



**International Initiative
for Impact Evaluation**

Improving lives through impact evaluation



Quarterly Report July – September 2013

Quarterly highlights

1. Policy engagement highlights from 3ie-funded studies
2. 3ie awards preparation grants under the policy window and the agricultural thematic window
3. 3ie launches a prospective registry for international development impact evaluations
4. Update on the bursary programme
5. Update on member engagement

Policy engagement highlights from 3ie-funded studies

Reaping benefits: Does an agricultural voucher programme work?

Agriculture in Tanzania accounts for 27 per cent of GDP. A recent study by the Center of Evaluation for Global Action evaluated the impact of the National Agriculture Input Voucher Scheme (NAIVS) on farm income and productivity on the one hand and household food consumption and security on the other, with a special focus on gender. Preliminary results from the study are being used to inform the next iteration of NAIVS. The team participated in the Public Expenditure Review of NAIVS. Using data from the baseline and follow-up survey, they provided insights on targeting and the cost-effectiveness of the programme.

What to transfer: Cash, food or vouchers?

The International Food Policy Research Institute and the World Food Program (WFP) are collaborating in Ecuador, Uganda and Yemen on randomised evaluations to compare the impacts of transfer modalities (cash, food rations or food vouchers) in WFP programmes on dietary patterns, human capital, domestic violence and marriage. Drawing on the preliminary findings from the studies in Ecuador and Uganda, WFP is advising the Government of Ecuador on the transfer modality to be adopted in its programmes. Given the demonstrated cost-effectiveness of the food voucher model, the government is now using them in its project, Assistance to refugees and persons affected by the conflict in Colombia, aimed at promoting integration between Colombian and Ecuadorian refugees, and in the Supporting local governments capacities to improve food and nutrition security in the Ecuador project.

Subsidising school fees for enrolment: Who to pay and when?

The Government of Macedonia is implementing a cash transfer programme conditional on attendance in secondary schools, and is experimenting with

modalities of transfer. Assisted by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the government has commissioned an evaluation to test if varying the recipient (mother versus the male head of the household) and timing (providing equal payments in all trimesters versus smaller payments earlier in the academic year and an end-of-year bonus) of the transfer impacts the programme objectives differently. The study has found resonance among policymakers. The director of the conditional cash transfer programme credited the positive study results as having contributed, in part, to the programme's continued funding from the World Bank.

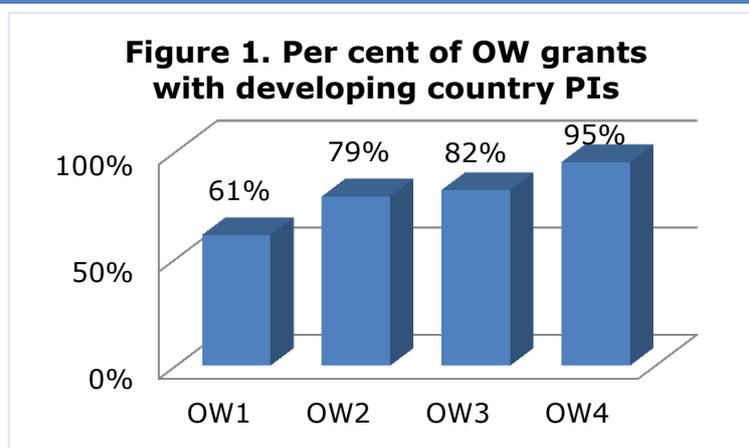
What happens once the intervention ends?

Researchers from the University of Otago, University of California and University of Malawi evaluated the medium-term impact of providing cash transfers, both conditional on schooling and unconditionally, on the health, education, wage and employment opportunities, empowerment, and parenting practices of young unmarried women in Malawi. The study findings have informed two World Bank-supported government programmes, namely the school bursary programme and a pilot cash transfer programme for needy students. In addition, DFID, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education Science and Technology in Malawi, is introducing a national cash transfer programme for parents of girls, in order to improve transition rates from primary to secondary schools and address adolescent pregnancy and marriage. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) acknowledged the study's contribution to changing the discourse on HIV prevention and incubating the design of other programmes and studies, including the HIV Prevention Trials Network in South Africa, the STRIVE project in rural Tanzania, and the Johns Hopkins study on HIV combination prevention interventions.

Updates on grant windows

3ie puts considerable emphasis on involving developing country researchers in our funded studies.

Figure 1 shows the progress we have made, with the proportion rising from 63 per cent under OW1 to 95 per cent for OW4.



Policy window

Three proposal preparation grants were made during this quarter:

- Design of impact evaluations for the NEPAD e-school initiative, e-Africa
- Design of impact evaluations to be conducted of Interbilim International Centre's and Legacy International's peace-building methodology, *LivingSidebySide* in the Kyrgyz Republic
- Design of impact evaluations to be conducted of community advocacy fora (barazas) in Uganda

There are currently five proposal preparation studies and nine impact evaluation studies on-going under the policy window.

Thematic windows 2-5

3ie signed six grant agreements for formative HIV self-testing studies in Kenya. Under the Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision Thematic Window, the selection panel awarded five grants and awarded three others for funding contingent on revisions requested by the panel. 3ie received fifty responses to our request for qualifications for the Agricultural Innovation Thematic Window. After an extensive review process, we awarded ten proposal preparation grants. 3ie, with support from DFID and USAID, is developing a new Humanitarian Impact Evaluation Thematic Window, for which we received fourteen applications, eight for the scoping study and six for the methodology study.

New publication

Quality education for all children? What works in education in developing countries

This evidence review by Shari Krishnaratne, Howard White and Ella Carpenter is a systematic investigation into schooling outcomes that analyses evidence from seventy-five studies across a range of school interventions. It shows that government and donor-driven education interventions are getting more children into school and keeping them there and are also helping children to learn more.

The working paper provides evidence of the effectiveness of conditional cash transfers on school enrolment and attendance. Health interventions had a positive effect on attendance, while provisions of new materials, such as computer-aided learning tools, and better school buildings significantly improved mathematics, reading and writing test scores. The policy brief draws out recommendations and provides direction for programme design and implementation. [Download report](#) [Download policy brief](#)

Gap maps

USAID is interested in commissioning five gap maps in the next few months, followed by a further five gap maps later in 2014. Phil Davies visited USAID to give presentations on them and to discuss possible topics for the first five.

International Development Coordinating Group (IDCG)

Four new titles have been registered with the IDCG and one new title has been published along with two new protocols. Two new IDCG systematic reviews have been published in the Campbell Library:

- Relative effectiveness of conditional and unconditional cash transfers for schooling outcomes in developing countries: A systematic review
- Post-basic technical and vocational education and training (TVET) interventions to improve employability and employment of TVET graduates in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review

The 3ie London office has continued to provide technical assurance to systematic reviews registered with the IDCG.

Registries

Registry for International Development Impact Evaluations (RIDIE). 3ie and RAND jointly managed the launch of 3ie's new prospective registry in

September, which got off to a strong start with six submissions. Publicity included a blog and targeted announcements to key audiences. 3ie is running a lottery for prizes for the first 100 eligible submissions.

Register of Impact Evaluation Published Studies (RIEPS). The register currently contains 865 published impact evaluation studies. An extensive search and screening process of 59,524 studies is underway. The first round of searching was completed in June 2013. Three further rounds of screening identified impact evaluations from among the first round of screening. By October, all 59,524 studies passed through the first stage of screening. Approximately 8,000 studies remain to be screened in round 2, and we estimate that 4,000 of those will be screened in round 3. Rounds 2 and 3 of the screening process are slated to be finished by mid-November 2013. To date, approximately 700 studies have been identified for inclusion in RIEPS through this screening process, and are currently being uploaded to the register.

3ie Expert Roster. The roster currently hosts 348 experts, with new experts being added regularly. After the completion of the RIEPS search and screening process, we will include additional experts identified from newly added studies.

Data services

Under the Data Preparation and Release Window, the first contract was awarded to Innovations for Poverty Action.

Bursary Programme

3ie awarded nine bursaries to individuals attending three different events: five for the 21st Cochrane Colloquium held in September in Quebec City, Canada; two for the seventh annual meeting of the Impact Evaluation Network of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association; and two for researchers to attend a November meeting on inclusion of quasi-experimental studies in systematic reviews of health systems research hosted by the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research and the Harvard School of Public Health.

Bursary staff managed the selection process for the Cochrane Colloquium, as well as the logistics for all three courses. Staff also provided logistical support related to two RIPA international courses held in July and October. Three participants attended the July course and four attended the October course. Participants for both courses were selected earlier in the year.

Bursary Testimonials

3ie has received the following testimonials from bursary recipients:

Let me kindly express my gratitude to 3ie Team for giving an exceptional opportunity to attend such an interesting training course. Capacity building in impact assessment is important and exciting chance not only for me but for my organization as well. A lot of time and money is spent on unsuccessful or inefficient development programmes simply because we lack evidence of what works. While the training I've gained knowledge and information that would much help to improve my skills and capacity which I can share with my colleagues. That in turn benefits CSI organizational capacity of impact evaluation to identify the most effective, efficient and value-for-money policy initiatives.

Special thanks for Doctor Davies for such an interesting module and way of communication. Everything was planned and organized beautifully. And last but not the least, my exceptional gratitude to you for being such responsive and helpful. Hope our cooperation will last in future.

-Ia Gabunia, project manager, Civil Society Institute, Georgia and participant in the October 2013 RIPA International Impact Assessment

The course I must confess is extremely wonderful and useful to my career as an advocate in human right and governance issues. Dr Phillip Davies is a great guy and a seasoned academic with tremendous experience in the field of Impact Evaluation. I could not afford missing his lectures for a moment. The choice of participants too is right with wide range of interactions and knowledge sharing exercises in between presentations and group activities. I am grateful to 3ie for awarding me bursary to take part in such an inspiring programme. I promise you I shall make best use of the knowledge acquired in the course when I shall have return to my native country Sierra Leone in the coming days.

-John Koroma, director, Centre for Human Rights and Peace Education, Sierra Leone and participant in the July 2013 RIPA International Impact Assessment

Professional services

Combination prevention. 3ie finalised the technical review of the protocol for the treatment as prevention study implemented by the Africa Centre at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Negotiations continued on the grant agreement. 3ie and LSHTM executed the grant agreement in the amount of US\$14.8million for the HPTN-071, PopART study. LSHTM submitted the draft final report for the formative research for PopART, which is funded under a separate grant with 3ie.

Other Professional Services. 3ie spent significant time working with USAID on a possible commissioning of between five and ten gap maps from 3ie. Phil Davies and Annette Brown met with USAID officials and delivered presentations. Dr Brown began discussions with BMGF on the possibility of them commissioning rapid evidence reviews, possibly a type of the new evidence Q&As that 3ie is piloting. Dr Brown negotiated a small professional services workshop for the MasterCard Foundation, which is scheduled for January 16, 2014. 3ie submitted a peer review group review for USAID's Democracy, Rights, and Governance Group, as part of USAID's member services. Dr Davies continued to provide services to ORIO under the professional services contract with The Netherlands.

3ie also received eighteen service requests in the reporting quarter, eighty-three per cent of them were fulfilled, of which thirty-nine per cent were from developing countries.

Advancement

Member engagement. The 3ie Board of Commissioners approved three new L&MIC members: the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (MIDIS) in Peru, the West African Development Bank (BOAD), and the Ministry of Employment and Vocational Training in Cameroon. Prior to finalising these

memoranda of understanding (MOUs), Annette Brown travelled to Peru for related meetings. Jyotsna Puri attended a conference at BOAD and discussed membership further. Additionally, French and Spanish MOU templates were developed by the Washington Office to facilitate negotiations with these and future member prospects. Dr Brown also met with representatives of the Ministry of Health in Zambia and the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development in Malawi to discuss potential membership. To support the member engagement process, advancement staff has compiled a number of materials of interest to Malawi. Steps have also been taken to introduce 3ie membership to the Government of Paraguay. 3ie finally executed the MOU with the American Institute of Research.

Fundraising. 3ie submitted three proposals to BMGF for HIV/AIDS-related projects. One was a supplement request for the combination prevention professional services work to allow 3ie to sign an US\$8 million grant with the Africa Centre of the University of KwaZulu-Natal for the treatment as prevention study. One was a supplement request for the grant that currently funds TW2 and TW3, which will add funds, mostly to TW2, to allow the programme to add two more countries. The last was a proposal for a new window on HIV innovations that will fund grants to test innovations in AIDS treatment delivery designed to improve linkages to care, follow-up, and adherence.

3ie at events

3ie organised nine events and reached out to 342 people, of whom 302 were policymakers and programme managers. 3ie staff also participated in four external events organised by other agencies that reached 244 people, including 147 policymakers and programme managers. Major events this quarter included a conference hosted by the Centre for Global Development in Washington, DC, Impact Evaluation: Can we Learn More? Better?, of which 3ie was a cosponsor; the CLEAR Impact Evaluation Course; and the Impact Evaluation and Assessment Course with RIPA.

3ie finance update

As on 30 September 2013, 3ie's assets stood at US\$78.90 million, comprising US\$34.83 million held in Citibank accounts, US\$43.44 million as grants receivable, i.e. undisbursed balances in signed grant agreements and US\$0.63 million in other receivables, fixed assets and deposits. Total expenses in the quarter were US\$6.02 million, of which US\$4.51 million were grant expenses.