused on the same result, or examine replication studies that focus on differences in the effects of an intervention in a new environment or to additional target group types. Most systematic reviews comprehensively assemble peer-reviewed journal articles in the field of study, with screening criteria for research design quality and evidence strength. Published evaluation findings may appear in systematic reviews of interventions for which evaluations were undertaken.
- *Literature Review:* Draws on published works, but may include a wider range of documents for a topic and include documents produced by organizations working in an area as well as journal articles and other materials. It sometimes precedes work on a strategy or project design in a new area. For impact evaluations, a literature review may be a preliminary step to help establish what is already known about interventions focused on a problem or opportunity. Literature reviews are sometimes undertaken with publication as their specific goal.

Other Types of Synthesis: Other types of synthesis reports can also help build the evidence base on which decision-makers rely. Such studies do not necessarily review evaluations or published articles, although they may do so. Examples include:

- *Landscape Review:* Describes the kinds of activities being undertaken to address a problem or opportunity. It may include a description of types of activities, what agencies are supporting them, and in which regions.
- *Desk Study:* Typically includes a review of existing documentation to inform future actions. Desk studies often synthesize existing information concerning a strategy, project, or activity. They may include documents about ongoing or previous activities, the environment in which they were undertaken, and the political, economic, and other characteristics of those situations, or target groups within them.
- *Compendium of Evaluation Abstracts:* Can help quickly identify the most relevant evaluations within a particular area by distilling key aspects of evaluation reports to their essential points.

Table 1 lists the 13 cases the study team examined in-depth, including the synthesis type and sub-type. Twelve of the 13 syntheses are available on the DEC; the remaining synthesis (Case 9) was undertaken by USAID's Middle East Bureau and has not been published.

TABLE 1: 13 SYNTHESSES EXAMINED IN DEPTH, BY SUB-TYPE

Case	Study Name	Link	Type/Subtype	Sponsor
1	Synthesis of Evaluations Related to the Feed the Future Learning Agenda	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M38P.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta-Analysis: Synthesis of substantive findings from multiple evaluations 	USAID/BFS
2	Closing the Loop on Learning: A Review of Local Solutions Evaluation Reports	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MVSM.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta-Analysis: Synthesis of substantive findings from multiple evaluations 	USAID/PPL/ LER
3	Sectoral Synthesis of 2013-2014 Evaluation Findings: Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, & Environment	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00KQT8.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta-Analysis: Synthesis of substantive findings from multiple evaluations • Meta-Evaluation: Compliance with evaluation policy 	USAID/E3
4	Assessment of the Quality of USAID-funded evaluations, Education sector, 2013-2016 and Synthesis of Findings and Lessons Learned, Education sector, 2013-2016 (in separate volumes)	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pa00srwl.pdf https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00T1HD.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta-evaluation: Strength of evidence screening (prior to meta-analysis) • Meta-Analysis: Synthesis of substantive findings from multiple evaluations 	USAID/E3/ED
5	A Systematic Review of Positive Youth Development Programs in Low- and Middle-Income Countries	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MR58.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta-Analysis: Systematic Review of published studies and grey literature 	USAID/GH
6	Early Grade Reading in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Systematic Review	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00N3QP.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta-Analysis: Systematic Review of published studies 	USAID/LAC
7	Meta-Evaluation: Meta-Analysis of Final Evaluations of USAID/Afghanistan Projects, 2010-2015	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M8B2.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta-Analysis: Synthesis of substantive findings from multiple evaluations 	USAID/ Afghanistan
8	Meta-Evaluation of Quality and Coverage of USAID Evaluations, 2009-2012	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACX77L.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta-Evaluation: Compliance with evaluation policy 	USAID/PPL/ LER
9	Middle East Bureau Evaluation Synthesis	Not posted to the DEC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta-Evaluation of evaluation quality • Meta-Analysis of evaluation findings 	USAID/ME
10	Mobiles for Education Evaluation Abstracts	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M7ZN.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compendium of Evaluation Abstracts • Meta-Evaluation: Evaluations categorized by evaluation design type 	USAID/E3/ED
11	Sustaining Development: A Synthesis of Results from a Four-Country Study of Sustainability and Exit Strategies among Development Food Assistance Projects	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M1SX.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meta-Analysis: Synthesis of findings from four sites under a single assessment 	USAID/BFS

Case	Study Name	Link	Type/Subtype	Sponsor
12	Education in Conflict and Crisis: How Can Technology Make a Difference	https://allchildrenreading.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/How-Can-Technology-Make-a-Difference.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meta-Analysis: Landscape Review findings about trends and patterns in projects addressing a specific topic or type of activity 	USAID/E3/ED
13	Conservation Enterprises: Using a Theory of Change Approach to Synthesize Lessons from USAID Biodiversity Projects	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PBAAF622.pdf (Technical Brief)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meta-Analysis: Literature Review of published studies and grey literature, as well as field experience with USAID projects 	USAID/E3/FAB

The study team used a single instrument to record data obtained from synthesis reports and to gather information from interviews the team conducted with USAID staff and external experts who were involved in the preparation of those reports. [Annex B](#) provides this instrument, and [Annex C](#) lists the individuals the team interviewed.

This report also provides the study team’s findings from a count of documents located through key word searches of the DEC. The team organized the identified syntheses into clusters based on the synthesis types they represented. [Annex D](#) presents summaries of the 59 syntheses the study team found on the DEC that were published between 2012-2018 and it verified as syntheses. Table D-1 shows the number of syntheses based on USAID evaluations versus other sources of evidence, and the sub-types within each of those clusters.

The primary limitation of this report’s findings is the small size and purposive nature of the sample. This research did not examine a representative sample, but rather drew lessons from recent syntheses that are fairly well known inside USAID owing to their focus, quality, and utility.

FINDINGS

This section describes two sets of findings. The first set focuses on the syntheses in the DEC and the sub-types represented in these holdings. The second set describes what was learned from the study team’s in-depth review of 13 syntheses about establishing the synthesis purpose, organizing and managing syntheses development, and fostering the synthesis’ dissemination and utilization.

USAID Syntheses and Synthesis Sub-Types

The DEC includes documents that date back to USAID’s inception in 1961. Searching the entire DEC collection, the study team found 458 documents with “synthesis,” “syntheses,” or other key terms in their titles.³

USAID first encouraged the creation of syntheses that aggregated evaluation findings from missions around the world in the Agency’s 1970 [Evaluation Handbook](#). A 1986 study on the [social marketing of contraceptives](#) is one of earliest syntheses of USAID evaluation findings on the DEC. The earliest synthesis focusing on the quality of USAID evaluations and their compliance with Agency policy emerged

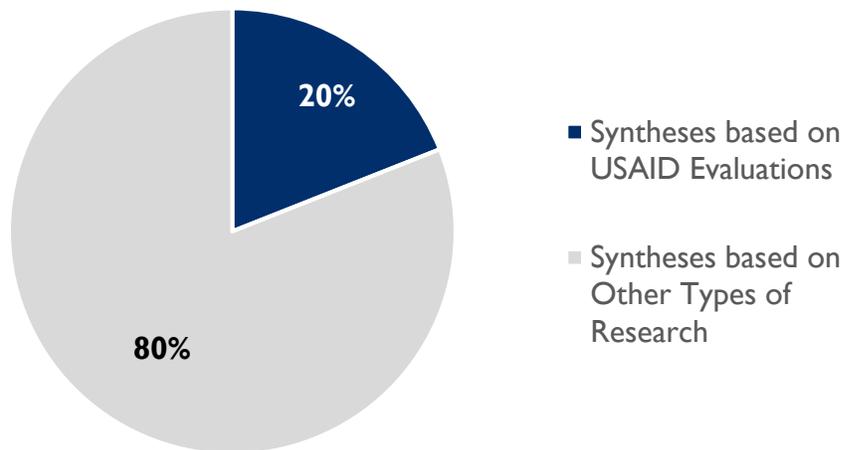
³ The team conducted key word searches using the terms “synthesis,” “syntheses,” and several synthesis sub-type designations defined in Box 1, including “meta-evaluation,” “meta-analysis,” and “systematic review.”

in a 1984 report for which the [executive summary](#) and [findings report](#) are on the DEC, which covered a sample of 80 evaluations completed in 1981-1982.

The study team located 110 documents on the DEC published between 2012-2018 that were self-described as syntheses. The team reviewed those documents and validated that 59 of them were in fact a synthesis of multiple evaluations or other type of research studies and/or involved the synthesis of findings from a multi-site or multiple case study evaluation or assessment.

Of these 59 validated synthesis reports, 12 (20 percent) were based on USAID evaluations, while the remaining 47 were based on other types of USAID-commissioned research that synthesized data from multiple independent studies or multiple sites or cases under a single study (Figure 2). In some cases, the 47 included evaluations as part of the synthesis.

FIGURE 2: SHARE OF USAID SYNTHESIS REPORTS BASED ON USAID EVALUATIONS (2012-2018)



As Figure 2 indicates, in recent years USAID has conducted relatively few syntheses considering only evaluations compared to syntheses that draw on evidence from other sources (which in some cases may include evaluations). This finding is consistent with the [2016 study of Evaluation Utilization at USAID](#), which found that *none* of the USAID policy papers produced in 2011-2015 cited findings from USAID evaluations among their evidence sources. The relative rarity of ‘pure’ evaluation syntheses is also consistent with that study’s finding that the evaluation evidence missions use to design strategies, projects, and activities comes almost exclusively from evaluations conducted by those same missions.⁴

⁴ USAID staff interviewed for *Evaluation Utilization at USAID* reported they did not routinely search the DEC to obtain findings from evaluations of similar projects, nor did they routinely contact other missions in their regions about their evaluation findings. None of the mission staff interviewed mentioned using an evaluation synthesis when developing a strategy or project.

Meta-Evaluations and Meta-Analyses

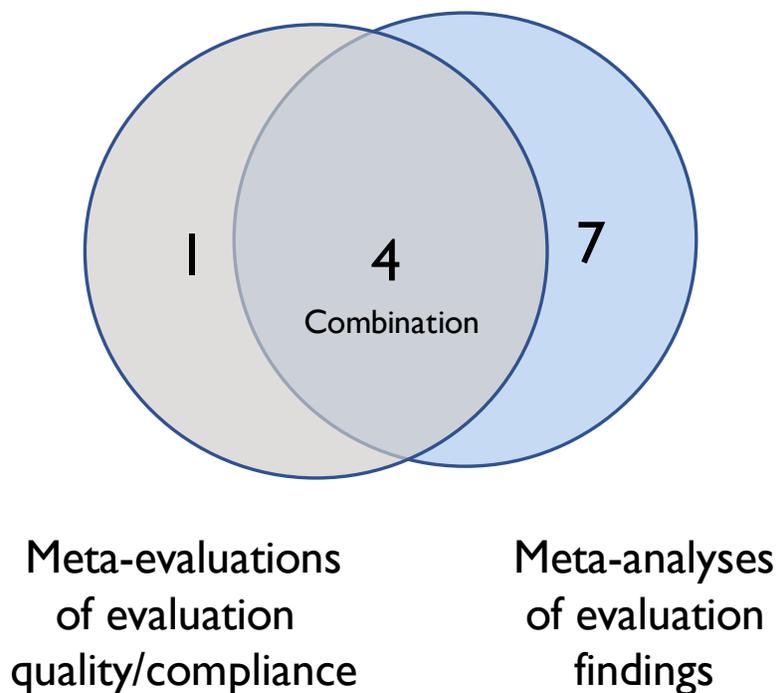
The two main types of evaluation syntheses are meta-evaluations and meta-analyses, as Figure 1 illustrates. Meta-evaluations are “evaluations of evaluations” that examine the quality of evaluation reports, and in some cases the SOWs for evaluations as well. Meta-evaluations may examine evaluation compliance with Agency policies and/or the strength of the evidence that evaluations provide. Meta-evaluations are a type of synthesis only for studies in which evaluations – rather than other types of research – are the foundation. Meta-analyses, in contrast, can be conducted for sets of evaluations or for a collection of other types of reports (e.g., peer-reviewed journal articles), and may examine a mix of report types including evaluations.

Of the 12 syntheses in the DEC that were based solely on USAID evaluation reports, 1 included a meta-evaluation element only, 7 included a meta-analysis element, and 4 combined meta-evaluation and meta-analysis (Figure 3).

Evidence Syntheses for Decision-Makers

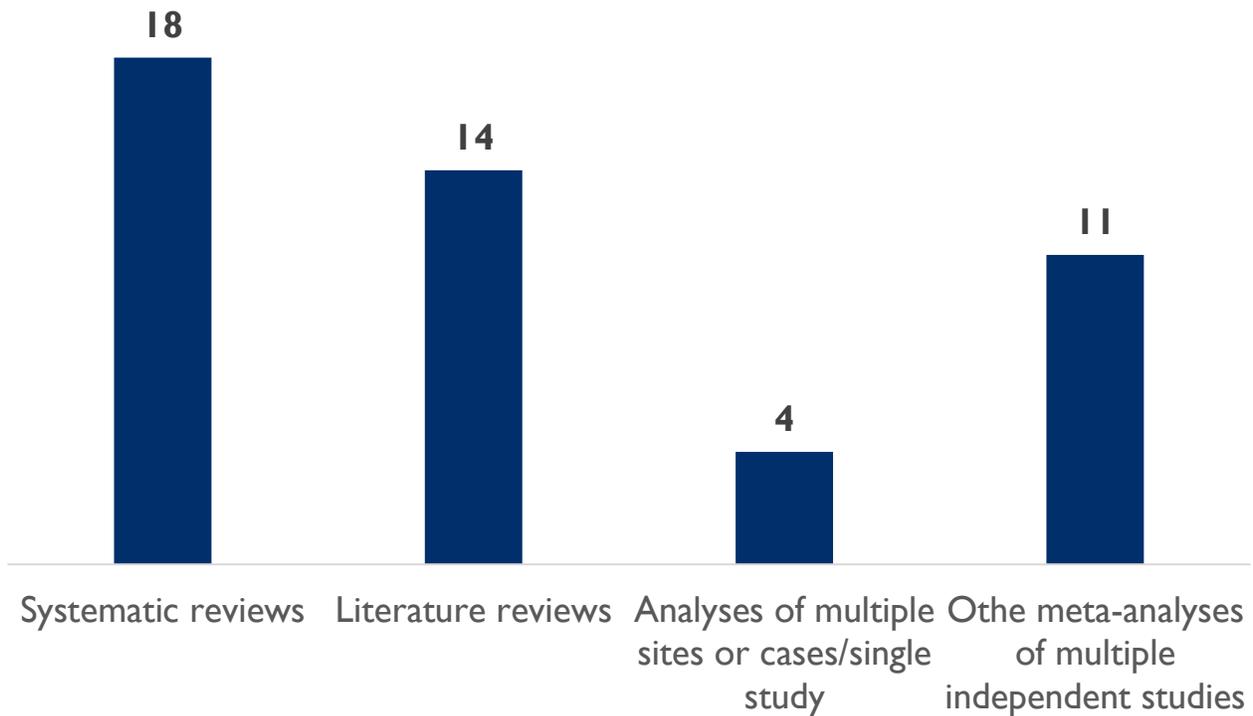
- Meta-evaluations review the compliance of evaluations with Agency policy, or their quality and evidence strength.
- Meta-analyses extract and present the substantive findings of evaluations or other types of research studies.

FIGURE 3: ANALYTIC FOCUS OF SYNTHESIS IN THE DEC BASED SOLELY ON USAID EVALUATIONS



In contrast to syntheses that examined only evaluation reports, the 47 identified syntheses that were based on other types of research reports were all meta-analyses, some of which may have included evaluations. Among these 47 meta-analyses, rigorous systematic reviews of peer-reviewed journal articles were the most frequent subtype, and many focused-on health issues. Other types of literature reviews, such as landscape reviews and single studies that included a meta-analysis of data from multiple sites or cases, appeared with equal frequency. Only a few studies involved other meta-analysis approaches (Figure 4).

FIGURE 4: OTHER META-ANALYSES NOT BASED ON USAID EVALUATIONS



When these 47 meta-analyses are combined with the 10 syntheses that included a meta-analysis element, the number of meta-analyses in the set of 2012-2018 syntheses the study team located rises to 58 out of 59 (98 percent). This shows how dominant meta-analyses are among the syntheses USAID recently commissioned. The fact that most recent USAID syntheses focused on aggregated findings from various sources, including evaluations, about “what works” in addressing development challenges is not surprising. The study team’s review of all USAID syntheses in the DEC indicates that this same division existed in earlier decades.

The potential value to USAID of syntheses that bring forward evidence which can be used to develop strategies and projects is widely recognized. In addition, since 2012, USAID’s Automated Directives System (ADS) has become increasingly explicit about when and where the evidence used to make programming decisions must be cited in Program Cycle documents. These requirements make evidence syntheses relevant for USAID officers working across diverse sectors and countries. While USAID/Washington commissioned many of the evaluation syntheses the study team examined, Missions have also undertaken them. For example, USAID/Afghanistan produced an evaluation synthesis (Case 7) that rated activities across all sectors on how well they had performed in relation to their objective. Given USAID’s rising expectations about evidence-based programming, it is notable that only 10 of the 58 recent meta-analyses (17 percent) were based on USAID evaluations.

USAID’s need and audiences for meta-evaluations are linked to the importance the Agency attaches to high-quality evaluations. These studies utilize checklists or other criteria to determine evaluation evidence strength and the degree to which USAID evaluations conform to established standards. Methods used help pinpoint where weaknesses exist and suggest the kinds of interventions that can be taken to correct them. While fewer in number than meta-analyses, meta-evaluations play an important role in promoting good practice and the use of evaluation evidence in decision-making. Over the past decade, PPL/LER and two other USAID bureaus (E3 and Middle East) have carried out meta-evaluations.

Findings Relevant for Planning and Implementing Syntheses

This section details the study team’s findings about planning and implementing evaluation syntheses and other types of evidence syntheses from the 13 selected USAID cases. It is not meant to represent the full set of syntheses in the DEC for 2012-2018, but rather provide examples of how past syntheses have been conducted. Findings are organized into three clusters: the purpose and audiences of the syntheses; the USAID operating units that commission syntheses and the mechanisms they use to produce them; and the stages and tasks in the synthesis process, including time and cost considerations.

Purpose and Audiences for Syntheses

The purpose and audiences for the 13 syntheses fall into two broad clusters: meta-evaluations and meta-analyses.

Meta-Analysis Purposes

Eleven of the 13 synthesis cases included a meta-analysis component. Purpose statements in those documents focused on learning and the utilization of evaluation findings. The difference with meta-evaluations is the intermediate results meta-analyses deliver. Beyond their primary purposes, the meta-analyses examined also cited additional purposes. Three cases were self-described as foundational documents for another activity or evaluation. The first was designed to be used as a research document to inform an upcoming global evaluation of a bureau’s activities (Case 1). The second intended to inform a fund for increasing the number of impact evaluations in a sector (Case 10). The third sought to develop a learning agenda and create a generalizable theory of change for the sector (Case 13).

Intended results from meta-analyses varied somewhat by sub-type. For example:

- **Systematic Reviews of Published Studies**



Purpose:	Increase reliance on evidence-based decision-making by communicating key results of multiple tests of specific approaches/hypotheses in relation to a common outcome
Sub-Purpose:	Aggregate and compare research findings to determine the effectiveness of specific development assistance approaches/hypotheses <i>based on published research that meets quality screening criteria</i> ⁵ (Cases 5, 6)

- **Meta-Analyses of Studies Other than Evaluations or Published Articles**



Purpose:	Increase the availability of aggregated and analyzed research findings accessible to decision-makers
Sub-Purpose:	Inventory, extract, and analyze findings from relevant unpublished documents to produce literature reviews, landscape reviews, and other studies that aggregate evidence.

Examples of purpose statements from meta-analyses illustrate the types of results sought:

- To enhance project design thinking and encourage the use of and reference to evaluation evidence when design options are framed for strategies and projects. This can be done by

⁵ The quality screening reviews is similar to the process described for Case 4 under meta-evaluations, but for systematic reviews the information comes from journal articles, not evaluations.

aggregating what the bureau is learning and expanding the range of evaluations consulted to meet USAID requirements for citing evaluation evidence to support development hypotheses. (Case 3).

- To identify and inform the mission of the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of its portfolios, as well as the use of evaluation recommendations in mission decision-making. (Case 7).
- To facilitate Office of Education efforts to curate, analyze, and disseminate robust evidence generated by USAID evaluations related to the objectives laid out in the Agency's 2011 Education Strategy. This is done by pre-screening education sector evaluations on quality and evidence strength criteria. (Case 5).

Meta-Evaluation Purposes

Five of the synthesis listed in Table I included a meta-evaluation component, of which four are available on the DEC (and included in Table D-1) and one has not been published. These studies aimed to foster learning and improve the utilization of the examined evaluations in Agency decision-making. Cases differed in focus or approach used to improve evaluation use, with some focusing on compliance with USAID Evaluation Policy and others focusing on the strength of the evidence reported in evaluations, as discussed above. Two of these meta-evaluations also tracked evaluation characteristics over time – one by building on prior work and the other through an annual review process as they are completed. In two cases, the meta-evaluation component was used to filter evaluations by strength of evidence to select which evaluations to use to answer a meta-analysis question. Two cases used meta-evaluation to document the evaluation methods being used across a set of evaluations.

Like USAID projects, most of these meta-evaluations appeared to have a high-level purpose (or goal) to which achievement of a more limited sub-purpose would contribute. These intended results varied somewhat by the analytic focus of the meta-evaluation. Examples below illustrate this observation.

- **Meta-Evaluations that Assess Compliance with USAID Evaluation Policy**

-  **Purpose:** Improve evaluation quality and compliance with Evaluation Policy
-  **Sub-Purpose:** Encourage awareness of and attention to evaluation report compliance with Evaluation Policy (Cases 3, 8)

- **Meta-Evaluations that Assess the Strength of Evidence Presented in Evaluations**

-  **Purpose:** Improve confidence in evaluation findings about the effectiveness of development assistance interventions
-  **Sub-Purpose:** Ensure that evaluations screened for inclusion in meta-analyses are based on quality and evidence strength criteria (Cases 2,⁶ 4, 9)

- **Syntheses that Focus on the Accessibility of Evaluation Findings**

-  **Purpose:** Reduce the time required to locate evaluation reports relevant to programming
-  **Sub-Purpose:** Code and disseminate evaluation abstracts by topic, region, and evaluation design type (as a proxy for evidence strength) (Case 10)

Sample descriptions of the management purposes found in meta-evaluations further illustrate how those who commission such studies view their purposes:

- USAID’s Automated Directives System (ADS) views evaluations as playing a critical role in the Program Cycle, providing evidence to support project and activity design decisions, and guiding the implementation of ongoing activities. To these ends, USAID has invested in a range of activities aimed at improving the quality of USAID evaluations and their usefulness. This study examines evaluation quality and compliance with Agency policy to identify opportunities for improvement. (Case 8)
- Identify areas of strength and weakness in USAID-funded evaluations in the education sector so the Office of Education can use findings from this study to identify specific topics on which it could develop additional guidance, products, and presentations to improve the quality of evidence. (Case 4)

Intended Audiences for Meta-Analyses and Meta-Evaluations

USAID staff were the primary audience for the 13 syntheses examined. Within USAID, the types of staff members interested in each of the main synthesis sub-types varied.

- Intended audiences for meta-evaluations tended to include USAID monitoring and evaluation staff and evaluation specialists who work on USAID-funded evaluation teams.
- Meta-analyses, by contrast, more often highlighted the utility of these products for USAID technical officers. In only two cases – one commissioned by a regional bureau and one by a mission – were the syntheses targeted at more specific audiences.

Secondary audiences cited in all types of these syntheses included host-country governments, implementing partners, and local stakeholders.

Operating Units Commissioning Syntheses and Implementing Mechanisms

Of the 13 cases examined, 9 were commissioned by a Washington-based bureau or office. One was commissioned by a regional bureau (Middle East) and another case was commissioned by a field mission (Afghanistan). In two other cases, syntheses were commissioned by USAID implementing partners (of which one was a meta-analysis using secondary sources such as evaluations and the other was a landscape review). Table 2 shows both the diversity of entities that commissioned these syntheses and the units that have funded multiple syntheses products.

TABLE 2: BUREAUS AND OFFICES THAT COMMISSIONED THE SYNTHESSES EXAMINED

Synthesis Type	PPL/ LER	E3 Bureau			BFS	Middle East Bureau	Missions	USAID Implementing Partners	Other Donors
		E3/ PLC	E3/ ED	E3/ FAB			USAID/ Afghanistan		
Meta-Evaluation	●	●	●						
Compendium of Evaluation Abstracts			●						
Meta-Analysis of Existing Evaluations	●		●		● ⁷	●	● ⁸		
Systematic Review							● ⁹		
Landscape Review								● ¹⁰	
Multi-Site Assessment Synthesis							● ¹¹		
Literature & Experience Review				●					

Mechanisms Used to Commission Syntheses

USAID bureaus and offices have used a variety of approaches to conduct the syntheses they funded. Some evaluation syntheses have been carried out internally, such as the combination meta-evaluation and meta-analysis undertaken by the Middle East Bureau (Case 7). Other evaluation syntheses have been carried out externally under various USAID contracting mechanisms.

Evaluation syntheses may differ with respect to the qualifications of personnel needed. For example, meta-evaluations that examined the strength of evidence in evaluation reports generally used more expert personnel than did meta-evaluations that rated evaluation reports on compliance with Agency policy using a checklist and associated guidance. For meta-analyses, some were carried out by individuals with strong backgrounds in the technical areas covered. Systematic reviews appeared to use larger teams and criteria in the early stages when searching for and screening out studies that did not meet fixed criteria. In the final stage of the syntheses examined, an individual or smaller team conducted the analysis.

- Studies with **meta-analysis** components: USAID staff were most frequently active members of meta-analysis teams. Three meta-analyses relied heavily on USAID staff to extract meaningful findings. Other meta-analyses engaged subject matter experts and graduate students. USAID/Afghanistan’s meta-analysis drew on staff and associates under the Mission’s monitoring, evaluation, and learning support activity.
- Studies with **meta-evaluation** components: Contract personnel were involved in all the meta-evaluations examined. There were two instances of individuals embedded in USAID on long-term assignments; the rest involved contracted teams. For two meta-evaluations, volunteer labor helped rate evaluations on quality and strength of evidence criteria. In one study, an embedded contractor who led the work engaged mission staff as one of two readers/reviewers for each evaluation. The other study that used volunteer labor to review evaluation quality engaged evaluation experts from a variety of organizations. A third meta-evaluation used

⁷ Reportedly includes a meta-evaluation component as a screening tool prior to a meta-analysis.

⁸ USAID/Afghanistan funded the only mission-based synthesis the team examined. This was the only such one found in the DEC.

⁹ Case 6: The YouthPower activity, which funded this systematic review on youth, receives funding from PEPFAR. The LAC Reads activity receives funding from the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

¹⁰ GIZ, with USAID support.

¹¹ Case 11, conducted under the FANTA project.

contract personnel to rate evaluations on compliance, while USAID staff reviewed them to identify meaningful findings. Meta-evaluation components that focused on compliance or assembling and coding abstracts by type of evaluation design trained and used mid-level staff to implement these studies. Meta-evaluations that focused on evidence strength more often relied on expert readers. One meta-evaluation that focused on the strength of evaluation evidence recruited volunteers who were experienced evaluators to review evaluations for quality.

- **Systematic reviews:** External contractor teams conducted both systematic reviews. One involved 6 people, the other 16.
- **Landscape and literature reviews:** Individual consultants conducted both.
- Contract teams implemented other syntheses, including a study that synthesized data from a multi-site assessment.

Stages and Tasks in the Synthesis Process

Teams conducting syntheses carried out a number of common tasks, including:

- Determine audience needs, interests, and product preferences.
- Develop the approach and tools.
- Identify the data set.
- Train the team.
- Disseminate and utilize the information.
- Estimate time and cost.

This section focuses on lessons learned from how the 13 syntheses handled each of these tasks.

Determine Audience Needs, Interests, and Product Preferences

In most of the 13 cases examined, the unit that commissioned the synthesis was not the intended audience. USAID/Afghanistan's meta-analysis of the findings of evaluations of its own portfolio was perhaps the closest commissioner-client link of the selected cases.

During interviews, USAID operating units that had commissioned synthesis products mentioned the need to take intended audiences' needs, interests, and product preferences into consideration during the pre-award and design stage. However, the commissioning unit did not do this in a systematic way in any of the cases. Representatives of these units indicated that they would recommend doing so in future syntheses. One commissioning unit representative mentioned sending out a survey to the intended audience to understand their research or learning questions as a way of obtaining audience input before undertaking a study.

USAID staff representing commissioning units told the study team that this first stage of a synthesis effort, along with the following stage when the approach and tools are developed, required a high level of involvement in these studies at least for the first several months. In some instances, USAID staff reported that launching a synthesis was a nearly full-time effort. Others who had been involved at this stage in their respective units generally said the launch phase required 15 to 50 percent of their time.

Develop the Approach and Tools

In all cases, an external or embedded contractor led the management, data analysis, and report writing stages of the synthesis activities. However, the data collection approaches for extracting information from the evaluations and other documents varied widely and included the use of internal USAID staff, external contractors, embedded contractors, and sector specialists. This is discussed below in the section on team training.

Data extraction tools varied widely among the cases. For meta-evaluations, the tools tended to be more quantitative in nature – yes/no questions or rating the presence or absence of a factor. Meta-analysis tools focused more on “what,” “how,” and “why” questions. Although most questions in the meta-evaluations and meta-analyses were objective in nature, a few were at least somewhat subjective.

Regarding the time required to develop the synthesis approach and tools, interview respondents representing about half of the 13 syntheses indicated the following (answers varied by the kind of study undertaken):

- **Meta-evaluations:** The time required to develop a meta-evaluation approach and instruments ranged from 1 to 12 months. There was variation in the time it took to develop evaluation review tools. PPL/LER and the E3 Bureau’s Office of Planning, Learning, and Coordination (PLC) adapted existing evaluation quality/compliance checklists to their meta-evaluation, which took a modest amount of time. For its part, the E3 Bureau’s Office of Education (ED) developed a new tool as an evaluation quality and strength of evidence screening instrument, which was informed by research conducted by a donor consortium that includes E3/ED.¹²
- **Systematic reviews:** The labor for this type of synthesis requires a significant amount of time early in the study to operationally define its focus, determine search terms to identify relevant studies, and identify the journals to be searched. For one of the two systematic reviews examined, individuals involved were able to identify the time required to complete this task (six months) prior to the search for articles. The other systematic review described its process for developing an approach as including consultations with the U.S. Department of Education’s “What Works” Clearinghouse.
- **Meta-analyses:** The study team obtained less information about the development of approaches and instruments for other types of meta-analyses. Of note, however, in four meta-analyses, bureau or office-level learning agendas served as organizing structures for reporting on meta-analysis findings.

Identify the Data Set

The methods that the 13 syntheses used to identify the evaluations or other documents they examined were clustered by the type of synthesis. Patterns at this stage were even stronger than at earlier stages of the synthesis process. Across the 13 syntheses, the number of evaluations or other types of research reports included at the analysis stage ranged from 22 to 340. However, in some studies – particularly systematic reviews – the initial number of studies captured and then screened against study criteria was considerably larger. Differences between syntheses at this stage of the process are highlighted by synthesis clusters below:

- **Meta-analyses.** The effort to establish the universe of documents for a meta-analysis varied according to whether the synthesis design focused exclusively on USAID evaluations (as did several Bureau for Food Security and E3 Bureau meta-analyses) or whether a broader range of documents were to be examined. Where meta-analyses focused exclusively on findings from USAID evaluations, the time and effort required to assemble a data set was similar to that of meta-evaluations. For more broad-based studies, different strategies were required. Landscape and literature reviews the study team examined described online searches and interviews to develop the data sets included. Meta-analyses of evaluations ran higher than other types of meta-analyses; the largest among the syntheses examined for this report covered 196 evaluations.

¹² This consortium, the Building Evidence in Education working group, is led by a Steering Committee composed of the Department for International Development (DFID), United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF), USAID, and the World Bank Group.

- **Meta-evaluations.** For most of the meta-evaluations examined, the primary source of documents was the DEC, which is the Agency’s repository for completed evaluations. Some of these studies also consulted lists of planned evaluations included in USAID’s annual Performance Plan and Reports (PPRs). The exception was E3/ED’s compendium of evaluation abstracts, which drew on many studies that USAID did not produce. These abstracts, however, were already compiled in landscape reviews prepared by USAID and Germany’s development assistance agency, GIZ, and assembling them took little time. For other meta-evaluations, including PPL/LER’s four-year study, the set of evaluations for any given year could be accessed electronically, and enough basic data on each one could be downloaded to populate an initial study universe. For all DEC-based meta-evaluations, additional screening was normally needed to verify that they were indeed evaluations (rather than other sorts of studies). For the E3 Bureau’s meta-evaluations, screening included verifying sector designations assigned by the DEC. These steps generally required one to two months, depending on how many evaluations were involved and whether DEC searches were supplemented by reviews of USAID’s evaluation registry to identify other evaluations. At the analysis stage, meta-evaluations tended to include more documents than did other types of syntheses, with one meta-evaluation covering 340 evaluations.
- **Systematic reviews.** As indicated above, the comprehensive nature of systematic reviews means that the data set development stage predominates in time and effort. The two systematic reviews examined for this report typified the effort involved.
 - USAID’s Systematic Review on Positive Youth Development Program searched both peer-reviewed journals and the grey literature and found 21,376 journal articles and 3,705 other reports that matched the study’s search terms. Of these, 64 peer-reviewed articles and 44 from the grey literature were deemed appropriate and credible for inclusion based on study criteria.
 - The Agency’s systematic review under its LAC Reads activity found 9,696 articles that matched its search terms; 108 met its inclusion criteria and were analyzed.

As these numbers indicate, even with digital searches and fairly sophisticated protocols for screening an initial capture down to the relevant set for analysis is a major undertaking for which a clear purpose and pre-study assessment of its likely utility is warranted.

Recruit and Train the Team

External contractors collected data for 8 of the 13 syntheses examined. Team sizes ranged from one person in the case of the landscape and literature reviews to nearly 100 individuals. For example:

- The Local Solutions synthesis engaged 97 USAID staff to review the quality and content of 51 evaluation reports. A team of two to three readers reviewed each evaluation report utilizing a common rubric.
- The E3 Sectoral Synthesis engaged 44 USAID staff to extract findings from 117 evaluations for the meta-analysis component of its study. One person reviewed each report.
- The USAID/Afghanistan synthesis used a combined internal and external approach. A group of 5, including the study authors, USAID staff, and contractor staff, each read the 35 evaluation reports, then worked together to complete the data collection tools.

The complexity and sophistication of research methodology required to complete instruments used in these syntheses varied considerably.

- Mid-level staff have been trained to reliably rate evaluations on a checklist of compliance with USAID Evaluation Policy. In meta-evaluations for PPL/LER and the E3 Bureau, a high degree of inter-rater reliability has been established and maintained across a meta-evaluation team.

- For a meta-evaluation that involved assessing the quality and strength of evidence based on the evaluation report's description of the methodology employed, individuals with experience in research design and rigorous evaluations were recruited for the task.
- Agency personnel often proved to be preferred evaluation reviewers for meta-analyses of USAID evaluations since they could recognize which findings were likely to be meaningful for USAID staff.

Differences in team composition requirements have cost implications that are important for those planning such studies. In some of the syntheses examined, planners relied on volunteer labor, which includes time provided by USAID staff. The success of one of the E3 Bureau's syntheses in recruiting highly qualified individuals to help rate evaluation quality and evidence strength illustrates the value of donated time for meta-evaluations and meta-analyses. The availability of free resources cannot, however, be assumed. Rational planning requires budgeting for all expected costs and adjusting the scope and ambition of such efforts accordingly.

Data Collection, Analysis, and Team Supervision

Syntheses that included teams of more than a few people for data extraction tended to have a full-time team supervisor. This person managed the assignment of documents to each reviewer and would reassign documents for review to maintain timelines. The supervisor managed the datasets, including compiling and basic cleaning. In some cases, the supervisor was responsible for spot-checking quality by assigning one evaluation to multiple reviewers to manage inter-rater reliability and served as the point person for technical questions on the tools.

Depending on the type of analysis required, staff with specialized skills may be needed. In meta-analyses, experience with qualitative analysis software such as MAXQDA can help discern patterns among findings across multiple evaluations or research reports. On the quantitative side, statistical expertise may be important for teasing out relationships between report compliance with certain Evaluation Policy requirements and overall evaluation quality, as was done in PPL/LER's meta-evaluation. Similarly, subject matter expertise, for example to model relationships between program factors and performance as was done by the team involved in USAID's synthesis of sustainability case studies, can be critical for meta-analyses.

While there is no Agency requirement for planning documents for evaluation syntheses to conform to USAID's increasingly rigorous standards for evaluation statements of work and evaluation design reports (including analysis plans), the scale, complexity, and cost of large meta-evaluations and meta-analyses suggest that attention to USAID standards for evaluation planning may be warranted when considering a synthesis activity.

Support for Dissemination and Utilization

Results from synthesis activities have been disseminated in a variety of ways. In all but one case, the synthesis resulted in a formal report. Additional products developed included briefing notes, presentations to internal USAID audiences including subject matter and evaluation communities of practice, and presentations to external audiences via conferences, webinars, and blog posts. USAID staff the team interviewed stressed the need to plan for dissemination from the start, keeping the audience in mind. Several noted that briefing notes or targeted one-pagers were the most popular dissemination products.

Among the sub-types of syntheses examined, systematic reviews were most likely to be published in a peer-reviewed journal. For 12 of the 18 systematic reviews produced with USAID support since 2012, the posting on the DEC was a published journal article.

Dissemination plans, which are now encouraged for USAID evaluations, were not found in a written form for the 13 syntheses the study team examined in-depth. In interviews, however, USAID staff were able to describe the range of dissemination actions they took.

For example, to disseminate the E3 Bureau's Sectoral Synthesis of Evaluation Findings, E3 staff:

- Presented its findings at the Africa Program Officer's Summit.
- Posted the report on sector websites maintained by USAID.
- Presented its findings at the American Evaluation Association's annual meeting.
- Worked with senior management at the Agency to facilitate the report's distribution directly from USAID's front office.
- Produced and disseminated briefing notes highlighting aspects of the study of interest to sector specific offices and field missions.

Regarding the utilization of syntheses, the study team's interviews identified a few notable examples of synthesis utilization. However, not all interview respondents were aware of whether and how the studies they commissioned had been used. Examples of synthesis utilization included:

- The U.S. government's Global Food Security Strategy cited contributions of an evaluation synthesis prepared by USAID's Bureau for Food Security.
- USAID's 2009-2012 meta-evaluation informed changes in the ADS and was a starting point for work on other tools such as the Agency's Evaluation Toolkit.
- USAID's E3 Bureau demonstrated in its congressional budget justification that evaluation findings reported in its most recent Sectoral Synthesis had been used by E3 offices as a springboard for further analysis on topics ranging from gender to education to environment; and that its Water Office had used the Sectoral Synthesis to identify weaknesses that aligned with a recent GAO report and to correct them through improved training.
- The Systematic Review of the Positive Youth Development Program informed the development of a new positive youth development toolkit that is now widely used, and knowledge gaps the systematic review identified are being addressed.

Estimate Time and Cost Requirements

The total time required to conduct the syntheses examined for this report varied.



SYNTHESIS OF EVALUATIONS RELATED TO THE FEED THE FUTURE LEARNING AGENDA
March 2016



A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES



April 2017
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A meta-analysis conducted by an individual consultant took four months, whereas each of the following synthesis efforts took approximately two years:

- A combined meta-evaluation/meta-analysis that produced a new tool for screening education evaluations based on quality and strength of evidence, and the completion of three topical meta-analyses of evaluations in that sector.
- Two systematic reviews.
- A four-country case study assessment of sustainability experience and a synthesis document that aggregated and analyzed those experiences, producing a model for improving sustainability in future food assistance development projects.

In between the four-months to two-year range was a one-year meta-analysis of Agency evaluations and a six-month performance review of activities in multiple sectors in a single mission, as well as other mid-range syntheses.

The cost and duration of syntheses are related, but the study team was not able to find cost information for all the syntheses examined. Even in cases where costs were available, they varied widely according to the scale of the synthesis. The number of evaluations or other documents examined was a significant factor in the overall cost and time of the synthesis.

While it was difficult to obtain cost information for different types of syntheses, commissioning USAID offices and external implementation teams were able to describe the time required to review each evaluation or other report, which interviewees viewed as useful for cost estimation purposes. While not presented as definitive rules, interviewees suggested that:

- Meta-analyses of evaluations that extract findings on specific questions or topics may require up to 8-10 hours per evaluation report.
- Meta-evaluations that rate compliance with evaluation policy average four hours per report.
- Literature reviews of journal articles to extract findings takes about two hours per article.
- Criteria screening of articles in a systematic review take about an hour per article, which is modest, but the number of articles screened can be very large.

WHAT CAN BE LEARNED FROM EVALUATION SYNTHESSES

During the period when this report and the Discussion Note were prepared, USAID/PPL/LER organized an Evaluation Summit for the Agency to share what is being learned and how evaluations are affecting development assistance in missions across the world. USAID/PPL/LER prepared a handout for this Summit, included as Exhibit 1, summarizing what was learned from each of the 13 syntheses identified in Table 1, and how findings from those studies can inform Agency programming in various sectors as well as further efforts to improve evaluation quality and utilization.

Lessons from Synthesis Practitioners

From the small number of syntheses examined for this report, one cannot draw generalized conclusions with confidence. At the same time, it is important to capture and share lessons USAID and external partners learned by conducting these studies, to inform others who may undertake similar studies. Box 2 highlights common lessons reported as well as practitioner perceptions.

BOX 2: THEMES IN PRACTITIONER REFLECTIONS ON LESSONS LEARNED

Insights from USAID staff who commissioned evaluation syntheses

- Plan with the audience in mind from the beginning. Be consultative when forming your research questions or issues around which findings will be aggregated.
- If you do not know your audience, include a start-up exercise to locate and interact with them, which gives the audience a voice in the planning stage.
- Build in enough time for the start-up stage, which is the most labor-intensive stage for synthesis managers.
- Re-engage intended users as instruments are developed to get buy-in on the kinds of answers the synthesis will produce.
- Encourage the use of standard questions across evaluations if you plan to compare across documents.
- Draft a dissemination plan based on user input about what they want to learn and the types of synthesis products they really want (e.g., briefing note, webinar, slide deck).
- Consider that while using volunteers and USAID staff may be cost effective, it might make it harder to stay on schedule. Benefits of using USAID may include increased awareness and utilization of evidence and deeper level of engagement with internal and external stakeholders.
- Socialize the synthesis findings through direct communication including interactive briefings.
- Experiment with websites, blog postings, and social media outreach to engage distant audiences.
- Proactively follow through on dissemination plans.
- Follow up with audiences to capture evidence of utilization.

Insights from research teams that worked on synthesis studies

- Identifying and validating the set of documents to be examined takes more time than expected. Anticipate this as early as possible and allow enough time in the study statement of work.
- Use a collaborative process between USAID staff, the research team, and the intended audience (when possible) for tool development to ensure that all parties understand the research questions, protocols, and intended use of the data.
- Provide team members with adequate training and orientation. They need to understand intended users and uses as well as checklists and rating forms.
- Keep close tabs on implementation. Reviewers can move apart over time or stray from protocols without monitoring and guidance.

Exhibit I: Handout on What We Can Learn from Evaluation Syntheses



The Role of Evaluation on the Journey to Self-Reliance

EVALUATION SYNTHESIS

We define 'Evaluation Synthesis' broadly to refer to efforts to learn from a set of evaluations



WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM META-EVALUATIONS AND META-ANALYSES?

USAID Meta-Evaluation of Quality and Coverage of USAID Evaluations (2009-2012)

Meta-evaluation (Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning)

Purpose: Assess quality and compliance of USAID's evaluation reports and identify areas for improvement

Findings: Number of evaluations increased; clear improvements in quality of reports between 2010 and 2012

Evaluations: Require evaluation specialist on team; need to separate better findings, conclusions, recommendations

Middle East Bureau Evaluation Quality Review

Meta-evaluation/ Meta-analysis (annually using protocol to assess quality and extract evidence) (Middle East Bureau)

Purpose: Assess and track evaluation quality and the utilization of findings and evidence to inform new designs

Findings: Improve description of methods used (esp. sampling approach) and decrease number of sub-questions

Evaluations: Protocol for assessing quality will be used in SOWs for bidders to know how reports will be assessed

Sectoral Synthesis of FY2015 Evaluation Findings

Meta-evaluation (assessed quality using checklist)/Meta-analysis (E3)

Purpose: Inform E3 and Agency about broad lessons learned, best practices, and trends of Agency priorities

Findings: Various: roughly 2/3 activities achieved outcomes; 1/3 included innovations, 1/2 addressed private sector

Evaluations: Improvement needed in reports to separate findings from conclusions and recommendations

Synthesis of Findings and Lessons Learned from USAID-funded Evaluations

Meta-evaluation used to screen evaluation for Meta-analysis (E3/Education)

Purpose: Identify strong evidence to inform future programs

Findings: Various relating to Goals (Reading, Workforce Development, and Education in Crisis and Conflict)

Evaluations: Lack of: IEs, clear description of key information in reports, cost-effectiveness analyses

Synthesis of Evaluations Related to the Feed the Future Agenda

Meta-analysis (Bureau for Food Security)

Purpose: Identify where the Initiative is building the evidence base for interventions and remaining gaps

Findings: Social capital, in various forms, is essential to overcoming many constraints

Evaluations: Challenge to measure outcomes over time as many longer term outcomes require sustained effort

Closing the Loop on Learning: A Review of Local Solutions Evaluation Reports

Meta-analysis (Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning)

Purpose: Determine how direct engagement can help achieve locally-owned and sustained development

Findings: Need to build local ownership and sustainability more explicitly into project/activity design

Evaluations: Need to improve the quality of reports and engage USAID staff engagement in review process

Meta-Evaluation (2015-16) and Meta-Analysis of Final Evaluations of USAID/Afghanistan Projects (2010-2015)

Purpose: Assess portfolio of past projects, and use of evaluation recommendations in Mission decision-making

Findings: Variation across technical offices of 'success'; most recommendations led to course correction action

Evaluations: Improvement areas: timeliness of evaluations, standardizations of SOW terms, increase monitoring

Compendium of Evaluation Abstracts on Mobiles in Education (2016)

Purpose: Consolidate findings from 58 evaluations described in four landscape studies involving mobiles

Findings: Of the evaluations, 62% were performance evaluations and 32% were impact evaluations

Evaluations: Improvement areas: invest more heavily in impact evaluations to obtain stronger evidence



EVALUATION SUMMIT 2018

The Role of Evaluation on the Journey to Self-Reliance

OTHER TYPES OF EFFORTS

Studies below are *not* categorized as Evaluation Synthesis but look at evidence from a variety of sources (and may include evaluations but not exclusively)



Sustaining Development: Synthesis from a Four-Country Study of Sustainability/Exit Strategies

Single Study Synthesis (used common protocol) (FFP)

Purpose: Determine what factors enhance sustained activities and benefits and provide guidance to future efforts

Findings: Three factors are critical to achieving sustainability: resources, capacity, and motivation

Evaluations: Endline success does not necessarily imply sustained benefits over time

Landscape Review: Education in Conflict and Crisis: How Technology Can Make a Difference

Literature Review (E3/Ed)

Purpose: Highlight trends and promising practices, and consider critical perspectives, on ICT in conflict and crisis

Findings: More focus needed on clarity of purpose of ICT use, local maintenance, system strengthening initiatives

Evaluations: Rigorous studies needed, but also qualitative research documenting outcomes for target groups

Systematic Review of Positive Youth Development (PYD) Programs

Systematic Review (uses published articles based on entry criteria) (GH and E3)

Purpose: Document how PYD approaches have been applied and strength of evidence for their effectiveness

Findings: Few programs identify themselves as PYD and few PYD evaluations exist in low/middle income countries

Evaluations: Need comparative studies using PYD approach versus not (IEs); need data on beneficiary population

LAC READs Capacity Program: A Systematic Review of the Early Grade Reading Literature

Systematic Review (uses published articles based on entry criteria) (LAC)

Purpose: Organize, categorize, and quality review of existing evidence to improve EGR, identify gaps

Findings: Online database summarizing evidence organized by topic areas, countries and stakeholders, gap map

Evaluations: Used computer science-based approach to cull almost 10,000 abstracts—innovation to be shared!

Conservation Enterprises: Using a Theory of Change Approach to Synthesize Lessons from USAID Biodiversity Projects

Literature Review (E3)

Purpose: Increase the understanding of CE approaches/outcomes and improve the effectiveness of programming

Findings: Using a common ToC provides framework for assessing assumptions across projects will help inform what works, what doesn't, and under what conditions.

Evaluations: Need more systematic M&E, cross-site learning, and adaptive management of CE strategies



ANNEX A: STATEMENT OF WORK

Evaluation Synthesis Guidance

1. Introduction

The Office of Learning, Evaluation, and Research in USAID's Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning (PPL/LER) is requesting that the E3 Analytics and Evaluation Project provide support in developing guidance on conducting evaluation syntheses. This may be in the form of one or more Discussion Notes that provides key concepts, guidelines, practical advice, technical elaboration, and application suggestions for USAID staff and partners related to the Program Cycle.

2. Purpose, Audience, and Intended Use

The purpose of the evaluation synthesis guidance is to stimulate and guide the preparation of syntheses which, in turn, will increase the use of evaluation findings and evidence in decision-making about Agency programming. The primary audience for the resulting guidance document(s) is staff from USAID operating units (OUs) and missions that may conduct evaluation syntheses to foster dissemination and utilization of existing evidence from evaluations. Users of syntheses will be indirect beneficiaries of this effort.

3. Support Tasks

The tasks outlined in this section are based on current anticipated needs to support USAID/PPL/LER in the development of the evaluation synthesis guidance.

I. Background Research to Frame Dimensions for the Guidance

- **Desk Analysis** – The Project team will collect and review existing literature on conducting evaluation syntheses, meta-evaluations, meta-analyses, and similar studies, as well as completed studies of this type done by USAID and other relevant agencies, including those studies noted below and additional documents that the team can identify. The team will then develop a typology of the different variants of studies (e.g., meta-evaluation, meta-analysis) to help frame the key dimensions on which the guidance will focus and highlight examples of completed studies for each type.
 - USAID's E3 Sectoral Syntheses of Evaluation Findings, 2013-14 and 2015 (August 2015 and December 2016, available at: https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1865/E3_Sectoral_Synthesis_Report.pdf and http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MPI7.pdf).
 - USAID's Synthesis of Evaluations Related to the Feed the Future Learning Agenda (March 2016, available at: <https://www.fantaproject.org/sites/default/files/resources/FFP-Sustainability-Exit-Strategies-Synthesis-Dec2015.pdf>).
 - USAID's Sustaining Development: A Synthesis of Results from a Four-Country Study of Sustainability and Exit Strategies among Development Food Assistance Projects (December 2015, available at: <https://www.fantaproject.org/sites/default/files/resources/FFP-Sustainability-Exit-Strategies-Synthesis-Dec2015.pdf>).
 - USAID's Assessment of the Quality of USAID-Funded Evaluation, Education Sector 2013-2016 (Forthcoming)
 - USAID's Synthesis of Findings and Lessons Learned from USAID-Funded Evaluations, Education Sector 2013-2016 (Forthcoming)

- USAID’s Meta-Evaluation of Quality and Coverage of USAID Evaluations 2009-2012 (August 2013, available at: <https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1870/Meta-Evaluation%20of%20Quality%20and%20Coverage%20of%20USAID%20Evaluations%2009-2012.pdf>)
 - USAID’s Landscape Reviews of Education Sector Topics (including http://literacy.org/sites/literacy.org/files/publications/wagner_mobiles4reading_usaid_june_14.pdf, http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PBAAA476.pdf, http://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pa00m7zn.pdf)
 - U.S. General Accounting Office The Evaluation Synthesis (March 1992, available at: <http://www.gao.gov/special.pubs/pemd1012.pdf>)
 - Center for Global Development’s Evaluating Evaluations: Assessing the Quality of Aid Agency Evaluations in Global Health (August 2017, available at: <https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/evaluating-evaluations-assessing-quality-aid-agency-evaluations-global-health.pdf>)
- **Key Informant Interviews** – The Project team will conduct a limited number of interviews (approximately 7-10) with key individuals involved in managing and conducting a subset of completed syntheses and synthesis guides examined in the desk analysis. These interviews will explore topics such as how the studies framed the learning objectives and research questions, methods and approaches used, to what extent and how USAID staff were involved in the reviews of evaluations, challenges encountered and lessons learned, dissemination and utilization of the studies, and budget/level of effort and timeline requirements to complete the studies.

2. Consultations with USAID to Frame the Dimensions for the Guidance

- Based on the above background research, the Project team will collaborate with USAID/PPL/LER to determine the framing, products, and outline of the guidance. This will include the most appropriate document type(s) (e.g., How-To Note, Technical Note, Discussion Note) to convey the guidance, the number of products, the types of studies to include.

3. Develop the Outline and Draft Guidance Materials

- In close coordination with USAID/PPL/LER, the Project team will develop a draft outline for the guidance document(s) to be prepared and will revise the outline based on feedback received from USAID/PPL/LER. The document may include the following components:
 - A text box distinguishing different approaches (e.g., evaluation synthesis, meta-evaluation, meta-analysis, systematic review).
 - Highlighted examples of evaluation syntheses or similar studies, noting the differences in purpose/objectives and how that affected the results.
 - A discussion of the pros and cons of having a more focused effort in terms of being able to summarize and obtain coherent findings to inform future programming.
 - Discuss issues around managing evaluation syntheses and suggested steps to take (e.g., defining the overall purpose/questions to be answered, process, common challenges and steps to mitigate them). This should recognize that the scope and breadth of the synthesis will be affected by the research questions that an operating unit expects to be answered in conducting the synthesis.
 - Suggest how USAID staff and stakeholders may be involved in the synthesis process to ensure greater buy-in and interest.
 - Direct those conducting evaluation syntheses to create data collection instruments/systems to be able to disaggregate by region and country to promote utilization of findings/results.

- The team will then draft the guidance document(s) based on the agreed outline.

4. Revision and Finalization

- Based on feedback received from USAID/PPL/LER, the Project team will revise the draft guidance document(s) so that USAID/PPL/LER can finalize the document for review and approval as part of required Agency processes.

4. Deliverables and Reporting Requirements

The following deliverables are envisioned as part of this support activity. Due dates are estimates and may be amended with concurrence from the USAID Activity Manager for this study.

Deliverable	Estimated Due Date
1. Activity Work Plan	TBD
2. Preliminary Findings from Desk Analysis	Six weeks following USAID approval of the Activity Work Plan
3. Draft Outline for Guidance Document(s)	Three weeks following USAID concurrence with the Preliminary Findings from Desk Analysis
4. Revised Outline for Guidance Document(s)	Two weeks following receipt of all written USAID comments on the draft outline
5. Draft Guidance Document(s)	Six weeks following USAID approval of the revised outline
6. Revised Guidance Document(s)	Three weeks following receipt of all written USAID comments on the draft Guidance Document(s)

All documents will be provided electronically to USAID no later than the dates indicated above, pending further discussion with USAID about the schedule for this activity.

5. Team Composition

The support team for this activity is expected to consist of the following members:

- **Team Leader:** Will provide overall guidance on the technical direction of the activity, including key informant interviews, review of the preliminary findings, developing the framing dimensions, preparing the draft outline, and drafting the draft guidance document(s).
- **Researcher:** One or two researchers are expected to support the activity, including collecting and reviewing background documents, participating in or leading key informant interviews, supporting the Team Leader in developing the framing dimensions, and preparing written inputs for the draft outline and draft guidance document(s).

Home Office support by the E3 Analytics and Evaluation Project will be provided as needed, including technical guidance, research assistance, administrative oversight, data analysis, and logistical support.

6. USAID Participation

An interactive and collaborative process is envisioned between the E3 Analytics and Evaluation Project team and USAID/PPL/LER to carry out this activity, including ongoing consultations throughout each stage and iterative development of the guidance documents.

7. Schedule

Tasks included in this SOW are expected to be completed between January and July 2018.

8. Estimated LOE and Budget

This section provides detailed estimated level of effort and budget for completion of this activity.

ANNEX B: DOCUMENT REVIEW/INTERVIEW PROTOCOL

Introduction

Good Afternoon, my name is _____. I am calling to conduct an interview with you, as planned earlier, for a project that Management Systems International (MSI) is undertaking with the Office for Learning, Evaluation and Research in USAID's Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning (PPL/LER) on the development and use of evaluation syntheses of various kinds. Thank you for agreeing to speaking with us today about the study you conducted, entitled _____. We are also speaking with a number of other synthesis authors as well as some of the USAID offices that commissioned these kinds of studies. Our goal today is to understand your study's methodology, what worked, what didn't, and how the study was used. These lessons will help inform a Discussion Note on syntheses for USAID staff.

Consent

Before starting, we would like to obtain your explicit permission to conduct this interview and to tape record this conversation in order to be able to refer back to it during our analysis. The interview transcript will not be published. The information you provide in this interview will be seen by our MSI research team and the USAID activity manager in PPL/LER who is overseeing this work. We will not use any direct quotes or refer to you by name in any published documents without first asking permission.

Interviewee Name		
Consent Questions	Interviewee Response	
	Yes	No
Do you have any questions for me about the purposes of this interview? <i>If yes, the interviewer should respond to the questions before proceeding.</i>		
Do I have your permission to proceed with interview?		
Do I also have your permission to tape the interview for analysis purposes		

There are several basic facts about the synthesis in which you were involved that we would like to verify with you or modify based on your knowledge of them.

Synthesis Basic Information		
Data Element or Questions	Findings from Document Review	Interviewee Validation, Modifications or Other Input
Synthesis Title		
Individual Author(s)		
Authoring Organization		
Sponsoring Bureau or Mission		
Sponsoring entity within Bureau or Mission		
Key sector/topic or sectors, if applicable		
Specific year(s) covered, if applicable		
Specific country, region, operating unit covered, if applicable		
Year completed/posted to the DEC		
URL for the synthesis report		
Other key reference documents and their URLs or location		

For this study we are dividing evaluation syntheses into two groups, and then exploring variations underneath each group. The first group are evaluation syntheses that focus on evaluation findings. The second group are evaluation syntheses that look at aspects of evaluation quality such as compliance with Agency policy and the strengths of evaluation methods and findings, judged in various way.

Synthesis Type			
Data Element	Findings from Document Review (Check one or both as appropriate)		Interviewee Validation or Modifications
What type of synthesis was the one in which you were involved?	<i>Synthesis of Evaluation Findings (Meta-Analysis)</i> [This can be by operating unit, sector, time period, etc. Describe what documents said.]		
	Findings about evaluation processes (Meta Evaluation) [This can involve looking at compliance with evaluation policy; strength of evaluation evidence, etc. Describe what documents said.]		

Interviewee Roles in Synthesis			
We would like to ask you about your role and the roles of other key actors in making planning, completing and using this synthesis	Interviewee description of involvement at stages of the process	Estimated LOE (Days)	Overall length of time this stage took
Planning			
Implementation			
Review/Acceptance			
Dissemination			
Utilization – Direct/Immediate			
Replication/Institutionalization			
Other			

Roles of Other Key Actors			
We would like to ask you about your role and the roles of other key actors in making planning, completing and using this synthesis	Interviewee description of involvement at stages of the process	Estimated LOE (Days)	Overall length of time this stage took
Planning			
Implementation			
Review/Acceptance			
Dissemination			
Utilization – Direct/Immediate			
Replication/Institutionalization			
Other			

Synthesis Purpose, Audience, and Intended Use		
Data Element or Questions	Findings from Document Review (Check one or both as appropriate)	Interviewee Validation or Modifications (In this column, interviewees are invited to provide us – orally or in written form – with any comments they have on document review summary in the preceding column, to help improve our understanding)
Synthesis Purpose – what were the broad, general purposes it was expected to serve		
Was there a specific “management purpose” – immediate decisions/actions the synthesis was expected to support, e.g., feed into a CDCs or PAD, or policy update in a technical area.		
For what specific USAID audiences was the synthesis expected to be useful? Mission Directors, Technical Office heads, M&E POCs, etc.		
With what additional audiences did USAID intend to share the synthesis, what kinds of external users were envisioned?		
Expected uses – at the time the synthesis was undertaken what kinds of uses were envisioned – beyond meeting specific purposes, or a unique management purpose, already listed		

Selection of Evaluations Examined in the Synthesis		
Data Element or Questions	Findings from Document Review (Check one or both as appropriate)	Interviewee Validation or Modifications
What criteria, if any, were used to select which evaluations would be examined by this synthesis? [These could be basics like year, sector/topic, geographic location or type of operating unit, or it could be type of evaluation, such as impact, or only ex post, etc.]		
Were all the evaluations that met the criteria examined, or was a sample drawn and if so how? And by whom?		

Evaluation Design Protocol for the Synthesis		
Data Element or Questions	Findings from Document Review (Check one or both as appropriate)	Interviewee Validation or Modifications

What was the core of the synthesis design – what did it try to learn from each evaluation? (This could involve extracting answers from evaluations to specific questions, or rating them on specific criteria, or just finding what was of interest to the reviewers).		
Did one individual extract these data points from each evaluation or was it done by a team?		
What was the average time devoted to extracting what was to be learned from each evaluation?		
Was there a specific process or template that was used? Describe and can template be shared?		
If there was a training and calibration (inter rater reliability) process that those involved participated, explain that process and the time involved.		
If there was a team involved, was there a quality control or other reviewer output supervision process and what was it and the time involved?		

Data Analysis Protocol for the Synthesis		
Data Element or Questions	Findings from Document Review (Check one or both as appropriate)	Interviewee Validation or Modifications
What were the key features or steps in the analysis plan followed for the synthesis? [This could have involved finding patterns and themes in narrative data, or descriptive statistics, or other actions.]		
Was the analysis done by an individual or a team, and what were the various roles, if a team?		
How long did the analysis process take, separate from report writing?		
Were “study limitations” described for this synthesis and what were they, and how did the team try to mitigate them? How compromised was the synthesis by these limitations?		
How long did report preparation take?		
What types of review processes were applied before this synthesis became final? And who did these reviews?		

Level of Investment in the Synthesis		
Data Element or Questions	Findings from Document Review (Check one or both as appropriate)	Interviewee Validation or Modifications
What was the overall level of effort (in days) for the synthesis in days? Separately for USAID staff and external personnel. ¹³		
How were days divided by type of personnel, e.g., senior, mid, junior or other designations? Separately for USAID staff and external personnel.		
How many months were required for implementation (roughly from identification of the specific evaluations through report submission)?		
What were the external costs of the synthesis? (If you do not know, can you suggest who might know?)		
What were the total internal costs (labor counted as days)?		
Is the approach you used something you expect(ed) to see replicated or further adopted? If so, who or what types of operating units would you expect might benefit from replicating the type of synthesis you conducted?		

¹³ If a synthesis was prepared by long term contractor personnel, a personal services contractor (PSC), other Agency staff member seconded to USAID, or externally paid “fellow” worked on a synthesis, please designate that person’s time as being “external-long term”. Use USAID staff to designate direct hire foreign service and civil service personnel. For syntheses that were contracted and prepared off-site, use the designation “external”.

Utilization		
Data Element or Questions	Findings from Document Review (Check one or both as appropriate)	Interviewee Validation or Modifications
How was the synthesis actually used and by whom? (Consider various purposes and anticipated audiences and planned uses discussed above)		
In what unanticipated ways or by what unanticipated audiences was the synthesis used?		
What effects did the synthesis have on USAID policies, programming decisions, monitoring/evaluation/learning practices?		
Were there any know effects of the synthesis among external actors, e.g., partner country entities, implementing partners, etc.?		

Lessons from Experience	
Please tell us about any insights or 'big picture' takeaways you have learned from implementing the synthesis effort you have described for us?	
In your view, are evaluation syntheses a good investment for the Agency?	
How could synthesis activities be improved to make them more valuable to USAID staff and partners?	

From a future programming perspective, USAID has an interest in learning what may have emerged from syntheses studies in three topical areas: self-reliance, sustainability, and resilience. It is recognized that these terms are used in several ways. For purpose of this study, it would be important to capture references to these concepts, how they were defined in various syntheses and what findings emerged in each domain.

Synthesis Findings of Special Interest		
Data Element or Questions	Findings from Document Review (Check one or both as appropriate)	Interviewee Validation or Modifications
What was learned from this synthesis about self-reliance, and in what context with what operational meaning of that term? [All references are of interest; it may be useful to know that USAID’s current definition says: “self-reliance, as a program approach, refers to developing and strengthening livelihoods of persons of concern, and reducing their vulnerability and long-term reliance on humanitarian or external assistance”] Note individual evaluations of interest as well as relevant synthesis findings.		
What was learned from this synthesis about sustainability, and in what context with what operational meaning of that term? [All references are of interest; it may be useful to know that USAID’s current definition says it is the ability of a local system to produce desired outcomes over time and their ability to be resilient and adaptive over time”.] Note individual evaluations of interest as well as relevant synthesis findings.		
What was learned from this synthesis about resilience, and in what context with what operational meaning of that term? [All references are of interest; it may be useful to know that USAID’s current definition says: “resilience is the ability of people, households, communities, countries and systems to mitigate, adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth.”] Note individual evaluations of interest as well as relevant synthesis findings.		

Closing

Those are all the questions we have. Thank you for your time! We anticipate having a draft of the discussion note for internal review in July or August, with external distribution to follow.

- Do you have any questions for us?
- Thanks!

ANNEX C: LIST OF INDIVIDUALS INTERVIEWED

Case #	Synthesis Name	USAID Contact Interviewed	External Contact Interviewed
1	Synthesis of Evaluations Related to the Feed the Future Learning Agenda	Zachary Baquet	Christa Sawko, Insight Systems Corporation Justin Lawrence, QED Group
2	Closing the Loop on Learning: A Review of Local Solutions Evaluation Reports	Danielle Pearl	N/A (internal USAID study)
3	Sectoral Synthesis of 2013-2014 Evaluation Findings: Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, & Environment	Bhavani Pathak	N/A (led by Elizabeth Freudenberger, MSI)
4	Assessment of the Quality of USAID-funded evaluations, Education sector, 2013-2016 Synthesis of Findings and Lessons Learned, Education sector, 2013-2016	Elena Walls	Thomaz Alvares and Jeff Davis, Management Systems International
5	A Systematic Review of Positive Youth Development Programs in Low- and Middle-Income Countries		Cassandra Jessee, Making Cents Martie Skinner, University of Washington
6	Early Grade Reading in Latin America and the Caribbean: A Systematic Review	Michael Lisman	
7	Meta-Evaluation (September 2015-January 2016): Meta-Analysis of Final Evaluations of USAID/Afghanistan Projects, 2010-2015	Sedig Orya	
8	Meta-Evaluation of Quality and Coverage of USAID Evaluations, 2009-2012	Melissa Patsalides	N/A (led by Molly Hageboeck, MSI)
9	Middle East Bureau Evaluation Synthesis	Jennifer Kuzara	N/A (internal USAID study)
10	Mobiles for Education Evaluation Abstracts	Anthony Bloome	N/A (led by Molly Hageboeck, MSI)
11	Sustaining Development: A Synthesis of Results from a Four-Country Study of Sustainability and Exit Strategies among Development Food Assistance Projects	Arif Rashid	
12	Education in Conflict and Crisis: How Can Technology Make a Difference	Anthony Bloome	Negin Dahya, University of Washington
13	Conservation Enterprises: Using a Theory of Change Approach to Synthesize Lessons from USAID Biodiversity Projects	Megan Hill	Judy Boshoven, Foundations of Success

ANNEX D: COMPENDIUM OF EVALUATION SYNTHESIS SUMMARIES

Report Summaries for 13 Synthesis Cases Examined In-Depth

This section presents brief summaries of 13 syntheses the study team examined in-depth through document reviews and interviews. These 13 cases were selected purposively to illustrate the range of synthesis types USAID has undertaken since 2012.

Case I

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses						
Title	Synthesis of evaluations related to the Feed the Future learning agenda				Year	2016
Download Link	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M38P.pdf				Verified Synthesis	Y N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)					Number of Evaluations or other reports examined	
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (<i>enter description below</i>)		
Y	Y	X	Y	196 FTF evaluations		
N	N		N			
Demographics (<i>use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic</i>)						
Geo Term(s)	Africa south of Sahara, East Africa, Latin America			Primary Subject	Food security	
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	Insight Systems Corp					
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau Food Security	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Agricultural production, Economic development, Evaluation, Farms, Social conditions	
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)						
Planning	Doc Reviews	Analysis	Report Prep	Dissemination	Other	
--	--	--	Review	--	--	
Main Synthesis Findings	<p>Because of the 2007/08 global food price spikes, President Obama called on global leaders at the 2009 G-8 L'Aquila Summit to unlock the potential of agricultural development as the key to reducing hunger, extreme poverty and malnutrition. This U.S. leadership helped mobilize billions of dollars in commitments from other donors, as well as new and expanded financial commitments in partner countries and established a new whole-of-government approach to combating hunger and malnutrition through the Feed the Future initiative. By supporting partner countries in developing their agriculture sectors to generate opportunities for economic growth and trade as well as better nutrition, Feed the Future is making progress toward its goals of reducing the prevalence of poverty and child stunting each by 20 percent in the areas where it works. Feed the Future's focus on evidence, results, and accountability has created a new standard for development. Since its inception, nearly 200 Feed the Future performance evaluations and some impact evaluations have been undertaken. To draw out what the initiative has learned so far, Feed the Future synthesized the findings of these evaluations in relation to six themes and corresponding questions in the areas of agricultural productivity; improved research and development; expanded markets, value chains and increased investment; improved nutrition and dietary quality; improved gender integration and women's empowerment; and improved resilience of vulnerable populations.</p>					

Case 2

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Closing the loop on learning: a review of local solutions evaluation reports					Year		2016	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MWSM.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
							X			
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y		Y	X	Y						
N		N		N		51 evaluation reports				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		--			Primary Subject		--			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Social Solutions International, Inc.								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau Policy, Planning and Learning	Office Learning, Evaluation and Research	Mission	DEC Tags	Accountability, Economic development, Elections, Evaluation, Ownership				
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination		Other	
--		--		--		Doc reading	--		Funding	
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>Promoting sustainability through local ownership is a core operating principle for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Agency has demonstrated this commitment through increased partnerships with local entities by tripling (Local Solutions) obligations from FY2010 to FY2015. As part of the LSLA, a diverse team undertook a review of 51 USAID evaluation reports completed in FY2014 and FY2015 that were identified by USAID staff as including a Local Solutions approach. The evaluation reports examine a wide range of program sectors, geographic areas and types of local partnerships. Furthermore, the evaluation reports and this review reflect how Local Solutions as a reform effort has evolved during the period. In some cases, evaluation reports were identified by missions as Local Solutions although the projects and activities examined did not include a direct funding relationship with local partners but included the principle of local ownership and the practice of engaging with local actors. 97 USAID staff members from across the Agency contributed their diverse experiences and expertise in analyzing the evaluation reports. To guide the volunteer readers' examination of the evaluation reports, the review team developed a performance rubric. Each evaluation was reviewed by at least two readers and cross-checked for consistency. Drawing from the resulting 145 rubrics submitted, the team synthesized the analyses in a cross-case comparison to determine findings and conclusions linked to questions in the LSLA.</p>								

Case 3

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Sectoral Synthesis of 2013-2014 Evaluation Findings: Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, & Environment					Year		2015	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00KQT8.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y	X	Y					117	
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Global				Primary Subject				
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Management Systems International (MSI)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office		Mission	DEC Tags				
		E3	Planning, Learning and Coordination							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination	Other		
X		X		X			X			
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>The meta-analysis aspect of this study examined project results, key lessons learned, areas for improvement, and innovative practices as presented in the evaluation reports. Of the 65 percent of reports that included enough information to assess achievement of performance targets, more than half met their performance targets overall. However, 34 percent of the evaluations did not provide enough information to assess overall achievement. Forty-four percent of evaluations identified some sort of innovative practice. Sixty-four percent of evaluations showed evidence that the projects had, to at least some degree, addressed the integration of gender equality and/or women's empowerment. Across evaluations, number of evaluations providing sex-disaggregated data increased from 7 percent in 2010 to 53 percent in 2014. On the meta-evaluation side, this study found that the quality of evaluation reports related to E3 sectors has been continuously improving since the release of the USAID Evaluation Policy in 2011. The study employed the checklist and 10-point scoring system used in USAID's 2009-2012 Agency-wide Meta Evaluation I to allow for comparisons to be drawn between this study's set of E3 evaluations and the ratings that E3 sector evaluations earned in the earlier Meta-Evaluation. The quality score of E3 evaluation reports rose from 4.69 in 2010 to 8.02 in 2014, demonstrating a considerable effort across E3 sectors to strengthen the performance of the evaluations they undertake.</p>								

Case 4

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Assessment of the Quality of USAID-funded evaluations, Education sector, 2013-2016 and Synthesis of Findings and Lessons Learned, Education sector, 2013-2016 (in separate volumes)					Year		2018	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pa00srwl.pdf and https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00TIHD.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y		Y		Y						
N		N		N		92				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Global			Primary Subject		Education			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Management Systems International								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags					
		E3	Education							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other	
X								X		
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>The first of these two studies of USAID Education Evaluations completed between 2013 and 2016 was a meta-evaluation that focused evaluation quality and the strength of evidence supporting evaluation findings and conclusions. Using a checklist tool the study team developed, 92 evaluations were reviewed and rated by 36 experts from 21 organizations who volunteered their time and expertise. This process served as a screening device, which narrowed the number of evaluations from which substantive findings were extracted to 69. These received high ratings on evaluation quality and progressed to the synthesis phase. In the synthesis phase, meta-analyses were conducted to extract findings on a topical basis. Findings on Education Strategy Goal 1: Early Grade Reading were drawn from 23 of the 69 evaluations with high quality ratings. These evaluations showed that “Most reading interventions had significant, positive, albeit small effects on reading scores.” Findings on multiple additional subtopics for this and other education strategy goals were also reported. Findings on Education Strategy Goal 2: Workforce Development and Higher Education were drawn from 26 screened evaluations. Findings on Education Strategy Goal 3: Education in Crisis and Conflict were drawn from 28 screened evaluations.</p>								

Case 5

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		A systematic review of positive youth development in low-and middle-income countries					Year		2017	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MR58.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other studies examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y		Y		Y	X					
N		N		N		108 peer reviewed articles				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		China, Latin America			Primary Subject		Population groups			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Making Cents International								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Economic development, Television, Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) for HIV Youth				
		Global Health	Office. of HIV/AIDS							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination		Other	
X – criteria for selecting articles		--		--		Reviewed report	--		--	
Main Synthesis Findings		<p><i>How Have PYD approaches been implemented in LMICs?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although youth programs are implemented across the globe, few are explicitly identified as PYD. The team found almost 100 separate PYD programs in 60 LMICs. Most programs that were reviewed address multiple PYD domains, and nearly all programs help youth to build assets. PYD programs are implemented across sectors, age groups, and genders. Programs implement a diverse array of activities across multiple domains, distinguishing PYD from other approaches to youth development. <p><i>What does the evidence say about the effectiveness of PYD approaches?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Though evaluations were available for most programs, their quality varied. There is a lack of robust and consistent measurement of PYD outcomes. There are very few longitudinal studies or evaluations of PYD programs. Several high-quality studies of health focused PYD programs show improved knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to SRH. Some PYD programs have led to positive shift in gender norms. Lower-quality studies have demonstrated positive effects of PYD programs on employment, skills development, and financial behaviors. Programs tend to report on outcomes in a single sector (e.g., Health, Economic Development, or Democracy and Governance). 								

Case 6

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses						
Title	Early Grade Reading in Latin American and the Caribbean: A Systematic Review				Year	2016
Download Link	https://lacreads.org/sites/default/files/systematic-rvw-execsum-508.pdf				Verified Synthesis	Y N X
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)					Number of Evaluations or other reports examined	
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (<i>enter description below</i>)		
Y	Y	Y	X	108		
N	N	N				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)						
Geo Term(s)	Caribbean; Latin America		Primary Subject	Education research		
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	Juarez and Associates, Inc.; American Institutes for Research (AIR)					
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau LAC	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Children Literacy, Mathematics Teachers	
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)						
Planning	Doc Reviews	Analysis	Report Prep	Dissemination	Other	
Authors developed the research questions in consultation with USAID	--	--	--	--	--	
Main Synthesis Findings	<p>Found evidence that teacher training programs can positively affect early grade reading outcomes in high-income economies when they are well implemented and complemented by sustained coaching. Found some evidence that nutrition programs can have positive effects on early grade reading outcomes in contexts where stunting and wasting are high, such as Guatemala. Finally, evidence indicated that the distribution of laptops to children can have adverse effects on early grade reading outcomes, particularly when the distribution of laptops is not complemented by additional programs. The findings of the quantitative nonintervention studies indicate that phonemic awareness, fluency, and comprehension are associated with reading ability. The research further indicates that poverty and child labor are negatively correlated with early grade reading outcomes. This finding on the importance of poverty and socioeconomic factors for early grade reading outcomes supports the quantitative intervention result that nutrition programs may be effective in improving early grade reading outcomes. The quantitative nonintervention studies show that the quality of preschool is positively associated with early grade reading outcomes. Both qualitative and quantitative studies indicated that consideration of context is key to improving reading outcomes. The most frequently discussed topic in qualitative nonintervention articles is the need to promote social learning to improve early grade reading. Found convincing evidence for publication bias in the studies that focus on the effects of teacher practices and parental involvement on early grade reading outcomes in the LAC region.</p>					

Case 7

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Meta-analysis of final evaluations of USAID/Afghanistan projects, 2010-2015					Year		2016	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M8B2.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y		Y	X	Y						
N		N		N						
							35 evaluations			
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		--			Primary Subject		--			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Checchi and Co. Consulting, Inc. (CCCI)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Budgets, Business enterprises, Economic development, Evaluation, Governance				
				Mission to Afghanistan						
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination		Other
--		Doc reading		--		--		--		Funding
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>The assignment's key evaluation questions are: 1. What are the key findings of the component evaluations relating to effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability? 2. How have the evaluation recommendations been utilized? This meta-evaluation was a joint effort by the M&E staff of USAID/Afghanistan and a consultant hired by the SUPPORT II project. The meta-evaluation team read and analyzed the 35 final evaluations of USAID/Afghanistan projects conducted between 2010 and 2015 and sorted the evaluations' key findings by theme—effectiveness, efficiency, or sustainability. Analysis of the findings identified recurrent project objectives, trends within and across sectors, and factors influencing projects' effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability, which are discussed in the report. The evaluations were the primary information source for determining the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the projects; thus, the meta-evaluation was limited by the nature and quality of the information presented in each report. A plurality of the 35 projects, 16 (45.8%), received a mixed rating, meaning they had both positive and negative key findings. Nine projects (25.7%) were deemed unsatisfactory and seven (20%) satisfactory. Last, three projects (8.6%) could not be rated based on their evaluations alone. The Office of Agriculture's projects were generally implemented well: three of four agriculture projects received satisfactory ratings. The Office of Economic Growth Initiative, on the other hand, did not have any projects considered satisfactory, and most of this technical office's projects (six) were judged unsatisfactory. Also, four of five infrastructure projects were deemed unsatisfactory.</p>								

Case 8

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Meta-Evaluation of Quality and Coverage of USAID Evaluations, 2009-2012					Year			
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACX771.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y		Y		Y					340	
N		N		N					(random sample)	
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Global				Primary Subject				
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Management Systems International (MSI)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags					
		Policy, Planning and Learning	Learning, Evaluation and Research							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination		Other
X								X		Funding
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>This study covered USAID evaluations completed during the two years before USAID's 2011 Evaluation Policy was introduced in February 2011, as well as nearly two years after it was issued. Over the four years covered by this meta-evaluation (2009-2012), there were clear improvements in the quality of USAID evaluation reports. On 25 of 37 (68 percent) evaluation quality factors rated, evaluations completed in 2012 showed a positive net increase over 2009 evaluations in the number that met USAID quality standards on those factors. Four clusters of evaluation ratings were used to determine where USAID excels on evaluation quality and where improvements are warranted. Evaluation quality factors on which 80 percent or more USAID evaluations met USAID standards were coded as "good." Quality standards for which 50 percent to 79 percent of evaluations were rated positively were designated as "fair." USAID performance was either "good" or "fair" on half of the factors rated. On the remaining evaluation quality factors, USAID performance was deemed "marginal" on 20 percent of those factors and "weak" on 32 percent. On an overall evaluation quality "score" based on 11 of the meta-evaluation's quality rating factors, USAID evaluations averaged 5.93 on a 10-point scale—with a mode of 7 points and a relatively normal distribution. Statistical tests conducted using this overall score showed that USAID evaluations completed in 2012 were of significantly higher quality than those completed in 2009. The study provides a baseline for</p>								

	comparing changes in evaluation compliance with USAID's Evaluation Policy in the future.
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Case 9

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses											
Title		Middle East Bureau Evaluation Synthesis						Year		2018	
Download Link		No report published						Verified Synthesis		Y	N
								X			
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)								Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)					
Y	X	Y	X	Y						22	
N		N		N	X						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)											
Geo Term(s)		--				Primary Subject		--			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		USAID Middle East Bureau									
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau Middle East		Office		Mission		DEC Tags		--	
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)											
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination		Other	
X		X		X		X		X		X	
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>For the period 2104-2016, USAID's Middle East Bureau initiated an internal evaluation quality review consisting of two parts, the first of which was a meta-evaluation of evaluation quality, based on a protocol the Bureau developed. The second part will synthesize findings from Bureau evaluations. As the time an interview was conducted, in 2018, the meta-evaluation portion had been completed and the meta-analysis portion was underway. The objectives of this protocol are to (1) identify areas where improvement is needed in evaluation quality, (2) track evaluation information over time, including evaluation quality metrics, and (3) ensure that high quality evidence from evaluation findings informs programmatic decisions. As envisioned by the Bureau, this will be an ongoing process that examines evaluations each year as they are completed. The meta-evaluation protocol the Bureau used featured a detailed checklist for determining the quality of evaluation reports. During the pilot stage, each review took 10 hours to complete. In describing differences between the Middle East Bureau's protocol and other approaches, notably one developed by the Office of Education in the E3 Bureau (Case 4 above), the Middle East Bureau interviewee indicated that, whereas the Office of Education's approach required that highly qualified experts score evaluations, the Middle East Bureau's protocol is designed to be used by mission M&E POCs.</p>									

Case 10

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses											
Title		Mobiles for Education Evaluation Abstracts						Year			
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M7ZN.pdf						Verified Synthesis		Y X	N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)								Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)					
Y		Y	X	Y		Abstracts of evaluation reports cited by four landscape reviews in this field			58		
N		N		N							
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)											
Geo Term(s)						Primary Subject					
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Management Systems International (MSI)									
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags						
		E3	Education								
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)											
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other		
X								X	Funding		
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>This volume, which includes 58 mobile technology for education evaluation abstracts, draws on four research reports produced collaboratively by USAID and other donors under USAID's leadership of the Mobiles for Education (mEducation) Alliance. Each volume in this series aims to foster cost-effective and scalable uses of technology to support education, particularly in developing countries. Three of these volumes focus on mobiles for reading, numeracy, and workforce development, respectively. The final is an education technology topic guide. A meta-evaluation element in this volume categorized evaluations by the type of design involved, as a proxy for understanding evidence strength. Of the 58 evaluations examined, 24% were single point in time studies, while another 28% were undertaken on a pre-post basis and attempted to document change over that period. The remaining studies all attempted to demonstrate a causal relationship between the use of mobiles and outcomes: 10% of the 58 studies used experimental designs with randomized assignment; 28% involved quasi-experimental designs where some other method was used to create treatment and comparison groups. A final 10% examined causality using a non-experimental approach. This study's purpose was to make mobile technology evaluation findings more accessible to individuals working in this field. An annex to this volume includes a summary of published findings on the impact of mobile technologies as well as a guide for rigorously evaluating activities that involve mobiles.</p>									

Case 11

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Sustaining development: a synthesis of results from a four-country study of sustainability and exit strategies among development food assistance projects					Year		2016	
Download Link		https://www.fantaproject.org/sites/default/files/resources/FFP-Sustainability-Exit-Strategies-Synthesis-Dec2015_0.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y				12 assessed activities		
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Bolivia, Honduras, India, Kenya			Primary Subject		Food aid programs			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Tufts University. School of Nutrition, FHI 360								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office		Mission	DEC Tags	Agricultural production, Food aid, Food assistance, Food for Peace, Food security, Nutrition, Prices, Water sanitation			
		Global Health	Health, Infectious Diseases, and Nutrition							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews			Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination	Other	
--		--			--		--	--	Funding	
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>The objective of the study was to determine what factors enhanced the likelihood of sustained Food for Peace (FFP) project activities and benefits. The study provides guidance to future FFP development food assistance projects, with implications for other development projects as well on how to ensure sustainability. The study assessed 12 projects in four countries using a mixed methods approach in which three rounds of qualitative data collection were conducted a year apart. In addition, a quantitative survey (referred to as the follow-up survey) was conducted between two and three years after project activities ended. The study team found that evidence of project success at the time of exit (as assessed by impact indicators) did not necessarily imply sustained benefit over time, nor is the magnitude of the impact directly related to the probability of sustainability. Analysis of the experiences of the projects in these four countries suggests that incorporating the lessons for sustainability into project design may improve the likelihood that development projects continue to offer benefits after project completion. Awardees should base their sustainability plans and related exit strategies on clearly articulated theories of change. The report includes a model for studying sustained outcomes from project interventions. The model highlights three factors the study found were critical to achieving sustainability, namely resources, capacity, and motivation. These factors are interrelated and synergistic. No project in this study achieved sustainability without all three of them in place before the project ended.</p>								

Case 12

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Education in Conflict and Crisis: How Can Technology Make a Difference? A Landscape Review					Year		2016	
Download Link		https://allchildrenreading.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/How-Can-Technology-Make-a-Difference.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (<i>enter description below</i>)			66 journals	
Y	X	Y		Y						
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		--			Primary Subject		--			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Dr. Negin Dahya, University of Washington Information School Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	--				
		--	--	--						
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other	
--		--		--		--		--	--	
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>Conflict and crisis are among the biggest obstacles to ensuring inclusive and quality education for all (Sustainable Development Goal 4). The use of information and communication technology (ICT) has the potential to support, enhance, and enable education for the most marginalized, affected by war, natural disasters, and the rapid spread of disease. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and in collaboration with All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development (USAID, World Vision and the Australian Government), World Vision International (WVI), and the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) commissioned this Landscape Review to (1) identify major trends, patterns, knowledge gaps and lessons learned about the use of mobile technologies in crisis and conflict settings, and (2) synthesize key themes and considerations for practitioners and policy makers in this field. It is hoped this Landscape Review will further engage the community in peer-to-peer learning and collaboration to drive promising programs to scale, and create pathways through education, to reach greater numbers of conflict and crisis affected children.</p>								

Case 13

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Conservation enterprises: using a theory of change approach to synthesize lessons from USAID biodiversity projects					Year		2017	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PBAAF622.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y						
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		--			Primary Subject		Environmental protection and conservation			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Environmental Incentives, LLC								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Business enterprises, Communities, Economic development, Livelihood, Marketing				
		E3	Forestry and Biodiversity							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other	
--		--		--		--		--		
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>Promoting conservation enterprises is a strategy that is widely supported by USAID biodiversity funding. However, the evidence that conservation enterprises lead to conservation is mixed. To increase the understanding of conservation enterprise approaches and outcomes and to improve the effectiveness of biodiversity programming, this brief synthesizes lessons from past USAID-funded efforts to support conservation enterprises. Several USAID programs have supported conservation enterprises, including the Biodiversity Conservation Network, the Global Conservation Program, the Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems Program, TransLinks, the Forests, Climate, and Communities Alliance, the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment, and others. For this review, Measuring Impact examined readily available assessments of these and other centrally funded or multi-country USAID programs to synthesize the evidence and illuminate lessons regarding the effectiveness of conservation enterprises. This brief describes some of the key lessons of those experiences. Each USAID biodiversity-funded program, as well as each site where a conservation enterprise strategic approach is implemented, involves a unique set of circumstances. From site to site, the conservation enterprises themselves, or the participants, threats, biodiversity, and other conditions may vary widely. Nevertheless, there is a common hypothesis underlying all the actions implemented by partners as part of this strategic approach: that supporting conservation enterprises will ultimately lead to improvement in the status of biodiversity at their sites.</p>								

Report Summaries by Synthesis Subtypes

This section provides summaries of 59 syntheses reports the study team found in USAID’s DEC and validated as syntheses, out of 110 reports on the DEC published between 2012 and 2018 that used the term synthesis, or a similar term, in its title. Table D-1 organizes these 59 syntheses into clusters, beginning with 12 evaluation syntheses (or 20 percent of the total), based solely on USAID evaluation reports. The second cluster includes 47 syntheses that were prepared based primarily on other types of documents, even when a small fraction of the materials examined may have been evaluations.

Summaries included here follow the order of the table below, which identifies evaluation synthesis subtypes as well as sub-types of other types of syntheses. These sub-types are the same as those defined in Box 1 of this report. Of these 12, 5 included a meta-evaluation element that examined quality aspects of these evaluations. Four of these five also examined the findings of the evaluations on which they reported using meta-analysis techniques. The second large cluster identified in Table D-1 includes 47 synthesis reports based on sources other than or in addition to evaluations. In each of these large clusters, most reports examined multiple independent studies to arrive at their conclusions. A smaller proportion in each large cluster synthesized data from multiple sites under a single study.

Synthesis reports for which summaries are presented in this section are organized into clusters and sub clusters based on whether they were created using USAID evaluations or other sources of evidence, using the outline below, which is drawn from the rows in Table D-1.

Syntheses Based on USAID Evaluations (12)

- Stand-alone meta-evaluation of evaluation quality (compliance or evidence strength) of multiple evaluations (1)
- Combined meta-evaluation of evaluation quality and meta-analysis of substantive findings from multiple evaluations (3)
- Compendium of multiple evaluation abstracts, with a meta-evaluation component for coding evaluation designs (1)
- Meta-analysis of substantive findings from multiple evaluations (4)
- Meta-analysis of substantive findings from cases or sites under single evaluations (3)

Syntheses Based Primarily on Other Types of Evidence (47)

- Systematic reviews (of primarily peer-reviewed journal articles) (18)
- Literature reviews of published and grey literature (14)
- Meta-analysis of substantive findings across multiple studies of several types (4)
- Meta-analysis of findings from cases, sites, or elements under single studies of several types (11)

TABLE D-1: VERIFIED SYNTHESSES IN THE DEC

Synthesis Types	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Subtotal, 2012-18
SYNTHESSES BASED ON USAID EVALUATIONS								
Stand-alone meta-evaluation of evaluation quality (compliance or evidence strength) of multiple evaluations	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Combined meta-evaluation of evaluation quality and meta-analysis of substantive findings from multiple evaluations	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	3
Compendium of multiple evaluation abstracts, with a meta-evaluation component for coding evaluation designs	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Meta-evaluation subset	0	1	0	2	0	1	1	5
Meta-analysis of substantive findings from multiple evaluations	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	4
Meta-analysis of substantive findings from cases or sites under single evaluations	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	3
Meta-analysis subset	0	0	0	0	5	0	2	7
Evaluations Subtotal	0	1	0	2	5	1	3	12
SYNTHESSES BASED ON OTHER TYPES OF EVIDENCE								
Systematic reviews (of primarily peer-reviewed journal articles)	1	5	4	2	4	2	0	18
Literature reviews of published and grey literature	2	1	2	1	3	4	1	14
Meta-analysis of substantive findings across multiple studies of several types	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	4
Meta-analysis of findings from cases, sites, or elements under single studies of several types	1	0	2	4	4	0	0	11
Other Studies Subtotal	5	7	8	9	11	6	1	47
Total	5	8	8	11	16	7	4	59

Syntheses based on USAID Evaluations

All 12 summaries of evaluation syntheses presented in this section were based on USAID evaluations completed between 2012 and 2018.

Stand-Alone Meta Evaluation of Evaluation Quality (Compliance or Evidence Strength) of Multiple Evaluations (1)

As Figure D-1 shows, five USAID studies that included a meta-evaluation component were published between 2012 and 2018. Of these, only one was a stand-alone review that examined evaluation quality and compliance with USAID evaluation policy but did not synthesize the findings from the evaluations it examined. That single stand-alone meta-evaluation is summarized below. This case was one of the 13 syntheses examined in detail while preparing this report. As with all study summaries included in this Annex, an annotation is provided at the top showing its case number and that it is reproduced from the beginning of this Annex.

Case 8 (repeated)

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Meta-Evaluation of Quality and Coverage of USAID Evaluations, 2009-2012					Year			
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACX771.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y		Y		Y					340	
N		N		N					(random sample)	
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Global				Primary Subject				
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Management Systems International (MSI)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags					
		Policy, Planning and Learning	Learning, Evaluation and Research							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination		Other	
X							X		Funding	
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>This study covered USAID evaluations completed during the two years before USAID's 2011 Evaluation Policy was introduced in February 2011, as well as nearly two years after it was issued. Over the four years covered by this meta-evaluation (2009-2012), there were clear improvements in the quality of USAID evaluation reports. On 25 of 37 (68 percent) evaluation quality factors rated, evaluations completed in 2012 showed a positive net increase over 2009 evaluations in the number that met USAID quality standards on those factors. Four clusters of evaluation ratings were used to determine where USAID excels on evaluation quality and where improvements are warranted. Evaluation quality factors on which 80 percent or more USAID evaluations met USAID standards were coded as "good." Quality standards for which 50 percent to 79 percent of evaluations were rated positively were designated as "fair." USAID performance was either "good" or "fair" on half the factors rated. On the remaining evaluation quality factors, USAID performance was deemed "marginal" on 20 percent of those factors and "weak" on 32 percent. On an overall evaluation quality "score" based on 11 of the meta-evaluation's quality rating factors, USAID evaluations averaged 5.93 on a 10-point scale—with a mode of 7 points and a relatively normal distribution. Statistical tests conducted using this overall score showed that USAID evaluations completed in 2012 were of significantly higher quality than those completed in 2009. The study provides a baseline for comparing changes in evaluation compliance with USAID's Evaluation Policy in the future.</p>								

Combined Meta-Evaluation of Evaluations and Meta-Analysis of Substantive Findings from Multiple Evaluations, with a Meta-Evaluation Component for Coding Evaluation Designs (3)

Three evaluation syntheses identified in Figure D-I involved a combination of a meta-analysis that summarized the findings of multiple evaluations and a meta-evaluation that examined the quality or compliance with evaluation policy of the evaluations from the evaluation syntheses from which findings were obtained. Of these, two were editions of evaluation syntheses conducted by USAID/E3, one covering 2013-2014 and the other covering 2015. These two editions are represented by a single summary below. The third is a two-phase evaluation synthesis that involved a meta-evaluation used to screen and select the highest-quality evaluations for a subsequent synthesis stage of that work.

Case 3 (repeated)

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Sectoral Synthesis of 2013-2014 Evaluation Findings: Bureau for Economic Growth, Education, & Environment					Year		2015	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00KQT8.pdf (2013-2014) and https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MPI7.pdf (2015)					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y	X	Y						
N		N		N		117				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Global				Primary Subject				
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Management Systems International (MSI)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau Economic Growth, Education & Environment		Office Planning, Learning and Coordination		Mission		DEC Tags		
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews			Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other
X		X			X				X	
Main Synthesis Findings		The meta-analysis aspect of this study examined project results, key lessons learned, areas for improvement, and innovative practices as presented in the evaluation reports. Of the 65 percent of reports that included enough information to assess achievement of performance targets, more than half met their performance targets overall. However, 34 percent of the evaluations did not provide enough information to assess overall achievement. Forty-four percent of evaluations identified some sort of innovative practice. Sixty-four percent of evaluations showed evidence that the projects had, to at least some degree, addressed the integration of gender equality and/or women's empowerment. Across evaluations, number of evaluations providing sex-disaggregated data increased from 7 percent in 2010 to 53 percent in 2014. On the meta-evaluation side, this study found that the quality of evaluation reports related to E3 sectors has been continuously improving since the release of the USAID Evaluation Policy in 2011. The study employed the checklist and 10-point scoring system used in USAID's 2009-2012 Agency-wide Meta Evaluation to allow for comparisons to be drawn between this study's set of E3 evaluations and the ratings that E3 sector evaluations earned in the earlier Meta-Evaluation. The quality score of E3 evaluation reports rose from 4.69 in 2010 to 8.02 in 2014, demonstrating a considerable effort across E3 sectors to strengthen the performance of the evaluations they undertake.								

Case 4 (repeated)

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title	Assessment of the Quality of USAID-funded evaluations, Education sector, 2013-2016 and Synthesis of Findings and Lessons Learned, Education sector, 2013-2016 (in separate volumes)						Year	2018		
Download Link	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/pa00srwl.pdf (Phase I meta-evaluation) and https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00T1HD.pdf (Phase II meta-analysis)						Verified Synthesis	Y	N	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)					
Y		Y		Y						
N		N		N			92			
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)	Global				Primary Subject	Education				
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	Management Systems International									
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags						
	Economic Growth, Education & Environment	Education								
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning	Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination	Other			
	X					X				
Main Synthesis Findings	<p>The first of these two studies of USAID Education Evaluations completed between 2013 and 2016 was a meta-evaluation that focused evaluation quality and the strength of evidence supporting evaluation findings and conclusions. Using a checklist tool the study team developed, 92 evaluations were reviewed and rated by 36 experts from 21 organizations who volunteered their time and expertise. This process served as a screening device that narrowed the number of evaluations from which substantive findings were extracted to 69 evaluations that received high ratings on evaluation quality and progressed to the synthesis phase. In the synthesis phase, meta-analyses were conducted to extract findings on a topical basis. Findings on Education Strategy Goal 1: Early Grade Reading were drawn from 23 of the 69 evaluations with high quality ratings. These evaluations showed that “Most reading interventions had significant, positive, albeit small effects on reading scores.” Findings on multiple additional subtopics for this and other education strategy goals were also reported. Findings on Education Strategy Goal 2: Workforce Development and Higher Education were drawn from 26 screened evaluations. Findings on Education Strategy Goal 3: Education in Crisis and Conflict were drawn from 28 screened evaluations.</p>									

Compendium of Multiple Evaluation Abstracts (I)

Case 10 (repeated)

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses											
Title		Mobiles for Education Evaluation Abstracts						Year			
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M7ZN.pdf						Verified Synthesis		Y X	N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)								Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)					
Y		Y	X	Y		Abstracts of evaluation reports cited by four landscape reviews in this field				58	
N		N		N							
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)											
Geo Term(s)						Primary Subject					
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Management Systems International (MSI)									
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau		Office		Mission		DEC Tags			
		Economic Growth, Education and Environment		Education							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)											
Planning		Doc Reviews			Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other	
X									X	Funding	
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>This volume, which includes 58 mobile technology for education evaluation abstracts, draws on four research reports produced collaboratively by USAID and other donors under USAID's leadership of the Mobiles for Education (mEducation) Alliance. Each volume in this series aims at fostering cost-effective and scalable uses of technology to support education, particularly in developing countries. Three of these volumes focus on mobiles for reading, numeracy and workforce development, respectively. The final is an education technology topic guide. A meta-evaluation element in this volume categorized evaluations by the type of design involved, as a proxy for understanding evidence strength. Of the 58 evaluations examined, 24% were single point in time studies, while another 28% were undertaken on a pre-post basis and attempted to document change over that period. The remaining studies all attempted to demonstrate a causal relationship between the use of mobiles and outcomes: 10% of the 58 studies used experimental designs with randomized assignment; 28% involved quasi-experimental designs where some other method was used to create treatment and comparison groups. A final 10% examined causality using a non-experimental approach. This study's purpose was to make mobile technology evaluation findings more accessible to individuals working in this field. An annex to this volume include a summary of</p>									

	published findings on the impact of mobile technologies as well as a guide for rigorously evaluating activities that involve mobiles.
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Meta-Analysis of Substantive Findings from Multiple Evaluations (4)

The four evaluation syntheses in this cluster all extracted findings from multiple evaluations. Three of the four were examined in-depth to prepare this report.

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title	A Ganar alliance impact evaluation: synthesis report: Guatemala and Honduras						Year	2018		
Download Link	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00T78T.pdf						Verified Synthesis	Y	N	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)					
Y		Y	X	Y				2 inter-related evaluation studies		
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Honduras, Guatemala				Primary Subject		Population groups		
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Social Impact, Inc.								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission		DEC Tags	Children, Evaluation, Farmers, Youth			
				USAID/Guatemala and USAID/Honduras						
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis			Report Prep	Dissemination	Other	
--		--		--			--	--	Funding	
Main Synthesis Findings		The A Ganar Alliance impact evaluations (IEs) are two interrelated studies designed to assess the effectiveness of the A Ganar sport-for-development program in Honduras and Guatemala, allowing USAID to compare outcomes in different contexts, increasing the external validity or generalizability of evaluation findings. Both evaluations utilize a mixed-methods, randomized control trial (RCT) approach to provide quantitative estimates of project impact as well as qualitative data regarding the lived experiences of beneficiaries. Both studies answer the “proof-of-concept” question: to what extent does participation in and completion of the A Ganar program increase the likelihood that youth will obtain and maintain jobs, return to school, start their own business, or reduce risky behavior? It is important to note that reduction in risk behavior was not an objective of the A Ganar program. USAID added this metric because A Ganar was working in high violence contexts and wanted to understand programmatic effects on violent/risky behaviors. Additionally, by comparing A Ganar to similar non-sports programs, the Guatemala evaluation explores whether sport provides								

	additional benefits to workforce development programming. This report provides a summative synthesis of results in both countries.
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Case I (repeated)

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses						
Title	Synthesis of evaluations related to the Feed the Future learning agenda				Year	2016
Download Link	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M38P.pdf				Verified Synthesis	Y N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)					Number of Evaluations or other reports examined	
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review	Other type of synthesis (enter description below)		196 FTF evaluations
Y		Y X	Y			
N		N	N			
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)						
Geo Term(s)	Africa south of Sahara, East Africa, Latin America		Primary Subject	Food security		
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	Insight Systems Corp					
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Agricultural production, Economic development, Evaluation, Farms, Social conditions	
	Food Security					
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)						
Planning	Doc Reviews	Analysis	Report Prep	Dissemination	Other	
--	--	--	Review	--	--	
Main Synthesis Findings	<p>Because of the 2007/08 global food price spikes, President Obama called upon global leaders at the 2009 G-8 L'Aquila Summit to unlock the potential of agricultural development as the key to reducing hunger, extreme poverty and malnutrition. This U.S. leadership helped mobilize billions of dollars in commitments from other donors, as well as new and expanded financial commitments in partner countries and established a new whole-of-government approach to combating hunger and malnutrition through the Feed the Future initiative. By supporting partner countries in developing their agriculture sectors to generate opportunities for economic growth and trade as well as better nutrition, Feed the Future is making progress toward its goals of reducing the prevalence of poverty and child stunting each by 20 percent in the areas where it works. Feed the Future's focus on evidence, results and accountability has created a new standard for development. Since its inception, nearly 200 Feed the Future performance evaluations and some impact evaluations have been undertaken. To draw out what the initiative has learned so far, Feed the Future synthesized the findings of these evaluations in relation to six themes and corresponding questions in the areas of agricultural productivity; improved research and development; expanded markets, value chains and increased investment; improved nutrition and dietary quality; improved gender integration and women's empowerment; and improved resilience of vulnerable populations.</p>					

Case 2 (repeated)

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Closing the loop on learning: a review of local solutions evaluation reports					Year		2016	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MWSM.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
							X			
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)			51 evaluation reports	
Y		Y	X	Y						
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)			--			Primary Subject		--		
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Social Solutions International, Inc.								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau Policy, Planning and Learning	Office Learning, Evaluation and Research	Mission	DEC Tags	Accountability, Economic development, Elections, Evaluation, Ownership				
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination		Other	
--		--		--		Doc reading	--		Funding	
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>Promoting sustainability through local ownership is a core operating principle for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The Agency has demonstrated this commitment through increased partnerships with local entities by tripling (Local Solutions) obligations from FY2010 to FY2015. As part of the LSLA, a diverse team undertook a review of 51 USAID evaluation reports completed in FY2014 and FY2015 that were identified by USAID staff as including a Local Solutions approach. The evaluation reports examine a wide range of program sectors, geographic areas and types of local partnerships. Furthermore, the evaluation reports and this review reflect how Local Solutions as a reform effort has evolved during the period. In some cases, evaluation reports were identified by missions as Local Solutions although the projects and activities examined did not include a direct funding relationship with local partners but included the principle of local ownership and the practice of engaging with local actors. 97 USAID staff members from across the Agency contributed their diverse experiences and expertise in analyzing the evaluation reports. To guide the volunteer readers' examination of the evaluation reports, the review team developed a performance rubric. Each evaluation was reviewed by at least two readers and cross-checked for consistency. Drawing from the resulting 145 rubrics submitted, the team synthesized the analyses in a cross-case comparison to determine findings and conclusions linked to questions in the LSLA.</p>								

Case 7 (repeated)

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Meta-analysis of final evaluations of USAID/Afghanistan projects, 2010-2015					Year		2016	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M8B2.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)			35 evaluations	
Y		Y	X	Y						
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		--			Primary Subject		--			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Checchi and Co. Consulting, Inc. (CCCI)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission		DEC Tags	Budgets, Business enterprises, Economic development, Evaluation, Governance			
				Mission to Afghanistan						
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination	Other		
--		Doc reading		--		--	--	Funding		
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>The assignment's key evaluation questions are: 1. What are the key findings of the component evaluations relating to effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability? 2. How have the evaluation recommendations been utilized? This meta-evaluation was a joint effort by the M&E staff of USAID/Afghanistan and a consultant hired by the SUPPORT II project. The meta-evaluation team read and analyzed the 35 final evaluations of USAID/Afghanistan projects conducted between 2010 and 2015 and sorted the evaluations' key findings by theme—effectiveness, efficiency, or sustainability. Analysis of the findings identified recurrent project objectives, trends within and across sectors, and factors influencing projects' effectiveness, efficiency and sustainability, which are discussed in the report. The evaluations were the primary information source for determining the effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of the projects; thus, the meta-evaluation was limited by the nature and quality of the information presented in each report. A plurality of the 35 projects, 16 (45.8%), received a mixed rating, meaning they had both positive and negative key findings. Nine projects (25.7%) were deemed unsatisfactory and seven (20%) satisfactory. Last, three projects (8.6%) could not be rated based on their evaluations alone. The Office of Agriculture's projects were generally implemented well: three of four agriculture projects received satisfactory ratings. The Office of Economic Growth Initiative, on the other hand, did not have any projects considered satisfactory, and most of this technical office's projects (six) were judged unsatisfactory. Also, four of five infrastructure projects were deemed unsatisfactory.</p>								

Meta-Analysis of Substantive Findings from Cases or Sites under as Single Evaluation (3)

The three evaluation syntheses in this cluster brought together findings from several sites or cases under a single study.

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Evaluation of sustained outcomes in basic education: synthesis report					Year		2018	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PBAAJ315.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							# of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y		Y	X	Y					4 case studies	
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Ghana, Namibia, South Africa, Uganda			Primary Subject		Development program and activity evaluation			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Management Systems International, Inc. (MSI)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau E3		Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Basic education, Case studies, Elections, Evaluation, Life skills			
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination	Other		
--		--		--		--	--	Funding		
Author Abstract		<p>USAID has increasingly focused on the importance of local systems as the linchpin of sustainability. This evaluation, using an ex-post comparative case study design, is intended to help USAID better understand the programmatic and contextual factors that contribute to sustained outcomes from international development interventions. The evaluation examined four cases of USAID basic education activities implemented in Ghana, Namibia, South Africa, and Uganda. Each activity was completed between 2000 and 2010. Case study teams conducted primary research to understand how local systems contributed to outcome sustainment, using tools and processes were designed to capture how relationships and perceptions drive behavior in complex systems. The evaluation analyzed data at the case study level and across cases using qualitative and inductive methods. The evaluation found that, while several factors influenced what remained in these four countries, the main influencing factors appeared to be: (1) building of momentum of results over time; (2) the timing of the intervention; and (3) the role played by the host national government, including the policy environment and political will. In cases where outcomes were sustained, the national government had made shifts in its education system that required support, and USAID was invited to participate in that national government process in a specific role and for a specific reason. As key actors, national governments brought legitimacy and control and influenced the motivation of other key actors during the USAID activity.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses						
Title	Decentralized energy portfolio review: synthesis report				Year	2016
Download Link	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PBAAF014.pdf				Verified Synthesis	Y X
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)					Number of Evaluations or other reports examined	
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review	Other type of synthesis (enter description below)		12 case studies
Y	Y	X	Y			
N	N		N			
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)						
Geo Term(s)	Brazil, India, Tanzania			Primary Subject	Energy technology	
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	Management Systems International, Inc. (MSI)					
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Business enterprises, Communities, Corporations, Loans, Marketing	
	Economic Growth, Education and Environment					
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)						
Planning	Doc Reviews		Analysis	Report Prep	Dissemination	Other
--	--		--	Review	--	Funding
Main Synthesis Findings	<p>Access to safe, affordable, reliable, and modern sources of energy is critical for generating broad-based economic growth and meeting basic human needs. The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) advances energy access through programs designed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Scale renewable energy and increase energy efficiency; 2. Strengthen sector governance and utility performance; 3. Develop and scale decentralized energy solutions; 4. Promote increased energy trade and market integration; and 5. Support construction and rehabilitation of energy resources in post-conflict, conflict-prone, and post-disaster areas. <p>Since the early 2000s, remarkable advances in off-grid and renewable energy technologies have made decentralized approaches to extending energy access an affordable and attractive way to support the above aims, especially in contexts where the main electrical grid is unlikely to provide sufficient access in the near term. This report examines a range of decentralized energy (DE) approaches through the lens of USAID-specific investments. Its aim is to provide relevant findings, conclusions, and recommendations for future DE investments by retrospectively examining sustainability and scalability for a portfolio of DE activities initiated between 2004 and 2012. DE in the context of this report refers to interventions supported by USAID that generate limited wattage, serve a small number of customers per system/installation, are off-grid, and utilize clean energy technologies. Examples of the technologies supported include solar powered micro-grids, household energy systems, micro-hydro generators, and biomass installations supported by a range of business models, financing mechanisms, public</p>					

policy arrangements, and capacity-building assistance for system operations and maintenance.										
Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		THE CONTRIBUTIONS AND CHALLENGES OF USAID YAAJEENDE'S PASSING ON THE GIFT (POG) [®] COMPONENT: SYNTHESIS					Year		2016	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MRTH.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
							X			
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							# of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y						
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Senegal, Africa south of Sahara, Africa			Primary Subject		Food security			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Michigan State University								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Animals, Goat meat, Goats, Villages				
Food Security										
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination		Other	
--		--		--		Review	--		--	
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>USAID Yaajeende is a five-year Feed the Future project designed to reduce malnutrition in Senegal's northeastern zones. A major component of the approach is Heifer International's gifting of animals to needy families, frequently referred to as the "Passing on the Gift" or POG component because the initial beneficiaries must pass on the first progeny of their gift to a subsequent beneficiary before they have full rights of ownership of the gift animals. USAID commissioned an evaluation of this activity that included a set of village case studies. This report synthesizes the findings of those case studies, including that, despite the strong livestock tradition throughout the study zone, 39% of the beneficiary households owned no livestock at the time the POG was introduced and that most animals had been given to women. Study results suggest women who have succeeded in managing their animals, passing on the gift, and contributing either animals or income from animal sales to the general pool of resources available to the household. While elapsed time from the start of the POG component to the evaluation was not sufficient to fully understand its results, the team found indications that POG has served as a very effective tool for building both organizational and personal skills. The report noted that very positive changes have come into the participating communities, contributing to community ability to withstand food security and economic shocks. However, "had the POG been the only tool in the USAID Yaajeende tool kit, the results might not have been so promising, but by combining the POG, which promises benefits over time, with supporting activities such as vegetable gardening, which</p>								

	bring more tangible short-term benefits, the project has created momentum capable of bringing about sustainable poverty reduction in the zone.” The study team concluded that the inclusion of the POG component in the overall USAID Yaajeende strategy is contributing much more to the overall project objectives than what can be inferred by simply counting numbers of animals owned and income from animal sales.
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Syntheses Based on Other Types of Evidence

The 47 syntheses summarized in this section were all based on sources of evidence other than primarily or exclusively USAID evaluations. These other sources included published research studies and a variety of reports in the DEC prepared by USAID implementing partners that were published between 2012 and 2018.

Systematic Reviews (18)

Most systematic reviews comprehensively assemble peer-reviewed journal articles in the field of study relevant to a specific topic or question to be addressed. Screening criteria based on research design and other evidence strength criteria, as well as relevance, are then used to narrow the set of articles for which findings are synthesized. Of the 18 systematic reviews USAID commissioned that were published between 2012 and 2018, 13 were funded by the Bureau for Global Health, and another three were funded by the Africa Bureau, and focused on HIV/AIDS. One systematic review was focused outside the health field: an early grade reading study funded by the Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (Case 6).

Case 5 (repeated)

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses						
Title	A systematic review of positive youth development in low-and middle-income countries				Year	2017
Download Link	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MR58.pdf				Verified	Y N
					Synthesis	X
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)					Number of Evaluations or other studies examined 108 peer reviewed articles	
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review	Other type of synthesis (enter description below)			
Y	Y	Y	X			
N	N	N				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)						
Geo Term(s)	China, Latin America			Primary Subject	Population groups	
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	Making Cents International					
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Economic development, Television, Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) for HIV Youth	
	Global Health	Office. of HIV/AIDS				
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)						
Planning	Doc Reviews	Analysis	Report Prep	Dissemination	Other	
X – criteria for selecting articles	--	--	Reviewed report	--	--	
Main Synthesis Findings	<p><i>How Have PYD approaches been implemented in LMICs?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although youth programs are implemented across the globe, few are explicitly identified as PYD. • The team found almost 100 separate PYD programs in 60 LMICs. • Most programs that were reviewed address multiple PYD domains, and nearly all programs help youth to build assets. • PYD programs are implemented across sectors, age groups, and genders. • Programs implement a diverse array of activities across multiple domains, distinguishing PYD from other approaches to youth development. <p><i>What does the evidence say about the effectiveness of PYD approaches?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Though evaluations were available for most programs, their quality varied. • There is a lack of robust and consistent measurement of PYD outcomes. • There are very few longitudinal studies or evaluations of PYD programs. • Several high-quality studies of health focused PYD programs show improved knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors related to SRH. • Some PYD programs have led to positive shift in gender norms. • Lower-quality studies have demonstrated positive effects of PYD programs on employment, skills development, and financial behaviors. • Programs tend to report on outcomes in a single sector (e.g., Health, Economic Development, or Democracy and Governance). 					

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses									
Title	Addressing barriers to exclusive breast feeding in low-and middle-income countries: a systematic review and programmatic implications					Year	2017		
Download Link	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28965508					Verified Synthesis	Y	N	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)						# of Evaluations or other documents examined			
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)					
Y		Y		Y	X	48			
N		N		N					
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)									
Geo Term(s)	Africa south of Sahara; East Africa; Nigeria			Primary Subject	Breastfeeding				
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	JHPIEGO Corp.								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Breastfeeding, Cultural Development, Infant Nutrition, Mothers Weaning practices				
	Global Health	Office of Health, Infectious Diseases, & Nutrition							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)									
Planning	Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination	Other		
--	--		--		--	--	--		
Author Abstract	<p>Objective: Despite global initiatives on breast-feeding, trend data show exclusive breast-feeding (EBF) rates have stagnated over the last two decades. The purpose of the present systematic review was to determine barriers to exclusive breastfeeding in twenty-five low- and middle-income countries and discuss implications for programs. Design: A search of Scopus, MEDLINE, CINAHL and Psych INFO was conducted to retrieve studies from January 2000 to October 2015. Using inclusion criteria, we selected both qualitative and quantitative studies that described barriers to EBF. Setting: Low- and middle-income countries. Subjects: Following application of systematic review criteria, forty-eight articles from fourteen countries were included in the review. Results: 16 barriers to EBF were identified in the review. There is moderate evidence of a negative association between maternal employment and EBF practices. Studies that examined EBF barriers at childbirth and the initial 24 postdelivery found convincing evidence that caesarean section can impede EBF. There is moderate evidence for early initiation of breast-feeding and likelihood of practicing EBF. Breast-feeding problems were commonly reported from cross-sectional or observational studies. Counselling on EBF and the presence of family and/or community support have demonstrated improvements in EBF. Conclusions: Improving the counselling skills of health workers to address breastfeeding problems and increasing community support for breast-feeding are critical components of infant and young child feeding programming, which will aid in attaining the 2025 World Health Assembly EBF targets. Legislation and regulations on marketing of breast-milk substitutes, paid maternity leave, and breast-feeding breaks for working mothers require attention in low and middle-income countries.</p>								
Additional Notable Features	This document is a journal article published in <i>Public Health Nutrition</i>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses									
Title	Family Planning vouchers in low and middle-income countries: a systematic review					Year	2016		
Download Link						Verified Synthesis	Y	N	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)						Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)					
Y	Y	Y	X			16			
N	N	N							
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)									
Geo Term(s)	--			Primary Subject	Family planning services				
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	Population Council								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Family health care, Literature Planning, Reproduction, Reproductive health				
	Global Health.	Office of Population and Reproductive Health							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)									
Planning	Doc Reviews	Analysis	Report Prep	Dissemination	Other				
--	--	--	--	--	--				
Author Abstract	Family planning (FP) vouchers have targeted subsidies to disadvantaged populations for quality reproductive health services since the 1960s. To summarize the effect of FP voucher programs in low- and middle-income countries, a systematic review was conducted, screening studies from 33 databases through three phases: keyword search, title and abstract review, and full text review. Sixteen articles were selected, including randomized control trials, controlled before-and-after, interrupted time series analyses, cohort, and before-and-after studies. Twenty-three study outcomes were clustered around contraceptive uptake, with study outcomes, including fertility in the early studies and equity and discontinuation in more recent publications. Research gaps include measures of FP quality, unintended outcomes, clients' qualitative experiences, FP voucher integration with health systems, and issues related to scale-up of the voucher approach.								
Additional Notable Features	This document is a journal article published in <i>Studies in Family Planning</i>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title	Birth spacing and risk of autism and other neurodevelopmental disabilities: a systematic review						Year	2016		
Download Link	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27244802						Verified Synthesis	Y	X	N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							# of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)						
Y	Y	Y	X				12			
N	N	N								
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)	--				Primary Subject	Reproductive health care				
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	Pathfinder International									
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau Global Health	Office Office of Population & Reproductive Health	Mission	DEC Tags	Age Birth Disabilities Pregnancy Reproduction					
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning	Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination	Other			
--	--		--		--	--	--			
Author Abstract	<p>Context: Both short and long interpregnancy intervals (IPIs) have recently been associated with increased risk of autism spectrum disorder (ASD). However, this association has not been systematically evaluated. Objective: To examine the relationship between birth spacing and the risk of ASD and other neurodevelopmental disabilities. Data Sources: Electronic databases from their inception to December 2015, bibliographies, and conference proceedings. Study Selection: Observational studies with results adjusted for potential confounding factors that reported on the association between IPIs or birth intervals and neurodevelopmental disabilities. Data Extraction: Two reviewers independently extracted data on study characteristics, IPIs/birth intervals, and outcome measures. Results: Seven studies (1 140 210 children) reported an association between short IPIs and increased risk of ASD, mainly the former subtype autistic disorder. Compared with children born to women with IPIs of ≥ 36 months, children born to women with IPIs of < 12 months had a significantly increased risk of any ASD (pooled adjusted odds ratio [OR] 1.90, 95% confidence interval [CI] 1.16–3.09). This association was stronger for autistic disorder (pooled adjusted OR 2.62, 95% CI 1.53–4.50). Three of these studies also reported a significant association between long IPIs and increased risk of ASD. Short intervals were associated with a significantly increased risk of developmental delay (3 studies; 174 940 children) and cerebral palsy (2 studies; 19 419 children). Limitations: Substantial heterogeneity, and few studies assessing neurodevelopmental disabilities other than ASD. Conclusions: Short IPIs are associated with a significantly increased risk of ASD. Long IPIs also appear to increase the risk of ASD.</p>									
Additional Notable Features	This document is a journal article published in <i>PEDIATRICS</i>									

Case 6 (repeated)

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses						
Title	Early Grade Reading in Latin American and the Caribbean: A Systematic Review				Year	2016
Download Link	https://lacreads.org/sites/default/files/systematic-rvw-execsum-508.pdf				Verified Synthesis	Y N X
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)					# of Evaluations or other reports examined	
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (<i>enter description below</i>)		
Y	Y	Y	X	108		
N	N	N				
Demographics (<i>use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic</i>)						
Geo Term(s)	Caribbean; Latin America		Primary Subject	Education research		
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	Juarez and Associates, Inc.; American Institutes for Research (AIR)					
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Children Literacy, Mathematics Teachers	
	Latin American & the Caribbean					
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)						
Planning	Doc Reviews	Analysis	Report Prep	Dissemination	Other	
Authors developed research questions in consultation with USAID	--	--	--	--	--	
Main Synthesis Findings	<p>We found evidence that teacher training programs can positively affect early grade reading outcomes in high-income economies when they are well implemented and complemented by sustained coaching. We found some evidence that nutrition programs can have positive effects on early grade reading outcomes in contexts where stunting and wasting are high, such as Guatemala. Finally, we found evidence indicating that the distribution of laptops to children can have adverse effects on early grade reading outcomes, particularly when the distribution of laptops is not complemented by additional programs. The findings of the quantitative nonintervention studies indicate that phonemic awareness, fluency, and comprehension are associated with reading ability. The research also indicates that poverty and child labor are negatively correlated with early grade reading outcomes. This finding on the importance of poverty and socioeconomic factors for early grade reading outcomes supports the quantitative intervention result that nutrition programs may be effective in improving early grade reading outcomes. The quantitative nonintervention studies show that the quality of preschool is positively associated with early grade reading outcomes. Both qualitative and quantitative studies indicated that consideration of context is key to improving reading outcomes. The most frequently discussed topic in qualitative nonintervention articles is the need to promote social learning to improve early grade reading. We found convincing evidence for publication bias in the studies that focus on the effects of teacher practices and parental involvement on early grade reading outcomes in the LAC region.</p>					

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Conditional and Unconditional Cash Transfers to Improve Use of Contraception in Low and Middle-Income Countries: A Systematic Review					Year		2016	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MGNS.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)			Number of Evaluations or other reports examined	
Y		Y		Y	X				11	
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		--			Primary Subject		Family Planning			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Population Council The Evidence Project								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office		Mission	DEC Tags	Cash transfers Family health care Households			
		Global Health.	Office. of Population and Reproductive Health							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination		Other	
--		--		--		--	--		Funding	
Author Abstract		This systematic review synthesizes evidence on the impact of conditional and unconditional cash transfers (CCT and UCT) on contraception in low and middle-income countries. Scientific and gray literature databases were searched from 1994 to 2016 and 11 papers from ten studies were included. Most of the studies had low-risk of bias. Cash transfers were used for increasing school attendance or improving health and nutrition, but not directly for contraception. Three studies showed positive impact on contraceptive use and four showed a decrease in fertility outcomes. An increase in childbearing was observed in two studies, and three studies demonstrated no impact on fertility indicators. All studies treated contraceptive use or fertility only as unintended and indirect outcomes. The available evidence on impact of CCT and UCT on contraception is inconclusive due to the limited number of studies, varying outcome measures, and lack of intervention specifically for contraception.								
Additional Notable Features		This document is a journal article published in <i>Studies in Family Planning</i>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses						
Title	The mistreatment of women during childbirth in health facilities globally: a mixed-methods systematic review				Year	2015
Download Link	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4488322/				Verified Synthesis	Y N X
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)					# of Evaluations or other reports examined	
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)		65
Y	Y	Y	X			
N	N	N				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)						
Geo Term(s)				Primary Subject		
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	Department of Population, Family and Reproductive Health, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, and others					
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Birth Health workers Reproduction Women	
	Global Health					
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)						
Planning	Doc Reviews	Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination	Other
--	--	--		--	--	Funding
Author Abstract	<p>Background: Despite growing recognition of neglectful, abusive, and disrespectful treatment of women during childbirth in health facilities, there is no consensus at a global level on how these occurrences are defined and measured. This mixed-methods systematic review aims to synthesize qualitative and quantitative evidence on the mistreatment of women during childbirth in health facilities to inform the development of an evidence-based typology of the phenomenon.</p> <p>Methods and Findings: We searched PubMed, CINAHL, and Embase databases and grey literature using a predetermined search strategy to identify qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods studies on the mistreatment of women during childbirth across all geographical and income-level settings. We used a thematic synthesis approach to synthesize the qualitative evidence and assessed the confidence in the qualitative review findings using the CERQual approach. In total, 65 studies were included from 34 countries. Qualitative findings were organized under seven domains: (1) physical abuse, (2) sexual abuse, (3) verbal abuse, (4) stigma and discrimination, (5) failure to meet professional standards of care, (6) poor rapport between women and providers, and (7) health system conditions and constraints. Due to high heterogeneity of the quantitative data, we were unable to conduct a meta-analysis; instead, we present descriptions of study characteristics, outcome measures, and results. Additional themes identified in the quantitative studies are integrated into the typology. Conclusions: This systematic review presents a comprehensive, evidence-based typology of the mistreatment of women during childbirth in health facilities and demonstrates that mistreatment can occur at the level of interaction between the woman and provider, as well as through systemic failures at the health facility and health system levels. We propose this typology be adopted to describe the phenomenon and be used to develop measurement tools and inform future research, programs, and interventions.</p>					

Additional Notable Features	This document is a journal article published in <i>PLOS Medicine</i>
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Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses						
Title	A systematic review of interventions to reduce maternal mortality among HIV-infected pregnant and postpartum women				Year	2015
Download Link	https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4948129/				Verified Synthesis	Y X
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)					# of Evaluations or other reports examined	
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)		
Y	Y	Y	X	19		
N	N	N				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)						
Geo Term(s)	Africa south of the Sahara		Primary Subject	HIV/AIDS		
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	Management Sciences for Health (MSH)					
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau Africa	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Antiretroviral Therapy, Death, Mortality, Disease prevention and control, Women	
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)						
Planning	Doc Reviews	Analysis	Report Prep	Dissemination	Other	
--	--	--	Reviewed report	--	Co-authored	
Author Abstract	<p>Background: In high-prevalence populations, HIV-related maternal mortality is high with increased mortality found among HIV-infected pregnant and postpartum women compared to their uninfected peers. The scale-up of HIV-related treatment options and broader reach of programming for HIV-infected pregnant and postpartum women is likely to have decreased maternal mortality. This systematic review synthesized evidence on interventions that have directly reduced mortality among this population. Methods: Studies published between January 1, 2003 and November 30, 2014 were searched using PubMed. Of the 1,373 records screened, 19 were included in the analysis. Results: Interventions identified through the review include antiretroviral therapy (ART), micronutrients (multivitamins, vitamin A, and selenium), and antibiotics. ART during pregnancy was shown to reduce mortality. Timing of ART initiation, duration of treatment, HIV disease status, and ART discontinuation after pregnancy influence mortality reduction. Incident pregnancy in women already on ART for their health appears not to have adverse consequences for the mother. Multivitamin use was shown to reduce disease progression while other micronutrients and antibiotics had no beneficial effect on maternal mortality. Conclusions: ART was the only intervention identified that decreased death in HIV-infected pregnant and postpartum women. The findings support global trends in encouraging initiation of lifelong ART for all HIV-infected pregnant and breastfeeding women, regardless of their CD4+ count, as a key step in ensuring appropriate care and treatment. Global Health Implications: Maternal mortality is a rare event that highlights challenges in measuring the impact of interventions on mortality. Developing effective patient-centered interventions to reduce maternal morbidity and mortality, as well as corresponding evaluation measures of their impact, requires further attention by policy makers, program managers, and researchers.</p>					
Additional Notable Features	This document is a journal article published in the <i>International Journal of MCH and AIDS</i>					

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses						
Title	A systematic review of individual and contextual factors affecting ART initiation, adherence, and retention for HIV-infected pregnant and postpartum women				Year	2014
Download Link	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M9W8.pdf				Verified Synthesis	Y N X
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)					# of Evaluations or other reports examined	
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)		
Y	Y	Y	X	34 Studies		
N	N	N				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)						
Geo Term(s)	Africa, South of Sahara		Primary Subject	HIV/AIDS		
Name of Authoring Org (s)	Management Sciences for Health (MSH)					
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	AIDS, Arts, Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) for HIV Women	
	Africa					
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)						
Planning	Doc Reviews	Analysis	Report Prep	Dissemination	Other	
--	--	--	Reviewed Report	--	--	
Author Abstract	<p>Background: Despite progress reducing maternal mortality, HIV-related maternal deaths remain high, accounting, for example, for up to 24 percent of all pregnancy-related deaths in sub-Saharan Africa. Antiretroviral therapy (ART) is effective in improving outcomes among HIV-infected pregnant and postpartum women, yet rates of initiation, adherence, and retention remain low. This systematic literature review synthesized evidence about individual and contextual factors affecting ART use among HIV-infected pregnant and postpartum women. Methods: Searches were conducted for studies addressing the target population, intervention (ART), and outcomes of interest (initiation, adherence, and retention). Quantitative and qualitative studies published in English since January 2008 were included. Individual and contextual enablers and barriers to ART use were extracted and organized thematically within a framework of individual, interpersonal, community, and structural categories. Results: 34 studies were included in the review. Individual-level factors included both those within and outside a woman's awareness and control (e.g., commitment to child's health or age). Individual-level barriers included poor understanding of HIV, ART, and prevention of mother-to-child transmission, and difficulty managing practical demands of ART. At an interpersonal level, disclosure to a spouse and spousal involvement in treatment were associated with improved initiation, adherence, and retention. Fear of negative consequences was a barrier to disclosure. At a community level, stigma was a major barrier. Key structural barriers and enablers were related to health system use and engagement, including access to services and health worker attitudes. Conclusions: To be successful, programs seeking to expand access to and continued use of ART by integrating maternal health and HIV services must identify and address the relevant barriers and enablers in their own context that are described in this review. Further research on this population, including those who drop out or never access health services, is needed to inform effective implementation.</p>					
Additional Notable Features	This document is a journal article published in <i>PLOS One</i>					

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title	A Systematic Review of Health System Barriers and Enablers for Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) for HIV-Infected Pregnant and Postpartum Women					Year	2014			
Download Link	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M9WV6.pdf					Verified Synthesis	Y	X	N	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)						# of Evaluations or other reports examined				
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)						
Y		Y		Y	X	42				
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)	Africa, South of Sahara			Primary Subject	HIV/AIDS					
Name of Authoring Org(s)	Management Sciences for Health (MSH)									
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	AIDS, Arts, Family health care, Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) for HIV Women					
	Africa									
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning	Doc Reviews	Analysis	Report Prep	Dissemination	Other					
--	--	--	Reviewed Report	--	--					
Author Abstract	<p>Background: Despite global progress in the fight to reduce maternal mortality, HIV-related maternal deaths remain persistently high, particularly in much of Africa. Lifelong antiretroviral therapy (ART) appears to be the most effective way to prevent these deaths, but the rates of three key outcomes—ART initiation, retention in care, and long-term ART adherence—remain low. This systematic review synthesized evidence on health systems factors affecting these outcomes in pregnant and postpartum women living with HIV. Methods: Searches were conducted for studies addressing the population of interest (HIV-infected pregnant and postpartum women), the intervention of interest (ART), and the outcomes of interest (initiation, adherence, and retention). Quantitative and qualitative studies published in English since January 2008 were included. A four-stage narrative synthesis design was used to analyze findings. Review findings from 42 included studies were categorized according to five themes: 1) models of care, 2) service delivery, 3) resource constraints and governance challenges, 4) patient-health system engagement, and 5) maternal ART interventions. Results: Low prioritization of maternal ART and persistent dropout along the maternal ART cascade were key findings. Service delivery barriers included poor communication and coordination among health system actors, poor clinical practices, and gaps in provider training. The few studies that assessed maternal ART interventions demonstrated the importance of multi-pronged, multi-leveled interventions. Conclusions: There has been a lack of emphasis on the experiences, needs, and vulnerabilities particular to HIV-infected pregnant and postpartum women. Supporting these women to successfully traverse the maternal ART cascade requires carefully designed and targeted interventions throughout the steps. Careful design of integrated service delivery models is of critical importance in this effort. Key knowledge gaps and research priorities were also identified, including definitions and indicators of adherence rates, and the importance of cumulative measures of dropout along the maternal ART cascade.</p>									
Additional Notable Features	This document is a journal article published in <i>PLOS One</i>									

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses									
Title	Transforming Gender Norms, Roles, and Power Dynamics for Better Health: Evidence from a Systematic Review of Gender-integrated Health Programs in Low- and Middle-Income Countries					Year	2014		
Download Link	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00K9J6.pdf					Verified Synthesis	Y	N	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)						Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)					
Y		Y		Y	X				
N		N		N		145			
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)									
Geo Term(s)	India			Primary Subject	--				
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	Futures Group								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau Global Health	Office of Population & Reproductive Health	Mission	DEC Tags	Family health care, Health care costs, Violence Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) for HIV				
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)									
Planning	Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination	Other		
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Main Synthesis Findings	<p>The Gender, Policy and Measurement program, funded by the Asia bureau of the U.S. Agency for International Development and implemented by the Health Policy Project (HPP) and MEASURE Evaluation, undertook a comprehensive, systematic review of the impact of gender-integrated programs on health outcomes. The findings are primarily intended to inform the work of government officials, donors, nongovernmental organizations, and other key stakeholders involved in health programming in India, as well as other low- and middle-income countries around the world. This review presents evidence showing how gender-integrated programming influences health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries: reproductive, maternal, neonatal, child, and adolescent health; HIV prevention and AIDS response; gender-based violence; tuberculosis; and universal health coverage. This review provides evidence of the most effective gender-integrated strategies used by programs in low- and middle-income countries worldwide. Its results underscore the need to conduct gender analysis to understand how health needs and behaviors differ among women, men, and transgender people; to identify evidence-based strategies that respond to and mitigate the specific gender barriers faced by these groups; and to incorporate these strategies into programs. To promote these programs' sustainability and widespread reach, gender-aware strategies should be integrated and scaled up through government health systems in collaboration with nongovernmental organizations and other private sector partners.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Evidence of Effective Approaches to Social and Behavior Change Communication for Preventing and Reducing Stunting and Anemia: Findings from a Systematic Literature Review					Year		2014	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00K7QD.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y		Y		Y	X				15	
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Bangladesh, India, China			Primary Subject		Nutrition			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc.								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Children, Infant nutrition, Nutrition, Weaning practices				
		Global Health.	Health, Infectious Diseases, and Nutrition							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other	
--		--		--		--		--	Funding	
Main Synthesis Findings		Evidence suggests that using multiple SBCC approaches and channels to change behaviors is more effective than using one, that targeting multiple contacts has a greater effect than targeting only the woman herself, and that more visits or contacts result in greater change. However, such comparisons are not well-tested in the literature. Very few comparisons have been made between the effect of timing of communications, and what little has been done presents contradictory evidence. It can be challenging to conduct such studies that compare differences in delivery and/or disaggregate single approaches within a multiapproach intervention. SBCC practitioners and researchers must assess whether that line of research is useful. Differences in local context (social norms, culture, and environmental factors) as well as differences in the implementation and scale of implementation also affect the success of interventions. This underscores the importance of proper context assessments, formative research, and/or ethnographic study prior to SBCC implementation. Finally, if practices and indicators are not standardized, a project may improve behaviors, but it will be difficult to attribute changes in outcomes. This underscores the importance of developing practices and indicators that are globally recognized, accepted, and used by the research and program communities. At the same time, many nutrition interventions are suited to iterative programming for incremental change toward the optimal, evidence-based behaviors. This means that more easily achieved indicators (components of standardized indicators or shorter time periods) may								

	also be needed to measure progress toward the goal of changes in the standardized indicators of behaviors.
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Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses									
Title	Acceptability of Household and Community-based TB Screening in High Burden Communities: A Systematic Literature Review					Year	2013		
Download Link	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M3S3.pdf					Verified Synthesis	Y	X	N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)						Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y		Y		Y	X	75			
N		N		N					
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)									
Geo Term(s)	India, Africa south of Sahara			Primary Subject	Tuberculosis				
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	KNCV Tuberculosis Foundation								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Acceptability, Communities, Disease prevention and control, Tuberculosis, Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) for HIV				
	Global Health	Office of Health, Infectious Diseases, and Nutrition							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)									
Planning	Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination		Other	
--	--		--		--	--		Funding	
Author Abstract	<p>The acceptability of TB screening in high burden settings is often assumed to be very high. Despite the rapid proliferation of novel TB screening efforts worldwide, queries into the acceptability of these efforts have been limited. Although this inference exercise seems to suggest that screening and active case finding are widely acceptable, it is important to understand that the issue has not been properly studied. For expedience, a “vote with your feet” proxy for acceptability has been employed. It is unclear if the recruitment rates of well-executed, well-resourced studies can be extrapolated and deemed legitimate proxies for acceptability in a routine programmatic setting. “Acceptability” is a composite social construct that denotes complex and inter-related ideas. It is very difficult to quantify and synthesize because it is already a synthesis. There is evidence to suggest it is composed of multiple domains—including structural, personal, and cultural factors. Acceptability in large scale TB prevalence surveys is often difficult to calculate and over-reported due to sampling with replacement in some sampling units. For example, few investigators report both the refusal rate at the household level and the refusal rate at the individual level. Investigators were also not routinely candid about the incentives offered, making it challenging to assess this important confounder. Despite a lack of attention to the issue of acceptability of TB screening and active case finding, it can be inferred from participation rates that mass TB screening in high burden communities is widely acceptable in most contexts, including urban slums and more remote rural communities. TB control</p>								

	programs should consider the use of mass screening as a potential tool in hyper-endemic contexts.
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Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses						
Title	Effect of Health Insurance on the Use and Provision of Maternal Health Services and Maternal and Neonatal Health Outcomes: A Systematic Review				Year	2013
Download Link	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00K4GG.pdf				Verified Synthesis	Y N X
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)					# of Evaluations or other reports examined	
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)		
Y	Y	Y	X	29		
N	N	N				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)						
Geo Term(s)	Africa south of Sahara, China		Primary Subject	Health Insurance		
Name of Authoring Org(s)	Abt Associates, Inc.					
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau Global Health	Office Office of Health Systems	Mission	DEC Tags	Health care costs Health insurance Private health care	
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)						
Planning	Doc Reviews	Analysis	Report Prep	Dissemination	Other	
--	--	--	Feedback	--	Funding	
Author Abstract	<p>Financial barriers can affect timely access to maternal health services. Health insurance can influence the use and quality of these services and potentially improve maternal and neonatal health outcomes. A systematic review of the evidence on health insurance and its effects on the use and provision of maternal health services and on maternal and neonatal health outcomes in middle- and low-income countries was conducted. Studies were identified through a literature search in key databases and consultation with experts in healthcare financing and maternal health. 29 articles met the review criteria. 16 studies assessed demand-side effects of insurance, eight focused on supply-side effects, and the remainder addressed both. The studies included examples from national or social insurance schemes (n=7), government public health insurance schemes (n=4), community-based health insurance schemes (n=11), and private insurance (n=3). Half of the studies used econometric analyses; the rest used descriptive statistics or qualitative results. Findings from four studies showed that health insurance is positively correlated with the use of maternal health services. Six studies presented suggestive evidence of overprovision of caesarean sections in response to providers' payment incentives through health insurance. Few studies focused on the relationship between health insurance and the quality of maternal health services or maternal and neonatal health outcomes. The available evidence on the quality and health outcomes is inconclusive, given the differences in measurement, contradictory findings, and statistical limitations. Consistent with economic theories, the studies identified a positive relationship between health insurance and the use of maternal health services. However, more rigorous causal methods are needed to identify the extent to which the use of these services increases among the insured. Better measurement of quality and the use of cross-country analyses would solidify the evidence on the impact of insurance on the quality of maternal health services and maternal and neonatal health outcomes.</p>					
Additional Notable Features	This document is a journal article published in the <i>Journal of Health, Population, Nutrition</i>					

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses						
Title	Hormonal contraception and HIV acquisition in women: a systematic review of the epidemiological evidence				Year	2013
Download Link	https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(13)70155-5				Verified Synthesis	Y X
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)					# of Evaluations or other reports examined	
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)		
Y	Y	Y	X			
N	N	N				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)						
Geo Term(s)	--		Primary Subject	Family planning		
Name of Authoring Org(s)	Office of Population and Reproductive Health, USAID Division of Reproductive Health, CDC					
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau Global Health	Office Office of Population and Reproductive Health	Mission	DEC Tags	AIDS, Disease prevention and control, Family planning	
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)						
Planning	Doc Reviews	Analysis	Report Prep	Dissemination	Other	
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Author Abstract	<p>Whether or not the use of hormonal contraception affects risk of HIV acquisition is an important question for public health. We did a systematic review, searching PubMed and Embase, aiming to explore the possibility of an association between various forms of hormonal contraception and risk of HIV acquisition. We identified 20 relevant prospective studies, eight of which met our minimum quality criteria. Of these eight, all reported findings for progestin-only injectables, and seven also reported findings for oral contraceptive pills. Most of the studies that assessed the use of oral contraceptive pills showed no significant association with HIV acquisition. None of the three studies that assessed the use of injectable norethisterone enanthate showed a significant association with HIV acquisition. Studies that assessed the use of depot-medroxyprogesterone acetate (DMPA) or non-specified injectable contraceptives had heterogeneous methods and mixed results, with some investigators noting a 1.5–2.2 times increased risk of HIV acquisition, and others reporting no association. Thus, some, but not all, observational data raise concern about a potential association between use of DMPA and risk of HIV acquisition. More definitive evidence for the existence and size of any potential effect could inform appropriate counselling and policy responses in countries with varied profiles of HIV risk, maternal mortality, and access to contraceptive services.</p>					
Additional Notable Features	This document is a journal article published by <i>The Lancet</i>					

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title	Effect of hormonal contraceptive methods on HIV disease progression: a systematic review						Year	2013		
Download Link	Link to pdf (Original link was too long.)						Verified Synthesis	Y	N	X
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							# of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)						
Y	Y	Y	X				11			
N	N	N								
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)	--				Primary Subject	Family Planning				
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	Department of Reproductive Health and Research, World Health Organization Division of Reproductive Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Office of Population and Reproductive Health, USAID									
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	AIDS, Disease prevention and control, Women					
	Global Health	Population and Reproductive Health								
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning	Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination	Other			
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Author Abstract	Objective: Systematically assess from the literature whether women living with HIV who use hormonal contraception are at increased risk of HIV-disease progression compared with those who do not use hormonal contraception. Methods: We searched PUBMED and EMBASE for articles published in peer-reviewed journals through December 15, 2011 for evidence relevant to all hormonal contraceptive methods and HIV-disease progression. Results: 12 reports of 11 studies met inclusion criteria. One randomized controlled trial (RCT) found increased risk for the composite outcome of a reduced CD4 cell count or death among hormonal contraceptive users when compared with copper intrauterine device (IUD) users. 10 cohort studies reported no increased risk for HIV disease progression (as measured by mortality, time to a CD4 cell count below 200, time to initiation of antiretroviral therapy, an increase in HIV-RNA viral load, or a decrease in CD4 count) among women who used hormonal contraception compared with those who did not. Conclusion: The preponderance of evidence indicates that HIV-positive women can use hormonal contraceptive methods without concerns related to HIV-disease progression. Cohort studies consistently found no association between hormonal contraceptive use and HIV-disease progression compared with nonuse of hormonal contraceptives. One RCT found that hormonal contraceptive use was associated with increased risk of HIV-disease progression when compared with IUD use, but this study had important methodological shortcomings. Prevention of unintended pregnancy among women living with HIV remains a public health priority to safeguard women's and infants' health and to prevent vertical transmission of HIV.									
Additional Notable Features	This document is a journal article published by AIDS, the International AIDS Society Journal									

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Use of Cutoffs for Mid-Upper Arm Circumference (MUAC) as an Indicator or Predictor of Nutritional and Health-Related Outcomes in Adolescents and Adults: A Systematic Review					Year		2013	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00JPPM.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y		Y		Y	X				27	
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		India			Primary Subject		Nutrition			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		FHI 360								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	--				
		Global Health	Health, Infectious Diseases, and Nutrition							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other	
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Main Synthesis Findings		<p>The use of mid-upper arm circumference (MUAC) has improved the ability of front-line health workers to screen and assess for acute malnutrition among children. The articles presented in this review illustrate a wide range of outcomes that have been associated with low MUAC in a variety of populations. The literature search for this study yielded 827 potentially relevant abstracts that were screened, resulting in a total of 78 studies that were considered for data extraction. Final screening reduced this number further to a final set of 47. Our review of the literature reveals significant associations between low MUAC (as defined by various cutoffs) and several adverse health outcomes. The most consistent associations were found among pregnant women for the outcome of infant LBW and among adults for the outcome of BMI <18.5. There was not a preponderance of evidence for any of the other health outcomes to draw firm conclusions. There were also too few diagnostic test accuracy studies to be able to recommend an optimum MUAC cutoff for any health outcome at this time. Given the multitude of studies that have collected data on both MUAC and health outcomes across a diverse range of populations (many of which were not included in this review because MUAC was analyzed as a continuous variable) and the increasing demand for the establishment of a standard MUAC cutoff for PLHIV, pregnant women, and populations in crisis, a meta-analysis using individual-patient data would be a cost-effective next step to answer remaining questions.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title	Effects of birth spacing on maternal, perinatal, infant, and child health: a systematic review of causal mechanisms						Year	2012		
Download Link	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PNADY842.pdf						Verified Synthesis	Y	N	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)					
Y		Y		Y	X			58		
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)	--				Primary Subject	Maternal child health care				
Name of Authoring Organization(s)	Pathfinder International									
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau	Office		Mission	DEC Tags	Anatomy, Birth, Infant nutrition, Pregnancy, Reproduction				
	Global Health	Population and Reproductive Health								
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning	Doc Reviews			Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination	Other		
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Main Synthesis Findings	This systematic review of 58 observational studies identified hypothetical causal mechanisms explaining the effects of short and long intervals between pregnancies on maternal, perinatal, infant, and child health, and critically examined the scientific evidence for each causal mechanism hypothesized. The following hypothetical causal mechanisms for explaining the association between short intervals and adverse outcomes were identified: (1) maternal nutritional depletion; (2) folate depletion; (3) cervical insufficiency; (4) vertical transmission of infections; (5) suboptimal lactation related to breastfeeding–pregnancy overlap; (6) sibling competition; (7) transmission of infectious diseases among siblings; (8) incomplete healing of uterine scar from previous cesarean delivery; and (9) abnormal remodeling of endometrial blood vessels. Women's physiological regression is the only hypothetical causal mechanism that has been proposed to explain the association between long intervals and adverse outcomes. We found growing evidence supporting most of these hypotheses.									
Additional Notable Features	This document is a journal article published in the journal, <i>Studies in Family Planning</i>									

Literature Reviews (14)

Literature reviews in this group include reports based on a mix of source documents, including project or activity documents, and other documents authored by USAID implementing partners; published articles, reports by governments and other donors, and occasional evaluations. Ten of the 14 were commissioned by USAID/Washington bureaus, while three were undertaken by bilateral missions and one was developed by a regional mission. A wide range of topics are covered by these studies.

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Population, Health, and Environmental as a Biodiversity Conservation Strategic Approach: A synthesis of evidence					Year		2018	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00T59H.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
							X			
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							# of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y						
N		N		N						
							34			
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		--			Primary Subject		--			
Name of Authoring Org(s)		ICF International Environmental Incentives, LLC								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau		Office		Mission		DEC Tags		
		E3		Forestry and Biodiversity				Biodiversity conservation, Disease prevention and control, Economic development, Family health care, Water sanitation		
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination		
--		--		--		--		--		
								Other Funding		
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>When considering investments in PHE for biodiversity conservation, practitioners and donors should carefully consider the potential conceptual and operational linkages between population, health, and environment goals in their specific contexts. Formulating situation models and theories of change can guide practitioners and donors in identifying, explicitly stating, and assessing the causal linkages and key assumptions that underpin specific PHE strategic approaches. PHE activities often make implicit and explicit assumptions that are reflected in design and implementation choices. The validity of these assumptions ultimately affects the likelihood of achieving biodiversity conservation goals. Teams should identify, explicitly state, and assess the validity of key assumptions. Strategic approaches should incorporate robust project design, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation practices. Specifically, practitioners and donors should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop systematic monitoring and evaluation protocols and ensure that they are adhered to and that results are analyzed and interpreted. 2. Carefully define outcome assessment protocols and choose appropriate indicators. Standard sectoral indicators may not be sufficient to assess the impacts of multi-sectoral strategic approaches. 3. Define control groups that allow for meaningful comparisons. Standard indicators are used to track progress toward biodiversity conservation goals and a large fraction of PHE strategic approaches do not report on any conservation indicators. Systematic assessments of the value of PHE as a biodiversity conservation strategic approach requires careful monitoring of its contributions to improving biophysical conditions. Practitioners and donors should identify a set of adequate indicators for biodiversity conservation based on robust theories of change. 								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Conservation enterprises: using a theory of change approach to synthesize lessons from USAID biodiversity projects					Year		2017	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PBAAF622.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
							X			
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)			15 studies	
Y	X	Y		Y						
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		--			Primary Subject		Environmental protection and conservation			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Environmental Incentives, LLC								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau Economic Growth, Education and Environment		Office Forestry and Biodiversity		Mission	DEC Tags	Business enterprises, Communities, Economic development, Livelihood, Marketing		
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination		Other	
--		--		--		--	--			
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>Promoting conservation enterprises is a strategy that is widely supported by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) biodiversity funding. However, the evidence that conservation enterprises lead to conservation is mixed. To increase the understanding of conservation enterprise approaches and outcomes and to improve the effectiveness of biodiversity programming, this brief synthesizes lessons from past USAID-funded efforts to support conservation enterprises. Several USAID programs have supported conservation enterprises, including the Biodiversity Conservation Network (BCN), the Global Conservation Program, the Sustainable Conservation Approaches in Priority Ecosystems Program (SCAPES), TransLinks, the Forests, Climate, and Communities Alliance, the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) and others. For this review, staff of Measuring Impact examined readily available assessments of these and other centrally funded or multi-country USAID programs to synthesize the evidence and illuminate lessons regarding the effectiveness of conservation enterprises. This brief describes some of the key lessons of those experiences. Each USAID biodiversity-funded program, as well as each site where a conservation enterprise strategic approach is implemented, involves a unique set of circumstances. From site to site, the conservation enterprises themselves, or the participants, threats, biodiversity, and other conditions may vary widely. Nevertheless, there is a common hypothesis underlying all the actions implemented by partners as part of this strategic approach: that supporting conservation enterprises will ultimately lead to improvement in the status of biodiversity at their sites.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Conflict and resilience: a synthesis of Feinstein International Center work on building resilience and protecting livelihoods in conflict-related crises					Year		2017	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00STNP.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y					100	
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Africa south of Sahara			Primary Subject		Nutrition			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Tufts University. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy. Feinstein International Center								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Cultural development, Households, Livelihood, Violence				
		Food Security								
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other	
--		--		--		--		--	--	
Author Abstract		<p>Resilience is defined as the ability of people to mitigate, weather, and “bounce back” from shocks or adversity. Conflict directly undermines livelihoods and resilience through its effects on people’s assets and the systems upon which their livelihoods depend. In contemporary conflict, the destruction of livelihoods through looting and asset stripping is often deliberate. Conflict also affects civilian livelihoods through displacement. Displacement is one of the primary effects of violent conflict, and disconnects people from their previous livelihoods and forces them to adapt to new circumstances. However, conflict is not the only factor undermining the resilience of crisis-affected households.</p> <p>There are macro-level factors such as natural and economic hazards, competition over natural resources, chronic poverty, and poor governance, as well as idiosyncratic factors such as illness, nonconflict-related deaths, and identity issues such as ethnicity, gender, and class. Another key factor is the role that social networks play in affecting resilience in the face of conflict. Membership in a social network often helps people preserve their lives and livelihoods by giving them access to resources, migration opportunities, and labor markets. Despite the strong effects of conflict on resilience, post-conflict dynamics can also limit livelihoods recovery. There is often no clear end to a conflict, and even when the violence ends, the structural violence that preceded the conflict may persist. While many conflicts are driven by socioeconomic grievances, investing in livelihoods cannot alone stabilize conflict-affected societies. This is largely attributable to operational constraints (such as limited project and funding cycles), political constraints (such as linking these programs to counter-terrorism measures), failures to understand conflict dynamics, and unintended consequences of the programs themselves.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Strengthening women's civic and political participation: a synthesis of the scholarly literature					Year		2017	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MMX5.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							# of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y						
N		N		N		147				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Middle East, Latin America, Africa south of Sahara			Primary Subject		Gender issues			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Wayne State University								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Cultural development, Democracy, Elections, Gender equity, Human rights, Quotas, Social media, Violence, Women, Women and Islam, Women civic participation, Women participation, Women political participation gender				
		Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance								
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination		Other
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Main Synthesis Findings		<p>The team identified four strategies for increasing women’s civic and political participation that are analyzed in academic scholarship: Using quotas to enhance women’s representation, using social media platforms to mobilize women and amplify their voices, targeting women as participants or beneficiaries of social programs, and mobilizing women through their intersecting identities. The team found that quotas are effective in increasing the number of women in elected office at the national and local levels and may also encourage women to participate in political and civic activity more generally. However, how quotas are designed and implemented greatly influences their success, and it is unclear whether more women in office leads to substantive changes to women’s agency within the legislature. In addition, although gender equity reforms implemented in the legislature can make such reforms more likely in other institutional settings, quotas are not common in other government branches. Social media is a double-edged sword: it provides a relatively inexpensive, accessible tool for women to participate in civic and political life and bring attention to issues that disproportionately affect women; however, it also creates a new space in which women are contested, harassed, and silenced. Social programs that target women also can be effective, but they almost always impose unanticipated costs, burdens, or risks on the women who participate, and so can depress women’s participation while seeking to increase it. Mobilizing women through their intersecting identities—as mothers, workers, members of a religious group—is an underdeveloped area of the literature.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Integrated HIV programming: effectiveness and lessons learned from a literature synthesis, research brief					Year		2017	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MPTQ.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y					291 peer-reviewed; 68 evaluations	
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Mozambique			Primary Subject		HIV/AIDS			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Johns Hopkins University. Center for Communication Programs								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office		Mission	DEC Tags	AIDS, Disease prevention and control, Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) for HIV			
		Global Health	Population and Reproductive Health							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination		Other	
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Main Synthesis Findings		<p>Stemming the HIV/AIDS epidemic is a monumental task because HIV/AIDS affects various levels within a socioecological system, including the individual, family, community, and policy environment (DiClemente et al. 2005). Some argue that HIV/AIDS efforts distract attention and shift resources away from other pressing health issues, such as tuberculosis, malaria, immunization, and diarrheal disease (England 2007; Garrett 2007; Yu, et al. 2008). Others argue, however, that the attention and resources targeted toward HIV/AIDS provides an opportunity to harness global funding for health systems strengthening to improve health care services generally (Kim & Farmer 2006; Maeseneer, et al. 2008). Considering this debate, the global health and development community has turned its attention to integration as a programming strategy to use resources optimally while maximizing health and development benefits. The U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief has the potential to influence a variety of outcomes in technical areas other than HIV—including family planning, maternal and child health, malaria, nutrition, tuberculosis, water, sanitation, and hygiene, as well as outcomes in non-health technical areas. Similarly, programming for other technical areas has the potential to impact HIV/AIDS-related outcomes. At the request of the U.S. Agency for International Development in Mozambique, the K4Health project scanned the literature to answer the following two research questions: (1) What is the bidirectional relationship between HIV outcomes and other health outcomes and (2) What effects do HIV integration projects have on HIV/AIDS outcomes (related to prevention, treatment, and care) and/or outcomes in other technical areas?</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Mortality in the First 3 Months on Antiretroviral Therapy Among HIV-Positive Adults in Low- and Middle-income Countries: A Meta-analysis					Year		2016	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MD34.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y						
N		N		N		3				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)			--			Primary Subject		--		
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Wits Health Consortium (WHC). Health Economics and Epidemiology Research Office. (HE2RO)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Antiretroviral therapy, Arts, Income, Mortality, Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) for HIV				
				USAID/ South Africa						
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination		Other
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Main Synthesis Findings		<p>Previous meta-analyses reported mortality estimates of 12-month post-antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation; however, 40%-60% of deaths occur in the first 3 months on ART, a more sensitive measure of averted deaths through early ART initiation. To determine whether early mortality is dropping as treatment thresholds have increased, we reviewed studies of three months on ART initiation in low- to middle-income countries. Studies of three-month mortality from January 2003 to April 2016 were searched in five databases. Articles were included that reported three-month mortality from a low- to middle-income country; non-trial setting and participants were ≥15. We assessed overall mortality and stratified by year using random effects models. Among 58 included studies, although not significant, pooled estimates show a decline in mortality when comparing studies whose enrollment of patients ended before 2010 (7.0%; 95% CI: 6.0 to 8.0) with the studies during or after 2010 (4.0%; 95% CI: 3.0 to 5.0). To continue to reduce early HIV-related mortality at the population level, intensified efforts to increase demand for ART through active testing and facilitated referral should be a priority. Continued financial investments by multinational partners and the implementation of creative interventions to mitigate multidimensional complex barriers of accessing care and treatment for HIV are needed.</p>								

Case 12 (repeated)

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Education in Conflict and Crisis: How Can Technology Make a Difference? A Landscape Review					Year		2016	
Download Link		https://allchildrenreading.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/How-Can-Technology-Make-a-Difference.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y				66 journals		
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		--			Primary Subject		--			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Dr. Negin Dahya, University of Washington Information School Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau		Office		Mission		DEC Tags		
		Economic Growth, Education and Environment		Education		--		--		
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination		Other
--		--		--		--		--		--
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>Conflict and crisis are among the biggest obstacles to ensuring inclusive and quality education for all (Sustainable Development Goal 4). The use of information and communication technology (ICT) has the potential to support, enhance, and enable education for the most marginalized, affected by war, natural disasters, and the rapid spread of disease. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and in collaboration with All Children Reading: A Grand Challenge for Development (USAID, World Vision and the Australian Government), World Vision International, and the Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) commissioned this Landscape Review to (1) identify major trends, patterns, knowledge gaps, and lessons learned about the use of mobile technologies in crisis and conflict settings, and (2) synthesize key themes and considerations for practitioners and policy makers in this field. We hope that this Landscape Review will further engage the community in peer-to-peer learning and collaboration to drive promising programs to scale, and create pathways through education to reach greater numbers of conflict and crisis affected children.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		A meta-analysis assessing all-cause mortality in HIV-exposed uninfected compared with HIV-unexposed uninfected infants and children					Year		2016	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MD2X.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y						
N		N		N		22				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)			--			Primary Subject		--		
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Wits Health Consortium (WHC). Health Economics and Epidemiology Research Office. (HE2RO)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	AIDS, Disease prevention and control, Infants, Mortality				
				USAID/ South Africa						
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination		Other
--		--		--		--		--		--
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>Objective: Conduct a meta-analysis examining differential all-cause mortality rates between HIV-exposed uninfected (HEU) infants and children as compared with their HIV-unexposed uninfected (HUU) counterparts. Design: Meta-analysis summarizing the difference in mortality between HEU and HUU infants and children. Reviewed studies comparing children in the two groups for all-cause mortality, in any setting, from 1994 to 2016 from six databases. Methods: Meta-analyses were done estimating overall mortality comparing the two groups, stratified by duration of follow-up time from birth (0-12, 12-24 and >24 months) and by year enrollment ended in each study: less than 2002 compared with at least 2002, when single-dose nevirapine for prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) commenced in low-income and middle-income countries. Results: Included 22 studies, for a total of 29,212 study participants [n = 8,840 (30.3%) HEU; n = 20,372 (37.7%) HUU]. Random effects models showed HEU had a more than 70% increased risk of mortality vs. HUU. Stratifying by age showed that HEU vs. HUU had a significant 60-70% increased risk of death at every age strata. There was a significant 70% increase in the risk of mortality between groups before the implementation of PMTCT, which remained after 2002 [risk ratio: 1.46; 95% confidence interval (CI): 1.14-1.87], when the availability of PMTCT services was widespread, suggesting that prenatal antiretroviral therapy and healthier mothers do not fully eliminate this increased risk in mortality. Conclusion: We show a consistent increase risk of mortality for HEU vs. HUU infants and children. Longitudinal research is needed to elucidate underlying mechanisms, such as maternal and infant health status and breast-feeding practices, which may help explain these differences in mortality.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Demand Generation for 13 Life-Saving Commodities: A Synthesis of the Evidence					Year		2015	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M7DF.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (<i>enter description below</i>)				
Y	X	Y		Y		13				
N		N		N						
Demographics (<i>use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic</i>)										
Geo Term(s)		Africa south of Sahara, East Africa, South Asia			Primary Subject		Maternal child health care			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Johns Hopkins University. Center for Communication Programs								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office		Mission	DEC Tags	Cultural development, Family health care, Health care costs, Markets, Social conditions			
		Global Health	Population and Reproductive Health							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination	Other		
--		--		--		Feedback	--	--		
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>The global community has the power to save six million lives by 2015 by increasing access to and appropriate use of 13 underutilized life-saving commodities during pregnancy, childbirth, and early childhood identified by the UN Commission on Life-Saving Commodities for Women's and Children's Health (the Commission) (UNCoLSC, 2012). Demand generation—or the process of creating a need or belief in the need for a health product or service among a target audience—is a persistent weakness across all priority commodities. This report reviews, assesses, and synthesizes the current evidence of social and behavioral drivers of demand generation for the 13 commodities, as well as effective practices in implementing demand generation programs. This review aims to provide a foundation for future evidence-based demand generation programming and activities, with a focus on helping others to better understand the facilitating factors and barriers to utilization and generating demand for these underutilized life-saving commodities. Using the social ecological framework to guide the evidence synthesis, the review identifies facilitating factors and barriers at the individual, community, and society levels that influence the demand and uptake of life-saving commodities. The literature review also examines a wide range of evidence for successful strategies to overcome barriers and generate demand for each commodity. For some commodities—such as ORS, zinc, and the female condom—there were many studies available. However, the evidence base for demand generation for other commodities, especially the newborn health commodities, is extremely limited. Additional research is needed in these areas.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Empirical linkages between devolved tenure systems and forest conditions: literature review and synthesis					Year		2014	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M6MQ.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
							X			
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y				98		
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		--			Primary Subject		Forestry			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Tetra Tech ARD								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau		Office		Mission		DEC Tags		Communities, Deforestation, Forestry, Governance, Satellites
		Economic Growth, Education and Environment		Office of Global Climate Change						
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination		Other
--		--		--		--		--		Funding
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>Over the last two decades, a growing body of literature has accumulated on the empirical linkages between devolved forest tenure systems and forest condition. Devolution in the forest sector refers to the process of transitioning from centralized to decentralized forest management, which has been occurring at multiple levels—from the regional level to the community and individual. The primary literature largely falls into local-level inquiries and regional-level analyses. Substantive advances have been made in identifying the relevant variables and testing the causality between forest condition and community-based tenure. It is well understood that (1) in the context of governing common property forest resources, local rulemaking, enforcement, and monitoring are essential; and that (2) communities have better knowledge and a greater stake in sustaining their forests, but they may need adequate information and capacity to pursue major projects of forest establishment and maintenance. Forest tenure reform and institutional change can lead to improved forest condition as reflected in slowing down deforestation and forest degradation or accelerating reforestation. Tremendous empirical gaps exist in terms of the quantity and quality of the evidence generated. Much of the literature on the linkages between forest condition and community forest management relies on a limited number of case studies and simplistic comparative analyses. A great deal has been documented of the positive roles CBFM and JFM have played in reforestation and forest regrowth in India and Nepal, whereas similar developments in places like China and Sahelian West Africa have not been well examined.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Evaluating systems and systemic change for inclusive market development: literature review and synthesis					Year		2014	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MDK8.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)								Number of Evaluations or other reports examined		
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y				14		
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		--			Primary Subject		Agricultural markets			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		ACDI/VOCA								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office		Mission	DEC Tags	Business enterprises, Economic development, Evaluation, Market development, Social conditions			
		Economic Growth, Education and Environment	Microenterprise Development and Private Enterprise Promotion							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination	Other		
--		--		--		--	--	Funding		
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>This literature review examined current thinking on evaluating systems and systemic change for inclusive market development. This section summarizes some of the findings as they relate to defining systemic change, incorporating systems thinking into evaluation frameworks, and identifying useful indicators for measuring systemic change. The literature review suggests that definitions of systemic change within the context of market system facilitation should incorporate several elements, including: (1) recognition that the causes of systemic change are diverse and overlapping, including donor-funded interventions and emergent solutions from within the system itself; (2) acknowledgement that impacts of systemic changes are equally diverse, including both those that are positive and negative from the perspective of a facilitator's objectives; and (3) understanding that systemic change is an intermediate outcome distinct from, but that can contribute to final development outcomes for target beneficiaries. The literature indicates that evaluations of systemic change in market systems programming should assess both systemic changes themselves and the resulting development impacts for target populations. The selection of indicators for evaluating systemic change can also be informed by distinguishing between the market system and the intervention designed to facilitate changes in the system. Systemic change is not an outcome, but an instrumental step toward achieving outcomes such as improved incomes, employment and food security, and reduced poverty. Systemic change indicators</p>								

	should be defined in terms of shifts in the underlying or structural elements and patterns that characterize a system.
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Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Middle East and North Africa Trade Barriers: A Synthesis					Year		2013	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00NIQ6.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
							X			
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)			12	
Y	X	Y		Y						
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		North Africa, Middle East			Primary Subject		Economic reform			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Chemonics International, Inc								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Non-USAID	DEC Tags	Dates, Economic development, Tariffs, Trade				
		Middle East	Office of Technical Support							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination		Other	
--		--		--		--	--		--	
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>The biggest development challenge in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is employment. Sustained job growth will require more open trade and more extensive participation in global value chains. Despite several attempts at regional integration, the region's trade and investment performance remains weak relative to other developing regions. A much deeper multilateral free trade agreement (Agadir) was signed by Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, and Tunisia in 2004, yet the MENA region remains among the least integrated in the world economy. According to recent World Bank statistics, total non-fuel exports from the MENA region were \$142.4 million, with half those exports originating from GCC countries. A total of \$52.9 million worth of non-fuel goods was traded between countries within the region, with 80% of those exports originating from GCC countries. Studies consistently indicate that MENA region exports are only one-third of their potential. Access to relevant information about standards seems key, as informational barriers, by themselves, reduce trade by 18%. Streamlining regulatory requirements and technical standards to cut the ad valorem equivalent of non-tariff measures in half, from around 10% to around 5%, would boost trade in the region by another 2-3%. Despite a host of agreements, including bilateral investment and double-taxation treaties, among themselves and with third parties, the intra-regional flow of foreign direct investment (FDI) has remained marginal. This is particularly true in the case of manufacturing and services sectors, which create more jobs per dollar invested than the current FDI flows to the oil and real estate sectors.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Aflatoxin : a synthesis of the research in health, agriculture and trade					Year		2012	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PBAAH773.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y						
N		N		N		100+				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		East Africa			Primary Subject		Agricultural technology			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		USAID. Mission to East Africa, Danya International Kenya								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Aflatoxin, Corn meal, Disease prevention and control, Maize, Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) for HIV				
				East Africa Regional						
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other	
--		--		--		--		--	Funding	
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>Aflatoxin is a highly carcinogenic toxin produced by the fungus <i>Aspergillus flavus</i> (<i>A. flavus</i>). This fungus, as well as the toxins it produces, is commonly found in soils and on plant matter, including grains or cereals, peanuts, seeds, and other legumes. Aflatoxin poisoning in the East African region has become an epidemic, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas. Chronic aflatoxin exposure can have a negative impact on health and has been associated with liver cancer, growth retardation and stunting in children, and suppression of the immune system. It has also recently been linked with HIV and tuberculosis (TB). At elevated levels of concentration, aflatoxin exposure can cause hemorrhaging, edema, and even immediate death. In countries such as Kenya, documented cases of widespread aflatoxin poisoning are fast becoming a common occurrence, particularly in rural areas. Although research and limited interventions have been ongoing in countries such as The Gambia since the early 1940s, comparable efforts are lagging in many other areas of Africa. Further research into innovative solutions is necessary to address the often-overlooked global issues of aflatoxin contamination and exposure.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Water development in Ethiopia's pastoral areas: a synthesis of existing knowledge and experience					Year		2012	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00KQ4P.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y		50+ in-depth interviews				
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Ethiopia			Primary Subject		Irrigated farming and water management			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Save the Children (U.S.), Overseas Development Institute (ODI)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Agricultural production, Economic development, Livelihood, Water sanitation, Wells				
				USAID/Ethiopia						
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination		Other	
--		--		--		--	--		Funding	
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>In Ethiopia's arid areas, practical field experience over the past forty years indicates that water development divorced from an in-depth understanding of pastoral livelihoods can compromise sustainable development in the long term. Customary water management practices were tailored to a mobile livelihood system which, itself, is a response to the requirements of dryland environments where climate is highly variable in time and space. Pastoralists use water management to manage the wider rangelands, given that access to and availability of water affect who and how many have access to surrounding pasture and grazing areas. By carefully locating water points and regulating access through customary systems dependent on negotiation and reciprocity, mobility is both facilitated and made necessary. Mobility itself is a sophisticated response to the unique characteristics of dryland environments and is central to ensuring that pastures can recover seasonally, allowing the pastoral livelihood to remain sustainable in an environment where other sedentary land uses have failed. The healthy economic performance of the pastoral production system in some of the harshest landscapes in the country attests to its value. From the 1970s, pastoral regions became a focus of attention for government as well as national and international development and humanitarian agencies. The construction of large ponds made water available year-round, encouraging permanent settlement and perennial grazing in areas which were previously used only seasonally. Overgrazing and erosion were frequently observed around these water points and, increasingly, sedentary herds amplified the incidence of human and livestock health problems.</p>								

Meta-Analysis of Substantive Findings Across Multiple Studies of Various Types (4)

The four studies in this group were self-identified as syntheses of findings from other studies.

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses						
Title	The impact of population, health, and environment projects: a synthesis of the evidence				Year	2015
Download Link	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MGJP.pdf				Verified Synthesis	Y X
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)					# of Evaluations or other reports examined	
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review	Other type of synthesis (enter description below)			35
Y	X	Y				
N		N				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)						
Geo Term(s)	--			Primary Subject	Environmental, Preventive health care	
Name of Authoring Org(s)	Population Reference Bureau, Inc. (PRB), Population Council					
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau Global Health	Office Population and Reproductive Health	Mission	DEC Tags	Communities, Family health care, Livelihood, Planning, Social conditions	
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)						
Planning	Doc Reviews	Analysis	Report Prep	Dissemination	Other	
--	--	--	--	--	--	
Main Synthesis Findings	This synthesis report examines and summarizes recent available evidence from integrated Population, Health, and Environment (PHE) projects to document what they are measuring and/or not measuring, assess the current state of PHE project monitoring and evaluation, and identify gaps in evaluation and research for current and future PHE projects to improve upon. Forty-three documents from 35 projects were reviewed in conducting this synthesis. While some projects began as early as 1992 or as late as 2010, the majority began programming in the early- to mid-2000s. Findings from the synthesis suggest that projects report data and impact in some areas, particularly family planning, consistently. The findings also point out that many PHE projects have found it challenging to collect data and thus document their impact in other sectors, particularly related to their environmental and livelihood programming. Additionally, the report looks at the evidence surrounding the added value of integrated programming as compared to single sector programming and suggests ways to improve documentation of the ways integration provides added value. Finally, this synthesis assesses what evidence could be collected and used to better align projects with emerging fields of interest such as sustainable livelihoods, resilience, and climate change adaptation.					
Additional Notable Features	There is a PBS Webinar on this paper. https://www.prb.org/phe-synthesis-report/					

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Using the HED Theory of Change to Conduct a Meta-Analysis of Regional Impact Assessment Findings					Year		2015	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00KPG5.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y				6 regional impact assessments		
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Southeast Asia, South Asia, Middle East, Mexico, Africa south of Sahara, Africa			Primary Subject		Higher education			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		American Council on Education (ACE) Higher Education for Development (HED)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Life skills, Partnerships, Teachers				
		Economic Growth, Education and Environment	Office of Education							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination		Other	
--		--		--		--	--		Funding	
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>This study reports on a meta-analysis of six regional impact assessments of HED higher education partnerships. The regional impact assessments were conducted between 2006 to 2012 and examined more than 60 partnerships that were funded by USAID through HED from 1998 to 2007. Overall, the regional assessment data used to create this report highlight the utility of the Theory of Change framework and the interrelated nature of partnership development, engagement, and sustainability. Additionally, while each of the partnerships in this report had unique characteristics, goals, and outcomes, the Theory of Change illustrates that there are related patterns, themes, and areas of emphasis across partnerships. Therefore, this framework provides the flexibility needed to be relevant to the distinctive nature and needs of a partnership, while also acting as an effective guidepost for supporting successful higher education partnerships generally. The HED theory of change can be a useful heuristic tool for retroactively assessing partnerships to document and tell the story of such partnerships. The power of using this theory of change as an evaluative tool enables evaluators and others to ask tough questions about how the change process developed.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Community health volunteer program functionality and performance in Madagascar: a synthesis of qualitative and quantitative assessments					Year		2013	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PDACX486.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y					2 program assessments	
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Madagascar			Primary Subject		Community health workers			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		University Research Co., LLC (URC)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Accountability, Case management, Communities, Family health care, Training				
		Global Health	Health, Infectious Diseases, and Nutrition							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other	
--		--		--		--		--	Funding	
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>For more than a decade, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) Mission in Madagascar and other partners have invested in the development of a national community health volunteer (CHV) system to improve access to life-saving primary health care services for rural and remote populations. Presently, the USAID/Santénet2 Project (SN2) aims to increase access to and availability of community-based interventions in 800 communes concentrated in 16 regions of eastern and southern Madagascar. SN2 provides local capacity building, training, and supervision to mobilize over 12,000 CHVs to offer lifesaving health services, including family planning counseling and short-acting contraceptives and maternal, newborn, and child health, including community case management for uncomplicated malaria, pneumonia, and diarrheal disease. To understand the effects of this effort, USAID commissioned separate qualitative and quantitative studies. The qualitative review used the Community Health Worker Assessment and Improvement Matrix (CHW AIM) toolkit developed by USAID's Health Care Improvement Project. The qualitative study involved a cross-sectional survey 249 CHVs across 16 districts. This report synthesizes the results of these two studies. Both assessments found that CHVs were recruited by members of their communities, and both reported that there was some lack of clarity at the community level about the roles and functions of CHVs. Training and supervision were identified as being somewhat problematic in both assessments, as were logistics and supplies. The synthesis includes recommendations for improving the program based on both sets of findings.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Partnership for Trade Facilitation: Central America Regional Synthesis					Year		2012	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00J1T3.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y						
N		N		N		3				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Central America, Latin America, El Salvador			Primary Subject		--			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		CARANA Corporation								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Agricultural production, Business enterprises, Dates, Internet, Trade				
		Economic Growth and Trade								
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination		Other
--		--		--		--		--		Funding
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>This synthesis integrates the findings of assessments in Honduras (March 2012), El Salvador (April 2012), and Guatemala (May 2012), conducted to assess these countries' readiness to implement commitments expected under a WTO trade facilitation agreement (then under negotiation). After concluding the country assessments in Honduras (March 2012), El Salvador (April 2012), and Guatemala (May 2012), the BEAM project was able to identify regional crosscutting themes in the seven "partnership for trade facilitation (PTF)" categories. The study found best practices and developments within the PTF categories in the region which can be leveraged to support similar developments in the neighboring countries. The report includes a brief overview of the region, followed by an analysis of the regional crosscutting findings for each of the PTF areas in a comparison side-by-side chart, and includes a brief analysis of the common themes across the PTF areas. Finally, the report focuses on prioritization and recommendations for each country, with country action plans for the top priority areas in each country. It also provides country specific findings which have bearing on how these recommendations can be implemented on a country-by-country basis.</p>								

Meta-Analysis of Substantive Findings from Cases, Sites, or Elements under a Single Study (II)

Studies in this cluster synthesize findings from multiple sites or cases under a single study.

Case II (repeated)

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses						
Title	Sustaining development: a synthesis of results from a four-country study of sustainability and exit strategies among development food assistance projects				Year	2016
Download Link	https://www.fantaproject.org/sites/default/files/resources/FFP-Sustainability-Exit-Strategies-Synthesis-Dec2015_0.pdf				Verified Synthesis	Y X
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)					# of Evaluations or other reports examined	
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation	Systematic Review	Other type of synthesis (enter description below)			12 assessed activities
Y	X	Y				
N		N				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)						
Geo Term(s)	Bolivia, Honduras, India, Kenya		Primary Subject	Food aid programs		
Name of Authoring Org(s)	Tufts University. School of Nutrition, FHI 360					
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name	Bureau Global Health	Office Health, Infectious Diseases, & Nutrition	Mission	DEC Tags	Agricultural production, Food aid, Food assistance, Food for Peace, Food security, Nutrition, Prices, Water sanitation	
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)						
Planning	Doc Reviews	Analysis	Report Prep	Dissemination	Other	
--	--	--	--	--	Funding	
Main Synthesis Findings	<p>The objective of the study was to determine what factors enhanced the likelihood of sustained Food for Peace (FFP) project activities and benefits. The study provided guidance to future FFP development food assistance projects, with implications for other development projects as well, on how to ensure sustainability. The study assessed 12 projects in 4 countries using a mixed methods approach in which three rounds of qualitative data collection were conducted a year apart. In addition, a quantitative survey (referred to as the follow-up survey) was conducted between 2 and 3 years after project activities ended. The study team found that evidence of project success at the time of exit (as assessed by impact indicators) did not necessarily imply sustained benefit over time, nor is the magnitude of the impact directly related to the probability of sustainability. Analysis of the experiences of the projects in these 4 countries suggests that incorporating the lessons for sustainability into project design may improve the likelihood that development projects continue to offer benefits after project completion. Awardees should base their sustainability plans and related exit strategies on clearly articulated theories of change. The report includes a model for studying sustained outcomes from project interventions. The model highlights three factors the study found were critical to achieving sustainability, namely resources, capacity, and motivation. These factors are interrelated and synergistic. No project in this study achieved sustainability without all three of them in place before the project ended.</p>					

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title	Youth engagement in agricultural value chains across Feed the Future: a synthesis report						Year	2016		
Download Link	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MCKT.pdf						Verified Synthesis	Y	N	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis	Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)					
Y	X	Y		Y				13 FTF programs		
N		N		N				single study		
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Guatemala, Liberia, Nepal, Uganda			Primary Subject		Agricultural markets			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		ACDI/VOCA								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Agricultural production, Economic development, Marketing, Youth				
		Economic Growth, Education and Environment & the Bureau for Food Security	Microenterprise Development and Private Enterprise Promotion							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination	Other		
--		--		--		--	--	Funding		
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>This report aims to inform future Feed the Future (FTF) efforts to more strategically and deliberately engage youth in market systems by providing insights from current FTF country programs. Commissioned by USAID's Bureau for Food Security/Office of Country Strategy and Implementation, a research team with the Leveraging Economic Opportunities (LEO)¹ activity scanned all 19 FTF countries and analyzed four FTF country programs in more depth through site visits to Guatemala, Liberia, Nepal, and Uganda.² These countries were chosen based on 1) their relatively high youth involvement in the portfolio; 2) youth mention in Country Development Cooperation Strategies (CDCS) and FTF strategy documents; and 3) geographic diversity. Case studies and success stories from these countries accompany this report. An important and surprising finding was the lack of information the study produced that were specific to youth. As the study team put it: "A major finding is that intentionality—when it comes to youth engagement—matters. Most FTF programs engage youth unintentionally, meaning youth were not specifically recruited or supported but are present in communitywide programming. There</p>								

	<p>is little youth-specific data on these programs.” The research team drew the bulk of the conclusions in this report from the four site visit countries, and reinforced and triangulated conclusions with experiences from other missions and youth technical experts.</p>
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Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses						
Title	Gender-based violence initiative synthesis report				Year	2016
Download Link	https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M476.pdf				Verified Synthesis	Y N X
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)					Number of Evaluations or other reports examined	
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Assessment of PEPFAR investments 3 countries, single study
Y X		Y		Y		
N		N		N		
Other type of synthesis (enter description below)						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)						
Geo Term(s)		Africa south of Sahara, Congo DR, Mozambique, Tanzania			Primary Subject	Gender based violence
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		JSI Research and Training Institute, Inc.				
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Disease prevention and control, Social conditions, Violence, Voluntary Counseling and Testing (VCT) for HIV
		Global Health	Office of HIV/AIDS			
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)						
Planning	Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination Other
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Main Synthesis Findings	<p>The purpose of this synthesis report is to provide a global-level overview of the Gender Based Violence Initiative (GBVI). It also highlights successes and lessons from the three country studies of PEPFAR GBVI initiative programs the initiative was designed to align with existing government and civil society response to GBV and HIV. Efforts to track and monitor gender equality and GBV-related program outcomes were based on PEPFAR Next Generation Indicators. This report presents findings from each country review and lessons learned on a cross-country basis. Findings indicate that the GBVI exemplified successful interagency collaboration between the State Department, CDC, USAID, and DOD. At the country level, the GBVI contributed to increased integration of GBV into HIV programming across the three countries. It also contributed to the evidence base around integration of GBV prevention and response into HIV programs, improved country ownership, and sustainability of GBVI activities. Further, the GBVI successfully integrated GBV prevention and response into HIV prevention, care, and treatment programs at all levels. The institutionalization of GBV response services was achieved by working through the existing HIV platform and engaging the government and other stakeholders. Although the three GBVI countries were contextually different in terms of GBV and HIV prevalence and patterns, socioeconomic demographic context, and security status, many of the GBVI's achievements and lessons learned were consistent among them and can also be applied to other regions and in other efforts to prevent and respond to GBV in HIV programs globally.</p>					

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Case Studies on Facilitating Systemic Change: A Synthesis of Cases from Ghana, Senegal, Zambia, and Rwanda					Year		2016	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00MFJW.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)								# of Evaluations or other reports examined		
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y				4 case studies		
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Zambia, Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal, Africa			Primary Subject		--			
Name of Authoring Org(s)		ACDI/VOCA								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office		Mission	DEC Tags	Farmers, Marketing, Milk			
		Food Security	Microenterprise Development and Private Enterprise Promotion							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination		Other
--		--		--		--		--		Funding
Main Synthesis Findings		<p>Feed the Future (FTF) is facilitating changes in core agricultural systems that contribute to more sustainable and scalable development objectives. This report, commissioned by USAID/BFS, summarizes the findings from research into four FTF projects, selected as illustrations of observable systemic change. The four projects are: 1) FTF Senegal Naatal Mbay, which introduced various alterations to the prevailing model for contract farming of paddy rice, including a price discovery process that reduced uncertainty and unleashed widespread investment by financial institutions and processors into the more beneficial contract farming system, as well as an increase and improvement in the services to value chain actors, particularly agricultural machinery leasing. 2) FTF Zambia Production, Finance, and Improved Technology (PROFIT) Plus, which is in the initial stages of introducing changes in the structure of the rural input supply system through new aggregation models and agents, improving smallholder access to input and extension services. This has taken place in the context of two years of heavy drought, shifting behaviors from those that are revenue maximizing to those that are risk mitigating and resilience maximizing. 3) FTF Rwanda Dairy Competitiveness Program (RDCP) II, which has introduced quality grades and standards into the dairy industry both through support for more formal policy-level changes and firm-led behaviors and models that incentivize and reward for quality. Like Zambia, these changes are early in the systemic change process, but there are strong indications of imitation by other lead processors, independent replication, and that these behaviors and practices are beginning to become institutionalized and a 'new normal'. 4) FTF Ghana Agricultural Development and Value Chain Enhancement (ADVANCE) II, which has supported the emergence of a relatively new actor in commodity value chains, the out grower business; this is changing the network structure of input and output systems in the target areas, increasing smallholder access to quality inputs, financing, and output markets.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Misoprostol Policy and Scale-up for the Prevention of Postpartum Hemorrhage in Madagascar, Mozambique, and Nigeria: A Synthesis Brief					Year		2016	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00M9SZ.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y						
N		N		N		Various reports relevant to study countries				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Nigeria, Mozambique, Madagascar			Primary Subject		Maternal child health care			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Management Sciences for Health (MSH)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Birth, Communities, Maternal mortality, Mortality, Women				
Africa										
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other	
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Main Synthesis Findings		<p>Over the past decade, the use of misoprostol for PPH prevention and treatment in developing countries has gained attention as an effective strategy to address PPH in settings where skilled birth attendance is low. From April 2015 to April 2016, ASH conducted archival research, site visits, and interviewed key informants engaged in the policy development and/or implementation processes in each country. The study identifies key determinants contributing to the development and adoption of national policies and explores progress toward implementation and scale-up of this intervention. Findings from the study countries – Madagascar, Mozambique, and Nigeria – present practical recommendations for countries beginning policy development and adoption and offer lessons on the roll-out of misoprostol at the community level. In all three countries, gains in policy adoption were influenced by a multitude of factors (policy content, context, actors, and processes) and the interaction between these factors. Common facilitators or enablers characterized all three countries: 1) the availability of credible, local evidence on the effectiveness, safety, and feasibility of the intervention; 2) leadership and support from individual and groups of champions both within and external to the MOH; 3) engagement of a wide range of stakeholders including national and local governments, research institutions and universities, and implementing partners; 4) involvement of professional associations, who played a key role in addressing a range of concerns from various stakeholders, creating additional national buy-in and support; and 5) community mobilization and sensitization to the intervention and its potential benefits garnered powerful and effective support from the community.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Community health financing as a pathway to universal health coverage: synthesis of evidence from Ghana, Senegal, and Ethiopia					Year		2015	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00KV7P.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y		3 country study				
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Ghana, Senegal, Ethiopia			Primary Subject		Health finance			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Abt Associates, Inc.								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Elections, Finance, Health insurance, Private health care				
		Global Health	Health Systems							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other	
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Main Synthesis Findings		<p>In all three countries, CBHI is considered part of the overall UHC effort and the broader health financing system. The lessons above echo recommendations from the WHO Commission for Macroeconomics and Health (2001), which recognized the importance of CBHI to increase financial protection to those in the informal sector. The Commission proposed the following public policy measures to improve the effectiveness of community involvement in health care financing: 1. Increased and well-targeted subsidies to pay for the premiums of low-income populations; 2. Use of insurance to protect against expenditure fluctuations and use of reinsurance to enlarge the effective size of small risk pools; 3. Use of effective prevention and case-management techniques to limit expenditure fluctuations; 4. Technical support to strengthen the management capacity of local schemes; and 5. Establishment and strengthening of links with the formal financing and provider networks. By building on the strengths of CBHI schemes and addressing their weaknesses through policies, legislation, institutional, and financial support, countries can extend insurance coverage to the populations that need it most but are difficult to reach.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Standards-Based Management and Recognition for Child Health: A Synthesis of Initial Experiences in Guinea and Zimbabwe					Year		2015	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00KS6Q.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)			2 county case studies	
Y	X	Y		Y						
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Guinea, Zimbabwe			Primary Subject		Maternal child health care			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		JHPIEGO Corp.								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Family health care, Health care costs, Health facilities, Standards, Training				
		Global Health	Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other	
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Main Synthesis Findings		<p>Under USAID's Maternal and Child Health Integrated Program (MCHIP) Standards-Based Management and Recognition (SBM-R) has been implemented in 16 MCHIP-supported countries. Two countries, Guinea and Zimbabwe, piloted the use of the SBM-R approach to improving the quality of case management for childhood illness. The purpose of this review is to report on the initial experience, the results, and lessons learned in applying the SBM-R approach for childhood illness under MCHIP. The synthesis overall provides insight into how SBM-R has been applied to child health as a technical area in Guinea and Zimbabwe. The results indicate a marked improvement in health providers' (Guinea) and health facilities' (Zimbabwe) adherence to established performance standards. The major difficulty in conducting this synthesis comes from the limited scale and duration of implementation in Guinea and the limited process documentation in Zimbabwe, despite a bigger scale and longer duration of implementation. Furthermore, both countries did not systematically follow all the SBM-R guidelines and steps during implementation to allow attribution of the quality improvements to the approach. Lastly, even in Zimbabwe, with its longer implementation timeframe, the projects did not set or collect outcome indicators for child health as an end for quality improvement.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Leveraging the Global Fund New Funding Model for Integrated Community Case Management: A Synthesis of Lessons from Five Countries					Year		2015	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00KS62.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							# of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y						
N		N		N		5 qualitative case studies				
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Africa south of Sahara, Kenya, Zambia			Primary Subject		Communities			
Name of Authoring Org(s)		JHPIEGO Corp								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office		Mission	DEC Tags	Case management, Family health care, Malaria, Mutual funds, Social conditions			
		Global Health	Maternal & Child Survival Project							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination		Other	
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Main Synthesis Findings		<p>This report reviews the experience of five countries with the Global Fund New Funding Model (NFM). Specifically, the report reviews efforts to incorporate integrated Community Case Management (iCCM) into eligible countries' malaria and health systems strengthening concept notes to leverage resources to scale up iCCM. In the countries reviewed, four of the five included iCCM in their malaria concept notes, and NFM funds will support malaria diagnostic tools (RDTs) and treatment (ACTs) for use at the community (and facility) level; platform costs for iCCM implementation, including training of various cadres of CHWs, supervision and, in some cases, incentives for CHWs; costs of supporting iCCM governance bodies, such as support for meetings of various iCCM taskforces and committees; and operations research. Lessons about how to leverage financing from mechanisms such as the Global Fund New Funding Model are important to enable scale-up of iCCM. Our review reveals several factors that can either enable or constrain the ability of iCCM stakeholders to effectively advocate for iCCM inclusion: (1) The power of actors, including the existence of local leaders and coordinating structures; (2) The ideas they use to portray iCCM, particularly the ability to frame iCCM as an important strategy to increase the efficiency of malaria investments; (3) A global and local political context supportive of iCCM, including supportive national policies and guidelines; and (4) Characteristics of iCCM itself: evidence of the effectiveness of the intervention; data on the costs of implementation; and the perception that the intervention can be implemented, both in the sense of the capacity of the health workforce and availability of commodities. Even in the countries where iCCM was included in Global Fund financing requests, these factors are likely to play a significant role in the degree to which, going forward, countries can effectively advocate for non-malaria commodities to support scale up with Global Fund financing, and for additional resources to scale up the approach beyond the Global Fund.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Evaluative learning review synthesis report: USAID/CMM's People-to-People Reconciliation Fund, annual program statement (APS)					Year		2014	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PBAAA370.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y				Mix of methods examined including 16 case studies		
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Burundi, East Africa, Bosnia and Herzegovina			Primary Subject		Development program and activity evaluation			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Social Impact, Inc.								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Accountability, Communities, Elections, Journalism, Peace				
		Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance	Conflict Management & Mitigation							
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep	Dissemination	Other		
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Main Synthesis Findings		<p>Since 2004, the United States Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMM) in Washington has held an annual Reconciliation Program Fund small-grants competition through an "Annual Program Statement" (APS). In the fall of 2011, CMM awarded Social Impact a contract to conduct a two-year evaluative learning review of targeted awards and activities under the CMM People-to-People Reconciliation APS through a pilot application of this developmental evaluation methodology. The objectives of this review were not only to learn about the reconciliation APS projects themselves, but also to build CMM's technical leadership in evaluation of complex programs. The evaluation team's work was divided into three phases: Phase I, knowledge management and study of the reconciliation APS; Phase II, field evaluation of selected APS programs; and Phase III, reflective learning. This final report is a synthesis of not only the five key products, but also the findings from the process of undertaking an evaluation inspired by a developmental evaluation framework and the lessons this can provide not only CMM for future APS work. The final two chapters review and synthesize findings on: (1) the APS' efforts to support conflict mitigation and reconciliation activities around the world, consider these in light of the guidance on P2P reconciliation, and offer scenarios of potential future developments in the APS; (2) evaluation of the APS to date, and offer values, principles, and scenarios for potential development of evaluation within CMM, USAID.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		EGA Learning Agenda Value Chain Meta-Analysis					Year		2014	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00K925.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)							Number of Evaluations or other reports examined			
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y		Study examined 18 value chains across five projects				
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		--			Primary Subject		--			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Management Systems International, Inc. (MSI)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Agricultural production, Economic development, Marketing, Prices, Value chains				
				USAID/Pakistan						
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other	
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Main Synthesis Findings		<p>USAID/Pakistan’s Economic Growth and Agriculture (EGA) Office manages a portfolio of 11 projects, 5 of which employ a value chain development approach. EGA commissioned an assessment to determine the relative effectiveness of different value chain approaches in the various contexts in which they are applied by USAID-funded projects and to assess the extent to which EGA policy-oriented projects can or could support projects that work to develop value chains. To this end, the study team identified three approaches used by USAID value chain projects in Pakistan: (1) bottom up, production oriented, (2) bottom up, marketing oriented, and (3) top down, production oriented. The “bottom-up” production-oriented approach has been largely effective across most indicators. Study findings indicated that each of these approaches was successful in relation to the indicators identified for assessing effectiveness, and the report points out the circumstances in which each approach does best. Overall, the study notes that activities focused on women did well in terms of achieving desired results in a value chain context. In addition, research participants from all three approaches reported an absence of government regulations, which impedes their activities. Further, the study team noted, projects using all three approaches have been involved in business-enabling environment issues at various levels to improve value chain development, and their work has resulted in proposed amendments to outdated acts, review of sectoral policies, and suggestions for improving the regulatory frameworks that affect value chain development. Unfortunately, that work has been carried out with little collaboration among EGA’s value chain projects.</p>								

Basic Information Template for USAID Funded Evaluation Syntheses										
Title		Management of the CAADP Program in Ethiopia and Rwanda: A Synthesis of Lessons Learned					Year		2014	
Download Link		https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00K395.pdf					Verified Synthesis		Y	N
									X	
Key Characteristics of Report in DEC (more than one response is possible)								Number of Evaluations or other reports examined		
Meta-Analysis		Meta-Evaluation		Systematic Review		Other type of synthesis (enter description below)				
Y	X	Y		Y				2 case studies		
N		N		N						
Demographics (use DEC coding to respond on country/region/sector/topic)										
Geo Term(s)		Rwanda, Ethiopia			Primary Subject		Food security			
Name of Authoring Organization(s)		Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI)								
Sponsoring Organization(s) Type & Name		Bureau	Office	Mission	DEC Tags	Agricultural production, Coordinating, Economic development, Food security Orphans and vulnerable children (OVC)				
		Food Security								
USAID Role(s) in Synthesis Creation (mark all in which report says USAID staff played an active role)										
Planning		Doc Reviews		Analysis		Report Prep		Dissemination	Other	
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Main Synthesis Findings		<p>This report is a synthesis of findings and lessons on the management of the comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) based on experience from Ethiopia and Rwanda. The purpose of the case studies was to document the structure and processes used by Ethiopia and Rwanda to implement their CAADP National Agricultural Investment Plans (NAIP). The case studies focused on reviewing CAADP management and coordination structures; documenting the processes and tools used to manage the NAIPs; and analyzing what has contributed to the success of the two programs. This overview report contains brief descriptions of the structures and processes used in Ethiopia and Rwanda. This report is organized as follows: an overview of the CAADP process; an overview of the CAADP management structures in Ethiopia and Rwanda; and lessons on what structures and processes have contributed to successful program implementation. An annex – A Presentation of the Comparative Structures and Processes Used to Manage NAIP Implementation in Ethiopia and Rwanda – contains descriptive information on the processes used by each country. More detailed descriptions of each country’s CAADP process can be found in the individual case study reports on Ethiopia and Rwanda. This study was carried out under the USAID/Bureau for Food Security’s Africa Leadership and Capacity Development Project (Africa Lead). Research involved a review of background documentation and interviews with key stakeholders during late May and early June 2012.</p>								