

Transforming Research into Programs and Policies: How to Use the Research-to-Action Plan Section

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Moderator

Celia Laskowski, Program Analyst, Research Division, USAID's Innovation, Technology, and Research (ITR) Hub

Celia Laskowski has served as a Program Analyst with the Research Division, within the Innovation, Technology, and Research Hub at USAID since September 2020. She supports research-to-action activities, university partnerships, and USAID's fellowship programs. She joined USAID as a Presidential Management Fellow and also spent five months serving at USAID/Guatemala on the Education and Youth team. Before USAID, Celia worked in the International Education field. Celia holds a MS in Foreign Service from Georgetown University and a BA in History from Brown University. During her free time, you can find Celia Latin dancing, trying out new recipes, and being outside as much as humanly possible.

Presenters

Christine Power, Senior Policy Advisor, PRB

Christine Power has served as a senior policy advisor within the International Programs department at PRB since March 2018. She has more than seven years of experience in strategic communication, research and policy translation, and developing advocacy strategies to support policy change. She specializes in qualitative policy analysis and is also a trainer with extensive experience strengthening the capacity of youth, researchers, topic experts, and advocates to communicate research findings and encourage a culture of data use in decisionmaking. Christine holds a MS in Global Health from Georgetown University and a BA in International Relations from Boston University.

Dr. Marlene Lee, Associate Vice President, PRB

Marlene Lee is Associate Vice President in International Programs at the Population Reference Bureau (PRB). Marlene works with research networks, developing country governments, and non-governmental organizations to strengthen links between decision making and emerging evidence. She has been PRB's lead on the Research Technical Assistance Center project since August 2020, providing technical assistance with research-to-action planning and coordinating development of the RTAC Research Translation Toolkit. At PRB, Marlene's research translation projects have been diverse. Their thematic areas include women's economic empowerment, the care economy, the economics and demography of aging, and economic demography of reproductive health. Marlene previously worked at the University of Louisiana and the University of Wisconsin and was an Associate Peace Corps Director, a Peace Corps Fellow, and a Peace Corps Volunteer. Marlene holds a PhD from Cornell University, an MPA from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and a bachelor's from Yale University, with specializations in international development, family demography, and public policy analysis.

Sutherland Miller III, Project Director, Research Technical Assistance Center, administered by NORC at the University of Chicago

Sutherland Miller III is the Project Director/Chief of Party of the Research Technical Assistance Center (RTAC), a project designed to leverage the global academic community to provide evidence-based

research and technical assistance for the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Sutherland has worked extensively with multiple donors, private clients, and U.S. and foreign agencies to improve knowledge management and organizational learning; promote trade and investment policies; and create an enabling environment for policy reform and competitiveness. His expertise also includes civil society and business association strategic planning, advocacy, and capacity building. Sutherland is also an experienced trainer and facilitator, having designed and led numerous workshops and presentations on issues related to trade, investment and tourism promotion, and institutional strategy and capacity building. Sutherland's previous senior leadership and management roles include serving as the Chief of Party for the Knowledge Sharing and Analysis project, which was USAID/Africa Bureau's first knowledge management initiative focused on the \$200 million African Global Competitiveness Initiative, and the Removal of Investment Constraints in Kazakhstan project, which focused on improving the country's business environment for private investment. He has also served as the Investment Policy Component Leader for the Caribbean Open Trade Support Project, a Practice Area Manager for The Services Group, Inc., and the Team Leader for some 20 projects overseas. He was successfully completed overseas assignments in 42 countries and territories in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East and has resided in Egypt, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, and Antigua and Barbuda to implement international education and economic projects. Sutherland earned a BA from Brown University in political science and film and a MALD from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts and Harvard Universities, in economics and public management. Additional education includes bachelors-level studies at the University of Vermont and masters-level courses at the American University in Cairo as well as additional course work in management and leadership at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and in leadership and communications at the University of Chicago.