

What it means

Examples of 3ie funded studies



Do payment schemes work for reducing deforestation and addressing climate change?

Tens of millions of dollars have been invested in payments for Ecosystem Services projects from South Africa to Costa Rica, and even New York City. Two research projects will be measuring the impact of such interventions on the ecosystem and welfare of local communities, looking in particular at a large scale project in Mexico and a pilot in Uganda.

Can reconciliation reduce conflict and promote development?

Researchers will assess if communities and individuals that come together through reconciliation in Sierra Leone are more willing to work together and contribute to communal development.

Are vouchers an effective way to incentivise male circumcision and reduce HIV infection in Malawi?

Male circumcision significantly lowers the likelihood of their contracting HIV by up to 60 percent. Surveys will be conducted among 3,000 adult men and 1,500 women attending antenatal and neonatal clinics in Malawi to evaluate the effectiveness of subsidies and other counseling methods on increasing the demand for male circumcision.

Can access to credit in rural Bihar affect women's bargaining power within their own household?

Most poor families in Bihar are chronically indebted to local moneylenders who charge interest rates of up to 120% per annum. The cycle of debt and poverty can trap families for generations. A randomized control trial will examine the impact of Bihar's flagship Rural Livelihoods Project Jeevika in addressing poverty and women's empowerment.



How to join 3ie

3ie is a membership based organization. By contributing to 3ie, Members show their commitment to evaluation and evidence-based policy. They play a key role in determining the strategic direction of 3ie and are given priority for funding and quality assurance services. For more information on benefits and application visit: www.3ieimpact.org/joining/

- **Full membership** is open to any agency implementing development programmes with an annual budget of at least US\$1 million.
- **Associate membership** is open to institutions which conduct impact evaluation studies.
- **Partners** are organizations, such as evaluation societies and advocacy groups, which share 3ie's commitment to promoting evidence-based policy making to enhance development effectiveness.
- **Individuals** are welcomed to sign-up on our news list-serve to receive updates on 3ie and impact evaluation.

Our Members

AfDB, African Development Bank
AusAID, Australian Agency for International Development
BMGF, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
CIDA, Canadian International Development Agency
CONEVAL, Mexico
DANIDA, Danish International Development Agency
DfID, Department for International Development
Government of Fiji
Heifer International
Inter-American Development Bank
IRC, International Rescue Committee
Irish Aid
Millennium Challenge Cooperation
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
NORAD, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
Partners in Health
Planning Commission, Pakistan
Prime Minister's Office, Uganda
Save the Children US
SIDA, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
USAID, The U.S. Agency for International Development
Women for Women International

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International Initiative for Impact Evaluation



Providing evidence to influence policy

High-quality impact evaluations measure the net change in outcomes that can be attributed to a specific intervention using the best available methodology, drawing on mixed methods to analyze evaluation questions across the causal chain. Such designs answer not only the question of 'what works?' but also 'why?' and 'under what circumstances?'

Improving Lives through Impact Evaluation

Each year, billions of dollars are spent on development interventions to improve the lives of poor people in developing countries. The last fifteen years have seen a growing demand for results. Do we know which development programmes work?

3ie was created to help answer some of these crucial questions and fill the evaluation gap. We strive to provide effective solutions to critical development problems by funding high quality impact evaluations. The focus of 3ie's work is to ensure that rigorous impact evaluations translate into policy change and improve people's lives.

Evaluations that made a difference

- **1 in 4** Mexican families are now benefiting from the improved *Oportunidades* programme following a number of modifications resulting from its evaluation, with significant positive effects on utilization of health services, school enrollment, nutrition, and contraceptive use, among others.
- Over **17** countries from Latin America and around the world have then followed the Mexican experience and are now implementing similar programmes. Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malawi, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Pakistan, Palestine, Panama, and Paraguay, as well as New York City have Mexican style cash transfer programmes.
- **3 million** Kenyan children are being dewormed this year as a result of a study which proved deworming is the most cost-effective way of increasing school performance in Kenya. The World Food Program has committed to add deworming to all their school feeding programmes in areas that have high intestinal worm loads.
- In India, Pratham raised funding for a massive scale-up of their "Read India" program, which already benefits **20 million children** based in part on strong evidence of effectiveness from a Jameel Poverty Action Lab impact study.
- In Mexico, substituting dirt floors of houses with cement floors reduced the incidence of diarrhea by **half** and anemia by **over 80 percent** and in turn significantly improved children's learning ability. The evidence resulted in the scaling-up of Mexico's flagship programme *Piso Firme* "Firm Floor" that offered concrete cement flooring to poor families.

What We Do

Informing policy debate

Evidence can influence policy, particularly if policy-makers and programme implementers are engaged in the evaluation process from the outset. 3ie is not only investing resources in communicating what works and what does not work, but is also actively advocating for development effectiveness.

By engaging our grantees in developing policy influence plans and building the capacity of researchers in how to influence policy, as well as learning from case studies and experience sharing, 3ie campaigns for evidence based policy. We work with our members and partners to build alliances and establish an emerging community of practice.



India's Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Montek Singh Ahluwalia, announcing the architecture of a new Independent Evaluation Office

Journal of Development Effectiveness

publishes high quality papers reporting evidence of the impact of projects, programmes and policies in developing countries, including both reviews and new evaluation findings. The Journal has an explicit policy of 'learning from our mistakes', and welcomes papers that report interventions with no, or negative, impacts so as to discourage publication bias.



3ie Working Paper series covers both conceptual issues related to impact evaluation and findings from specific studies or synthetic reviews.

3ie briefs analyse current policy issues and developments related to impact evaluation. The aim is to help policymakers and development practitioners increase development effectiveness through better evidence.

What We Do

Funding impact evaluations

3ie operates as a grant programme which runs highly competitive international calls for proposals. It funds:

- **Impact evaluations** of high policy relevance in low and middle income countries. These impact evaluations are currently funded under the **Open Window**, which accepts proposals related to any sector; the **Thematic Window**, which funds studies on priority themes and sectors; and the **Policy Window**, which focuses on priority interventions and programmes proposed by developing country implementing agencies and policy-makers.
- **Systematic reviews** which examine existing evidence on the impacts of a particular type of intervention or programme looking at critical issues such as: increasing primary school enrolments, reducing female genital mutilation and building social cohesion in Africa.



Enhancing the capacity to conduct and use impact evaluation

3ie is encouraging international collaborative research, including South-South partnerships, to develop researcher skills and experience. In addition, 3ie provides guidelines and guidance for the generation of quality and timely impact evaluations, including: developing materials for a training of trainers on impact evaluation, providing advisory support for commissioning or conducting an evaluation, matching experts to specific projects, and piloting replications to test the validity of the findings. Part of our strategy is to strengthen the capacity of institutions and policymakers by supporting the ability to make use of the evidence.

