



Quarterly Report January - March 2014

Policy influence updates from 3ie-funded studies

Building relationships with implementing agencies, India: The State Government of Bihar in India spends US\$200 million annually on the supplementary nutrition programme to improve child nutrition. Leakage is endemic. Government estimates that approximately 50 per cent of the spending is diverted with meals provided for only 60 per cent of the days. An ongoing study by IDinsight in collaboration with the Integrated Child Development Services Directorate of the Department of Social Welfare (DSW) is looking at alternative models to decrease leakage and improve delivery of nutritional supplements. During the baseline survey the issue of DSW field staff being compensated for food purchases at prices fixed in 2008 came to surface. The Secretary, DSW, with assistance from IDinsight, has drafted a new field staff allowance policy that accounts for inter-temporal and inter-regional price fluctuations while ensuring that prices were not inflated for private gain. Although outside the remit of their study, this work by the study team has helped build their relationship with the implementing agency.

Targeting the intended beneficiary in a harmonised social cash transfer programme, Zimbabwe: 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 who are HIV-positive. Researchers from the University of North Carolina are trying to investigate the economic impact of the HSCT on both target households and the local community. An initial report from the project on targeting drew attention to high inclusion and exclusion errors. The main donor for the HSCT programme, the UK Department for International Development (DFID), asked the study team how these errors compared to international experience, following which DFID agreed to continue support to the programme.

Encouraging small and medium enterprises to register, Malawi: In Malawi, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, through its Business Environment and Technical Assistance Project, and the Department of the Registrar General, is streamlining its process to increase the registration rate among small to medium enterprises as well as launching campaigns to promote the potential benefits of business registration. Preliminary findings from the study by Innovations for Poverty Action have been cited in the *World Bank Global Financial Development Report* and by

International Finance Corporation in a report titled *Closing the Credit Gap for Formal and Informal Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises*. The study design has also helped shape thinking of the Investment Climate Department at the World Bank on business registration; specifically, that reforming business registration may not be enough for firms to formalise.

New 3ie publications

Annual report: [3ie Annual Report 2013](#) **Replication paper series:** [Quality evidence for policymaking: I'll believe it when I see the replication](#) **Systematic review summary :** [Farmer field schools: from agricultural extension to adult education](#) **Systematic review:** [The impact of export processing zones on employment, wages and labour conditions in developing countries](#) **Impact evaluation reports:** [Targeting the poor: evidence from a field experiment in Indonesia](#) , [The impact of daycare on maternal labour supply and child development in Mexico](#) , [Social and economic impacts of Tuungane: final report on the effects of a community-driven reconstruction programme in the Democratic Republic of Congo](#) and [Impact evaluation of the non-contributory social pension programme 70 y más in Mexico](#). **Working paper:** [Impact evaluations of development programmes: experiences from Viet Nam](#)

Policy Window

Two new grants were funded under the Policy Window during this quarter.

- An impact evaluation grant was awarded to the Public Health Foundation of India for the Sports in Girls Education project implemented by the Magic Bus Foundation in India.
- An impact evaluation grant was awarded to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute for the peace building methodology, LivingSidebySide, developed by Legacy International and implemented by CenterInterbilim in Kyrgyzstan.

3ie awarded a grant for preparatory activities for the design of an impact evaluation on the Open High School Program (OHSP), Modified In-School, Off-School Approach (MISOSA), and Enhanced Instructional Management by Parents, Community and Teachers (e-IMPACT) programmes of the Philippine Department of Education.

3ie invited submissions of qualifications to be considered for proposal preparation grants for two impact evaluations in South Africa. The first is an evaluation of the [Land Restitution](#) Programme, which provides for the return of land or financial compensation to persons or communities who lost land following the 1913 Native Land Act. The second grant is for an impact evaluation of the Micro Agricultural Financial Institutions of South Africa ([MAFISA](#)) scheme implemented by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in the Republic of South Africa.

Thematic Windows

Humanitarian Assistance Thematic Window

3ie commissioned a scoping study and a methods paper which were presented in London on the 21 March at a 3ie-organised workshop on impact evaluations in the humanitarian sector. Fifty people attend the workshop, largely composed of senior monitoring and evaluation personnel from the humanitarian sector. The [pre-announcement](#) for the humanitarian assistance thematic window request for qualification has been posted on the 3ie website.

Transparency and Accountability Thematic Window

[Two grants](#) were signed for conducting impact evaluations of interventions to increase transparency and accountability in the natural resource governance sector. The first grant was given to the Center for Global Development for an impact evaluation of deliberative polling in Tanzania. A proposal preparation grant was given to the Kumasi Institute of Technology, Energy and Environment in Ghana to develop an impact evaluation of various components of Ghana's Petroleum Revenue Management Act on revenue allocation efficiency and development outcomes. Provisional award for a grant was given to the Economic Research Center in Azerbaijan for a study that will examine the effect that transparency and accountability in management of natural resources has on people's trust in public institutions, perceived quality of service delivery, and corruption levels.

Climate Change and Disaster-Risk Reduction Thematic Window

3ie invited [proposal preparation grant applications](#) for rigorous impact evaluations related to climate change mitigation and adaptation. A total of 16 applications were submitted, the review of which is currently underway. 3ie aims to fund 9-10 proposal preparation grants of up to US\$ 20,000 on reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD/REDD+) activities and disaster-risk reduction, especially through early warning systems.

HIV Thematic Windows

Evidence Programme on the HIV Treatment Cascade: 3ie's HIV programme team hosted a second expert task force meeting on 23 January in Washington to solicit ideas on addressing the HIV/AIDS treatment cascade through the new grant programme. Representatives from the World Bank, USAID and the US Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator, and project implementers such as Management Sciences for Health, FHI 360, ICF International, and Population Council attended the meeting. The brainstorming sessions will inform the scoping work as the team begins preparatory work for the launch of this new programme and the subsequent call for proposals later this year.

HIV Oral Self-Testing: The six formative studies in Kenya for HIV oral self-tests funded under this programme have been completed. These studies will inform the design of the second phase for the thematic window on HIV self-testing, which 3ie will launch in the second quarter.

Replication Window

The [Replication Paper Series](#) was launched in the first quarter of 2014, featuring an [in-house white paper](#) on replication research by Annette N Brown, Drew B Cameron, and Benjamin DKWood. [A replication](#) by Vergard Iversen and Richard Palmer-Jones has been approved and will be the second paper in this series. It is being prepared for publication. Also, the [third replication plan](#) from Replication Window 2 was published, and the [third pure replication](#) from Replication Window 1 was completed in the first quarter of 2014.

International Development Coordinating Group

New systematic review titles

- *The Impact of Land Property Rights Interventions on Investment and Agricultural Productivity in Developing Countries: a Systematic Review*, by Steven Lawry, Cyrus Samii, Ruth Hall, Aaron Leopold, Donna Hornby, Farai Mtero. It was published on 2 January 2014 and is available in the Campbell Library.

Gap maps

3ie has initiated work on a gap map on extreme poverty which has been commissioned by USAID as part of its systematic review programme with 3ie. This gap map will be used by USAID to prepare for an evidence summit on extreme poverty to be held in Washington, DC in early January 2015.

Registry of International Development Impact Evaluations

[23 studies](#) were registered by the end of the first quarter. RAND Corporation also submitted their progress report for the first quarter of 2014, including final technical documentation of the platform.

Impact Evaluation Repository (IER)

In honour of the New Year, 3ie's website currently hosts [2014 impact evaluations](#) in the IER. An additional 540 studies are being uploaded to the IER to bring the total number of impact evaluations to 2554.

Bursary Programme

The first quarter was very busy for the Bursary Programme. Eighteen participants, including 8 member nominees, attended the CLEAR technical training in Johannesburg, South Africa in January 2014. The awards had been made in November 2013. Twenty participants, including 10 member nominees were awarded bursaries to attend the 7th AfrEA meeting in Yaoundé, Cameroon. Three participants attended the IDS course in Brighton, UK. Additionally 3ie began preparing the selection and logistics for courses offered by RIPA, Campbell Collaboration, CLEAR Shanghai and Experiments in Governance and Politics.

New funding and membership

3ie opens 2014 in a good financial position. During the quarter, we signed a grant agreement with USAID for US\$ 293,655 for the Humanitarian Thematic Window and systematic review preparatory phase and another grant agreement with William and Flora Hewlett Foundation of US\$ 750,000 for 2014-2019 for the Transparency and Accountability in Natural Resources Thematic Window.

3ie submitted a proposal during the first quarter to the World Bank for US\$ 126,000 for the Evidence for Peace initiative and hopes to sign the agreement shortly.

Three new members joined during the first quarter – International Fund for Agricultural Development, International Rescue Committee and the Ministry of Education, Rwanda.

3ie at events

3ie organised seven events during the quarter, with around 300 participants, of whom one third were policymakers and programme managers.

3ie staff also participated in 17 external events organised by other agencies that reached 682 people, including 500 policymakers and programme managers.

3ie finance update

As on 31 March 2014, 3ie's assets stood at US\$82.51 million, comprising US\$40.24 million held in bank accounts, US\$41.15 million as grants receivable, i.e. undisbursed balances in signed grant agreements, US\$1.12 million in other receivables, fixed assets and deposits and the accrued liabilities for expense payables at US\$ 0.56 million. Total expenses in the quarter were US\$4.07 million, of which US\$2.37 million were grant expenses.

3ie in the News

- A 3ie-funded study was cited in an article entitled [Gujarat's Chiranjeevi Yojana fails to deliver](#) , *Down to Earth*, 2 January 2014
- [Instructions based on learning of child more important than syllabus](#), a 3ie-funded study from Haryana was cited in this *Hindustan Times* article