



Quarterly report  
October–December 2019

Evidence uptake and use from 3ie-funded studies



**3ie-supported evaluation informs USAID education projects in South Africa**

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is using the findings of a [3ie-funded evaluation](#) to support follow-up evaluations to improve reading skills in South Africa. 3ie funded the evaluation of the early grade reading study (EGRS), which compared the effectiveness of three approaches to improve Setswana-language reading outcomes of grade one and two students in two districts of North West Province.

After consultations with the evaluators, USAID funded [EGRS II](#), to evaluate alternative ways to impart teacher coaching for effective teaching of English as First Additional Language in Mpumalanga Province. USAID also reconfigured its [Reading Support Project](#) to extend EGRS implementation and evaluation to grade three in the North West Province. [Read the brief.](#)

**3ie announcement: leadership transition**

After five successful years of leading 3ie, Emmanuel ‘Manny’ Jimenez has decided to step down as the executive director. Marie Gaarder, currently 3ie’s director of evaluation office and global director for innovation and country engagement, will take over the role. Read the message from Ruth Levine, the chair of our board, [here](#).



**New 3ie publications**

**Evidence gap map report:** [The effect of transparency and accountability interventions in the extractive sectors: an evidence gap map](#)

**Evidence use briefs:** [How evidence is informing solutions to South Africa’s early grade reading crisis](#) and [Using evidence to improve children’s foundational skills: a successful teaching and learning approach expands in India and beyond](#)

**Impact evaluation report:** *How education about maternal health risk can change the gender gap in the demand for family planning in Zambia*

**Systematic review briefs:** *Impacts of financial inclusion in low- and middle-income countries and Does promoting citizen engagement in the governance of public services lead to improved service delivery and quality of life?*

**Working paper:** *Social protection: a synthesis of evidence and lessons from 3ie-supported impact evaluations*

**Working paper brief:** *How effective are transparency and accountability initiatives? An overview of new evidence*

## 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.

## New grants

**Combination Prevention:** 3ie recently signed a new grant agreement with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM). The grant will build on previous work, related to the HPTN 071 (PopART) study, completed under this programme. LSHTM will conduct a cross-sectional study survey to measure additional outcomes for the HPTN 071 (PopART) Study.

## 3ie @ recent events



### 3ie Delhi seminar: Learning about learning from learning about learning

In our December seminar, Lant Pritchett (RISE Research director, the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford) spoke about the lessons learned from evaluations in education over the last 25 years. He emphasised the need to focus on the characteristics of implementing organisations as a key driver of impact and success in deciding on the

best method to use. [Watch video](#)

3ie led a **capacity development training** in Dakar, Senegal from 10–12 December. The training was organised by the Ministry of the Economy, Planning, and Cooperation, through the Office of Planning and Economic Policies, and was attended by 40 participants invited by the Ministry for their public policy and evaluation work. Through WACIE, 3ie has also signed a partnership MOU with CLEAR-FA to collaborate on future trainings and initiatives in the francophone region.

### 3ie at the What Works Global Summit

3ie staff actively participated in panel sessions and made presentations on a range of topics at the What Works Global Summit 2019 held in Mexico City from 14–18 October. We organised well-attended pre-conference workshops on topics like designing and using policy briefs; strategic communication; rapid response and systematic reviews; and promoting, monitoring and reporting on evidence use.



Our staff presented the latest evidence gap map on peacebuilding; a [synthesis](#) and map on transparency and accountability in natural resource governance; and two major systematic reviews on [payment for environmental services](#) and [citizen engagement in public services through participation, inclusion, transparency and accountability](#). We also had several interesting panel discussions with experts on funding research for policy impact, taking stock of systematic reviews in international development, and curating, translating and integrating evaluation evidence into policymaking. Around 500 world leaders in evidence-informed decision-making, including researchers, evaluators, policymakers, funders and students, participated in the conference. To watch short videos of the keynote speakers and read more about the highlights of the discussions, click [here](#).

### Other events

**3ie-LIDC-CEDIL-CfE seminar** | [How the global innovation fund uses impact forecasts to guide investment decisions](#), London, UK, 4 December.

**3ie-LIDC seminar** | [Plastics in the food system: a scoping review of the impacts on human health, environment, individual/household economics and food security](#), London, UK, 27 November.

**3ie@global conference** | [Knowledge for sustainable development: the research-policy nexus](#), Bonn, Germany, 23–25 October.

**3ie-LIDC-CEDIL-CfE seminar** | [Making data reusable: lessons from replications of impact evaluations](#), London, UK, 9 October.

## 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 181 to 190 in the last quarter. The [Impact Evaluation Repository](#) has a total of 4,802 records. The [Systematic Review Repository](#) now has 691 records.

## Bursaries

3ie awarded 17 bursaries of which 65 per cent were given to women applicants. The bursary awards were provided for What Works Global Summit held in Mexico and an impact evaluation course organised by LIDC in London. The awardees belonged to Sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia and Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Membership

The Sustainable Development Policy Institute, Pakistan, has joined 3ie as a new member. We also renewed our MOU with Population Foundation, India.

## New funding

- We have received a grant of GBP 105,055 from the German Institute for Development Evaluation (DEval) to provide services that facilitate access to rigorous development evidence for decision-making for the Rigorous Impact Evaluation project.
- Asian Development Bank has signed a consultancy contract with 3ie for USD 137,153 for

- a systematic review on the impact of access to electricity on household welfare.
- African Development Bank signed a consultancy contract with 3ie for USD 30,000 for peer-review services of three project impact evaluations (irrigation, transport, energy) and evaluation of their self-evaluation systems.
  - The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australia, has awarded AUD 1,000,000 for the second phase of Philippine Evidence Programme (formerly Philippines Policy Window).

### **3ie finances**

As of 31 December 2019, 3ie's assets stood at USD 52.58 million, including USD 35.91 million held in bank and investment accounts, USD 16.37 million as grants receivable, i.e. undisbursed balances in signed grant agreements, USD 0.30 million in other receivables, fixed assets and deposits, and the accrued liabilities for expense and grants payables at USD 1.07 million. Total expenses in the quarter were USD 3.08 million, of which USD 0.64 million were grant expenses