



Quarterly Report October – December 2016

Delhi Evidence Week 2016

3ie held its second successful Delhi Evidence Week 2016 in November. Michael Woolcock, lead social development specialist at the World Bank, delivered the opening public lecture on finding more effective ways to use evaluation to assess the internal and external validity of complex interventions. He stressed that impact evaluation methods are often inadequate to address the complexities of local contexts, especially in sanitation.



3ie and the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council kicked off a co-hosted a one-day conference on *Sanitation for all* after Woodcock's lecture. It featured four sessions on how high-quality research evidence can be used to address challenges in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector in India. These sessions were well-attended and included several prominent personalities in the WASH sector in India.

Education was the focus of the second day of 3ie's public events. The sessions started with the launch of 3ie's education effectiveness review to a packed audience. A panel of Indian experts then analysed the importance of better evidence to improve education in India. Atishi Marlena, advisor to the deputy chief minister of Delhi, spoke about the challenges facing the government in implementing major education reforms. "Even if evidence exists on the effectiveness of an education intervention, systems need to be in place for implementing it". "Researchers need to be embedded in the system so that they can give us regular advice" she added. Click [here](#) to read more about 3ie Delhi Evidence Week 2016.

Evidence uptake and use from 3ie-funded studies

Using findings from an impact evaluation in Mexico to inform a pilot agricultural extension programme in Kenya: While Mexico has several programmes to improve farm productivity, such as loan programmes, subsidies for technical assistance and inputs, and extension worker programmes, none of them has been subjected to rigorous evaluation. A new impact evaluation assessed the impact of two programmes, the *Technological Guarantee Programme* and the *Extension Agent and Soil Analysis Programme*. They were implemented in the Mexican state of Tlaxcala and targeted small rain-fed farms with low levels of technological adoption.

The Feed the Future Innovation Lab for Assets and Market Access (also known as BASIS) identifies and supports innovative agricultural economic research around the globe and promotes those projects that empower the vulnerable to sustainably rise up out of poverty. The research team engaged extensively with the director of the BASIS Assets and Market Access Collaborative Research Support Program. He has shown keen interest in the study results from Mexico and plans to disseminate the findings to policymakers in the US and globally. He has also expressed willingness to provide financial support for a pilot agricultural extension service programme in western Kenya. It will implement the model evaluated in Mexico, which will be adapted to fit the context of western Kenya. An impact evaluation will be conducted of the Kenyan pilot, which will help build the evidence base on the effectiveness of providing soil analysis information and on the adoption of locally appropriate agricultural inputs.

New 3ie publications

Impact evaluations: *Optimising the use of economic interventions to increase demand for voluntary medical male circumcision in Kenya; Assessing the impact of delivering messages through intimate partners to create demand for voluntary medical male circumcision in Uganda;*; *Measuring the impact of SMS-based interventions on uptake of voluntary medical male circumcision in Zambia; Voluntary medical male circumcision uptake through soccer in Zimbabwe; Using smartphone raffles to increase demand for voluntary medical male circumcision in Tanzania; The use of peer referral incentives to increase demand for voluntary medical male circumcision in Zambia; and Using advertisements to create demand for voluntary medical male circumcision in South Africa*

Systematic review: *Effects and mechanisms of market-based reforms on access to electricity in developing countries: a systematic review.*

Impact evaluation briefs: *Do lottery-based incentives help increase voluntary medical male circumcision?, Can peers and other influencers increase voluntary medical male circumcision uptake? and Exploring the impacts and ethics of providing economic incentives to increase voluntary medical male circumcision.*

Replication brief: *3ie replication programme.*

Systematic review briefs: *Does community-based rehabilitation improve lives of people with disabilities?, Measuring spillovers matters and What factors impact the effectiveness of emergency WASH interventions?*

Evidence gap map reports: *Land-use change and forestry programmes: evidence on the effects on greenhouse gas emissions and food security, Examining the evidence base for forest conservation interventions and Adolescent sexual and reproductive health: an evidence gap map.*

Scoping paper: *Adolescent sexual and reproductive health: scoping the impact of programming in low- and middle-income countries.*

Working paper: *Examining the evidence on the effectiveness of India's rural employment guarantee act.*

New 3ie blogs

What's first for replication studies is what's next for 3ie's replication programme; Implementing impact evaluations: trade-offs and compromises; Is HIV self-testing passing the test?; and Is impact evaluation still on the rise?

3ie-funded studies and 3ie publications in peer-reviewed publications

Please [click](#) here to access the list all of the 3ie-funded studies and publications produced by 3ie appearing in peer-reviewed publications.

3ie grant updates

Policy Window 3: 3ie awarded an impact evaluation grant to the University of Passau for a study, *Improving employability through job counselling and job placement in Tunisia.*

Improving adolescents' lives in South Asia (TW12): 3ie signed a grant agreement with the University of Mannheim for an evaluation that will measure the impact of the UNICEF-IKEA Foundation programme on improving adolescents' lives in India.

Agricultural Insurance Thematic Window (TW13): 3ie signed six proposal preparation grants that will include formative or process evaluations as part of preparing impact evaluation proposals:

- University of Groningen for a study titled *Improving trust and relaxing credit constraints to improve uptake of weather insurance in Ethiopia*
- African School of Economics for a study titled *Introducing risk management tools to a large-scale agricultural development program in Senegal*
- International Food Policy Research Institute for a study, *Uptake and evaluation of innovative insurance embedded credit for promoting resilience and livelihoods for smallholder maize and wheat farmers in Kenya*
- University of Gaston Berger for a study, *Bundling index insurance and credit in Senegal: a formative evaluation of contributors and constraints to take-up*
- Innovations for Poverty Action for a study, *Enhancing access to weather index agricultural insurance in Burkina Faso - a new marketing approach.*
- LEAD Analytics Inc. for a study, *Assessment of agricultural insurance linked to contract farming and government input subsidy scheme in Zambia.*

Development Priorities Window: 3ie signed impact evaluation grant agreements with these institutions:

- Tata Institute of Social Sciences for a study, *The socio economic and environmental impact of Konkan Railways*
- Cuencas Sustentables for a study, *Livelihood impacts of climate change mitigation and adaptation: a randomized control trial of incentive-based forest-carbon management in Bolivia*
- Innovations for Poverty Action for a study, *Rural Institutional Innovation: can village courts in Bangladesh accelerate access to justice and improve socio-economic outcomes?*
- Institute for Fiscal Studies for a study, *Community toilet use in slums, willingness to pay and the role of informational and supply side constraints-a three country study*
- The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), USA for a study, *evaluating the Impacts of the Dar es Salaam Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) System*

Registry for International Development Impact Evaluations (RIDIE), Impact Evaluation Repository and 3ie Expert Roster

RIDIE: The [registry](#) had 99 registrations at the end of fourth quarter. 3ie ended its contract with RAND and took full control of updating and maintaining the database until it can be transferred to the Centre for Open Science.

Impact evaluation repository: As of the end of December, it holds 4,370 [impact evaluation records](#), including a few in French, Portuguese and Spanish.

Expert roster: There are currently 530 [experts](#).

Bursaries

3ie funded 13 evaluators to attend impact evaluation training between October and December. Participants from Africa, Asia and Latin America attended a variety of workshops focusing on policy uptake and methods. 3ie funded participants to attend the Cochrane Colloquium in Seoul; the Asia-Pacific Evaluation Association conference in Hanoi and the Evidence in Governance and Politics workshops in Connecticut. Additionally, participants attended three separate impact evaluation trainings in the UK organised by Crown Agents, Public Administration International and the London International Development Centre, respectively.

Members

The Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs Policy and Operations Evaluation Department has re-joined 3ie for a full two-year period.

Member webinars. 3ie co-produces these webinars with 3ie members. The actual webinar is open only to 3ie members' staff and invited guests. The webinar video is then circulated to all registrants and posted on the 3ie website.

- 3ie-International Rescue Committee organised a webinar, [Evidence gap maps: what to consider before commissioning, producing, or adapting them](#), 18 November 2016, with Birte Snilstveit, 3ie senior evaluation specialist and Rick Bartoldus, IRC evidence to action officer.
- At the 3ie-Norad webinar, [Country evaluation briefs: institutionalising the use of evidence through user-friendly products](#) on 13 December 2016, Jan-Petter Holtedahl, Norad senior evaluation advisor spoke about the piloting their new country evaluation briefs, which are aimed at supporting Norad's efforts to institutionalise the use of evidence internally, in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in Norwegian Embassies. Beryl Leach, 3ie deputy director and head of Policy, Advocacy and Communication, shared some reactions to their new initiative and supported their development, drawing on 3ie's experience in promoting the use of evidence.

3ie events

3ie Washington-IFPRI seminars:

- Laura Ripani, lead economist at the Inter-American Bank presented her co-authored research on [Experimental evidence on the long-term impacts of a youth training programme](#) on 8 December 2016.
- Dr Matais Busso, a research economist at the Inter-American Bank, presented his work on [Challenges in educational reform: an experiment on active learning in mathematics](#) on 27 October 2016.

3ie Delhi seminars:

- Shagun Sabarwal, associate director for training at CLEAR/J-PAL South Asia, spoke on [The role and interpretation of pilot studies in impact evaluation research](#) on 20 October 2016 at IFMR.

3ie LIDC-London seminars:

- 3ie's Birte Snilstveit and Jennifer Stevenson launched a new gap map on [Land-use change and forestry programmes: Mapping evidence on effects on greenhouse gas emissions and human welfare outcomes](#) on 23 November 2016.
- Edward Anderson, senior lecturer at the School of International Development, University of East Anglia spoke about his findings in a presentation on [What policies and interventions have been strongly associated with changes in in-country income inequality? A systematic review](#) on 26 October 2016.
- Francesca Bastagli, head of programme and principal research fellow, Overseas Development Institute presented on [Cash transfers: What Does the Evidence Say? A Rigorous Review of Programme Impact and of the Role of Design and Implementation Features](#) on 5 October 2016.

3ie in the news

- The launch of 3ie's education effectiveness review at the [What Works Global Summit 2016](#) in London and its main findings were reported in [Scidev.net](#) and [The Statesman](#).
- Bill Gates mentioned the 3ie-funded IMATCHINE study in the foreword of the book [Millions Saved, edited by Amanda Glassman](#). The study looked into the Chiranjeevi maternal and child health programme of the Gujarat government. Click [here](#) to read the 3ie report.
- Emmanuel Jimenez's keynote speech at the Asian Evaluation Week, 5-9 September 2016 at Xi'an, was quoted in the latest issue of [Evaluation Matters](#), the quarterly knowledge publication from Independent Development Evaluation (IDEV) of the African Development Bank.
- The findings from 3ie-supported pilot interventions and impact evaluations of these interventions to increase demand for voluntary medical male circumcision were published in the October edition of the [Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome](#).
- During the Delhi evidence week, 3ie's [education effectiveness review](#) received significant media coverage in leading Indian dailies, [The Times of India](#) and the [Hindustan Times](#). Both dailies discussed the main findings of the review.
- Emmanuel Jimenez spoke to Businessworld on the role of impact evaluation in assisting policymakers to make better decisions. [Impact evaluation makes good sense](#) was published ahead of the 3ie Delhi Evidence Week 2016.
- An extended feature on Delhi Evidence Week 2016 was published by [Sulabhschwachbharth.com](#). Read the article [here](#). [Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council](#), one of 3ie's partners for the Delhi Evidence Week 2016, posted an [article](#) on their website with some of the key messages from the day-long session on sanitation.
- Ben Durbin from the National Foundation for Education Research discussed our education review in his [blog](#). He praised the insights offered and conclusions drawn by the review and reiterated that impact evaluations have very little value in isolation.

New funding

- Population Foundation of India signed a professional service contract with 3ie for USD8,000 to ensure the quality of the impact evaluation of its education entertainment intervention, *Main Kuch Bhi Kar Sakti Hoon* (I, a woman, can achieve anything).
- The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has awarded 3ie USD6,000,000 over three years for general operating support.
- UNICEF added USD10,944 to its funding for the evaluation of the regional adolescents' programme in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan run by UNICEF and IKEA Foundation. The total funding is now USD1,946,883

3ie finance update

As of 31 December 2016 statements*, 3ie's assets stood at USD82.77 million, including USD38.25 million held in bank accounts, USD44.10 million as grants receivable, i.e. undisbursed balances in signed grant agreements, USD0.42 million in other receivables, fixed assets and deposits and the accrued liabilities for expense and grants payables at USD1.96 million. Total expenses in the quarter were USD8.27 million, of which USD6.49 million were grant expenses.

*These numbers are provisional. 3ie is in the process of closing the financial year audit. The final figures will be mentioned in the 3ie annual report 2016.