



Quarterly Report April – June 2016

Evidence uptake and use from 3ie-funded studies

Informing the discussion on the impact of India's largest public works programme: Findings from a 3ie-funded impact evaluation on the impact of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) have been included in the second volume of an anthology, *MGNREGA Sameeksha*, commissioned by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD), Government of India. The anthology includes all major studies undertaken on MGNREGA. One of the co-principal investigators, Sudha Narayanan, was also invited to review and provide inputs on the anthology on its relevance for programme managers and policymakers. During the course of the impact evaluation, the team dealt with several political realities, including a change in the ruling central government which resulted in staff turnover at the MoRD. However, as a result of engaging with existing staff at MoRD as key stakeholders, Sudha Narayanan was consulted to review MoRD's tools for their framework for concurrent evaluations.

3ie publications

Impact evaluation report series: *The effect of transfers and preschool on children's cognitive development in Uganda* by Daniel O Gilligan, Shalini Roy; and *The effect of conditional transfers on intimate partner violence: evidence from Northern Ecuador* by Melissa Hidrobo, Amber Peterman, Lori Heise.

Systematic reviews*: *Cash-based approaches in humanitarian emergencies: a systematic review* by Shannon Doocy, Hannah Tappis; *Factors affecting uptake of voluntary and community-based health insurance schemes in low-and middle-income countries* by Pradeep Panda, Iddo H Dror, Tracey Perez Koehlmoos, SA Shahed Hossain, Denny John, Jahangir AM Khan and David M Dror; *Economic self-help group programmes for improving women's empowerment* by Carinne Brody, Thomas De Hoop, Martina Vojtkova, Ruby Warnock, Megan Dunbar, Padmini Murthy and Shari L Dworkin; *Business support for small and medium enterprises in low- and middle-income countries* by Caio Piza, Tulio Antonio Cravo, Linnet Taylor, Lauro Gonzalez, Isabel Musse, Isabela Furtado, Ana C Sierra, and Samer Abdelnour; *Parental, community and familial support for children's literacy in developing countries* by Elizabeth Spier, Pia Britto, Terri Pigott, Eugene Roehlkapartain, Michael McCarthy, Yael Kidron, Mengli Song, Peter Scales and Dan Wagner.

Systematic review summary reports: *Supplementary feeding for improving the health of disadvantaged infants and children: what works and why?* by Elizabeth Kristjansson, Damian Francis, Selma Liberato, Trish Greenhalgh, Vivian Welch, Maria Benkhalti Jandu, Malek Batal, Tamara Rader, Eamonn Noonan, Laura Janzen, Beverley Shea, George A Wells and Mark Petticrew ; *Community-based rehabilitation for people with disabilities* by Valentina Lemmi, Hannah Kuper, Lorna Gibson, K Suresh Kumar, Santosh Rath, Sally Hartley, Gudlavalleti VS Murthy, Vikram Patel, Joerg Weber and Karl Blanchet; *Identification and measurement of health-related spillovers in impact evaluations* by Jade Benjamin-Chung, Diana Tran, Jaynal Abedin, Benjamin F Arnold, David Berger, Alan Hubbard, Ashley Clark, Stephen P Luby, Lauren Falcao, Edward Miguel, Veronica Jimenez, John M Colford and Eugene Konagaya

Published systematic review protocols funded by 3ie: *To what extent have the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) sub-sectors incorporated the life-cycle approach into policies, programmes and projects during the MDG period?* by Thillai Rajan Annamalai, Sriharini Narayanan, Ganesh Devkar, Venkata Santosh Kumar, Reeba Devaraj, Akshaya Ayyangar, Ashwin Mahalingam.

Working paper series: [Power calculation for causal inference in social science: sample size and minimum detectable effect determination](#) by Eric W Djimeu, Deo-Gracias Houndolo.

Policy briefs: [What works in addressing the needs of street-connected children and young people; Do self-help groups empower women? Evidence from a systematic review; and Do programmes outside the formal education system improve children's literacy in developing countries?](#)

**Starting with this quarterly report, we will be listing the full systematic review technical reports as they are published. Additionally, we are counting those reports as separate publications from the summary reports of the same full review. We are learning that the summary report content is different enough from the full review reports that it is justified to count each one as a separate publication. This change will also be reflected in our reports to the board and annual reports.*

Blogs

[The pitfalls of going from pilot to scale, or why ecological validity matters](#), Annette N Brown; [How synthesised evidence can help with meeting the Sustainable Development Goals](#), Emmanuel Jimenez and Edoardo Masset; [Let's bring back theory to theory of change](#), Annette N Brown and [Seizing the Istanbul moment: rooting for evidence at the World Humanitarian Summit](#), Jyotsna Puri.

New 3ie grants

Agricultural Insurance Thematic Window (TW13): 3ie aims to generate policy-relevant evidence on innovative insurance products and processes that create effective demand for [agricultural insurance through its new thematic window](#). The applications received for proposal preparation grants are currently being reviewed.

Agricultural Innovation Thematic Window (TW4): 3ie has announced grants for the impact evaluation of [Alliance for Green Revolution Africa's financial inclusion programmes for smallholder farmers in Ghana and Kenya](#). The applications received for the proposal preparation phase are being reviewed.

Financial Services for the Poor Replication Window (RW4): This new window aims to fund the replication of seven highly influential impact evaluation studies of interventions on this theme. The deadline for submitting [expressions of interest](#) is 2 August 2016.

Updates on 3ie grants

Policy windows

Social Protection Programmes in the Maldives (PW3): London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine received a proposal preparation grant to design an impact evaluation of this programme.

School Sector Reform Plan in Nepal (PW 3): University of Minnesota received a proposal preparation grant for the impact evaluation of the effectiveness of this plan.

Thematic Windows

Agricultural Innovation Thematic Window (TW4): 3ie signed a contract with the University of Mannheim to conduct an impact evaluation of IFAD's [Pastoral Community Development Project III](#) in Zambia. The American Institutes of Research received a grant to conduct an ex-post impact evaluation of IFAD's [Smallholder Dairy Commercialisation Programme](#) in Kenya.

Humanitarian Assistance Thematic Window (TW6): 3ie awarded a grant to Rebuild Hope for Africa for an impact evaluation of Mercy Corps' humanitarian response and resilience rebuilding programme in the North Kivu province, DR Congo.

Innovations in Increasing Immunisation Thematic Window (TW10): 3ie awarded three impact evaluation grants under this window: The Institute of Tropical Disease Research and Prevention received a grant for the study, *Effects on vaccination rates of engaging communities in decision making and action through traditional and religious leaders: a cluster randomised controlled trial*. The Khushi Baby will conduct an impact evaluation of a digital pendant and voice reminders for improving immunisation adherence in Rajasthan, India, and J-PAL South Asia at IFMR has received a grant for an impact evaluation, *Improving full immunisation rates in Haryana*.

Registry for International Development Impact Evaluations (RIDIE), Impact Evaluation Repository (IER) and the 3ie Expert Roster

RIDIE: An MoU has been signed with the Center for Open Science to move [RIDIE](#) to the Open Science Framework, a cloud-based platform. There are 88 studies currently registered with RIDIE.

IER: There are [3,106](#) impact evaluations currently in the IER. We added 161 new impact evaluation titles in the second quarter.

Expert roster: We added 85 new experts to the 3ie roster, bringing the total to [436](#).

Bursaries

We awarded 12 bursaries in this quarter. Six candidates attended the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Evaluation Conference, which explored the role of evaluation in fragile and post-democratic transition contexts. 3ie funded six other candidates from the African region to attend the high-level meeting, *Promoting the Use of Evidence for Improving Policy Implementation* in Kampala, Uganda.

Membership

Annual members' conference: 3ie hosted its eighth annual members' conference in London on 16 April. The organising committee included Rakesh Nangia (AfDB), Kristen Stelljes and Rachel Quint (Hewlett Foundation), Damasse Sossou (Prime Minister's Office, Benin), and Muluemebet Chekol (Save the Children, USA). The conference agenda included constituency meetings, member feedback and discussion of 3ie's new organisational strategy. There were also parallel peer-learning sessions on topics including 'how and when are impact evaluations most useful to members,' 'overcoming obstacles in commissioning or using impact evaluations,' 'innovative impact evaluation methods,' and 'measuring the impact of impact evaluations on policy.'

Member profiles: In April, 3ie added a [member profiles](#) section to its website to promote better engagement among members with 3ie and with each other. 3ie will update all profiles at least once a year to reflect new member initiatives and other forms of engagement.

New members: Three new members have joined, raising the total membership strength to 49. The new members include the Government for the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires, Argentina; *Ministre de la Planification du Développement* (Ministry of Development Planning), Togo and the Ministry of Vocational Training and Employment, Republic of Tunisia.

3ie events

3ie London Evidence Week: 3ie organised its second London Evidence Week from 11-15 April at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and Birkbeck College, University of London. For detailed reports and videos from the conference, please click [here](#).

3ie annual staff meeting (ASM): 3ie held its ASM in Lonavala, India from 3-6 May. Staff from London, New Delhi and Washington DC participated in working sessions on various topics, including external communication, increasing policy impact and 3ie's organisational strategy. Staff also engaged in team-building activities. A cross-office staff committee planned the ASM, with staff from all offices designing or presenting in specific sessions.

Dissemination event on voluntary medical male circumcision: 3ie hosted a dissemination meeting at USAID's Global Health Bureau in Washington, DC on 22 June. 3ie's HIV team presented the results of seven impact evaluations funded as part of this thematic window on demand generation for voluntary medical male circumcision (VMMC). The targetted audience included programme managers and technical experts on HIV prevention and VMMC from key public agencies and implementing organisations, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Defense, Jhpiego, Office of the US Global AIDS Coordinator and USAID among others.

3ie-IFPRI seminar series: The Washington office organised three seminars during this reporting period. William Jack, assistant professor at Georgetown University, presented on [the impact of mobile money and](#)

[financial services on poverty, consumption, and education in Kenya](#) (28 April). Jose Galdo, associate professor at Carleton University, presented the paper, *Fairtrade Labelling and Child Labor in the Birthplace of Arabica Coffee: Evidence from Ethiopia* (12 May). Holly Burke and Samuel Field, from the ASPIRES project at FHI360, presented their research on the impact of an empowerment intervention on reducing the vulnerability of adolescent girls to HIV infection in Mozambique (7 June).

3ie-LIDC seminar series: Orazio Attanasio from the University College of London presented on [Beliefs, Parental investment and Human Capital Development](#). (27 April)

3ie Delhi Seminar Series: Heather Lanthorn, senior manager at Idinsight, presented on [Stakeholders in experiments: rewards and risks](#) (27 April); Harold Alderman, senior research fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) presented on [Big numbers about small children: estimating the economic benefits of addressing undernutrition](#) (10 May) and Alok Bhargava, a professor at the University of Maryland, presented on [Long-term food and health policies for enhancing children's physical development: evidence from a longitudinal study in the Philippines](#) (24 June).

3ie in the news

- 3ie's [Youth and Transferable Skills evidence gap map](#) was cited in [this news article](#) in The Huffington Post.
- 3ie's contribution in the field of impact evaluation is mentioned in a blog, '[Missing Link: Sustained and Emerging Impact Evaluation](#)', on the BetterEvaluation website.
- A 3ie-funded study, [The effect of conditional transfers on intimate partner violence: evidence from Northern Ecuador](#), is mentioned in this [CGIAR blog](#).

3ie in peer-reviewed publications

Cilliers, J, Dube, O, Siddiqi, B, 2016. [Reconciling after civil conflict increases social capital but decreases individual well-being](#). Science, 352 (6287) pp 787-794

New funding

- 3ie received USD24,400 from the World Health Organization to develop an evidence gap map on key community-oriented interventions for reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health.
- The Gates Foundation has awarded USD2,450,397 to generate evidence to inform decision-making to increase latrine use in rural India.
- The International Council for Research in Agroforestry has contracted 3ie for USD23,000 to develop an evidence gap map and conduct a high-quality systematic review of agroforestry interventions, focusing on enhancing and restoring productivity and wellbeing in smallholder farming systems.
- 3ie received USD18,000 from the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development for an impact evaluation to promote evidence-based policy development in the Hindu Kush Himalayan region of Nepal.

3ie finance update

As of 30 June 2016, 3ie's assets stood at USD87.77 million, including USD40.98 million held in bank accounts, USD46.38 million as grants receivable, i.e. undisbursed balances in signed grant agreements, USD0.41 million in other receivables, fixed assets and deposits and the accrued liabilities for expense and grants payables at USD0.93 million. Total expenses in the quarter were USD7.52 million, of which USD5.60 million were grant expenses.