



International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

Improving lives through impact evaluation



Quarterly Report April - June 2014

Policy influence updates from 3ie-funded studies and staff

Addressing child nutrition in Ethiopia: The Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP) in Ethiopia is one of the largest social protection programmes in Sub-Saharan Africa providing participating communities public works employment and unconditional transfers. Data from three rounds of survey data collected since 2006 show no evidence of impact of the programme on pre-school nutrition. The Government of Ethiopia is currently developing a national nutrition strategy and PNSP is being redesigned. The study team has been requested to review the proposed changes to ensure the programme contributes to better nutrition.

Improving learning at schools in India: Learning outcomes across India are generally dismal. The Central Board of Secondary Education has introduced a system of Continuous and Comprehensive Evaluation (CCE) system. However, a 3ie-funded study found that CCE has had no impact on learning outcomes. But a Learning Enhancement Programme (LEP) developed by the non-governmental organisation, Pratham, had large effect on students' basic Hindi skills. The Government of Haryana has now commissioned a detailed review of the CCE. Pratham has used the results from this evaluation to expand LEP into Jharkhand, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh.

3ie Executive Director, Howard White, received an award from the Ugandan Prime Minister for services to evaluation in Uganda, and held a two-hour session with the Ugandan cabinet on the importance of monitoring and evaluation.

New 3ie publications

Vegard Iversen's and Richard Palmer-Jones' study on [TV, female empowerment and demographic change in rural India](#) has been published as the second paper in the 3ie [Replication Paper Series](#).

New Policy Window Grants

Two impact evaluation grants have been awarded under Policy Window 2 to [Neil Butcher and Associates](#), one for a study on the [New Partnership for African Development \(NEPAD\)](#) e-school initiative's Kenya Primary Schools Laptop Project and the other for a study on the Senegal NEPAD e-school initiative.

New Thematic Window Grants

Three new awards under the Transparency and Accountability Thematic Window: The Center for Global Development will evaluate the impact of deliberative polling, i.e. measuring people's views before and after expert information is provided on a range of options for the use of gas revenue in Tanzania. The Kumasi Institute of Technology, Energy and Environment will be

designing a proposal assessing the impact of various components of Ghana's Petroleum Revenue Management Act. The Economic Research Center in Azerbaijan will be undertaking a randomised controlled trial on transparency, trust and corruption in that country. [Read more.](#)

Six impact evaluation grants under the Agricultural Innovation Thematic Window:

- Wageningen University will examine whether a multi-faceted market-based approach to food crops stimulates food security and agricultural development in the breadbasket of Tanzania.
- Innovations for Poverty Action will investigate agricultural information creation and dissemination in Western Kenya.
- The Institute of Statistical Social and Economic Research (ISSER), University of Ghana has also been awarded two grants, one examining whether reinforcing agro-dealer networks improves access and use of agriculture inputs by farmers in Niger and the other on the impact of aggregation centres on smallholder farmer market power and incomes in Mali.
- Tegemo Institute of Agricultural Policy and Development, Egerton University will investigate which modalities are most cost-effective in promoting the use of new seed varieties designed to boost food security.
- The University of Illinois will seek to learn what the effect of demonstration plots and the warehouse receipt system has on integrated soil fertility management adoption, yield and income of smallholder farmers from Malawi's anchor farms.

Humanitarian Assistance Thematic Window: Two new requests for qualifications were issued:

- Proposal preparation grants for impact evaluation of humanitarian assistance interventions in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Research teams will assess the feasibility of evaluations of ongoing water, sanitation and hygiene, food security, and/or multi-sectoral humanitarian programmes in the DRC. This RFQ received six applications.
- Proposal preparation grants for an impact evaluation of a World Food Program project seeking to determine the relative effectiveness of cash versus electronic-vouchers in Jordan and Lebanon. This RFQ received nine applications.

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction Thematic Window: Nine preparation grants have been awarded for impact evaluations of programmes in REDD/REDD+ and early warning systems across eight countries.

HIV Oral Self-Testing Thematic Window (TW2): Following a successful matchmaking event and workshop for implementers in Nairobi, the [Request For Proposals](#) for the second phase of TW2 has been launched. The second phase will include pilot interventions and their impact evaluations for oral self-testing in Kenya. Pilot interventions are informed by the results of the first phase, which included the formative studies. Applications for TW2's second phase were due 7 July 2014.

Voluntary Male Medical Circumcision (VMMC): VMMC grantees will present preliminary results of their pilot studies at 3ie session at the HIV Research for Prevention Conference in Cape Town in October.

Replication Window

[Replication Window 3, HIV Prevention \(RW3\)](#) has been launched as the first replication window with a thematic focus. 3ie is currently accepting expressions of interest (EOI) for replications of influential, innovative, or controversial impact evaluations of biomedical, behavioural, or social and structural HIV prevention interventions. In addition, the fourth and fifth replication plans received from Replication Window 2 grantees on the [Replication Studies Status web page](#) as well as an in-house replication plan by Dr Eric Djimeu and co-author Dr Jeffrey Korte.

International Development Coordinating Group

During the reporting quarter, two new systematic review titles were published in the Campbell library:

- The effectiveness and efficiency of cash-based approaches in protracted and sudden onset emergencies: a systematic review ([click here](#))
- Access to electricity for improving health, education and welfare in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review ([click here](#))

3ie's Hugh Waddington was elected as the IDCG co-chair, succeeding Howard White.

Registry of International Development Impact Evaluations (RIDIE)

[Thirty-one studies](#) were registered by the end of the second quarter. RAND Corporation began sending solicitations and outreach materials to various academic journals as part of the agreed promotional outreach plan. 3ie also, awarded a tablet computer to a randomly selected study registrant from the first 15 studies registered on the RIDIE site.

Impact Evaluation Repository (IER)

At the end of the second quarter, 3ie's evidence portal on its website hosted [2,390 impact evaluation](#) records in the IER. An additional six studies were also approved and were being uploaded to the IER for a total of 2396 impact evaluations. A crowdsourcing effort was initiated in early June to encourage researchers to submit impact evaluations that were missed as part of the comprehensive search and screening process. By the end of the second quarter of 2014, 17 individuals had submitted additional impact evaluations for review.

Bursary Programme

During the second quarter, 19 participants from 14 countries attended 8 courses and conferences around the world through 3ie's Bursary Programme. One participant wrote afterwards, "I am writing to once again thank you for the support offered to me to attend a one week impact assessment course at RIPA. I learnt a lot from the course and we had representation from different countries so we were able to exchange notes, experiences and contacts for future sharing. I briefed my colleagues and supervisors about the course and what we covered and they have all appreciated. We are going to start implementing some of the components of the personal development plan that I developed during the training. It was also good to learn that 3ie has already supported some activities in Uganda." --*Obadiah Kashemiere, Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Orphans and other Vulnerable Children National Implementation Unit (OVCNIU), Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, Uganda.*

New funding

During the quarter, we signed a grant agreement with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for US\$8,000,347 to promote evaluations of development interventions and to provide core support. DFID has confirmed a grant of £850,000 as part of the second phase of the funding for the Humanitarian Assistance Thematic Window.

We signed an MoU with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs represented by UNDP for US\$299,978 to undertake feasibility studies on the impact of common humanitarian fund interventions in DRC and another one with World Bank for US\$126,578 for the Evidence for Peace initiative.

The International Development Research Centre and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation have offered C\$116,800 and US\$30,000 respectively for the [Making Impact Evaluation Matter](#) conference to be held in Manila in September.

3ie finance update

As on 30 June 2014, 3ie's assets stood at US\$85.51 million, comprising US\$43.67 million held in bank accounts, US\$41.16 million as grants receivable, i.e. undisbursed balances in signed grant agreements, US\$0.68 million in other receivables, fixed assets and deposits and the accrued liabilities for expense payables at US\$ 0.72 million. Total expenses in the quarter were US\$5.27 million, of which US\$3.07 million were grant expenses.

3ie in the News

- 3ie's impact evaluation of a *Cheeranjivi Yojana*, a [health insurance programme](#) in Gujarat, India, undertaken by [Duke University](#) has been cited in the [New York Times](#).
- Howard White's blogs, *Is independence always a good thing?* and *When will researchers ever learn?* was cited on Development Impact's [Friday links](#), and was the Impact Evaluation Repository launch, which was also picked up on [Christ Blattman's](#) blog, the [Campbell Collaboration](#) website and the [Africa Evidence Network \(AEN\) June newsletter](#).
- The Notre Dame Initiative for Global Development and Notre Dame Global Adaptation Index issued a [press release](#) to announce their proposal preparation grant under 3ie's Climate Change Thematic Window which was published by [InsuranceneWSnet.com](#).
- [Devex](#) featured Howard White's presentation on evidence-based policies to reduce poverty at an event hosted by the Independent Evaluation Group at the World Bank headquarters during the recent Spring Meeting. The link was also posted on [The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation](#) website.
- 3ie's replication paper on quality evidence for policymaking has been cited in the [Monitoring and Evaluation NEWS](#) and uploaded on the [EGAP website](#).
- 3ie's [systematic review summary on farmer field school](#) was cited in an article in [Nature](#).
- Aiken and Davey's replication study funded by 3ie, [Worms: Identifying impacts on education and health in the presence of treatment externalities](#), was cited in a [blog by Evidence Action](#)
- A blog by Jyostna Puri and Bharat Dhody, *Impact evaluation of humanitarian assistance: a possible turning point?*, was featured on the [ALNAP website](#) and the humanitarian evaluation community of practice. Register [here](#) to view the post.
- Howard White and 3ie were mentioned in this Uganda Evaluation Week [report](#).
- 3ie was mentioned in an Independent Evaluation Group blog, [do we really need training in evaluation?](#) And the International Rescue Committee mentioned 3ie in a [blog on gap maps](#)
- The Impact Evaluation Repository launch
- The call for proposals for *Making Impact Evaluations Matter* conference was mentioned in the [SeaChange](#) and [AEN](#) newsletters.
- 3ie was cited in an Agence Francaise Developpement publication, [Les évaluations d'impact dans le domaine du développement - Etat des lieux et nouveaux enjeux](#) (Impact assessments in the area of development - Status and emerging issues). English translation of this publication will soon be available.
- 3ie's Replication Paper 1 has been linked on Universities of Göttingen's [Replication Wiki](#). Replication Paper 2 was cited on Development Impact blog [Friday links](#).
- Evidence Aid has mentioned the 3ie-commissioned scoping study on humanitarian assistance in their [June newsletter](#).