



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE


# DRG Annual Learning Forum

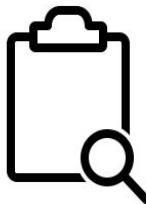
Four Sessions:  
March 10, 11, 16, 18

## *Findings Track*

### Session II: Achieving Accountability: From Social Movement to Decentralization

Thursday, March 11,  
9:00 - 10:30 am Eastern

- 
- A photograph of three young men of African descent. One man in the foreground is holding a yellow mobile phone with a black keypad and a speaker grille. The other two men are looking at the phone with interest. The background is slightly blurred, showing an outdoor setting.
- Please keep yourself on mute and **off video**.
  - For questions to speakers and panelists, please use the Q/A feature.
  - Feel free to write comments in the chat.



## Findings Track

### Session 1:

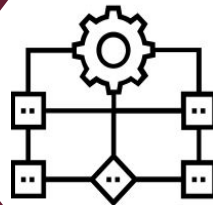
Advancing Civic Spaces and  
Protecting Human Rights -

*March 10, 9:00 - 10:30 am Eastern*

### Session 2:

Achieving Accountability: From  
Social Movement to  
Decentralization

*March 11, 9:00 - 10:30 am Eastern*



## Process Track

### Session 3:

Learning from Learning Agendas:  
Improving the Art of  
Organizational Learning

*March 16, 2020 at 9:00 - 10:30 am  
Eastern*

### Session 4:

Lessons Learned from 27 DRG  
Impact Evaluations

*March 18, 2020 10:00 - 11:30 am  
Eastern*

# DRG Learning Agenda Overview

**DRG LEARNING AGENDA OVERVIEW**

The DRG Learning Agenda is a set of priority and strategic research questions for which the DRG Center generated evidence and produced recommendations to guide DRG programming, rooted in five cross-cutting thematic areas. This evidence includes academic research, program evaluations, and multi-method tests of DRG program assumptions and theories of change. The 2016 and 2017 Learning Agendas included 20 Learning Questions across five themes: Participation and Inclusion, Transparency and Accountability, Human Rights, DRG Integration, and Theories of Democratic Change.

The DRG Center formulated the DRG Learning Agendas through a consultative process with internal Theme Teams and USAID field staff. The Center created action plans for each question and a Learning Agenda Advisory Group to oversee annual updates to the agendas. The Center then funded evidence reviews along with research and evaluation activities to fill evidence gaps.

In preparation for the 2021-2023 Learning Agenda, USAID reviewed past research supported by the DRG Center and assessed the degree to which the questions from the latest agendas were addressed (see [Learning Overview](#)). This process included a compilation and summary of research including findings, conclusions, and recommendations (see [Learning Agenda Rack-Up](#)).

**DRG Center Research by Theme**

**PARTICIPATION & INCLUSION**

- Restrictive environment
- Youth participation
- Women's participation
- Social movements
- Electoral systems

**TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY**

- External vs. internal
- Decentralization
- Civil service
- E-Governance
- Gender-based violence

**HUMAN RIGHTS**

- Information campaigns
- Human rights
- National human rights institutions
- Radicalization
- Cross-group dialogue

**DRG INTEGRATION**

- Participation and Accountability
- National and local level
- Cross-sector
- Scale expansion

**DRG LEARNING THEME: Human Rights**

The DRG Learning Agenda is a set of priority and strategic research questions for which the DRG Center generated evidence and produced recommendations to guide DRG programming, rooted in five cross-cutting thematic areas. DRG research on Human Rights answered questions related to what makes human rights awareness campaigns successful, in what contexts does assistance and others.

For more information, see the [DRG Learning Agenda Overview](#) and the [Learning Agenda Evidence Rack-Up](#).

**DRG Center Learning Agenda Findings**

**Information Campaigns**

- The success of awareness campaigns tends to depend heavily on specific, targeted, and contextualized framing for messages, as well as the combination of traditional and new media to disseminate these messages.
- In addition to the benefits that awareness campaigns may achieve through pressure on governments to respect human rights, they may also spark backlash, confusion, demonization, and/or frustration.
- In some cases, awareness campaigns may find it more effective to target influential corporations in addition to the broader public, community, and civil society.

**In what ways are human rights awareness campaigns successful and what are their unintended negative consequences?**



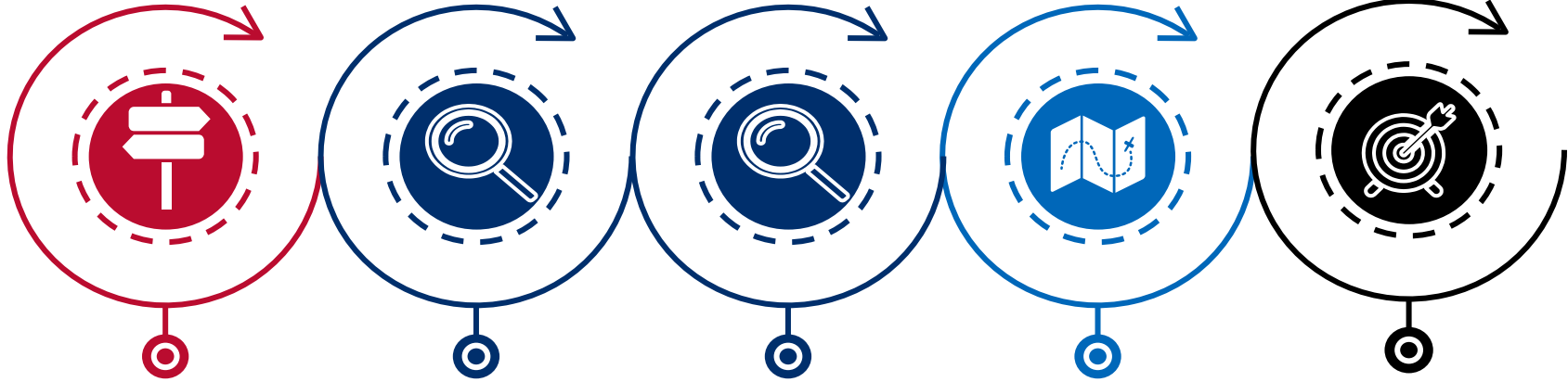
Identify

Ideate

Refine

Decide

# AGENDA



**Welcome /  
Background**

**Presentation  
1 followed  
by Q&A**

**Presentation  
2 followed by  
Q&A**

**Utilization  
Reflections**

**Plenary  
Discussion**

## Session II: Achieving Accountability: From Social Movement to Decentralization

### Speakers:

#### Presentation 1:

Patrick Heller, Brown University: *Grassroots Reform in the Global South*

#### Presentation 2:

Erik Wibbels, Duke University: *Decentralized Governance and Accountability*

#### Utilization Reflections:

Mike Keshishian USAID/DDI/DRG





Patrick Heller,  
Brown University

*Grassroots Reform in the  
Global South*

# Research Methods



- When do grass roots movements scale up?
  - Changing norms
  - Changing laws and policies
- Literature review of **150** academic and gray-literature sources
- 6 regions – East Asia, Latin America, Middle East and North Africa, South Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa
- Methodological challenge: studying success
- Research Team: Prof. Patrick Heller, Prof. Andrew Schrank, and PhD students Anidita Adhikari, Benjamin Bradlow, Rehan Rafay Jamil, Kristine Li, Chantel Pheiffer, and Marcus Walton



# Why Social Movements Matter

- Broaden and diversify the public sphere
  - Mobilize the unmobilized
  - Problematize the unproblematized
- Linking grassroots issues to politics
- Counterpower to entrenched power
- Redeeming unredeemed claims
  - e.g. the right to have rights

# Social Movement Eco-systems

- Strength, diversity and effectiveness of SMs varies dramatically by country and *within* country
- Opportunity structures for political action
- Previous histories of mobilization
- Cross movement alliances
- Ideological repertoires
  - E.g. liberation theology in Brazil
  - Gandhism in India



# Factors for success

- Middle class (professionals) support
- Surface area of the state (public spaces)
  - Decentralization (local spheres of governance)
- Slow politics (not projects)
- Building alliances horizontally (civil society actors)
  - Federated structures: alliances with autonomy
- Building alliances vertically (state reformers)
  - Political openings (National Advisory Council in India)
  - Reformers in search of partners
    - Brazil: ministerio publico (civil society lawyers)



# How to engage?

- Deep field knowledge
  - Knowledge of SM ecosystem
- Strategic understanding
  - It's the politics, stupid
  - Which social movements?
    - Embedded
    - Rights-based
    - In and *for* civil society
- Principles of engagement
  - Respecting autonomy
  - Recognizing local knowledge: e.g. the poor know how to fight poverty
  - Facilitating access to the public sphere





## Questions / Responses

- Please write your questions in the Q/A feature only.
- The Q&A function will be monitored and questions for the speakers will be drawn from there.
- Please feel free to use the upvote feature if you like a question
- Time will not allow for all questions to be answered in the session.
- Feel free to use chat for additional comments.

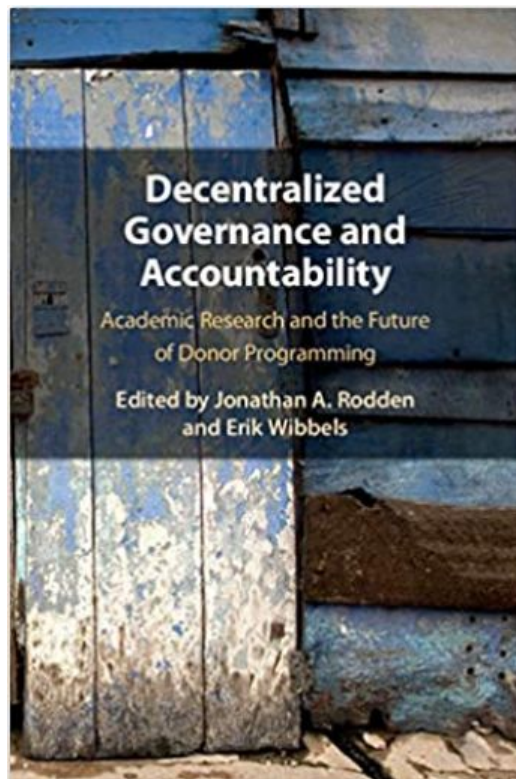


Erik Wibbels,  
Duke University

*Decentralized Governance  
and Accountability*



# THE VOLUME'S CAST OF CHARACTERS



- Erik Wibbels, Duke: “Social Accountability, Social Networks and Local Governance”
- Kate Baldwin and Pia Raffler, Yale: “Traditional Leaders, Service Delivery and Accountability”
- Fotini Christia, MIT: “Decentralization in Post-Conflict Settings”
- Thad Dunning, UC-Berkeley: “Decentralization and Ethnic Diversity”
- Guy Grossman, UPenn: “Leadership Selection and Decentralized Governance”
- Eddy Malesky, Duke: “Decentralized Governance and Business Performance”
- Jan Pierskalla, OSU: “The Proliferation of Decentralized Governing Units”
- Alison Post and Christopher Carter, UC-Berkeley: “Urban Governance and Service Delivery”
- Jonathan Rodden, Stanford: “Decentralized Rule and Revenue”
- Leonard Wantchekon, Princeton and Gianmarco Leon, Universitat Pompeu Fabra: “Clientelism in Decentralized States”
- Brinkerhoff, Wetterberg and Bland: “From Decentralization Research to Police and Programs: A Practical Postscript”





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Mike Keshishian,  
DDI/DRG





- The moderator will be asking specific questions to guide the conversation.
- Please write your questions or comments in the Q&A.
- Another host will be monitoring the Q&A for questions.
- We may ask you to come off mute to give voice to your question or comment
- Please use the upvote feature
- Please be patient as time will not allow for all questions and comments to be addressed.

*Please take a moment to fill out survey.*



*If you have any questions, please contact Matt Baker*  
[mabaker@usaid.gov](mailto:mabaker@usaid.gov)