

Reflecting the Past, Shaping the Future: Making AI Work for International Development

Description

USAID, September 2018. 98 pages. [Available as PDF](#)

[Tweet](#)

Rick Davies comment: A very good overview, balanced, informative, with examples. Worth reading from beginning to end.

Contents

Introduction

Roadmap: How to use this document

Machine learning: Where we are and where we might be going

â?¢ ML and AI: What are they?

â?¢ How ML works: The basics

â?¢ Applications in development

â?¢ Case study: Data-driven agronomy and machine learning at the International Center for Tropical Agriculture

â?¢ Case study: Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator

Machine learning: What can go wrong?

â?¢ Invisible minorities

â?¢ Predicting the wrong thing

â?¢ Bundling assistance and surveillance

â?¢ Malicious use

â?¢ Uneven failures and why they matter

How people influence the design and use of ML tools

â?¢ Reviewing data: How it can make all the difference

â?¢ Model-building: Why the details matter

â?¢ Integrating into practice: Itâ??s not just â??Plug and Playâ?•

Action suggestions: What development practitioners can do today

â?¢ Advocate for your problem

â?¢ Bring context to the fore

â?¢ Invest in relationships

â?¢ Critically assess ML tools

Looking forward: How to cultivate fair & inclusive ML for the future

Quick reference: Guiding questions

Appendix: Peering under the hood [gives more details on specific machine learning algorithms]

See also the associated [USAID blog posting](#) and maybe also [How can machine learning and artificial intelligence be used in development interventions and impact evaluations?](#)

Category

1. Books

Date

01/02/2026

Date Created

15/11/2018

Author

admin