1 Table of Contents
2 Introduction
3 Letter from SID-Washington
4 FY 2020 Workgroup Co-Chairs
5 Event Calendar
6 Event Summary
8 Contact Us
The SID-W Policy & Learning Workgroup is a group of international development professionals actively engaged in issues related to evidence-based policy making, such as adaptive management, data and analytics, strategic policy and planning, project management, and M&E and learning. With events ranging from how leaders make decisions to how to analyze, document, and apply learning, this workgroup aims to inform and influence the ongoing dialogue regarding the evolving practices of policy development, strategic planning, and program design and implementation.
Dear Members of the Policy and Learning Workgroup,

Our Fiscal Year 2020 was unusual for us, as it was for so many, ending during a global pandemic. This certainly affected our ability to deliver programming, but the Workgroup was still able to hold one productive event: Policy & Learning Workgroup Planning Meeting.

We would like to thank former Co-Chair Jake Grover (MCC). He helped us put on many fantastic events during his tenure. We wish him the best in his future endeavors. We welcomed Emily Janoch (CARE USA) and Lane Pollack (USAID) as the new Co-Chairs. We are excited to work with them over the next few years.

Now that we have mastered the art of virtual programming, we look forward to offering more events accessible to a wider audience and providing an even more dynamic community for interaction. We hope to see you at some of our upcoming events. You can see all of our programs on our website – and please check back often as we add new ones regularly.

Thank you for your interest in and support of SID-Washington’s Workgroups. If you have questions, comments or ideas, please send an email to events@sidw.org.

Best regards,

Katherine Raphaelson

Paul A. Sherman
Lane Pollack is a Senior Learning Advisor with USAID’s Bureau for Policy, Planning and Learning (PPL). She serves on the Collaborating, Learning and Adapting (CLA) team in the Office of Learning, Evaluation and Research (LER). In this role, she provides direct Mission support and collaborates with regional and technical bureaus to help teams integrate CLA practices into their programming and operations. Lane contributes to PPL-led as well as other technical trainings, resources and engagements to advance CLA across the Agency and engages with US-based partner institutions to share and learn from Agency-wide approaches and the broader development community in areas related to organizational learning and Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL).

Through previous positions in NGO’s and consulting, Lane brings experience designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating USAID (and other) funded programs focusing on private sector development, as well as hands-on experience in corporate training, project management and business administration. She holds MBA degrees from the University of Texas and Pontificia Universidad de Católica in Santiago, Chile.

Emily Janoch is the Director for Knowledge Management and Learning for CARE USA focusing on ways to better learn from and share implementation experiences on eradicating poverty through empowering women and girls in order to improve impact. She is an expert in designing systems to capture and share information across many sources. With four-years of on-the-ground experience in West Africa and academic publications on community engagement and the human element in food security in Africa, she is especially interested in community-lead development. Her work focuses on making sure that communities can engage in their own development for sustainable, appropriate results. She is fluent in French and Dogon, and has experience in food security, nutrition, health, governance, and gender programming. Her work on holding NGOs accountable to community needs and creating local capacity has been presented at Harvard, Imperial College London, and USAID seminars on USAID Forward. She has a BA in International Studies from the University of Chicago, and a Masters’ in Public Policy in Internationals and Global Affairs from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Full bios can be found at https://sidw.org/workgroups/policy-learning.
FY 2020 WORKGROUP CO-CHAIRS

Jacob Grover
Senior Policy Advisor, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)

Jake Grover is a Senior Policy Advisor at the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) in the Department of Policy and Evaluation. Jake previously worked at USAID in the Bureau of Policy, Planning, and Learning’s Office of Policy. He originally joined USAID as a Presidential Management Fellow and completed details at the MCC and in the Department of Treasury’s Office of African Nations as an International Economist. Before working as a Researcher at the Center for Global Development, he was an Economist at the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Jake received a Master of Public Policy in International Policy and Development from Georgetown University and a B.S. in Economics and a B.A. in Political Science and International Relations from The Ohio State University.

Full bios can be found at https://sidw.org/workgroups/policy-learning.
Wednesday, January 8, 2020
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM ET | SID-Washington
Policy & Learning Workgroup Planning Meeting
Policy & Learning Workgroup Planning Meeting

Workgroup Co-Chairs: 
**Jacob Grover**, Senior Policy Advisor, Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) 
**Emily Janoch**, Director, Knowledge Management and Learning, CARE USA

**Event Description:** The Policy & Learning Workgroup met on Wednesday, January 8, 2020 at 5:00 PM to plan events for the group in the next year. In recent months, the group organized events on topics such as KM Programs from Creation to Maturity and The Quest for the “Holy Grail” of Development Impact.

**Key Takeaways:**

**Meeting Agenda**

I. Welcome and Introductions

II. Themes

III. Audience

IV. Prioritize

V. Platform

I. Welcome and Introductions

Former Co-Chairs Jake Grover and Current Co-Chair Emily Janoch began the meeting by introducing themselves and orienting the participants to the agenda. The participants were then asked to introduce themselves as well as speak to two questions: 1) What are some challenges faced at your organization? 2) What resources can you bring to the table?

Key responses to the first question include: inconsistent baseline information tracking, procedures that can be limiting (such as set timelines), and being a smaller organization or having a small company mindset.

II. Themes

Following introductions, the Co-Chairs opened the discussion to consider themes that would be particularly relevant to Policy & Learning.

1. Evidence to action and the application of lessons
   a. Usability of knowledge and information

2. Breaking down silos across the organization to foster conversations
   a. Translating across different functions

3. Establishing learning habits
   a. Understanding the different scales of success and implementation
   b. Organizational maturity
   c. Addressing how learning is locally owned
      i. Reliability of knowledge, making assumptions on how we receive or process information socialization of knowledge
      ii. Resisting the big influencers and the socially contagious
      iii. Credibility vs. Popularity or Familiarity

III. Audience

After key themes were identified, the conversation shifted to determine who the target audience might be, or who might the Workgroup involve in further discussions, as well as what the participants would like to see.

1. Engaging policy makers, leaders in own organizations, donors
   a. Making the connections to broadcast and spread the knowledge

2. Engaging with both success and failure; reframing the conversation of success versus failure, not being a dichotomy but a combination of both
   a. Discussions on success should include details of how such was achieved
   b. Recognition that stories of failure are also helpful and enlightening

3. Translating across different functions
   a. Using the right language to communicate the ideas
IV. Prioritize

1. Applying lessons learned
   a. Making sure that learning is locally owned and locally relevant
   b. Collaborative and organizational learning

2. Usability of data and information being gathered
   a. What is the voice of the “client”?
   b. Engaging with the policy-makers
   c. In what format is information consumed?

V. Platform

In the final minutes of the meeting, the Co-Chairs highlighted the fact that the Planning Meeting occurs only about once a year. With this in mind, the group was asked How can we stay connected and engaged?

The group decided to connect with the KM Community of DC LinkedIn group and address any follow-up questions to the Co-chairs.
SID-Washington Programming Staff

Katherine Raphaelson - President
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Paul A. Sherman - Director of Programs
psherman@sidw.org

FY 2020 Workgroup Co-Chairs

Emily Janoch - CARE USA

Lane Pollack - USAID

Jacob Grover - Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC)

Photo Credit

Paul A. Sherman - Director of Programs

Acknowledgement

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