



Quarterly Report January – March 2016

Evidence uptake and use from 3ie-funded studies

Programme evaluation for strengthening teacher training in the People's Republic of China: In 2010, the Chinese government constituted the National Teacher Training Programme (NTTP) in order to address poor teacher quality. Despite investments of up to one billion dollars annually, there has been rigorous evaluation of NTTP to understand its impact on learning outcomes for the students. 3ie member, the Henan Province Department of Education, has received 3ie Policy Window funding to understand the impact of NTTP in Henan Province. The study is being carried out by the International Centre for Action Research on Education, Henan University. The team has engaged extensively with the provincial and local officials to discuss the scope, design and implementation of the study and raise awareness and understanding about evaluations. These efforts contributed to the teacher training evaluation being included as a key component of the 2015-2016 provincial education work plan, which lists priority areas of work for the bureau in charge of planning and implementing education policy for approximately 30 million children of school-going age in the province.

Integrating successful experiments into programming: The government of Colombia is upgrading its early childhood development centres, *Hogares Infantiles*, by providing additional resources in the form of better and more qualified personnel, richer pedagogical curriculum, more nutritious food and improved physical facilities. [The Institute for Fiscal Studies](#) is collaborating with the Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar, the government agency in charge of implementing the programme, to study the impact and cost-effectiveness of the upgraded centres. As a result of this collaboration, the study team was recently invited by the government to help with a new initiative to evaluate the short-term impacts of the National Early Childhood Strategy.

3ie publications

[3ie published its Annual Report 2015](#) in March. A new [3ie flyer](#) has also been added to our array of marketing materials.

Impact evaluation report series (January – March)

[A triple win? The impact of Tanzania's Joint Forest Management programme on livelihoods, governance and forests](#) This study assesses the impact of Tanzania's Joint Forest Management (JFM) programme on three sets of outcomes – restoring forests, improving livelihoods and strengthening local governance.

[Sustainability of impact: dimensions of decline and persistence in adoption of a biofortified crop in Uganda](#) by McNiven *et al.* studied the sustainability of impact of an agricultural intervention that promoted the adoption and consumption of biofortified orange sweet potato by farming households.

[Removing barriers to higher education in Chile: evaluation of peer effects and scholarships for test preparation](#) This study investigates the impacts of test preparation on access to higher education using experimental evidence from a randomised controlled trial.

[Microentrepreneurship support programme in Chile](#) by Martinez *et al.* used a randomised controlled trial to assess the effectiveness of a large-scale microentrepreneurship support programme in Chile.

[Thirty-five years later: evaluating effects of a quasi-random child health and family planning programme in Bangladesh](#) by Barham *et al.* examined the long-term impact of the Matlab Maternal and Child Health and Family Planning Programme in Bangladesh that began in 1977.

Blogs

Private outcomes and the public interest: a call for more impact evaluations? Emmanuel Jimenez discusses the need for social impact evaluations and points out the challenges in taking them up more extensively, including ensuring internal consistency of results and challenging time frames.

Update on Policy Window

Philippines Policy Window: 3ie has awarded an impact evaluation grant to the Philippine Institute for Development Studies for a study, *Improving the chances of success through better beneficiary sorting and employment facilitation in the Philippines*.

Updates on Thematic Windows

HIV Self-testing Thematic Window (TW2): 3ie signed four grant agreements for piloting the use of HIV self-testing kits in Uganda and Zambia. The study on peer educator-delivered HIV self-testing for female sex workers in Zambia will be implemented by John Snow Inc. and the research will be undertaken by the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. The study on community-based distribution of oral HIV self-testing kits will be implemented and evaluated by Zambart and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. The study in Kenya on the impact of oral HIV self-testing among female sex workers in Uganda will be implemented by the Uganda Health Marketing Group and research will be undertaken by the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health. The study on self-testing for partners of women in antenatal care in Uganda will be implemented by Mildmay Uganda, with research undertaken by Makerere University.

Humanitarian Assistance Thematic Window (TW6): 3ie has awarded four impact evaluation grants: (i) an impact evaluation of the World Food Programme's (WFP) initiative targeting moderate acute malnutrition in humanitarian situations in Chad, awarded to DARA International; (ii) impact evaluation of WFP's MAM treatment and prevention programmes in Sudan, awarded to Valid International; (iii) an impact evaluation of WFP malnutrition interventions in Niger, awarded to the International Security and Development Centre; and (iv) an impact evaluation on improving the quality of care for children with acute malnutrition, awarded to the Institute for Maternal and Child Health, a WHO collaborating centre for maternal and child health.

Innovations in Increasing Immunisation Thematic Window (TW10): A formative evaluation, *Community engagement through the community health strategy for the improvement of immunisation coverage in pastoral and nomadic communities in Kenya* has been awarded to the Tropical Institute of Community Health and Development.

Improving Adolescents' Lives in South Asia (TW12): 3ie awarded a grant to The Johns Hopkins University to conduct an impact evaluation of the UNICEF-IKEA Foundation programme for improving adolescents' lives in South Asia in Afghanistan and one to the University of Mannheim to evaluate the initiatives of the same programme in Pakistan.

Adolescent sexual and reproductive health scoping work

3ie is currently assessing the supply of and demand for rigorous evidence for programmes targeting adolescent sexual and reproductive health, as part of a scoping work project funded by the Hewlett Foundation. 3ie held three consultative workshops in January 2016 with 80 stakeholders to shape the framework of the evidence gap map. The research team is currently conducting searching and screening for relevant impact evaluations and systematic reviews.

Registry for International Development Impact Evaluations (RIDIE) and the Impact Evaluation Repository

Six new studies are registered in the RIDIE, bringing the total number of studies in it to 82. The 3ie Impact Evaluation Repository currently holds 2,940 impact evaluations.

Expert roster: Four new experts have been added for a current count of 351.

Bursaries

A member representative from Benin was awarded a 3ie bursary to attend a meeting with the West African Economic and Monetary Union Commission. The meeting focused on the use of impact evaluation results in the West African countries.

New Members

Five new members joined 3ie in the first quarter of 2016 to bring the total number of members to 46. The new members include the General Directorate of Planning and Poverty Alleviation under the Ministry of State, Ministry of Planning and Development, Côte d'Ivoire; the General Directorate of Planning under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of the Government of Guinea-Bissau; the High Commission for the State Modernisation (Haut Commissariat pour la Modernisation de l'Etat) in Niger; the National Technical Secretariat of the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Sustainable Development under the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Burkina Faso; and the Corporation Andina de Fomento (Latin American Development Bank)

Change of name: The official name of the Training and Communication Center, National Health and Family Planning Commission of the government of the People's Republic Of China has been changed to the Executive Leadership Training Center, National Health and Family Planning Commission.

3ie events

3ie members' webinar series, 16 March: The first webinar in this series was *The Story of Worm Wars: What policymakers should know about the hottest development debate of 2015*. The World Bank's David Evans presented the story of how a global debate was triggered around deworming studies. Ten representatives from member agencies joined the webinar. 3ie looks forward to holding at least one webinar for members each quarter to increase peer learning and strengthen our community of practice. We invite members to let us know about topics of interest for future webinars.

Delhi seminar on women's empowerment, January Thomas De Hoop, senior researcher at the American Institutes for Research spoke about the systematic review he co-authored, *The Effects of Economic Self-Help Group Programs on Women's Empowerment: A Systematic Review*. Watch the video [here](#).

Delhi seminar on the World Bank's Social Observatory, February: Dr Vijayendra Rao (lead economist, The World Bank's [Social Observatory](#)) demonstrated a new method of peer tracking that allows communities to generate census data with which they can monitor their own progress, make better allocation decisions and provide a source of information to engage with the government to improve public services.

Delhi seminar on evaluation in the era of SDGs, February: Marco Segone (director, UN Women's independent evaluation office) explored how SDGs are simultaneously the biggest opportunity and challenge before the evaluation community in his talk, *Evaluation in the era of SDGs: Is it business as usual?*

Delhi seminar on generating useful evidence from multiple contexts, March: In *Learning from others: Insights from J-PAL's experience in generating useful evidence from multiple contexts*, Rachel Glennerster (executive director, J-PAL, Massachusetts Institute of Technology) presented a practical framework for drawing not only on the detailed knowledge of local conditions, but also on rigorous impact evaluations from other countries to generate more effective policies.

3ie-LIDC seminar on econometrics, January: In the seminar on Metrics, Steve Pischke (author of the popular textbook [Mostly Harmless Econometrics](#) and Professor of Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science) talked about the different ways in which econometricians identify causal relationships in the absence of randomised assignment.

3ie-LIDC seminar on evidence from the adoption of agricultural practices, March: The seminar on *The value of advice: evidence from the adoption of agricultural practices* by Shawn A. Cole (professor, Harvard Business School) detailed the dramatic differences in agricultural productivity around the world.

3ie in the news

- In their blog, [Impact Evaluation: How the Wonkiest Subject in the World Got Traction](#), Ruth Levine and William Savedoff from the Centre for Global Development describe the series of events that led to the creation of 3ie. They describe how it contributed and even accelerated the numbers and quality of impact evaluations undertaken over the last decade.
- 3ie Working Paper 25, *Evaluations with impact: decision-focused impact evaluation as a practical policymaking tool* was cited in the World Bank blog by Markus Goldenstein, [What's wrong with how we do impact evaluation?](#) This working paper was also mentioned in the [CGD blog by Lant Pritchett](#), *Using "Random" Right: New Insights from IDinsight Team* on the IDinsight website.
- An [editorial](#) in the International Journal of Epidemiology, *Worm wars, data resources and vitamin D* recognises 3ie's work in funding and facilitating replication research.
- The [Reed magazine report](#), *The Economics of the Big Cut*, references the 3ie-funded work of Prof Nick Wilson and Willa Friedman on testing different approaches to encourage men to get circumcised.

Publications from 3ie-funded research

Zhou Q, Liu CF, Zhang LX, Zhou H and Chen YD, 2015. [Research progress in soil-transmitted helminth infection control among children at home and abroad](#), Chinese Journal of Schistosomiasis Control, 27(4):431-435

Kyegombea, N, Abramskya, T, Devriesa, KM, Michaub, L, Nakutib, J, Starmanna, E, Musuyac, T, Heisea, L and Wattsa, C, 2015. [What is the potential for interventions designed to prevent violence against women to reduce children's exposure to violence? Findings from the SASA! study, Kampala, Uganda](#), Child Abuse & Neglect, 50:128–140

Kurth, AE, Cleland, CM, Chhun, N, Sidle, JE, Were, E, Naanyu, V, Emonyi, W, Macharia, SM, Sang, E and Siika, AM, 2016. [Accuracy and Acceptability of Oral Fluid HIV Self-Testing in a General Adult Population in Kenya](#), AIDS and Behavior, 20(4), pp 870-879

Piza, C, Cravo, TA, Taylor, L, Gonzalez, L, Musse, I, Furtado, I, Sierra, AC and Abdelnour, S, 2016. [The impacts of business support services for small and medium enterprises on firm performance in low-and middle-income countries: a systematic review](#), Campbell Systematic Reviews 2015:12

3ie in peer-reviewed publications

McKinnon, MC, Cheng, SH, Garside, R, Masuda, YJ and Miller, DC, 2015. [Sustainability: Map the evidence](#), Nature 528 (7581) pp 185-187

Rehfuess, EA, Durão, S, Kyamanywa, P, Meerpohl, JJ, Younge T and Rohwere, A on behalf of the CEBHA+ consortium, 2016. [An approach for setting evidence-based and stakeholder-informed research priorities in low- and middle-income countries](#), Bull World Health Organ; 94:297–305

New funding

- 3ie received a grant of USD349,500 from USAID's Global Development Lab to provide a scoping report and evidence gap map around Science, Technology, Innovation and Partnerships.
- 3ie received a grant of USD449,091 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for a new thematic replication window focusing on the financial services evidence base replication to promote independent validation of peer-reviewed publications around financial services for the poor.
- UNICEF increased its contribution by USD386,812 for a total of USD1,828,971 to evaluate the Regional Adolescents' programme in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan run by UNICEF and IKEA Foundation.

3ie finance update

As of 31 March 2016, 3ie's assets stood at USD92.38 million, including USD38.62 million held in bank accounts, USD53.35 million as grants receivable, i.e. undisbursed balances in signed grant agreements, USD0.41 million in other receivables, fixed assets and deposits and the accrued liabilities for expense and grants payables at USD0.59 million. Total expenses in the quarter were USD4.70 million, of which USD3.30 million were grant expenses.