

# 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

• ML and AI: What are they?

• How ML works: The basics

• Applications in development

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

• Case study: Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator

Machine learning: What can go wrong?

• Invisible minorities

• Predicting the wrong thing

• Bundling assistance and surveillance

• Malicious use

• Uneven failures and why they matter

How people influence the design and use of ML tools

• Reviewing data: How it can make all the difference

• Model-building: Why the details matter

• Integrating into practice: It's not just "Plug and Play"•

Action suggestions: What development practitioners can do today

• Advocate for your problem

• Bring context to the fore

• Invest in relationships

• 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