



## Quarterly Report January to March 2019

### Evidence uptake and use from 3ie-funded studies

#### Evaluation of the Ugandan Youth Livelihood Programme informs cabinet decision



A [3ie-supported evaluation](#) of the Ugandan government's Youth Livelihood Programme has informed the cabinet's decision to make several key changes in programme design. The flagship programme assists poor and unemployed youth aged between 18 and 30 years to become self-employed. It provides start-up credit for skills development projects and income-generating activities initiated by youth groups.

The authors found that a group size of over ten members reduces the per capita funding share, complicates group dynamics and increases attrition. Based on study recommendations, the cabinet endorsed the decision to reduce the minimum group size from ten to five members. The findings have also informed the cabinet's decision to increase the budget for institutional support from 10 to 20 per cent. The additional resources will be used for training, technical support and youth group supervision. In line with study recommendations, the government will also be strengthening programme implementation monitoring, as well as adding components for enterprise building and skill development.

When you do these evaluations, they help you to inwardly reflect and look at what is working, what is not working and generate sufficient evidence to inform policy.  
— Paul Onappa, national programme manager, Youth Livelihood Programme

### New 3ie publications

**Evidence use briefs:** [How evidence helped address ultra poverty in Malawi](#). See the spotlight section below.

**Impact evaluation reports:** [Harnessing transparency initiatives to improve India's environmental clearance process for the mineral mining sector](#); [Using information to break the political resource curse in natural gas management in Mozambique](#) and [Impacts of key provisions in Ghana's Petroleum Revenue Management Act](#)

**Impact evaluation briefs:** [Capacity building of smallholder dairy farmers in Kenya through extension services and market linkages](#); [Improving irrigation access in Madagascar](#) and [Using voice reminders to reinforce harvest training in Mali](#)

**Replication papers:** [Impact of unconditional cash transfers: a replication study of the short-term effects in Kenya](#); [Cash and change: a replication study of a cash transfer experiment in Malawi](#); [Risk sharing and transaction costs: a replication study of evidence from Kenya's mobile money revolution](#); and [Biometric Smartcards and payment disbursement: a replication study of a state capacity-building experiment in India](#)

**Systematic review reports:** [Impact of financial inclusion in low- and middle-income countries: a systematic review of reviews](#)

**Working papers:** [Transparency and accountability in the extractives sector: a synthesis of what works and what does not](#). See the spotlight on it below, including a link to a related video.

### **Spotlight: How evidence helped address ultra-poverty in Malawi**



Evidence generated from a 3ie-supported impact evaluation of the Malawi Social Cash Transfer Programme informed changes in the programme design and generated support for an eventual scale-up across all districts in Malawi. The programme addresses the needs of the most vulnerable populations that are constrained from participating in the labour force because of age (too

old or young), chronic illnesses or disabilities. The evidence helped dispel several myths associated with unconditional cash transfers that had fuelled scepticism of some of the public, government officials and donors, which helped them support the programme.

Our latest evidence use [brief](#) is an in-depth look at the role that the impact evaluations (three in all) played in generating understanding of and support for the programme, and the factors that contributed to the evidence being used to inform these changes. This example shows the importance of fully analysing the political economy of a programme's context in evaluation design. Evaluation champions who can influence change are also important. Researchers, their networks, their credibility with decision makers, their ability to translate evidence for different audiences and their commitment to engage in organised ways were all notable factors in promoting evidence uptake and use.

### **Spotlight: Transparency and accountability in the extractives sector**

3ie's latest [working paper](#) synthesises key lessons from seven impact evaluations of transparency and accountability initiatives in the extractives sector carried out through our transparency and accountability evidence programme. These evaluations focused on the role of information disclosure and deliberation interventions in increasing citizens' knowledge, awareness and demand for accountability, and the implications the interventions have on public service delivery and development outcomes in Ecuador, Ghana, India, Mozambique, Peru, Tanzania and Uganda. Watch a video on the evidence programme [here](#).

## **3ie-funded studies and 3ie publications in peer-reviewed publications**

Please click [here](#) to access the list of all the 3ie-funded studies and 3ie-produced publications appearing in peer-reviewed publications

## **3ie @ recent events**

### **7th Uganda Evaluation Week, Kampala, 11-15 February**

3ie staff participated in a conference, organised in partnership with Uganda's Office of the Prime Minister, 3ie, Campbell and Twende Mbele. It brought together policymakers, government officials, civil society members, development partners, monitoring and evaluation practitioners and

researchers to share evaluation experiences. In his inaugural address, Ugandan Prime Minister, [Ruhakana Rugunda](#), mentioned how the [3ie-funded evaluation of Uganda's community-based public information programme](#) has been successful in collating citizens' feedback on the utilisation of public funds.

In opening ceremony remarks, Beryl Leach (3ie) called for greater collaboration among development partners to strengthen evaluation and evidence use. Howard White (Campbell Collaboration) announced the first-ever Uganda-focused evidence gap map, on which 3ie has collaborated. Later in the week, Marie Gaarder (3ie) delivered a keynote speech on entering an age of 'evaluation for grown-ups', and the need to be increasingly careful in our interpretation of evaluation findings.

3ie staff organised panel discussions on evaluating community engagement approaches on governance and livelihoods; emerging results from an evaluation of the youth livelihoods programme; capacity development for strengthening use of evidence in the Ugandan Government; and evaluating the impact of interventions targeted at children. 3ie also organised a well-attended workshop on promoting evidence use through more strategic communication and by producing effective policy briefs. Read highlights of the sessions [here](#).

### **2nd Asia Pacific Evaluation Association, Manila, Philippines, 25 February-1 March**

Emmanuel Jimenez and Tara Kaul (3ie), and Violeta Corpus (National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines) presented an overview of and early lessons from [3ie's Philippines Country Policy Programme](#). They focused on the demand-driven nature of the four impact evaluations, strategies employed in setting up the programme, and challenges encountered in promoting strong government ownership for these independent evaluations. Panellists discussed how the evidence programme complements the National Economic and Development Authority's evaluation agenda, and ways in which our joint engagement has been useful in promoting impact evaluation by government agencies. The presentation was well-received and elicited several questions from the audience on evaluation methods, successful engagement strategies, and suggestions for establishing strong partnerships with governments.

### **What is women's empowerment and how do we measure it, Delhi, India, 8 March**

On the occasion of International Women's Day, 3ie organised an interactive seminar on measuring women's empowerment. While there are growing investments in rigorous evaluations of interventions designed to empower women and girls economically and promote gender equality, there remains limited evidence on the effectiveness of such investments. Speakers had the opportunity to discuss challenges they have faced, particularly in measuring empowerment in evaluations, and how they have tried to address them in their work. Approximately 70 researchers, programme managers and students attended the seminar. Read more and watch the video of the session [here](#).

### **9th African Evaluation Association Conference, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, 11-15 March**

3ie staff conducted panel sessions on building evidence on agricultural innovations and risk insurance, and presented initial findings from 3ie's scoping study on impact evaluation capacity and opportunities in West Africa. We hosted a workshop on evidence use. We also co-hosted workshops on improving capacity development approaches using adult learning principles. Click [here](#) for more details.

## 3ie blogs

**Putting government in the driver's seat to generate and use impact evaluations in the Philippines** Emmanuel Jimenez, Tara Kaul and Fides Borja discuss lessons on building trust relationships and promoting alignment among government agencies that 3ie has learnt from [our Philippines Country Policy Programme](#). Successful engagement with the government requires targeted strategies and responsiveness to the specific needs of government counterparts. Government-led and demand-driven studies are important for generating evidence that is useful and relevant to decision makers.

## Registry for International Development Impact Evaluations and the Impact Evaluation and Systematic Reviews Repositories

Registrations in the [Registry for International Development Impact Evaluations](#) increased from 158 to 166. Five records were added to the [Impact Evaluation Repository](#), bringing the total to 4,797 records. The [Systematic Review Repository](#) holds 691 records.

## Membership

MS Swaminathan Research Foundation, India, and the Centre de Connaissances en Santé en RD Congo joined as new members this quarter.

## Bursaries

3ie awarded a total of 26 bursaries this quarter. Six bursaries each were for the Uganda Evaluation Week and 2nd APEA International Evaluation Conference; thirteen bursaries for the AfrEA conference; and one for the WACIE launch. Most of the bursary recipients were from Sub-Saharan Africa. 3ie is committed to achieving gender balance in our selection process. We encourage qualified women to apply. During this quarter, 35 per cent of the bursary recipients were women.

## New funding

- We have received a second round of funding of USD 35,000 from an anonymous donor for an update of our intimate partner violence prevention EGM.
- Gates Foundation has provided USD 2,420,464 to conduct an evaluation of WorldFish's new aquaculture programme in Bangladesh.

## 3ie finances

As of 31 March 2019, 3ie's assets stood at USD 52.33 million, including USD 35.83 million held in bank accounts, USD 16.24 million as grants receivable, i.e. undisbursed balances in signed grant agreements, USD 0.26 million in other receivables, fixed assets and deposits, and the accrued liabilities for expense and grants payables at USD 1.06 million. Total expenses in the quarter were USD 3.08 million, of which USD 1.56 million were grant expenses.