THE CLOUDBURST GROUP

Creating Impact, Empowering Communities, Building Resilience — Where and When It Matters

DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND GOVERNANCE (DRG) SECTOR

Founded in 2005, The Cloudburst Group is a mission-driven, Women-Owned Small Business working to create impact, empower communities, and build resiliency. Cloudburst works to ensure democracy, human rights, and governance globally by using rigorous, scientific methodologies to leverage and expand the evidence base regarding complex political, economic, and/or governance issues and translate these findings into digestible materials to aid in evidence-based decision making. Our insights about dynamics in countries undergoing political transitions and associated program and learning agenda recommendations inform USAID's program and strategy development.

AWARDS

- USAID Learning Evaluation and Research II Task Order
- USAID Strengthening Tenure and Resource Rights II IDIQ
- MCC Monitoring and Evaluation BPA
- Cambodia Small Business Applied USAID Evaluation, Monitoring and Learning Services (EVAL-ME) sub to LINC
- USAID Kenya and East Africa Evaluation, Assessments, and Analysis (KEA) sub to LINC

COMPANY INFORMATION

SBA: Women-Owned Small Business (WOSB)
Size Standard: $24.5M
NAICS: 541611 (Primary)
CAGE CODE: 43AB5
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OUR EXPERIENCE

Learning, Evaluation and Research II (LER II) Task Order (TO): Since 2018, Cloudburst has been conducting impact and performance evaluations as well assessments with the Learning Division of USAID's Center of Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG). As of June 2021, Cloudburst has successfully conducted **13 mid-term and final performance evaluations and 13 assessments** for USAID Missions in Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Armenia, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Dominican Republic, Malawi, Rwanda, and Cote d'Ivoire, as well as multiple evaluations of contract mechanisms for the DRG Center in Washington DC. Cloudburst has also authored leading agency guidance on integrating Sustainable Landscapes, conducting assessments on Election and Media Activities, and Global Labor practices. Finally, Cloudburst has developed primers, case studies, newsletters, videos, and other media products, all with a focus on creating actionable recommendations for USAID.

USAID Small Business Applied Research (SBAR) contract Cambodia: In 2019, Cloudburst was awarded a three-year SBAR contract developed under a co-creation process with USAID/Cambodia to conduct an impact evaluation of the replicability of an innovative resilience-building model for civil society organizations (CSOs) that will help CSOs protect against organizational shocks by enhancing network connections, diversifying revenue streams, and adapting to environmental influences including the unexpected influence of COVID-19. This award is the first evaluation of a CSO capacity-building intervention using a matched-group Randomized Control Trial (RCT) design. The scientifically rigorous experimental design gives implementers and donors a straightforward way to understand program effects and how outcomes would be different if the intervention had not taken place. It is the best way to establish causality between an intervention and outcome and is considered the "gold standard" in policy evaluation.

Armenia DRG Assessments: Cloudburst completed three separate sub-sector assessments for USAID/Armenia related to governance, civil society, and media as well as integrity systems/rule of law to better understand the changing country context in Armenia after the 2018 Armenian Velvet Revolution and to support and create an evidence base for USAID/Armenia to make strategic development and programming decisions. Through these analyses, we identified a promising new anti-corruption partner that future programming targeted. We also translated key insights from this fieldwork into infographics to highlight USAID/Armenia's evidence-based approach and brief the Government of Armenia, donors, and members of Armenia's civil society and independent media communities.

Ukraine DRG Assessments and Evaluations: Cloudburst has completed DRG evaluations and one field assessment for USAID/Ukraine in subsectors such as parliamentary reform, decentralization/good governance, judicial reform, human rights, and media. Data sources in these evaluations and assessments included online surveys, key informant interviews (KIIs), site visits, and focus group discussions.

USAID Political Economy Analyses (PEAs): Cloudburst has implemented in-depth PEAs in multiple contexts with leading academic scholars in the area, including the first PEA that USAID has completed in Sudan. Other examples include an assessment of the media sector in Zimbabwe, which explored how the political landscape threatens independent media to inform USAID's support for the sector. An additional analysis also in Zimbabwe took a PEA lens to the Civil Society Sector, investigating how civil society actors act in a challenging political environment to pressure the government to improve service delivery. Cloudburst is currently conducting a PEA for a Public Financial Management activity in Rwanda.

Georgia Good Governance Initiative Evaluation: Cloudburst is currently conducting a midterm performance evaluation of the Good Governance Initiative in Georgia to a) examine the appropriateness of the activity's design for the development context, b) assess efficiency and effectiveness in advancing key reforms and of select interventions, and c) provide recommendations on reform topics and technical approaches that USAID should continue to support in the future. This evaluation takes a retrospective look at seven years of implementation and makes recommendations for adaptations of the program going forward.

Nigeria Electoral Management Bodies (EMBs) Assessment: Cloudburst conducted an assessment of EMBs in Nigeria to examine how USAID/Nigeria supports EMBs, in particular the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and State Independent Electoral Commissions (SIECs), and assist USAID/Nigeria's strategic investments in advance of the 2023 general elections, with an emphasis on Nigeria's Journey to Self-Reliance goals. The assessment included examining existing quantitative data, fielding an online expert survey, conducting remote KIIs with key stakeholders, drafting an assessment report, and facilitating four virtual feedback sessions with implementing partners (IPs) and other stakeholders to share recommendations. These workshops validated and refined the team's original recommendations, clarified USAID/Nigeria's most pressing priorities, and led to a memo to the Peace, Democracy, and Governance Office suggesting organizations that would be well-positioned to implement future elections programming.