



## Policy Window Advanced: summaries of completed evaluations

### Evaluation of the Plan Vive Digital

3ie member: SINERGIA-DNP

Research team: Econometría Consultores and Sistemas Especializados de Información

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#### Overview of the evaluation

The Colombian government implemented Plan Vive Digital in 2010 to increase internet connectivity particularly for those from the poorer segments of society. The plan included three components: Kioskos Vive Digital (KVD), Puntos Vive Digital (PVD) and Hogares Digitales (HD). KVD involved the installation of internet kiosks in towns with 100,000 or more inhabitants, who had no alternative public internet access. The evaluation covered the first phase of KVD deployment. PVD is similar to KVD, it provides internet through public access points to low-income populations living in areas where there is limited internet access. Lastly, HD provided internet access directly to homes belonging to the two poorest segments of the population. The evaluation of KVD and PVD used propensity score matching techniques. The research team evaluated HD with a two-treatment arm randomized controlled trial, along with qualitative focus group interviews.

#### Role of the advisor

The advisor only worked on the implementation and closing phase of the evaluation. This was because the advisor was hired after the team started designing the evaluation. The advisor assessed the proposed methodologies and contributed to survey design and the questionnaire. Specifically, he reviewed the basic sampling design, selection of the control group and questions related to the survey instrument, such as wording of the baseline questions and the inclusion of questions intended to capture behavioral change. In particular, the advisor reviewed the identification strategy and statistical approaches, focusing on power calculations, avoiding contagion and preventing biases in the intervention. The advisor also assessed the importance and feasibility of the proposed methodology, including the identification assumptions, estimators and potential attrition.

At the implementation stage, the advisor reviewed preliminary findings, proposed modifications, and helped suggest strategies to improve the evaluation results. Additionally, the advisor assisted the research team in preparing the preliminary presentations of results, including a policy brief. At the closing stage, the advisor reviewed the final report, contributed the presentation for the Colombian government, and contributed to the policy recommendations.

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## **Interactions with the local team**

The advisor began work with the local evaluation team a few months after the start of the project. He made two field trips to Colombia, participated in regular telephone calls and online meetings. Interactions with the local team focused on preparation, in-situ meetings, assessments, methodological reports and on document presented to the local research team. The collaboration between the expert advisor and local research team was open and professional, with a common aim at finding the best possible methods and analysis.