



Quarterly Report October - December 2014

Policy nugget from 3ie-funded study

Incentivising tax officers in Pakistan to improve tax revenue collection: A randomised controlled trial of performance-based incentives for tax collectors in Pakistan showed that they resulted in higher tax collection through an expanded tax base, with no damage to public perceptions of the Excise and Taxation Department. Encouraged by these results the Department has requested the researchers for a follow-up study to assess the impact of non-monetary incentives like merit-based transfer and posting in improving performance.

Publication from 3ie-funded study

A new [paper](#) published in the *Lancet*, based on a 3ie-funded study, showed that Community Led Total Sanitation in Odisha, India, significantly reduced open defecation, but had no impact on child diarrhoea. The authors suggest that the results may show the need for all household members to comply and possible threshold effects.

New 3ie publications

3ie launched its *Scoping Paper Series*. Scoping papers explore the current type and availability of evidence that can help identify priority policy questions for impact evaluation research and guide the development of more comprehensive evidence reviews. The first in the series, [What evidence is available and what is required, in humanitarian assistance?](#) provides an independent analysis of the evidence base of evaluations in humanitarian assistance. It identifies areas where there are key gaps and where there is a need to prioritise rigorous evidence so that research can be conducted on issues that are most important and valuable for decision-making

We've also published the 3ie Working Paper 22, [What methods may be used in impact evaluation of humanitarian assistance?](#) which explores the methodological options and challenges associated with collecting and generating high-quality evidence needed to answer important questions about the impact of humanitarian assistance.

Policy window update: new grant awards

Policy Window 3: Two impact evaluation grants have been awarded to Institute for Financial Management and Research to assess policies implemented by the National Rural Health Mission to reduce maternal and infant mortality in Kerala, India.

Thematic window updates

Democratic Republic of Congo Humanitarian Assistance Thematic Window: We have awarded proposal preparation grants to Rebuild Hope for Africa and [MDF Afrique Centrale](#).

Thematic Window on 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](#). We also awarded an impact evaluation grant to the [Kumasi Institute of Technology, Energy and Environment](#) under the Transparency and Accountability Thematic

Window .

Thematic Window on HIV Self-Testing, Zambia. The Centre for Infectious Disease Research in Zambia (CIDRZ) was awarded a grant to conduct a six-month study, which will inform the second phase of the grant programme.

Integration of HIV Services Thematic Window. A 3ie selection panel selected five proposals for awards in October 2014. We are funding pilot interventions and their impact evaluations in Tanzania, Cote D'Ivoire and Zimbabwe.

We signed the Treatment as Prevention grant agreement in December 2014 and disbursed the first tranche payment to the Africa Centre for Health and Population Studies at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. The study, which is already underway, is a cluster-randomised trial comparing the impact of immediate antiretroviral therapy (ART) initiation upon diagnosis versus ART initiation according to South African government guidelines. The aim is to see if immediate ART reduces HIV incidence at population level. The trial is in the Hlabisa sub-district in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa. It is sponsored by the French National Agency for AIDS Research and is funded by multiple donors, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

Replication Window

Replication Window 3-HIV: We awarded the first grant to an independent consultant, Fernando Martel Garcia, for a replication study of Dupas (2011), [Do teenagers respond to HIV risk information? Evidence from a field experiment in Kenya](#).

Replication Papers Series: We posted RPS 3 parts 1 and 2, [Reanalysis of health and educational impacts of a school-based deworming program in western Kenya](#). Part 1 is a pure replication of this study and part 2 presents

New studies and publications from 3ie-funded systematic reviews

alternative analyses. We also posted original author responses to both parts of the study.

New systematic reviews funded by 3ie

Three new grants have been awarded by 3ie's Synthesis and Reviews Office to undertake reviews on the following topics:

- *Effectiveness of adaptation measures to climate change and climate variability: A scoping review.* Grantee organisation: Centro Agronomico Tropical de Investigacion y Ensenanza (CATIE), Costa Rica. Principal investigator: Dr Juan Robalino.
- *Contract Farming for Increasing Income and Food Security of Smallholder Farmers in Low- and Middle Income Countries: A Systematic Review.* Grantee organisation: Wageningen University, The Netherlands. Principal investigator: Dr Giel Ton.
- *Effectiveness of Fairtrade interventions on poverty and welfare of beneficiaries in low and middle income countries: A systematic review.* Grantee: School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. Principal investigator: Dr Carlos Oya.

These 3ie-funded systematic reviews have been published in the Campbell Collaboration library.

- *Effects of Decentralized Forest Management (DFM) on Deforestation and Poverty in Low and Middle Income Countries: A Systematic Review.* Cyrus Samii, Laura Paler, Larry Chavis, Parashar Kulkarni, Matthew Lisiecki, Campbell Collaboration Library ([Click here](#))
- *Effects of Payment for Environmental Services (PES) on Deforestation and Poverty in Low and Middle Income Countries: A Systematic Review.* Cyrus Samii, Laura Paler, Larry Chavis, Parashar Kulkarni, Matthew Lisiecki, Campbell Collaboration Library ([Click here](#))
- *The Effects of Microcredit on Women's Control over Household Spending in Developing Countries: A*

Systematic Review and Meta-analysis. Vaessen J, Rivas A, Duvendack M, Palmer Jones R, Leeuw FL, Van Gils G, Lukach R, Holvoet N, Bastiaensen J, Hombrados JG, Waddington H. Campbell Collaboration Library ([Click here](#))

Evidence gap map

The London office completed and submitted an evidence gap map of productive safety nets to USAID in November 2014.

3ie London Evidence Week

The 3ie London Evidence Week kicked off on 13 October 2014 with [presentations of 3ie-supported impact evaluations and systematic reviews](#). This was followed by the launch of the [3ie Howard White lecture](#) on 14 October. This annual lecture is in honour of 3ie's founding director's strong contribution to the area of impact evaluations, systematic reviews and evidence-informed policymaking. Howard White gave the inaugural address, which can be viewed [here](#). The one-day colloquium, [Improving lives through better evidence](#), on 15 October featured eminent speakers from around the world presenting and discussing contemporary issues in using impact evaluations and systematic reviews to inform policymaking. On 16 October, 3ie officially launched its latest systematic review [Farmer field schools: from agricultural extension to adult education](#). The week drew to a close with Howard White's workshop on using impact evaluation for better programmes. Click [here](#) to read more and watch videos from the events.

Registry of International Development Impact Evaluations (RIDIE)

Researchers registered five new studies in the fourth quarter, for a total of [37 studies](#) at the end of December 2014.

Impact Evaluation Repository (IER)

3ie's website currently hosts [2,546 impact evaluations](#) in the IER. In fourth quarter, 40 studies were identified from other knowledge production programmes to be included in the IER.

Bursary programme

In October, 3ie provided six bursaries to participants attending Impact Assessment and Evaluation at RIPA International in London, UK. In November, 3ie provided bursaries for three participants to attend an Executive Education course on evaluating social programmes organised by the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). The course was held at the American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

New funding and membership

United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has given a grant of US\$1,541,102 for the design and implementation of impact evaluations under the Sanitation and Hygiene Thematic Window.

We signed a grant agreement with BMGF for US\$6,040,230 to increase the evidence base and understanding of effective interventions for engaging communities to tackle low, declining or stagnating vaccination coverage in Gavi-eligible countries.

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has approved a grant of US\$4,000,000 over two years to 3ie for general operating support.

CARE UK awarded 3ie a grant of US\$1,038,522 to provide an impact evaluation of the Management and Advisory Services for DFID-SWASTH programme in the State of Bihar, India.

3ie has received funding to undertake a project on secondary education and transferable skills (SETS). This project is jointly funded by the MasterCard Foundation and the MacArthur Foundation.. The total funding for the project is

US\$174,230.

3ie finance update

As of 31 December 2014, 3ie's assets stood at US\$91.26 million, comprising US\$49.72 million held in bank accounts, US\$41.23 million as grants receivable, i.e. undisbursed balances in signed grant agreements, US\$0.31 million in other receivables, fixed assets and deposits and the accrued liabilities for expense and grants payables at US\$1.40 million. Total expenses in the quarter were US\$6.99 million, of which US\$4.71 million were grant expenses.

3ie in the news

- The Guardian Global Development Professional's Network blog on [Monitoring and evaluation: an insider's guide to the skills you'll need](#) mentions 3ie's Delhi, Washington and London monthly seminars and the Manila conference as important 'go to' events to acquire an understanding of evaluation.
- Howard White comments on *Devex* article [Experiments in development: time to rethink RCTs?](#)
- Hugh Waddington's blog on [How 3ie is tackling the challenges of producing high-quality policy-relevant systematic reviews in international development](#) was picked up on *Scoop it by NGOs in Human Rights, Peace and Development*.
- Martina Vojtkova's blog on [Unexpected evidence on impact evaluations of anti-poverty programmes](#) was cited in [Development Impact weekly links](#) and [Africa Evidence Network newsletter](#) in October.
- Jyotsna Puri was [interviewed](#) and cited in an article on [Responding to Climate Change](#).
- [Aid agencies are advised to switch to knowledge building, according to](#) Ruth Levine, 3ie board member and director of global development at Hewlett Foundation, in an interview with *SciDev.Net*.
- [Top-notch impact studies on development are on the rise](#), Howard White's interview on *SciDev.Net*.
- [How scientific are scientific replications?](#) Berk Özler blogs about 3ie replication papers, [TV, female empowerment and demographic change in rural India](#) and [Reanalysis of health and educational impacts of a school-based deworming program in western Kenya Part 1: pure replication](#).
- Annette N Brown commented on a *Devex* article [on high-risk contexts, higher stakes for impact evaluation](#).
- Howard White's [blog](#) was mentioned in [Development Impact Friday links](#) (21 November).
- Jyotsna Puri was quoted in a *Devex* article [The log frame dilemma](#) (20 November).
- [Are births institutionalizing deaths?](#) This blog cites a 3ie-funded impact evaluation of a maternal health programme.
- UNICEF's [impact evaluation methodological briefs](#), co-authored by Howard White and Shagun Sabarwal, have been published
- Hugh Waddington's blog on [Myths about microcredit and meta-analysis](#) was cross-blogged on the [Campbell Collaboration website](#).
- Jyotsna Puri's paper on methods for the impact evaluation of humanitarian assistance was cited as [recommended reading](#) by Chris Blattman (9 December), *Development Impact* [Friday links](#) (12 December) and on [DFID Research for Development database](#).
- The [humanitarian scoping paper](#) co-authored by Jyotsna Puri was mentioned in the [December issue of the Evidence Aid newsletter](#).
- Annette N 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. [Listen to podcast](#)