CLA in the Program Cycle

Enabling Conditions













Internal Collaboration

External Collaboration

Technical Evidence Base

Theories of Change

Scenario Planning

M&E for Learning

Adaptive Management

Pause &

Reflect

Openness

Relationships & Networks

Continuous Learning &

Learning & Improvement Knowledge Management

Institutional Memory

Decision Making Mission Resources

CLA in Implementing Mechanisms



Collaborating Internal Collaboration

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Identify and prioritize teams/offices for strategic collaboration.
- 2. Decide how to engage those teams/offices,
- 3. Collaborate with those teams/offices based on decisions reached.



NOT YET ADVANCED EMERGENT EXPANDING INSTITUTIONALIZED PRESENT We usually: -We collaborate with other We consistently and -We are not yet -We sometimes collaborate collaborating with other teams/offices in an ad-hoc with other teams/offices. systematically: -Identify other teams/offices fashion. teams/offices/individuals -Inter-office collaboration is - Identify other who could have the -Information silos are teams/offices/individuals characterized by information greatest impact on planning who could have the common. exchange. and implementation. greatest impact on planning and implementation. -Make decisions about what form collaboration takes to -Make decisions about what increase synergies. form collaboration takes to increase synergies. -Collaborate strategically with those -Collaborate strategically teams/offices/individuals with those based on the decision teams/offices/individuals reached based on the decision reached.





Process

Knowledge Management

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Source various types of knowledge from stakeholders.
- 2. Distill knowledge.
- 3. Share knowledge with stakeholders.



NOT YET PRESENT

- Staff are not yet sourcing, distilling, and/or sharing knowledge.

EMERGENT

In planning and implementation, staff **rarely**:

- Source relevant technical, contextual, and experiential knowledge from key stakeholders.
- Distil knowledge to inform decisions.
- Share knowledge strategically and in userfriendly formats to influence decisions within and outside USAID.

EXPANDING

In planning and implementation staff sometimes:

- Source relevant technical, contextual, and experiential knowledge from key stakeholders.
- Distil knowledge to inform decisions.
- Share knowledge strategically and in userfriendly formats to influence decisions within and outside USAID.

ADVANCED

In planning and implementation staff <u>usually</u>:

- Source relevant technical, contextual, and experiential knowledge from key stakeholders.
- Distil knowledge to inform decisions.
- Share knowledge strategically and in userfriendly formats to influence decisions within and outside USAID.

INSTITUTIONALIZED

In planning and implementation staff consistently and systematically:

- Source relevant technical, contextual, and experiential knowledge from key stakeholders.
- Distil knowledge to inform decisions.
- Share knowledge strategically and in userfriendly formats to influence decisions within and outside USAID.





Culture Continuous Learning & **Improvement**

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Staff take time for learning and reflection.
- 2. Motivation for learning.
- 3. Use of iterative approaches that enable continuous improvement.



NOT YET PRESENT

- Staff are able to focus on learning and reflecting only when working outside of regular working hours.

EMERGENT

Only with certain individuals:

- Make time for their own learning and reflection.
- -Use iterative approaches that enable continuous improvement.

EXPANDING

A minority of mission staff:

- Participate in learning and reflection opportunities.
- Use iterative approaches that enable continuous improvement.
- A majority of staff and implementing partners use iterative approaches that enable continuous improvement.

ADVANCED

- A majority of mission staff participate in learning and reflection opportunities.
- Staff are usually motivated to learn in order to grow professionally and improve organizational effectiveness.

- Staff mission-wide with the support of mission leadership, participate in learning opportunities and capture how they contribute to the organization's effectiveness
- Staff are **consistently** motivated to learn in order to grow professionally and improve organizational effectiveness.
- Mission leadership constantly encourages staff and implementing partners to use iterative approaches that enable continuous improvement.





Culture Openness

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Sense of comfort sharing opinions and ideas.
- 2. Openness to hearing alternative perspectives.
- 3. Willingness to take action on new ideas.



NOT YET PRESENT

- Openness to sharing and hearing alternative perspectives or trying novel approaches is not yet part of mission culture.

EMERGENT

Only with certain individuals:

- -Ask difficult questions or feel able to express unpopular viewpoints.
- -Invite alternative perspectives.
- -Are willing to explore untested or novel ideas.

EXPANDING

A minority of mission staff:

- -Ask difficult questions or feel able to express unpopular viewpoints.
- -Invite alternative perspectives.
- -Are willing to explore untested or novel ideas.

ADVANCED

A majority of mission staff:

- -Ask difficult questions or feel able to express unpopular viewpoints.
- -Invite alternative perspectives.
- -Are willing to explore untested or novel ideas

INSTITUTIONALIZED

Staff <u>mission-wide</u>, <u>with the support of mission</u> <u>leadership</u>, <u>consistently</u>:

- -Ask difficult questions or feel able to express unpopular viewpoints.
- -Invite alternative perspectives.
- -Are willing to explore untested or novel ideas.





Culture Relationships & Networks

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Development of trusting relationships.
- 2. Exchange of up-to-date information.
- 3. Use of networks across the system to expand situational awareness.



NOT YET PRESENT

- Staff are not yet leveraging relationships and networks.

EMERGENT

Only with certain individuals:

- Have strong internal and external relationships and networks based on mutual trust
- Consistently and transparently communicate with a wide range of stakeholders (as appropriate) to exchange up-to-date information and tacit knowledge.
- -Use relationships and networks to remain aware of development across the system that could impact, leverage, or streamline ongoing or future efforts.

EXPANDING

A minority of mission staff:

- Have strong internal and external relationships and networks based on mutual trust
- Consistently and transparently communicate with a wide range of stakeholders (as appropriate) to exchange up-to-date information and tacit knowledge.
- -Use relationships and networks to remain aware of development across the system that could impact, leverage, or streamline ongoing or future efforts.

ADVANCED

A majority of mission staff:

- Have strong internal and external relationships and networks based on mutual trust
- Consistently and transparently communicate with a wide range of stakeholders (as appropriate) to exchange up-to-date information and tacit knowledge.
- -Use relationships and networks to remain aware of development across the system that could impact, leverage, or streamline ongoing or future efforts.

INSTITUTIONALIZED

Staff mission-wide:

- Have strong internal and external relationships and networks based on mutual trust
- Consistently and transparently communicate with a wide range of stakeholders (as appropriate) to exchange up-to-date information and tacit knowledge.
- -Use relationships and networks to remain aware of development across the system that could impact, leverage, or streamline ongoing or future efforts.





Process Institutional Memory

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Access institutional knowledge.
- 2. Staff transitions.
- 3. Contributions of Foreign Service Nationals (FSNs) to institutional memory.



NOT YET PRESENT

- We do not yet have systems or processes in place to maintain institutional memory.

EMERGENT

- -We have knowledge management system(s) that are <u>not in use</u>.
- Transition and onboarding processes are <u>articulated but</u> not implemented.

EXPANDING

- Mission staff <u>use</u> a knowledge management system for daily operational needs and <u>basic access to</u> institutional knowledge.
- <u>Ad hoc</u> knowledge transfer between incoming and outgoing staff depends largely on individual initiative.
- FSNs <u>sometimes</u> play a role in maintaining knowledge and continuity.

ADVANCED

- -Mission staff and relevant stakeholders are able to access needed information and knowledge.
- Departing and/or current staff <u>usually</u> transfer mission knowledge, understand of the local context, and key relationships to incoming staff.
- FSNs are <u>usually</u> valued as a source of institutional knowledge and <u>encouraged</u> <u>to contribute</u> to staff onboarding and transition processes.

- -Mission staff and relevant stakeholders are able to <u>easily</u> access up-to-date information and knowledge in a <u>timely</u> manner.
- Departing and/or current staff <u>systematically</u> transfer mission knowledge, understand of the local context, and key relationships to incoming staff.
- FSNs are <u>consistently</u> valued as a source of institutional knowledge and encouraged to contribute to staff onboarding and transition processes.



COLLABORATING

Collaborating **External Collaboration**

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Identify and prioritize key stakeholders for strategic collaboration.
- 2. Decide how to engage key stakeholders.
- 3. Collaborate with key stakeholders based on decisions reached.



NOT YET PRESENT

-We are not yet collaborating with stakeholders.

EMERGENT

- -Analysis of stakeholders is informal and undocumented.
- -We collaborate with stakeholders in an <u>ad hoc</u> <u>fashion</u>.
- -Stakeholders are <u>informed</u> of USAID plans and/or interventions

EXPANDING

- -Planning processes sometimes include a stakeholder analysis.
- -We collaborate with host government counterparts and/or implementing partners <u>under specific agreements</u>.
- -Collaboration with additional stakeholders is limited to **consultations/information gathering** to inform USAID decisions.

ADVANCED

We <u>usually:</u>

- -Use <u>stakeholder analysis</u> to identify and prioritize stakeholders.
- -Make decisions about what form collaboration takes to increase synergies, which could include encouraging collaboration among partners when relevant.
- -Collaborate strategically with key stakeholders based on the decision reached.

INSTITUTIONALIZED

We <u>consistently and</u> <u>systematically:</u>

- Use stakeholder analysis to identify and prioritize stakeholders.
- -Make decisions about what form collaboration takes to increase synergies which includes requiring collaboration among partners when relevant.
- -Collaborate strategically with those key stakeholders based on the decision reached.



Learning Technical Evidence Base

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Track the technical evidence base.
- 2. Apply the technical evidence base in planning and implementation.
- 3. Contribute to/expand the technical evidence base.



NOT YET PRESENT

-We are not familiar with the technical evidence base.

EMERGENT

- -We informally track the existing technical evidence base.
- -We have identified <u>some</u> knowledge gaps.

EXPANDING

- -We primarily track and use previous evaluation reports to identify implications for programming.
- -We fill knowledge gaps using <u>informal or ad hoc</u> <u>approaches</u>.

ADVANCED

We <u>usually:</u>

- -Track the existing technical evidence base, including up-to-date research and subject matter expertise generated by USAID and others
- -Use a mix of relevant knowledge types and sources to identify implications and inform strategy, projects, and/or activities.
- activities.
 -Fill gaps and contribute new knowledge to the evidence base through a mix of knowledge synthesis, research, piloting/experimentation and evaluation.

INSTITUTIONALIZED

We consistently and systematically:

- -Track the existing technical evidence base, including up-to-date research and subject matter expertise generated by USAID and others.
- -Use a mix of relevant knowledge types and sources to identify implications and inform strategy, projects, and/or activities.
- -Fill gaps and contribute new knowledge to the evidence base through a mix of knowledge synthesis, research, piloting/experimentation and evaluation



Learning Theories of Change

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Quality theories of change.
- 2. Testing and exploration of theories of change
- 3. Awareness among stakeholders about theories of change and the learning that results from testing them.



NOT YET PRESENT

-We have not yet developed a theory of change.

EMERGENT

-Theories of change typically describe activities already in place.

EXPANDING

- -Logical theories of change are developed based on an understanding of existing technical evidence, and assumptions are identified.
- -Some aspects of theories of change are <u>tested through</u> <u>evaluations</u>.
- -Theories of change are shared and understood among a limited number of staff and key stakeholders.

ADVANCED

- -Logical theories of change are developed based on an understanding of the con tex and relevant analyses as well as technical evidence.
- -We regularly text and explore prioritized theories and their assumptions using a <u>variety of learning</u> <u>approaches</u> beyond evaluations
- -Theories of change are widely shared and understood by the majority of staff and stakeholders.

INSTITUTIONALIZED

We systematically:

- -Develop logical theories of change with sufficient stakeholder input and based on an understanding of the context, relevant analyses, and existing technical evidence.
- -Test and explore theories of change and their assumptions to <u>modify</u> <u>theories</u> (as needed) based on results.
- -<u>Use and share</u> learning from testing theories of change to inform USAID's other stakeholders' planning and implementation.



Learning Scenario Planning

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Identify risks and opportunities through scenario planning.
- 2. Monitor trends related to scenarios.
- 3. Respond to apply learning from monitoring.



NOT YET PRESENT -We have not yet participated in scenario planning.

-We informally ask big picture 'what if?' questions.

EXPANDING

- -We <u>ask and document</u> big picture 'what if?' questions.
- -We <u>informally monitor trends</u> related to those questions.

ADVANCED

- -We <u>regularly</u> monitor trends related to those scenarios.
- -Monitoring of scenarios often informs planning and implementation.

- -We consistently develop scenario narratives, identifying early warning signals for anticipated risks and opportunities.
- -We <u>systematically</u> monitor trends related to scenarios.
- -We use early warning signals to respond to context changes in **real time**.



Learning M&E for Learning

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Relevance of monitoring data to decision making.
- 2. Design and conduct evaluations to inform ongoing and future programming.
- 3. Align monitoring, evaluation, and learning efforts across the strategy, project and activity levels.



NOT YET PRESENT

-M&E efforts are implemented primarily for meeting reporting requirements.

EMERGENT

- -Monitoring data is generally disconnected from decisionmaking.
- -Required evaluations identify new and relevant information.

EXPANDING

- -Monitoring data is sometimes relevant and of sufficient rigor to inform decision-making.
- -We use evaluation findings to <u>inform future</u> activities or projects.

ADVANCED

- -We <u>usually</u> identify and collect <u>good-quality</u>, credible monitoring data that informs decision making.
- -We <u>regularly</u> design and conduct evaluations to inform <u>ongoing and future</u> programming.
- -We intentionally design M&E efforts so resulting learning can be aggregated <u>across projects and/or activities</u> to inform design and implementation decisions.

- -We <u>consistently prioritize</u> and collect <u>high-quality</u>, credible monitoring data that informs decision making.
- -We design and conduct timely evaluations to inform ongoing and future programming.
- -We intentionally design M&E efforts so resulting learning can be aggregated across projects and/or activities and feeds up to inform achievement of mission-level results.



Adapting Pause & Reflect

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Variety and purpose of pause and reflect (P&R) opportunities.
- 2. Timeliness of P&R opportunities to inform decision-making.
- 3. Quality of P&R moments.



NOT YET PRESENT

-We have not yet participated in P&R opportunities.

EMERGENT

- We participate in required annual portfolio review and CDCS mid-course stocktaking for accountability and reporting purposes.
- -Partner meeting are <u>rare</u> and <u>provide information</u> to implementing partners.
- -Additional P&R opportunities might be identified but are <u>not acted upon</u>.

EXPANDING

- We participate in portfolio reviews and <u>ad hoc partner meetings</u> focused primarily on <u>activity-level learning</u> as well as CDCS mid-course stocktaking.
- -P&R activities are <u>not</u> <u>aligned</u> to design and implementation schedules.
- -P&R activities are characterized by information dissemination and <u>basic knowledge</u> <u>exchange</u>.

ADVANCED

We <u>usually</u>:

- -Host and attend a <u>variety of</u> relevant P&R activities to reflect on progress and learning to date.
- -Hold P&R activities to feed into design and implementation schedules so learning is generated when it is most usable.
- -Facilitate P&R activities for staff and relevant stakeholders, using a variety of participatory approaches to encourage candid conversation.

INSTITUTIONALIZED

-We <u>consistently and</u> <u>systematically</u>:

- -Host and attend a variety of relevant P&R activities to reflect on progress and learning to date.
- -Hold P&R activities to feed into design and implementation schedules so learning is generated when it is most usable.
- -Facilitate P&R activities for staff and relevant stakeholders, using a variety of participatory approaches to encourage candid conversation.



Adapting Adaptive Management

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Variety and purpose of pause and reflect (P&R) opportunities.
- 2. Inform decision-making.
- 3. Follow through on decisions reached to manage adaptively.



NOT YET PRESENT

 -We have not yet identified opportunities to apply learning or course corrections.

EMERGENT

- We work with partners to identify successes, challenges, and subjects that warrant further exploration at the activity level.

EXPANDING

We work with partners to:

- -Identify successes, challenges, and subjects that warrant further exploration at the activity level.
- -Using learning to <u>inform</u> <u>activity-level decisions</u> on maintaining or adapting current approaches.
- -Sometimes take action based on decisions rached, consulting with key colleagues in the mission as needed.

ADVANCED

We <u>usually</u>:

- -Work with key internal and external stakeholders to analyze successes, challenges, and failures to identify lessons learned and subjects that warrant further exploration.
- -Use learning to inform decisions on maintaining, adapting, or <u>discontinuing</u> current approaches.
- -Work with key colleagues in the mission and Washington bureaus (as appropriate) to take action to <u>adopt</u> <u>strategy, projects, and/or</u> <u>activities</u> accordingly.

INSTITUTIONALIZED

-We consistently and systematically:

- -Work with key internal and external stakeholders to analyze successes, challenges, and failures to identify lessons learned and subjects that warrant further exploration.
- -Use learning to inform decisions on maintaining, adapting, or discontinuing current approaches.
- -Work with key colleagues in the mission and Washington bureaus (as appropriate) to take action to adopt strategy, projects, and/or activities accordingly.



Process Decision-Making

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Awareness of decision-making processes.
- 2. Autonomy to make decisions.
- 3. Appropriate stakeholder involvement in decision-making.



NOT YET PRESENT

 We do not yet have clarity around decision making processes or authority.

EMERGENT

- Only certain mission staff and implementing partners understand programmatic decision making processes or the <u>scope of their own</u> <u>autonomy</u>.
- Rationale for decisions taken is <u>rarely documented</u> <u>and only shared with</u> <u>stakeholders after the fact.</u>

EXPANDING

- A <u>minority</u> of mission staff and implementing partners understanding decisionmaking processes at the mission.
- The level of autonomy staff have to make decisions about their own work <u>differs</u> <u>according to the teams and</u> <u>individuals</u> involved.
- FSNs <u>sometimes</u> play a role in maintaining knowledge and continuity.

ADVANCED

- -The <u>majority</u> of mission staff and implementing partners understand decision-making processes.
- Staff are <u>usually</u> granted an appropriate level of autonomy to make decisions about their work.
- Decisions are <u>usually</u> made after soliciting input from <u>appropriate internal and external</u> stakeholders and the rationale is documented and shared with them.

- -The <u>process</u> for making decisions is <u>fully transparent</u>.
- Staff are **consistently** granted an appropriate level of autonomy to make decisions about their work.
- Decisions are <u>consistently</u> made after soliciting input from appropriate internal and external stakeholders, and the rationale is documented and shared with them.



Resources Mission Resources

KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Roles and responsibilities vis a vis CLA.
- 2. Professional development of CLA.
- 3. Procurement of CLA support.



NOT YET PRESENT

- We are not yet leveraging financial and human resources to support CLA integration throughout the program cycle.

EMERGENT

- The missions <u>M&E specialists</u> are responsible for CLA.
- Only a few individuals are trained and recognized for CLA-related knowledge and skills.

EXPANDING

- The mission M&E specialist(s) and points of contact from technical offices are responsible for CLA.
- A minority of staff are trained in and recognized for CLA-related knowledge and skills.
- The mission has <u>support</u> <u>mechanism(s)</u> with some elements related to CLA.

ADVANCED

- -The mission has <u>CLA points</u> <u>of contact</u> in the program office and across the technical offices.
- A <u>majority</u> of staff are trained and recognized for CLA-related knowledge and skills.
- The mission <u>procures</u> <u>mechanisms</u> to support CLA.

- Staff <u>mission-wide</u> incorporate CLA into their <u>scope and workload</u> and there are identified CLA champions throughout the mission who coordinate efforts with the program office.
- Staff <u>mission-wide</u> are trained in and recognized for CLA-related knowledge and skills.
- The mission procures and uses tailored support to promote effective CLA.



KEY CONCEPTS

- 1. Mechanism type and scope enables CLA.
- 2. Budgeting.
- 3. Staff compensation and skills.

Resources

CLA in Implementing Mechanisms



NOT YET PRESENT

- Implementing mechanisms are not yet supporting CLA integration.

EMERGENT

Staff rarely:

- Use mechanism types and scopes that enable CLA integration during implementation.
- Allocate and/or approve mechanism resources to support CLA integration
- Request and/or approve key personnel with the capacity in adaptive management and other CLA-related skills.

EXPANDING

Staff sometimes:

- Use mechanism types and scopes that enable CLA integration during implementation.
- Allocate and/or approve mechanism resources to support CLA integration
- Request and/or approve key personnel with the capacity in adaptive management and other CLA-related skills.

ADVANCED

Staff usually:

- Allocate and/or approve mechanism resources to support CLA integration
- Request and/or approve key personnel with the capacity in adaptive management and other CLA-related skills.

INSTITUTIONALIZED

Staff consistently and systematically:

- Use mechanism types and scopes that enable CLA integration during implementation.
- Allocate and/or approve mechanism resources to support CLA integration
- Request and/or approve key personnel with the capacity in adaptive management and other CLA-related skills.