Information Ecosystem Theme Team Update

mabaker@usaid.gov Matthew Baker Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 4:23:20 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: dparzik@usaid.gov Diana Parzik, dsabet@usaid.gov Daniel Sabet, jaford@usaid.gov Jared Ford, jmachleder@usaid.gov Joshua Machleder, lpoggiali@usaid.gov Lisa Poggiali, mmcnulty@usaid.gov Michael McNulty, moholmes@usaid.gov Morgan Holmes

HI All,

Thanks to all those who attended yesterday's conversation. We discussed the feedback from the DRG Cadre as well as ensuring the question remains open and broad to not second guess the results. We wanted to suggest the following question formulation with three subquestions. We have also updated the document with a revised rationale statement.

- What factors influence the information ecosystem related to disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
  - What factors influence the susceptibility to believing and sharing disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
  - What factors influence the supply of disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
  - What enabling environmental factors influence both?

Can you please share any final suggested edits by **Monday November 22nd COB**. I will concurrently work on a draft scope and invite you to a scoping discussion after Thanksgiving.

Many thanks again.

Best,
Matt

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

Any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy.

---

jmachleder@usaid.gov Joshua Machleder Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 9:33:22 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: mabaker@usaid.gov Matthew Baker
Cc: dparzik@usaid.gov Diana Parzik, dsabet@usaid.gov Daniel Sabet, jaford@usaid.gov Jared Ford, lpoggiali@usaid.gov Lisa Poggiali, mmcnulty@usaid.gov Michael McNulty, moholmes@usaid.gov Morgan Holmes

Hi Matt -- just wanted to chime in here, since unfortunately I wasn't able to be present for the discussion; but Lisa and I had a side chat. We should be mindful that Global Engagement Center at State produces an index (I believe it's Global Disinformation Resilience Index) that looks at a range of factors to understand a country's susceptibility. That is somewhat similar to the factors listed here (specifically when talking about the environment level/country level, but *not* the individual level. I am certain that my colleagues on this distro have been exposed to that tool, so I just want to be certain that we incorporate the learnings from that and are not duplicative of existing efforts.
Best, Josh

On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 1:21 AM Matthew Baker <mabaker@usaid.gov> wrote:

> HI All,
>
> Thanks to all those who attended yesterday's conversation. We discussed the feedback from the DRG Cadre as well as ensuring the question remains open and broad to not second guess the results. We wanted to suggest the following question formulation with three subquestions. We have also updated the document with a revised rationale statement.

[redacted]

- What factors influence the information ecosystem related to disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
  - What factors influence the susceptibility to believing and sharing disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
  - What factors influence the supply of disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
  - What enabling environmental factors influence both?

Can you please share any final suggested edits by **Monday November 22nd COB**. I will concurrently work on a draft scope and invite you to a scoping discussion after Thanksgiving.

Many thanks again.

Best,
Matt

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

Any views or opinions expressed in this e mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy

--
Josh Machleder (*he / him/ his*)
Senior Media and Internet Freedom Advisor
USAID | Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
[redacted]
Email:jmachleder@usaid.gov

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

---

dparzik@usaid.gov Diana Parzik Friday, November 19, 2021 at 2:27:30 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: jmachleder@usaid.gov Joshua Machleder
Cc: mabaker@usaid.gov Matthew Baker, dsabet@usaid.gov Daniel Sabet, jaford@usaid.gov Jared Ford, lpoggiali@usaid.gov Lisa Poggiali, mmcnulty@usaid.gov Michael McNulty, moholmes@usaid.gov Morgan Holmes

Matt-

Thanks for pulling this together, I think we're on the home stretch. The GEC's program is the Digital Disinfo Index (DDI) and I'm happy to pull folks together so we can integrate that work into this research.

I added a few comments below Josh's in the questions, mostly minor tweaks (e.g. including mal-information where we just reference mis- and dis) and also language on 'building resilience'. In the IIR R&D meeting this morning, Mary Beth and Brian intentionally flagged the NSM LOE on 'building resilience' and the research gap we have in that space. I think this is mostly covered by question 3.

Also, I put some comments in about further clarification for question 5 on 'non-democratic actors'.

Thanks,
Diana

On Thu, Nov 18, 2021 at 9:33 PM Joshua Machleder <jmachleder@usaid.gov> wrote:

[redacted]

Hi Matt -- just wanted to chime in here, since unfortunately I wasn't able to be present for the discussion; but Lisa and I had a side chat. We should be mindful that Global Engagement Center at State produces an index (I believe it's Global Disinformation Resilience Index) that looks at a range of factors to understand a country's susceptibility. That is somewhat similar to the factors listed here (specifically when talking about the environment level/country level, but *not* the individual level. I am certain that my colleagues on this distro have been exposed to that tool, so I just want to be certain that we incorporate the learnings from that and are not duplicative of existing efforts.
Best, Josh

On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 1:21 AM Matthew Baker <mabaker@usaid.gov> wrote:

HI All,

Thanks to all those who attended yesterday's conversation. We discussed the feedback from the DRG Cadre as well as ensuring the question remains open and broad to not second guess the results. We wanted to suggest the following question formulation with three subquestions. We have also updated the document with a revised rationale statement.

- What factors influence the information ecosystem related to disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
  - What factors influence the susceptibility to believing and sharing disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
  - What factors influence the supply of disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
  - What enabling environmental factors influence both?

Can you please share any final suggested edits by **Monday November 22nd COB**. I will concurrently work on a draft scope and invite you to a scoping discussion after Thanksgiving.

Many thanks again.

Best,
Matt

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

Any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy.

--
Josh Machleder (*he / him/ his*)
Senior Media and Internet Freedom Advisor
USAID | Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
[redacted]
Email:jmachleder@usaid.gov

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

--
Diana J. Parzik
Counter-Disinformation Coordinator
Democracy Resiliency and Innovation (DRI)
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
U.S. Agency for International Development - **USAID**

[redacted]

---

mabaker@usaid.gov Matthew Baker Friday, November 19, 2021 at 4:27:09 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: dparzik@usaid.gov Diana Parzik
Cc: jmachleder@usaid.gov Joshua Machleder, dsabet@usaid.gov Daniel Sabet, jaford@usaid.gov Jared Ford, lpoggiali@usaid.gov Lisa Poggiali, mmcnulty@usaid.gov Michael McNulty, moholmes@usaid.gov Morgan Holmes

Thanks for all the comments and reflections. I did a quick look but wanted to flag that at this point we should ideally focus on the first - prioritized - learning question. The remaining questions are here for reference and of course we can improve upon.
I am going to take note of these points too as we transition to thinking of scoping research as these points should be considered when we scope and researchers eventually craft a concept.
Many thanks.
Best,
Matt

On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 2:28 PM Diana Parzik <dparzik@usaid.gov> wrote:

> Matt-
>
> Thanks for pulling this together, I think we're on the home stretch. The GEC's program is the Digital Disinfo Index (DDI) and I'm happy to pull folks together so we can integrate that work into this research.
>
> I added a few comments below Josh's in the questions, mostly minor tweaks (e.g. including mal-information where we just reference mis- and dis) and also language on 'building resilience'. In the IIR R&D meeting this morning, Mary Beth and Brian intentionally flagged the NSM LOE on 'building resilience' and the research gap we have in that space. I think this is mostly covered by question 3.
>
> Also, I put some comments in about further clarification for question 5 on 'non-democratic actors'.
>
> Thanks,
> Diana
>
> On Thu, Nov 18, 2021 at 9:33 PM Joshua Machleder <jmachleder@usaid.gov> wrote:
>
> > Hi Matt -- just wanted to chime in here, since unfortunately I wasn't able to be present for the discussion; but Lisa and I had a side chat. We should be mindful that Global Engagement Center at State produces an index (I believe it's Global Disinformation Resilience Index) that looks at a range of factors to understand a country's susceptibility. That is somewhat similar to the factors listed here (specifically when talking about the environment level/country level, but *not* the individual level. I am certain that my colleagues on this distro have been exposed to that tool, so I just want to be certain that we incorporate the learnings from that and are not duplicative of existing efforts.
> > Best, Josh
> >
> > On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 1:21 AM Matthew Baker <mabaker@usaid.gov> wrote:
> >
> > > HI All,
> > >
> > > Thanks to all those who attended yesterday's conversation. We discussed the feedback from the DRG Cadre as well as ensuring the question remains open and broad to not second guess the results. We wanted to suggest the following question formulation with three subquestions. We have also updated the document with a revised rationale statement.
> > >
> > > - What factors influence the information ecosystem related to disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
> > >   - What factors influence the susceptibility to believing and sharing disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
> > >   - What factors influence the supply of disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
> > >   - What enabling environmental factors influence both?
> > >
> > > Can you please share any final suggested edits by **Monday November 22nd COB**. I will concurrently work on a draft scope and invite you to a scoping discussion after Thanksgiving.

Many thanks again.

Best,
Matt

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

Any views or opinions expressed in this e mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy

--
Josh Machleder (*he / him/ his*)
Senior Media and Internet Freedom Advisor
USAID | **Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance**
[redacted]
Email:jmachleder@usaid.gov

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

--
Diana J. Parzik
Counter-Disinformation Coordinator
Democracy Resiliency and Innovation (DRI)
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
U.S. Agency for International Development - **USAID**

[redacted]

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

Any views or opinions expressed in this e mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy

lpoggiali@usaid.gov Lisa Poggiali Friday, November 19, 2021 at 5:27:01 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: mabaker@usaid.gov Matthew Baker
Cc: dparzik@usaid.gov Diana Parzik, jmachleder@usaid.gov Joshua Machleder, dsabet@usaid.gov Daniel Sabet, jaford@usaid.gov Jared Ford, mmcnulty@usaid.gov Michael McNulty, moholmes@usaid.gov Morgan Holmes

Hi Matt and others,

I took a stab at trying to make the question more concrete -- it seemed to be getting so abstract it was hard to see how someone would start answering it -- and also capture Diana and Josh's points.

I think the addition of resilience captures that we're interested in both mis/mal/disinformation and the information ecosystem at large. I added the specific factors and dynamics to signal what existing research has shown us about the influences on information ecosystems. Would suggest Diana and Josh review since they are up on the existing literature.

Thanks to Matt for corralling all of us thus far!

best,
Lisa

On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 5:25 PM Matthew Baker <mabaker@usaid.gov> wrote:
> Thanks for all the comments and reflections. I did a quick look but wanted to flag that at this point we should ideally focus on the first - prioritized - learning question. The remaining questions are here for reference and of course we can improve upon.
> I am going to take note of these points too as we transition to thinking of scoping research as these points should be considered when we scope and researchers eventually craft a concept.
> Many thanks.
> Best,
> Matt
>
> On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 2:28 PM Diana Parzik <dparzik@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > Matt-
> >
> > Thanks for pulling this together, I think we're on the home stretch. The GEC's program is the Digital Disinfo Index (DDI) and I'm happy to pull folks together so we can integrate that work into this research.
> >
> > I added a few comments below Josh's in the questions, mostly minor tweaks (e.g. including mal-information where we just reference mis- and dis) and also language on 'building resilience'. In the IIR R&D meeting this morning, Mary Beth and Brian intentionally flagged the NSM LOE on 'building resilience' and the research gap we have in that space. I think this is mostly covered by question 3.
> >
> > Also, I put some comments in about further clarification for question 5 on 'non-democratic actors'.
> >
> > Thanks,
> > Diana
> >
> >
> >
> > On Thu, Nov 18, 2021 at 9:33 PM Joshua Machleder <jmachleder@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > > Hi Matt -- just wanted to chime in here, since unfortunately I wasn't able to be present for the discussion; but Lisa and I had a side chat. We should be mindful that Global Engagement Center at State produces an index (I believe it's Global Disinformation Resilience Index) that looks at a range of factors to understand a country's susceptibility. That is somewhat similar to the factors listed here (specifically when talking about the environment level/country level, but *not* the individual level. I am certain that my colleagues on this distro have been exposed to that tool, so I just want to be certain that we incorporate the learnings from that and are not duplicative of existing efforts.
> > > Best, Josh
> > >
> > > On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 1:21 AM Matthew Baker <mabaker@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > > > HI All,
> > > >
> > > > Thanks to all those who attended yesterday's conversation. We discussed the feedback from the DRG Cadre as well as ensuring the question remains open and broad to not second guess the results. We wanted to suggest the following question formulation with three subquestions. We have also updated the document with a revised rationale statement.

- What factors influence the information ecosystem related to disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
  - What factors influence the susceptibility to believing and sharing disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
  - What factors influence the supply of disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
  - What enabling environmental factors influence both?

Can you please share any final suggested edits by **Monday November 22nd COB**. I will concurrently work on a draft scope and invite you to a scoping discussion after Thanksgiving.

Many thanks again.

Best,
Matt

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

Any views or opinions expressed in this e mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy

--
Josh Machleder (*he / him/ his*)
Senior Media and Internet Freedom Advisor
USAID | **Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance**
[redacted]
Email:jmachleder@usaid.gov

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

--
Diana J. Parzik
Counter-Disinformation Coordinator
Democracy Resiliency and Innovation (DRI)
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
U.S. Agency for International Development - **USAID**

[redacted]

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

Any views or opinions expressed in this e mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy

--
Lisa Poggiali, Ph.D. *(she/her)*
Democracy, Data and Technology Specialist
Center for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
U.S. Agency for International Development
[redacted] | E: lpoggiali@usaid.gov

---

mabaker@usaid.gov Matthew Baker Tuesday, November 23, 2021 at 3:47:15 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: lpoggiali@usaid.gov Lisa Poggiali
Cc: dparzik@usaid.gov Diana Parzik, jmachleder@usaid.gov Joshua Machleder, dsabet@usaid.gov Daniel Sabet, jaford@usaid.gov Jared Ford, mmcnulty@usaid.gov Michael McNulty, moholmes@usaid.gov Morgan Holmes

Thank you, Lisa for the updated question and looks good.

I also wanted to share this interesting report with you all that might be of interest: https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC117161

Best,
Matt

On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 5:26 PM Lisa Poggiali <lpoggiali@usaid.gov> wrote:
> Hi Matt and others,
>
> I took a stab at trying to make the question more concrete -- it seemed to be getting so abstract it was hard to see how someone would start answering it -- and also capture Diana and Josh's points.
>
> I think the addition of resilience captures that we're interested in both mis/mal/disinformation and the information ecosystem at large. I added the specific factors and dynamics to signal what existing research has shown us about the influences on information ecosystems. Would suggest Diana and Josh review since they are up on the existing literature.
>
> Thanks to Matt for corralling all of us thus far!
>
> best,
> Lisa
>
> On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 5:25 PM Matthew Baker <mabaker@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > Thanks for all the comments and reflections. I did a quick look but wanted to flag that at this point we should ideally focus on the first - prioritized - learning question. The remaining questions are here for reference and of course we can improve upon.
> > I am going to take note of these points too as we transition to thinking of scoping research as these points should be considered when we scope and researchers eventually craft a concept.
> > Many thanks.
> > Best,
> > Matt
> >
> > On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 2:28 PM Diana Parzik <dparzik@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > > Matt-
> > >
> > > Thanks for pulling this together, I think we're on the home stretch. The GEC's program is the Digital Disinfo Index (DDI) and I'm happy to pull folks together so we can integrate that work into this research.

I added a few comments below Josh's in the questions, mostly minor tweaks (e.g. including mal-information where we just reference mis- and dis) and also language on 'building resilience'. In the IIR R&D meeting this morning, Mary Beth and Brian intentionally flagged the NSM LOE on 'building resilience' and the research gap we have in that space. I think this is mostly covered by question 3.

Also, I put some comments in about further clarification for question 5 on 'non-democratic actors'.

Thanks,
Diana

On Thu, Nov 18, 2021 at 9:33 PM Joshua Machleder <jmachleder@usaid.gov> wrote:

> Hi Matt -- just wanted to chime in here, since unfortunately I wasn't able to be present for the discussion; but Lisa and I had a side chat. We should be mindful that Global Engagement Center at State produces an index (I believe it's Global Disinformation Resilience Index) that looks at a range of factors to understand a country's susceptibility. That is somewhat similar to the factors listed here (specifically when talking about the environment level/country level, but *not* the individual level. I am certain that my colleagues on this distro have been exposed to that tool, so I just want to be certain that we incorporate the learnings from that and are not duplicative of existing efforts.
> Best, Josh
>
> On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 1:21 AM Matthew Baker <mabaker@usaid.gov> wrote:
>
> > HI All,
> >
> > Thanks to all those who attended yesterday's conversation. We discussed the feedback from the DRG Cadre as well as ensuring the question remains open and broad to not second guess the results. We wanted to suggest the following question formulation with three subquestions. We have also updated the document with a revised rationale statement.
> >
> > - What factors influence the information ecosystem related to disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
> >   - What factors influence the susceptibility to believing and sharing disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
> >   - What factors influence the supply of disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
> >   - What enabling environmental factors influence both?
> >
> > Can you please share any final suggested edits by **Monday November 22nd COB**. I will concurrently work on a draft scope and invite you to a scoping discussion after Thanksgiving.
> >
> > Many thanks again.
> >
> > Best,
> > Matt
> >
> > --
> > Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
> > Senior Learning Advisor,
> > Evidence and Learning Team,
> > Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
> > Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
> > [redacted]
> >
> > Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information
> >
> > Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings
> >
> > Any views or opinions expressed in this e mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy

--
Josh Machleder (*he / him/ his*)

Senior Media and Internet Freedom Advisor
USAID | Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
[redacted]
Email:jmachleder@usaid.gov

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

--
Diana J. Parzik
Counter-Disinformation Coordinator
Democracy Resiliency and Innovation (DRI)
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
U.S. Agency for International Development - **USAID**

[redacted]

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

Any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy.

--
Lisa Poggiali, Ph.D. *(she/her)*
Democracy, Data and Technology Specialist
Center for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
U.S. Agency for International Development
[redacted] | E: lpoggiali@usaid.gov

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

Any views or opinions expressed in this e mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy

mabaker@usaid.gov Matthew Baker Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 10:13:55 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: lpoggiali@usaid.gov Lisa Poggiali
Cc: dparzik@usaid.gov Diana Parzik, jmachleder@usaid.gov Joshua Machleder, dsabet@usaid.gov Daniel Sabet, jaford@usaid.gov Jared Ford, mmcnulty@usaid.gov Michael McNulty, moholmes@usaid.gov Morgan Holmes

Just to formally close the loop, I have accepted the suggested edits to the learning question and am finalizing the action memo which I will share with all Theme Teams in due course.

Many thanks for all your efforts.

Best,
Matt

On Tue, Nov 23, 2021 at 3:47 PM Matthew Baker <mabaker@usaid.gov> wrote:
> Thank you, Lisa for the updated question and looks good.
>
> I also wanted to share this interesting report with you all that might be of interest: https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC117161
>
> Best,
> Matt
>
> On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 5:26 PM Lisa Poggiali <lpoggiali@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > Hi Matt and others,
> >
> > I took a stab at trying to make the question more concrete -- it seemed to be getting so abstract it was hard to see how someone would start answering it -- and also capture Diana and Josh's points.
> >
> > I think the addition of resilience captures that we're interested in both mis/mal/disinformation and the information ecosystem at large. I added the specific factors and dynamics to signal what existing research has shown us about the influences on information ecosystems. Would suggest Diana and Josh review since they are up on the existing literature.
> >
> > Thanks to Matt for corralling all of us thus far!
> >
> > best,
> > Lisa
> >
> > On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 5:25 PM Matthew Baker <mabaker@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > > Thanks for all the comments and reflections. I did a quick look but wanted to flag that at this point we should ideally focus on the first - prioritized - learning question. The remaining questions are here for reference and of course we can improve upon.
> > > I am going to take note of these points too as we transition to thinking of scoping research as these points should be considered when we scope and researchers eventually craft a concept.
> > > Many thanks.
> > > Best,
> > > Matt
> > >
> > > On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 2:28 PM Diana Parzik <dparzik@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > > > Matt-
> > > >
> > > > Thanks for pulling this together, I think we're on the home stretch. The GEC's program is the Digital Disinfo Index (DDI) and I'm happy to pull folks together so we can integrate that work into this research.
> > > >
> > > > I added a few comments below Josh's in the questions, mostly minor tweaks (e.g. including mal-information where we just reference mis- and dis) and also language on 'building resilience'. In the IIR R&D meeting this morning, Mary Beth and Brian intentionally flagged the NSM LOE on 'building resilience' and the research gap we have in that space. I think this is mostly covered by question 3.
> > > >
> > > > Also, I put some comments in about further clarification for question 5 on 'non-democratic actors'.
> > > >
> > > > Thanks,
> > > > Diana

On Thu, Nov 18, 2021 at 9:33 PM Joshua Machleder <jmachleder@usaid.gov> wrote:

Hi Matt -- just wanted to chime in here, since unfortunately I wasn't able to be present for the discussion; but Lisa and I had a side chat. We should be mindful that Global Engagement Center at State produces an index (I believe it's Global Disinformation Resilience Index) that looks at a range of factors to understand a country's susceptibility. That is somewhat similar to the factors listed here (specifically when talking about the environment level/country level, but *not* the individual level. I am certain that my colleagues on this distro have been exposed to that tool, so I just want to be certain that we incorporate the learnings from that and are not duplicative of existing efforts.
Best, Josh

On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 1:21 AM Matthew Baker <mabaker@usaid.gov> wrote:

HI All,

Thanks to all those who attended yesterday's conversation. We discussed the feedback from the DRG Cadre as well as ensuring the question remains open and broad to not second guess the results. We wanted to suggest the following question formulation with three subquestions. We have also updated the document with a revised rationale statement.

- What factors influence the information ecosystem related to disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
  - What factors influence the susceptibility to believing and sharing disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
  - What factors influence the supply of disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
  - What enabling environmental factors influence both?

Can you please share any final suggested edits by **Monday November 22nd COB**. I will concurrently work on a draft scope and invite you to a scoping discussion after Thanksgiving.

Many thanks again.

Best,
Matt

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

Any views or opinions expressed in this e mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy

--
Josh Machleder (*he / him/ his*)
Senior Media and Internet Freedom Advisor
USAID | Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
[redacted]
Email:jmachleder@usaid.gov

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

--

Diana J. Parzik
Counter-Disinformation Coordinator
Democracy Resiliency and Innovation (DRI)
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
U.S. Agency for International Development - **USAID**

[redacted]

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

Any views or opinions expressed in this e mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy

--
Lisa Poggiali, Ph.D. *(she/her)*
Democracy, Data and Technology Specialist
Center for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
U.S. Agency for International Development
[redacted] | E: lpoggiali@usaid.gov

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

Any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy.

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

Any views or opinions expressed in this e mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy

---

lpoggiali@usaid.gov Lisa Poggiali Tuesday, November 30, 2021 at 10:37:18 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: mabaker@usaid.gov Matthew Baker
Cc: dsabet@usaid.gov Daniel Sabet, dparzik@usaid.gov Diana Parzik, jaford@usaid.gov Jared Ford, jmachleder@usaid.gov Joshua Machleder, mmcnulty@usaid.gov Michael McNulty, moholmes@usaid.gov Morgan Holmes

Thanks for the updates and for your efforts Matt!

On Tue, Nov 30, 2021 at 23:11 Matthew Baker <mabaker@usaid.gov> wrote:
> Just to formally close the loop, I have accepted the suggested edits to the learning question and am finalizing the action memo which I will share with all Theme Teams in due course.
>
> Many thanks for all your efforts.
>
> Best,
> Matt
>
> On Tue, Nov 23, 2021 at 3:47 PM Matthew Baker <mabaker@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > Thank you, Lisa for the updated question and looks good.
> >
> > I also wanted to share this interesting report with you all that might be of interest: https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC117161
> >
> > Best,
> > Matt
> >
> > On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 5:26 PM Lisa Poggiali <lpoggiali@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > > Hi Matt and others,
> > >
> > > I took a stab at trying to make the question more concrete -- it seemed to be getting so abstract it was hard to see how someone would start answering it -- and also capture Diana and Josh's points.
> > >
> > > I think the addition of resilience captures that we're interested in both mis/mal/disinformation and the information ecosystem at large. I added the specific factors and dynamics to signal what existing research has shown us about the influences on information ecosystems. Would suggest Diana and Josh review since they are up on the existing literature.
> > >
> > > Thanks to Matt for corralling all of us thus far!
> > >
> > > best,
> > > Lisa
> > >
> > >
> > > On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 5:25 PM Matthew Baker <mabaker@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > > > Thanks for all the comments and reflections. I did a quick look but wanted to flag that at this point we should ideally focus on the first - prioritized - learning question. The remaining questions are here for reference and of course we can improve upon.
> > > > I am going to take note of these points too as we transition to thinking of scoping research as these points should be considered when we scope and researchers eventually craft a concept.
> > > > Many thanks.
> > > > Best,
> > > > Matt
> > > >
> > > > On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 2:28 PM Diana Parzik <dparzik@usaid.gov> wrote:
> > > > > Matt-

Thanks for pulling this together, I think we're on the home stretch. The GEC's program is the Digital Disinfo Index (DDI) and I'm happy to pull folks together so we can integrate that work into this research.

I added a few comments below Josh's in the questions, mostly minor tweaks (e.g. including mal-information where we just reference mis- and dis) and also language on 'building resilience'. In the IIR R&D meeting this morning, Mary Beth and Brian intentionally flagged the NSM LOE on 'building resilience' and the research gap we have in that space. I think this is mostly covered by question 3.

Also, I put some comments in about further clarification for question 5 on 'non-democratic actors'.

Thanks,
Diana

On Thu, Nov 18, 2021 at 9:33 PM Joshua Machleder <jmachleder@usaid.gov> wrote:

> Hi Matt -- just wanted to chime in here, since unfortunately I wasn't able to be present for the discussion; but Lisa and I had a side chat. We should be mindful that Global Engagement Center at State produces an index (I believe it's Global Disinformation Resilience Index) that looks at a range of factors to understand a country's susceptibility. That is somewhat similar to the factors listed here (specifically when talking about the environment level/country level, but *not* the individual level. I am certain that my colleagues on this distro have been exposed to that tool, so I just want to be certain that we incorporate the learnings from that and are not duplicative of existing efforts.
> Best, Josh
>
> On Fri, Nov 19, 2021 at 1:21 AM Matthew Baker <mabaker@usaid.gov> wrote:
>
> > HI All,
> >
> > Thanks to all those who attended yesterday's conversation. We discussed the feedback from the DRG Cadre as well as ensuring the question remains open and broad to not second guess the results. We wanted to suggest the following question formulation with three subquestions. We have also updated the document with a revised rationale statement.
> >
> > - What factors influence the information ecosystem related to disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
> >   - What factors influence the susceptibility to believing and sharing disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
> >   - What factors influence the supply of disinformation, misinformation and malinformation?
> >   - What enabling environmental factors influence both?
> >
> > Can you please share any final suggested edits by **Monday November 22nd COB**. I will concurrently work on a draft scope and invite you to a scoping discussion after Thanksgiving.
> >
> > Many thanks again.
> >
> > Best,
> > Matt
> >
> > --
> > Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
> > Senior Learning Advisor,
> > Evidence and Learning Team,
> > Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
> > Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
> > [redacted]
> >
> > Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information
> >
> > Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings
> >
> > Any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy.

--
Josh Machleder (*he / him/ his*)
Senior Media and Internet Freedom Advisor
USAID | Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
[redacted]
Email:jmachleder@usaid.gov

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

--
Diana J. Parzik
Counter-Disinformation Coordinator
Democracy Resiliency and Innovation (DRI)
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
U.S. Agency for International Development - **USAID**

[redacted]

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

Any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy.

--
Lisa Poggiali, Ph.D. *(she/her)*
Democracy, Data and Technology Specialist
Center for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
U.S. Agency for International Development
[redacted] | E: lpoggiali@usaid.gov

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

> Any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy.

--
Matthew Baker (he/him/his),
Senior Learning Advisor,
Evidence and Learning Team,
Center for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance,
Development, Democracy, and Innovation Bureau (DDI)
[redacted]

Evidence in a hurry? Check out our DRG Evidence Gap Maps: Rule of Law, Human Rights, Civil Society, and Independent Media and Free Flow of Information

Want to learn more from our DRG Learning Agenda? Read our Overview Infographic that summarizes key findings

Any views or opinions expressed in this e mail are those of the sender and not necessarily USAID/DDI/DRG Center policy

--
Lisa Poggiali, Ph.D. *(she/her)*
Democracy, Data and Technology Specialist
Center for Democracy, Human Rights and Governance
U.S. Agency for International Development
[redacted] | E: lpoggiali@usaid.gov