

Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting¹ (CLA) Case Competition² Submission Form

Privacy Notice: The Office of Learning, Evaluation, and Research administers the Collaborating, Learning, and Adapting (CLA) Case Competition to learn from the experiences colleagues are having applying CLA approaches to their work. The submissions will be uploaded to a database that will be available to the public on the USAID Learning Lab website. The CLA Case Competition is entirely voluntary. When filling out the narrative questions, please do not include personally identifiable information. For questions, please contact learning@usaid.gov

[Case] Title:

Name:

Organization:

Summary:

Q1: WHAT-What is the general context in which the case takes place? What organizational or development challenge(s) or opportunities prompted you to collaborate, learn, and/or adapt?

Q2: Which subcomponents³ are most clearly reflected in your case?

- *Internal Collaboration⁴*
- *External Collaboration⁵*
- *Technical Evidence Base⁶*
- *Theories of Change⁷*
- *Scenario Planning⁸*
- *Monitoring and Evaluation for Learning⁹*
- *Pause and Reflect¹⁰*
- *Adaptive Management¹¹*

¹ CLA: a set of systematic and intentional practices that help improve development effectiveness. Strategic collaboration, continuous learning, and adaptive management link together all components of the Program Cycle.

² USAID hosts an annual competition wherein USAID staff and partners submit examples in how CLA approaches are used to strengthen organizational learning and development results.

³ The CLA Framework identifies components and subcomponents to help USAID staff and partners think more deliberately about what CLA approach applies to their context and situation.

⁴ Identify and prioritize other teams/offices for strategic collaboration.

⁵ Identify and prioritize key stakeholders for strategic collaboration

⁶ Track the technical evidence base in the relevant area(s) of work

⁷ Comprehensive description, illustration and tracking of how and why a desired change will occur in a particular context.

⁸ Identify risks and opportunities through scenario planning

⁹ Ensure monitoring data is relevant to decision-making

¹⁰ Take time to analyze and discuss information relevant to decision-making or broader issues relevant to the operating environment

¹¹ Analyze and act on learning from implementation and/or pause and reflect opportunities

- *Openness*¹²
- *Relationships and Networks*¹³
- *Continuous Learning and Improvement*¹⁴
- *Knowledge Management*¹⁵
- *Institutional Memory*¹⁶
- *Decision Making*¹⁷
- *Mission Resources*¹⁸
- *CLA in Implementing Mechanisms*¹⁹

Q3: HOW: What steps did you take to apply CLA approaches to address the challenge or opportunity described above?

Q4: ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT- How has CLA affected your team and/or organization? If it's too early to tell, what effects do you expect to see in the future?

Or

Q4: DEVELOPMENT IMPACT- How has using a CLA approach contributed to your development outcomes? What evidence can you provide?

Q5: How have enabling conditions²⁰- resources (time/money/staff), organizational culture, or business/work processes- influenced your results? How would you advise others to navigate the challenges you may have faced?

Q6: Does your [dropdown: case, submission] address [drop down box: an administration priority, a policy priority]?

¹² Sense of comfort sharing opinions and ideas

¹³ Develop trusting networks within which information exchange occurs

¹⁴ Staff take time for learning and reflection

¹⁵ Source various types of knowledge from stakeholders

¹⁶ Access to institutional knowledge

¹⁷ Awareness of decision-making processes

¹⁸ Clear roles and responsibilities vis-a-vis CLA

¹⁹ Contracts and grants awarded by USAID include resources of CLA activities.

²⁰ How an organization's culture, business processes, and resource allocation support CLA integration.