

International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)

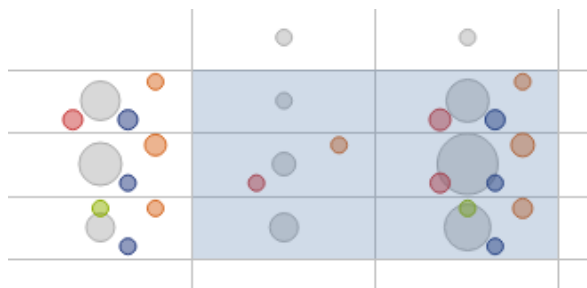
How to use evidence gap maps

The aim of evidence gap maps (EGM) is to enable policymakers and practitioners to explore the findings and quality of the existing evidence on a topic, and to facilitate evidence-based decision-making.

Each EGM adopts a **framework** designed to comprehensively capture the different interventions and outcomes associated with an intervention.

[Click here to explore 3ie evidence gap maps.](#)

Interventions are listed on the y axis and **outcomes** on the x axis. Clicking on an intervention or outcome will open up a brief description.



By clicking and holding the mouse, then dragging it to shade a specified area, you can **zoom in** to examine that area of the map more closely. Click 'zoom out' to return to the full map.

The **bubbles** appearing at intersections between interventions and outcomes denote the existence of a study or studies examining the relevant outcome and intervention. Hovering over a bubble displays a list of all the included studies in a given cell. Bubbles of different colours indicate different types of evidence.



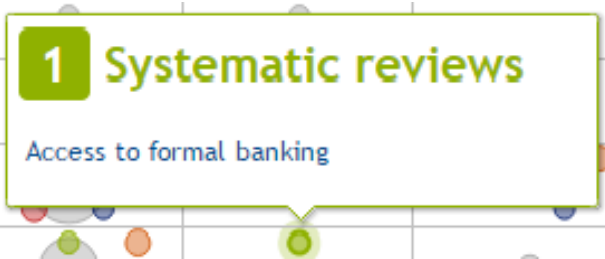
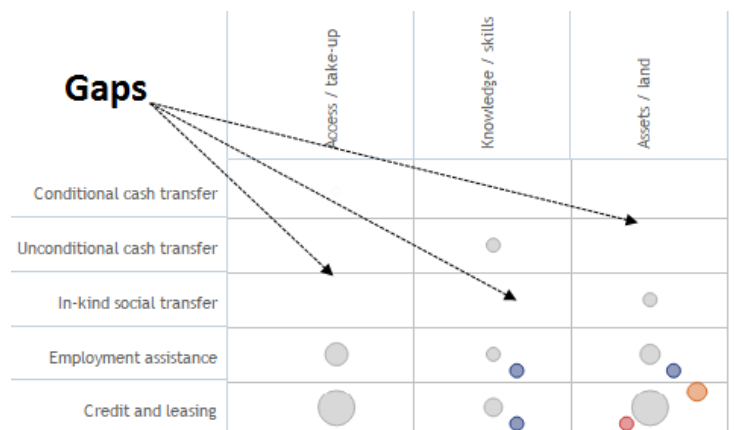
Green (high confidence), orange (medium confidence) and red (low confidence) bubbles correspond to systematic reviews. High, medium and low Confidence refers to confidence in conclusions about effects. It indicates the overall rating given to a systematic review based on a careful appraisal of the methods applied in a systematic review, using a standardised checklist. A purple bubble represents a protocol for a forthcoming systematic review. Grey bubbles represent impact evaluations.

Toggling study categories on or off using the legend at the bottom of the screen allows you to choose to see only selected types of studies on the map. There are also options at the top of the screen to **filter** the evidence by region, country and study design (this last option is for impact evaluations only).

● Impact evaluations ● High confidence ● Medium confidence ● Low confidence ● Protocol

The number displayed in each bubble quantifies the number of impact evaluations, systematic reviews or systematic review protocols providing evidence for a given intersection. The larger the bubble, the greater the volume of evidence in that cell. If you hover over a bubble, you can click on a hyperlink to study summaries on the 3ie evidence database (which also include a link to the study source).

The EGM identifies key **gaps**, where little or no evidence from impact evaluations or systematic reviews is available. Gaps indicate that, as of the latest update, there was no evidence available on a given intervention and outcome intersection. Gaps can therefore indicate possible areas where **future research** in the form of impact evaluations should be focused. Areas where there is a substantial volume of impact evaluation evidence, but few or no high quality systematic reviews, indicate key gaps in the systematic review literature.



For **policy-related decision-making**, users should place the greatest emphasis on evidence from the high-confidence rated systematic reviews. The confidence rating for systematic reviews are intended to assist users in making an informed judgment about the extent to which they can rely on the

systematic review evidence for decision making. Clicking on the hyperlink for each systematic review provides a summary of the critical appraisal scoring.

Users can **export** a copy of the EGM using the menu button at the top right of the chart.

