



DRG Annual Learning Forum

Four Sessions: March 16, 17, 23, 24
Coffee Chats: March 18, 25

The **DRG Learning Forum** is an annual event supporting the generation, curation and dissemination of evidence related to areas of interest to the DRG Cadre.

This event took place over **four sessions**:

- Session 1: Supporting Effective Women's Political Empowerment: An Evidence-Based Approach
 - *Wednesday, March 16, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. ET*
- Session 2: Culture of Justice: A Case for Social and Behavioral Change
 - *Thursday, March 17, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. ET*
- Session 3: Countering Authoritarianism in the Digital Realm: Challenges and Opportunities
 - *Wednesday, March 23, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. ET*
- Session 4: Amplifying Evidence in our DRG Programming
 - *Thursday, March 24, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. ET*

In addition, there were four optional **coffee chats** to debrief each week's sessions:

- Sessions 1 & 2 Coffee Chats
 - *Friday, March 18, 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. ET*
- Sessions 3 & 4 Coffee Chats
 - *Friday, March 25, 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. ET*



Session 1:

Supporting Effective Women's Political Empowerment: An Evidence-Based Approach

Wednesday, March 16, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. ET

This session shared reflections from [the New Women's Political Participation and Leadership \(WPPL\) Assessment Framework and Instruments](#). Participants heard a quick introduction to the full set of tools, a discussion of the pilot process in three USAID Missions along with a reflection on the lessons learned during the development process. Attendees also heard about the multiple ways in which the assessment information can be used to inform program design and decisions.

Speakers:

- Julie Denham, USAID, DRG Center
- Zoe Grotophorst, WPPL Assessment Lead, NORC
- Amanda Clayton, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Vanderbilt University
- Alpha Luyoyo, Senior DRG & CMM Advisor, USAID/Guinea

[Session 1 Recording](#)



Session 2:

Culture of Justice: A Case for Social and Behavioral Change

Thursday, March 17, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. ET

This session explored how the DRG sector can integrate social and behavior change (SBC) strategies to better design and implement programming by understanding individual's capabilities, opportunities, and motivations. The core of a well functioning justice system are the individuals working within the justice institutions and those who use institutions to meet their needs; SBC strategies have offered new promise to improve the effectiveness and sustainability of our work. In this session, we drew on the 15-year achievement analysis of rule of law programming and on two examples from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Kosovo where social and behavioral approaches have been leveraged. We also presented a recently released SBC Primer for the DRG sector, and an explanation of the theoretical and practical applications of this approach.

Speakers:

- Golnoosh Hakimdavar, USAID, DRG Center
- Agathe Tshimpanga, USAID/DRC
- Laura Van Berkel, Democracy International
- Levi Adelman, USAID, DRG Center

[Session 2 Recording](#)



Coffee Chats for Sessions 1 & 2:

Friday, March 18, 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. ET

These two concurrent, 30-minute coffee chats explored the topics addressed in Sessions 1 and 2. Session moderators facilitated the conversation, and attendees had the opportunity to ask questions, discuss common challenges, and share reflections with like-interested colleagues.



Session 3:

Countering Authoritarianism in the Digital Realm: Challenges and Opportunities

Wednesday, March 23, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. ET.

As President Biden noted as he opened the 2021 Summit for Democracy, “[Autocrats] seek to advance their own power, export and expand their influence around the world, and justify their repressive policies and practices as a more efficient way to address today’s challenges.” Authoritarianism has evolved and now uses the power of technology to further its goals. This session focused on sharing key findings and insights from two separate products: [a literature review](#) that summarizes key findings from the academic and gray literatures on the use of digital tools by authoritarian regimes and two USIP Special Reports ([July 2021](#) and [February 2022](#)) commissioned by USAID that examine how use of newer and emergent technologies affects nonviolent action campaigns and how activists are making adaptations to this new reality.

Speakers:

- Jonathan Pinckney, United States Institute for Peace
- Erica Frantz, Michigan State University
- Lorri Anne Meils, USAID, DRG Center
- Garth Willis, USAID/ITR (formerly USAID/Ukraine)

Session 3 Recording

Session 3 Slides



Session 4:

Amplifying Evidence in our DRG Programming

Thursday, March 24, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m. ET

The state of evidence to support DRG programming is growing, but how do we ensure this evidence informs our DRG programming? This session focused on two recent studies that explored obstacles and opportunities to ensure greater evidence use. The Utilization Measurement and Analysis (UMA) study focused on how a sample of over forty USAID commissioned DRG studies had been used to inform decision-making. The DRG Mission Use of Evidence (MUSE) study examined how Missions used research evidence more broadly to inform activity designs. Together, they provided critical insights into how USAID could continue to be a learning organization in the DRG sector.

Speakers:

- Robert Gerstein and Aleta Starosta, Cloudburst
- Miriam Counterman, Cloudburst and Ben Morse, Social Impact
- Anna Kuznetsova, USAID/Kosovo
- Beatrice Renaud, USAID Washington (formerly USAID/Nigeria)

Session 4 Recording

Session 4 Slides



Coffee Chats for Sessions 3 & 4:

Friday, March 25, 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. ET

These two concurrent, 30-minute coffee chats explored the topics addressed in Sessions 3 and 4. Session moderators facilitated the conversation, and attendees had the opportunity to ask questions, discuss common challenges, and share reflections with like-interested colleagues.