



Quarterly Report January – March 2015

Examples of evidence uptake and use from 3ie-funded studies

Using data to inform investment climate reform in Malawi: The Government of Malawi, while implementing investment climate reforms, particularly, the new Business Registration Act, was interested in knowing more about the characteristics of informal firms to decide on a turnover threshold, above which registration for firms could be mandatory. However, the government had little information about the distribution of turnover (size) of firms. In an ongoing study by Innovations for Poverty Action, researchers had collected these data as part of their baseline listing over 7,250 enterprises in Malawi. At the government's request, the team provided summary statistics and helped inform discussions on setting the turnover threshold for firm registration. [Read more](#)

Strengthening programme implementation with timely inputs in Zimbabwe: The Government of Zimbabwe's harmonised social cash transfer (HSCT) programme is targeted towards ultra-poor households with labour constraints or high-dependency ratios. These are typically AIDS-affected households, with orphans and vulnerable children or with caregivers that are HIV-positive. Researchers from the University of North Carolina are investigating the economic impact of HSCT on both target households and the local community. An initial report from the study pointed to implementation issues on the ground stemming from lack of coordination between development programmes implemented by different ministries, especially the Basic Education Assistance Module of the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor and Social Services. In order to resolve the issue and facilitate a more coordinated implementation approach, the government is considering an MoU between the two ministries. The Government counterparts and researchers are co-authoring a chapter about their HSCT partnership in a forthcoming book to be published by Oxford University Press. [Read more](#)

Going beyond the usual microcredit product for impact in Vietnam: In a recently concluded study, the Center of Development Studies at the University of Groningen, in collaboration with Tao Yeu May (TYM) Fund, a large microfinance institution in northern Vietnam, tried to assess the impact of providing business training to its clients. The study found positive impacts of training on knowledge, uptake of new business practices and increased profits overtime. Encouraged by the results, TYM has decided to integrate training at the centre meetings, beginning with financial training specifically around cash management and account receivable and account payable management training. TYM also plans to modify the training content based on study recommendations and scale up the full training module soon. [Read more](#)

Publications from 3ie-funded research

A new paper, [The Han–minority achievement gap, language, and returns to schools in rural China](#), based on a 3ie-funded study on [paying for performance in China's battle against anaemia](#) was published in *Economic Development and Cultural Change* journal.

New 3ie publications

Evidence gap map report: [Evidence for peacebuilding: an evidence gap map](#)

Impact evaluation reports: 1. [A wide angle view of learning: evaluation of the CCE and LEP programmes in Haryana, India](#), 2. [Enhancing food production and food security through improved inputs: an evaluation of Tanzania's National Agricultural Input Voucher Scheme with a focus on gender impacts](#), 3. [Assessing the impact of farmer field schools on fertiliser use in China](#) In China, 4. [Impact of malaria control and enhanced literacy](#)

[instruction on educational outcomes among school children in Kenya: a multi-sectoral, prospective, randomised evaluation](#) and 5. [Shelter from the storm: upgrading housing infrastructure in Latin American slums.](#)

Scoping paper: [The current state of peacebuilding programming and evidence](#)

Systematic review: [Why targeting matters: a systematic review of farmer field schools targeting](#)

New blog posts

Check out our latest blogs: [Trends in impact evaluation: Did we ever learn?](#), [On target? Why participant selection matters for development programmes](#), [MDG for water: is the job done?](#), [Reversing the resource curse through impact evaluations](#), [Not all 'systematic' reviews are created equal](#), [Understanding what's what: the importance of sector knowledge in causal chain analysis](#), [What's wrong with evidence-informed development? Part 2](#). [Visit the blog site to view all of our posts.](#)

Policy window update: new grant awards

Policy Window 3, promoting girls' education in Benin. We received five applications in response to the [request for qualifications](#) to evaluate a girls' education programme implemented by the Government of Benin. We have awarded a proposal preparation grant to the African School of Economics.

Policy Window Advanced, expert advisor for SINERGIA, Government of Colombia. Alberto Chong from the University of Ottawa will be the [impact evaluation expert advisor](#) for Econometría, which has received a grant from the Government of Colombia to evaluate the *Vivie Digital* programme. Alberto will advise the local team on their evaluation design, survey instruments and other aspects of the project over the next year.

Policy Window Philippines. We have awarded a [proposal preparation grant](#) to the Philippine Institute for Development Studies to design an impact evaluation of a programme implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Government of the Philippines.

Policy Window Philippines. We have awarded a [proposal preparation grant](#) to Innovations in Poverty Action, Philippines to design an impact evaluation of a programme implemented by the Department of Labor and Employment, Government of the Philippines.

Policy Window 3, community-based health initiatives in Bihar: We have awarded two grants for the impact evaluation of *Gram Varta*, a community mobilisation initiative, and the impact of the nodal *Anganwadi* centres in Bihar to the University of Göttingen and the Institute for Human Development respectively. The studies commenced in March 2015.

Thematic window updates

Thematic Window 1, social protection: We have closed the first grant under this window, which was focused on the effects of a revised payment system for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment scheme in India.

Thematic Window 3, voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC): In January, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) hosted a three-day meeting in Seattle for all VMMC demand generation partners. All of 3ie grantees under this window presented their results to key policymakers and donors, including representatives from Office of the US Global AIDS Coordinator, USAID, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Bank. 3ie also presented the results of these studies at BMGF's Evaluation and Eats (lunch) session to which all BMGF staff were invited to attend. All 3ie-funded studies under this window will be featured in a special supplement of [Journal of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndromes](#) that the foundation is coordinating, which will be a compilation of evidence produced by all of their VMMC demand generation studies. We expect the programme to conclude by May 2015.

Thematic Window 4, agricultural innovation. We have awarded a proposal preparation grant to the University of Illinois to prepare an impact evaluation proposal of the activities of the GRAD consulting group in Burkina Faso. We

also awarded a proposal preparation grant to International Water Management Institute for an impact evaluation of International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD)'s activities in Bangladesh. We signed a full impact evaluation grant with the Assoziacone Studi Luca d'Agliano to conduct an impact evaluation of IFAD activities in Uganda.

Thematic Window 8, transparency and accountability: We have awarded eleven proposal preparation grants to seven teams to design impact evaluations of initiatives aimed at improving [transparency and accountability of governance of natural resources in the extractives sector](#). 3ie held an inception workshop in London in January that brought together the evaluation teams, implementing agencies, representatives from DFID and 3ie staff.

Replication Window

Replication papers: We've published the fourth paper in the 3ie Replication Paper Series, [The long and short of returns to public investments in fifteen Ethiopian villages](#) by William H. Bowser. This replication study of Stefan Dercon, Daniel O. Gilligan, John Hoddinott and Tassew Woldehanna's paper, [impact of agricultural extension and roads on poverty and consumption growth in fifteen Ethiopian villages](#), extends the original short-term analysis to a longer term, five-year perspective. The replication findings suggest higher economic returns to future road infrastructure investment than agricultural extension services.

Launch of the 3ie evidence gap map platform

3ie's Synthesis and Reviews Office (SRO) launched the powerful new [evidence gap map \(EGM\)](#) platform on the 3ie website on 5 February at a well-attended event at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. Birte Snilstveit and Martina Vojtkova presented examples of 3ieEGMs and explained how the platform works. The discussants included Ellie Ott, humanitarian evidence programme and communications manager, Oxfam GB, Nina Marshall, deputy head, International Development Research Team, Economic and Social Research Council and Laura Koch, policy analyst, Evidence into Action Team (DFID).

Registry for International Development Impact Evaluations (RIDIE)

Researchers registered five new studies in the first quarter of 2015, for a total of [42 studies](#) at the end of March.

Impact Evaluation Repository (IER)

In the first quarter of 2015, we identified 86 studies from other knowledge production programmes to be included in the IER on 3ie's website. The IER currently holds [2,718 impact evaluations](#).

Bursary programme

Between January and March this year, we have awarded a total of 19 bursaries to applicants from Africa, the Middle East and Latin American and Caribbean region. In February, we awarded ten bursaries to applicants from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region attending the 3ie-American University in Cairo workshop on systematic reviews and the MENA evaluation conference in Cairo. Bursary recipients from Egypt (1), Jordan (3), Morocco (2), Lebanon (1), Sudan (1) and Tunisia (2) represented non-profit organisations and government agencies.

Applicants nominated by 3ie's members in Africa were awarded bursaries to attend the Uganda Evaluation Week on 10-14 March in Kampala. The recipients, from Benin (2), Burkina Faso (1), Senegal (2) and South Africa (2), largely represented government agencies involved in monitoring and policy planning.

We supported two applicants attending the 2015 Year of Evaluation Regional Conference in Lima, Peru, on 11-13 March. A participant from Mexico was nominated by the Mexican National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy (CONEVAL) and a presenter from Argentina was selected through a competitive process.

New funding and membership

- The Children's Investment Fund Foundation, UK has given us US\$ 292,560 to undertake impact evaluations of their programmes.

- UKaid through the Department for International Development (DFID) formally increased its contribution by £600,000 to the Humanitarian Assistance Thematic Window for a total of £1,500,000.
- World Food Programme has given us US\$1.25 million for the Humanitarian Assistance Thematic Window.
- UNICEF has given us US\$1.4 million to evaluate UNICEF-IKEA Foundation's Regional Adolescents programme in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan.
- We have received US\$450,000 from TechnoServe for the impact evaluation of the STRYDE programme in Tanzania.
- We have received a grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation of US\$35,000 to support the Future of Impact Evaluation symposium.

New Members: Hand in Hand, an NGO in India, the Ministry of Energy and Development of Renewable Energies, Government of Senegal, and the Ministry of Education, Government of Peru became 3ie members in the first quarter of 2015.

3ie finance update

As of 31 March 2015, 3ie's assets stood at US\$91.56 million, comprising US\$47.19 million held in bank accounts, US\$44.05 million as grants receivable, i.e. undisbursed balances in signed grant agreements, US\$0.32 million in other receivables, fixed assets and deposits and the accrued liabilities for expense and grants payables at US\$1.36 million. Total expenses in the quarter were US\$3.92 million, of which US\$2.46 million were grant expenses.

3ie in the news

- Annette Brown was interviewed on [Through the Noise](#), an online platform that interviews thought leaders in different areas in an effort to understand the changing world.
- The India Evaluation Week and 3ie were mentioned in the [Business Standard](#) newspaper.
- Berk Özler blogged on the 3ie replication paper [Reanalysis of health and educational impacts of a school-based deworming program in western Kenya Part 1 and 2: pure replication and alternative analyses](#) on the World Bank's Development Impact blogsite.
- [SciDev.Net](#) featured the launch of the 3ie evidence gap maps. Birte Snilstveit was interviewed on the [SciDev.Net](#) podcast [Tapping into Data](#)
- Annette Brown's presentation on evidence gap maps was featured on Dave Algozo's blog, [Evidence gap maps, ambient accountability, and more things I learned this week](#)
- David Evans cited [a 3ie study](#) and mentioned our *Evidence Matters* policy briefs in his Development Impact blog, [Do policy briefs change beliefs?](#)
- *The Hindu* published Radhika Menon and Howard White's op-ed [Evidence matters to policymaking](#)
- [Why do sanitation campaigns fail?](#) A 3ie-funded study on impact evaluation of the Total Sanitation programme in Odisha, India, was cited in an op-ed by Suvojit Chattopadhyay in the *Mint*.
- [Building networks for evidence-informed policy in Africa](#), 3ie's video feature was [cross-posted](#) by The African Evidence Network (AEN) and mentioned in the [AEN newsletter](#), along with 3ie's participation at the India Evaluation Week. The video feature was also cross-posted on the World Bank blog [People, Spaces, Deliberation](#)
- Drew Cameron, Anjini Mishra and Annette Brown's paper, *The growth of impact evaluation for international development: how much have we learned?* was cited on [Better Evaluation](#). William Savedoff's blog, [the evaluation gap is closing, but not closed](#), mentions Drew Cameron and Anjini Mishra's [protocol for the Impact Evaluation Repository](#) and lists our newsletter among other evaluation-related newsletters.
- The systematic review debate began with David Evans and Anna Popova's [blog](#) on Development Impact. Birte Snilstveit, Martina Vojtkova and Daniel Phillips commented on their blog and also wrote a [blog](#) in response to Evans and Popova.